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### **President's Message**

Saludos para todos los emergenciólogos de Puerto Rico!

The 2020 Caribbean Congress on Emergency Medicine is going to be held on May 15-16 at [La Concha Hotel](#) in San Juan.

This will be an exciting and innovating convention. A vast diversity of topics will be discussed, ranging from pediatric trauma and cardiology to the critically ill adult patient in the Emergency Department.

To promote involvement from a new generation of Emergency Medicine physician in our chapter, a case presentation section will be held for residents. Get them excited and encourage their participation. More details will be available in the following weeks.

Thanks to all the people that have gotten involved in developing such an outstanding program. See the flyer below.

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### Welcome New Members

A special welcome to the new members of the Puerto Rico Chapter. We are excited to have you!

Jose Osvaldo Alba, MD  
Christian M. Repollet Otero, MD  
Javier Gonzalez, MD  
Stephanie Hornedo  
Stephanie Rivera-Rivera

You may wonder if you should get involved with Puerto Rico ACEP or EMRA or even at the national level? We encourage you to please get involved.

If you are unsure how to get involved, feel free to [contact](#) the chapter.

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## FROM NATIONAL ACEP



Articles of Interest in *Annals of Emergency Medicine* - Winter 2020  
Sam Shahid, MBBS, MPH  
Practice Management Manager, ACEP

ACEP would like to provide you with very brief synopses of the latest articles and articles coming soon to *Annals of Emergency Medicine*. Some of these have not appeared in print. These synopses are not meant to be thorough analyses of the articles, simply brief introductions. Before incorporating into your practice, you should read the entire articles and interpret them for your specific patient population. [View synopses here](#).

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### **Annals Supplement: Social EM**

Want to know more on social determinants of health? Check out the special, open-access *Annals of Emergency Medicine* supplement "[Inventing Social Emergency Medicine: A Consensus Conference to Establish the Intellectual Underpinnings of Social Emergency Medicine](#)."

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### **New Policy Statements and Information Papers**

The following policy statements and information papers were recently approved by the ACEP Board. For a full list of the College's current policy statements, consult the [ACEP Policy Compendium](#).

#### **New Policy Statements**

[Pediatric Readiness in Emergency Medical Services Systems](#)  
[Opposition to Copays for Medicaid Beneficiaries](#)

#### **Revised Policy Statements**

[Firearm Safety and Injury Prevention](#)  
[The Role of Emergency Physicians in the Care of Children](#)

#### **New Information and Resource Papers**

[Information and Resources Addressing Falsification of Data in Research](#)  
[Resources on Behavioral Health Crowding and Boarding in the Emergency Department](#)

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### **Announcing the new ACEP Clinical Alert**

Keep up with the latest physician guidance and clinical updates from the CDC with the [ACEP Clinical Alert](#) online.

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### **ACEP Introduces Citizen First Responder Program**

ACEP's new first responder training program, Until Help Arrives, was officially unveiled during ACEP19 in Denver with a series of events to highlight how emergency physicians can positively impact their communities by conducting training sessions to teach the public basic life-saving skills. [Read more](#).

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### **NEMPAC has your back in the 2020 Elections**

2020 is an important election year. This is no time to sit on the sidelines! NEMPAC is working hard to ensure the concerns of emergency medicine and patients are front and center with candidates running for federal office. Your support this year will make our voice stronger to help elect emergency medicine supporters in Congress and identify and cultivate future champions. The NEMPAC Board of Trustees and staff have put together an informative presentation on NEMPAC's role in the 2020 elections and how decisions are made to support candidates. [Click here](#) to view the presentation and [click here](#) to support NEMPAC today.

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### **Update on ACEP's APM Strategic Initiative**

ACEP has an exciting update on our Alternative Payment Model (APM) Strategic Initiative. As background, a couple years ago, ACEP created the Acute Unscheduled Care Model (AUCM), a Medicare APM specifically designed for emergency physicians. Currently, individual emergency physicians and emergency medicine groups do not have any opportunities to directly participate in "Advanced APMs." Under Medicare, participation in an Advanced APM could result in a five percent payment bonus through 2024 and a higher payment fee schedule update

starting in 2026. The AUCM has been endorsed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), but not yet implemented by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

As ACEP waits to see how CMS may implement the AUCM in Medicare, we are simultaneously pursuing model implementation by other payors, including Medicaid and private payors. More and more state Medicaid agencies and private payors are moving away from fee-for-service (FFS) contracts with physicians and other health care practitioners towards value-based payment arrangements, and the AUCM is an ideal APM construct for these payors to pursue for emergency medicine.

Through the APM Strategic Initiative, ACEP is continually providing information and resources to emergency medicine groups, state Medicaid agencies, private payors, and other stakeholders about how to structure and participate in emergency-medicine focused APMs that use the AUCM as a framework. We are happy to announce that we have updated our [APM Strategic Initiative website](#) with additional resources that provide a more detailed overview of the AUCM and its potential for improving emergency care and reducing costs.

While these resources are mainly background materials for you to learn more about the AUCM, ACEP is in the process of developing targeted tool kits that you can use to engage in discussions with state Medicaid agencies and private payors on emergency-medicine focused APMs. Stay tuned for this next phase of the initiative.

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**Concerned About Opioid Use? \$500k ALTO Demonstration Grants for EDs**  
SAMSHA released a grant opportunity for the Emergency Department Alternatives to Opioids (ALTO) Demonstration Program designed to expand non-opioid treatment protocols in emergency departments throughout the country. [Applications are due March 17.](#)

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#### **Nominate Your Peers**

Nominations are open for the 2020 ACEP Leadership & Excellence Awards, honoring members who distinguish themselves for leadership and excellence in EM. Submit nominations in one or more award categories by March 1. [Learn more.](#)

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### **Until Help Arrives**

The first few minutes after a major medical emergency are critical for survival, and emergency personnel aren't always the first ones on the scene. To educate the general public on basic life-saving skills, the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) created ***Until Help Arrives***, a one-hour training course taught by emergency physicians in their local communities. [Learn more.](#)

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### **Free Counseling Available for ACEP Members**

Receive exclusive access to 3 free counseling sessions through ACEP's new Wellness & Assistance Program. Support is available 24/7, & you can conduct your sessions over the phone, face-to-face, via text message or through online chat. [Learn more.](#)

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### **Be Accredited to Provide Pain & Addiction Care in the ED**

Show your community that your ED is part of the solution. ACEP will soon launch the [Pain & Addiction Care in the ED \(PACED\) Accreditation Program](#), developed for EM physicians by EM physicians. It will provide the education, tools & resources you need to provide better care for patients in pain & those with substance misuse.

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### **Registration Is Now Open for ACEP's 2020 Leadership and Advocacy Conference**

Advocate for your specialty, engage with new Members of Congress and connect with EM leaders at ACEP's Leadership & Advocacy Conference (LAC) - April 26-28, 2020 in Washington, DC. Register today with promo code CAPITOL to save \$75\* and make your voice heard! Hurry – the hotel always sells out fast. <https://www.acep.org/LAC>

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# Is Your ED Pediatric Ready?



All EDs need to have the appropriate resources and capable staff to stand ready to care for children of all ages, yet every day in the United States, children are treated in EDs with varying levels of pediatric readiness. Start now to be **PedsReady** before taking the assessment starting **June 2020**.



For more information and resources to be PedsReady:



Bookmark the **PedsReady.org** website

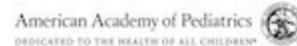


Download the 2018 guidelines: <https://tinyurl.com/PedsReady>



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Supported by:



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