

## President's Update

*By Steven A. Maher, M.D., FACEP, FAEMS*

My fellow emergency medicine colleagues, as I reflect back on the past year many things have changed and many things have remained the same. Many of my colleagues still struggle with getting adequate PPE and other resources yet we continue adapt and adjust so we can take excellent care of our patients. As I write this letter, many of our hospitals are setting up their COVID tent up for the THIRD time. I can tell you that personally I am definitely ready for 2020 to be over.

As the surge of COVID cases increase and the support of front-line workers seems to be waning, we continue to don and doff our PPE and continue to endure this COVID pandemic. However, there is a silver lining. A vaccine looks like it will be available here in Arizona in the next few weeks. I continue to be very proud of the perseverance of our Arizona emergency physicians as we continue to deal with this pandemic. I am encouraged and emboldened as I know we will get to the other side of this pandemic and when we do we will be unable to be phased by basically any future crisis. When asked about the pandemic by younger generations of EM physicians we will be the grey hairs who say, "I was there in the pandemic of 2020 and we made it through it."

We just had our Opioid summit which was a huge success and really appreciate all that participated and for Stephanie Butler, AzCEP's Executive Director, who made it all possible.

Our lobbyist, John Thomas, continues to monitor the situation at the capital and has just reported to us on most recent executive orders by Governor Ducey. I did get the opportunity to speak to the Abrazo EM residents and see their program. This is our sixth EM residency in Arizona!

We have had 7 applications for our seed grant and we are excited for the renewed interest and our ability to help promote our specialty through EM research.

Please save the date as our ED doc day at the capital will be March 10th.

I know our holidays are going to look a bit different this year but want to wish everyone a very happy holidays!

Thanks again for the honor to serve this incredible group of emergency physicians as your president!

Sincerely,

Steven A. Maher, M.D., FACEP, FAEMS

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Update and Resources**

Arizona is projected to receive 383,750 COVID-19 doses throughout December 2020:

212,550 Pfizer doses (beginning 12/14)  
171,200 Moderna doses (projected 12/21)

Several counties are waiting for Moderna vaccine next week to start their clinics, because of the storage and handling limitations with Pfizer.

CDC's Pharmacy/LTC Program begins in AZ on December 27th in anticipation of Moderna approval.

Maricopa and Pima Counties will be using the Pfizer vaccine in mass clinics for health care workers began Thursday, December 17.

Maricopa County [pre-screen survey](#) for health care workers

Pima County Clinic [Information](#)

## Kingman Regional Medical Center Resident's Corner

*By David C. Weech DO, MBA, PGY-2*



### COVID 2.0!!!

As much as we hate to see it COVID is on the rise again. Hopefully all of us are a little more prepared to tackle all that comes with it. I know residencies around the US are struggling as we work on social distancing from our families as well as our residency families to ensure we are able to cover the ER.

Despite COVID attempting to take our humanity we have found new ways to spend time together while social distancing. Northern AZ offers some of the most amazing adventure opportunities including the Colorado River just down the road from Kingman. Some of the shots are from an area called Emerald Cove that had spectacular views. This residency retreat was one for the books as only a few of us

ended up in the water ;).

A huge shoutout to one of our residents, Carlos Rondon, who placed first in ACOEP's Scientific Assembly Poster Research Competition with his work entitled "Clinical Characteristics and outcomes of patients admitted to an intensive care unit for severe COVID-19 infection at a community emergency department". I am continually humbled by the amazing women and men that I get to rub shoulders with on a daily basis.

Stay safe everyone!  
David Weech DO, MBA





**ITLS**  
International Trauma Life Support  
ARIZONA

## ITLS

Wow! How the COVID19 Pandemic has altered (and continues to alter) all our educational conferences and courses! ITLS is no exception. Unfortunately, like many other conferences, ITLS on the River 2020 was postponed to 2021. We carefully looked at the science as well as the current situation in Arizona, and made the difficult decision that it was in the best interest of our faculty and students to postpone it until next year. In its place, we have been providing free virtual CME courses during this pandemic. We have provided 4.5 hours of CME to over a hundred EMS providers, first responders, nurses, and physicians. See our website for more information on upcoming courses. Ultrasound course coming in January!

The date for our next ITLS in person/provider course has not been finalized. Pending the Coronavirus outcome, it will (hopefully) be held in the fall of 2021, likely the 4th week in September (26-28th). Look for more information on our website over the next few months at [itlsaz.org/](http://itlsaz.org/). We look forward to continuing our format of lectures, including Rapid Fire talks as well as our provider courses.

Brad Butler, MD, FACEP  
CAPT MC (FMF), USN  
Medical Director  
Arizona ITLS

## UofA EM-Peds Program

*By Joshua Glasser, MD PGY-5*

Our interview season is in full (virtual) swing as we welcome prospective students for the 2020-2021 interview season. We are excited to meet our future colleagues and EM-Peds family members. It has certainly been a selling point that southern Arizona has remained warm with plenty to do outside through the fall months!

The last few months have certainly showcased the flexibility of our group, and we have been busy clinically, but all are remaining in good spirits. We are thankful this year for a great group of residents and strong faculty leadership!

We have stayed connected with socially distanced program events including our traditional Friends-giving with our program director and upcoming residency gift exchange. We were sad to miss out on ACEP this year, but there was good virtual participation from our group and we look forward to getting back together in future years!

Don't forget to follow us on **Instagram** at "littleemergencies".



**Dr. Anthony Fauci is headlining SAEM National Grand Rounds:**

**COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and What It Means for the ED  
at 1 p.m. CT on Jan. 28.**

**Register for this free event, cosponsored by ACEP.**

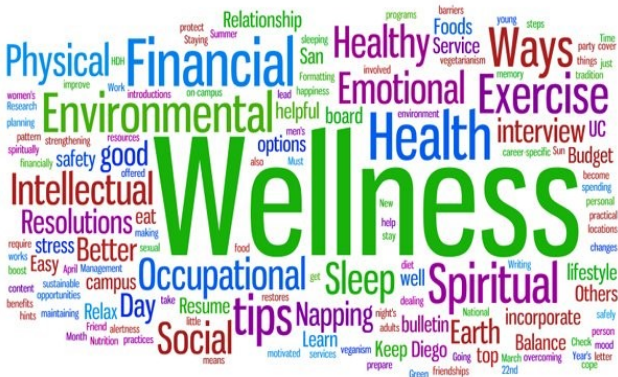


## AzCEP Physician Wellness

The AzCEP Wellness Committee is pleased to share the following podcast check it out!

## **“A COVID Survival Guide (w/Dr. Ron Sinha) | Lifestyle Changes To Lower Metabolic Risk ”**

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#label/EPIC/>



## Calendar of Events

## Mark your Calendar and Get Active in AzCEP!

**Feb 3      Board/Membership Meeting**

***March 10 ED Doc Day @ The Legislature***

## April 7 Annual Meeting & 21-22 Elections

***Apr 25-27 ACEP Leadership & Advocacy in DC***

## June 2 Board/Membership Meeting

**Aug 4-5 AzCEP Summer Retreat; Tucson**

**All AzCEP members are welcome and *encouraged* to attend the Board Meetings. Contact the Chapter office at 602-336-4599 for additional information.**

**Board Meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held at 12:00 noon.**

## New Wellness for Health Care Professionals Fellowship at NIH

**JOB DESCRIPTION:** The National Institutes of Health Clinical Center Pain and Palliative Care Department offers a one-five year postdoctoral research position.

**JOB SETTING:** The National Institutes of Health Clinical Center, America's research hospital is located on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland. Through clinical research, clinician-investigators translate laboratory discoveries into better treatments, therapies, and interventions to improve the nation's health.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** The Pain and Palliative Care Service has done and is currently doing studies on mindfulness and the use of nature to help in finding ways for the health care professional to develop self care skills.

Main areas include involvement in ongoing research and development of new projects consistent with wellness of the health care provider. Areas of interest include burnout, resilience, compassion fatigue, nature, mindfulness and post traumatic stress.

**Responsibilities:** Responsibilities include management of ongoing projects and development of new projects (see above) including data management, writing, and publishing. The position will be best for an individual who wishes to build a research program in healthcare professional wellness.

**Qualifications:** Successful candidates will have a Ph.D/M.D. or equivalent and proven record of independent research, publications, protocol writing and familiarity with the IRB process. Candidates must possess good interpersonal, communication, and organizational skills and an ability to work independently.

**To Apply:** Qualified candidates must be registered with the appropriate NIH training website, send letter of interest to Dr. Ann Berger, email: [aberger@cc.nih.gov](mailto:aberger@cc.nih.gov) and be interviewed. Address: Pain and Palliative Care Service, 10 Center Dr. Bldg 10/CRC MSC 1517, Room 2-1733 2NW, Bethesda, MD 20892; Tel, (301) 594-9767.

## *Maricopa Medical Center/Valleywise Resident's Column*

*By Katrina Lettang, MD and Kate Townley, MD*

Greetings from the Copa Cabana!

The pandemic has us missing the old days, but our family here has been staying strong and healthy.

Interview season is ramping up and this year we are going all virtual! Our residents and program leadership have been working hard creating new recruitment strategies and interview day plans. A special shoutout to all our residents who have developed our social media, which has been integral to showing applicants what we are all about. This year we have received more applicants than ever before, and we hope to show them all that Copa can offer!

Our interns are finding their stride here in the department. We've been inspired by their resilience and positive attitude. It can't be easy learning the basics of emergency medicine during a pandemic, but they are all doing great! Congratulations to Ashley Tarchione, one of our interns, who has been appointed to a position on EMRA's board as Vice Speaker of the Council. Way to represent!

Congratulations to our senior residents who have matched!  
We have a pretty impressive line up of soon-to-be fellows:

Jenny Edwards – Admin at UMass

Jacob Mace – EMS at UVA

Terence Potter – Critical Care at UA Tucson

Jerome Rogich – Wilderness Medicine at Stanford

Courtney Shay – EMS at UCSF

Until next time,

Kat Lettang & Kate Townley  
Maricopa Medical Center / Valleywise Health AzCEP  
Reps



## News & Notes

### New EMF Grant Opportunities Available Now

The Emergency Medicine Foundation is excited to announce the release of Request for Proposals for emergency medicine research. EMF is proud to offer new research grants focused on health disparities, climate change and syndromic testing of infectious diseases. Apply for an EMF grant today! Proposal deadline is Feb. 5, 2021.

### New Frontline Podcasts:

**High Flow Ventilation:** The latest ACEP Frontline features a discussion with Dr. Casey Bryant from Wake Forest looking at the evidence supporting the use of Nasal High Flow in the ED, its indications and safety for COVID-19 patients, and using the ROX index for therapy implementation. [Listen now.](#)

**COVID-19 and Stroke:** With stroke being one of the top three causes of death in the nation, timing is everything. Join the conversation between host Dr. Ryan Stanton and Dr. Aisha Terry as they discuss the different factors that affect the presentations of stroke in the emergency department due to COVID-19 and how you can advocate for improved care for stroke patients. [Listen now.](#)

### ACEP Leadership and Excellence Awards

The program provides an opportunity to recognize all members for significant professional contributions as well as service to the College. Nominations will open in December and be accepted until March 1, 2021. Some of the newest awards include the Community Emergency Medicine Excellence Award, the Innovative Change in Practice Management Award, the Pamela P. Bensen Trailblazer Award and the Policy Pioneer Award. [Check out all Leadership and Excellence Awards.](#)

### Thoughtful Life Conversations: Advance Care Planning

Arizona POLST is part of the National POLST Program that helps patients get the medical treatments they want, and avoid medical treatments they do not want, when they are seriously ill or frail. It's about helping

people live the way they want until they die. POLST is only for the seriously ill and frail and is different than an advance directive because it is a portable medical order completed by a healthcare provider after a goals of care conversation and shared decision making about current treatment preferences. POLST exists because other advance care planning documents (advance directives and DNR forms) do not meet the needs of all seriously ill and frail individuals. Visit the AzPOLST website (<https://azpolst.org/>) to learn more about POLST and review educational modules available.

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

Show your community that your ED is part of the solution. ACEP is now accepting applications for the [Pain & Addiction Care in the ED \(PACED\) Accreditation Program](#), developed for EM physicians by EM physicians.

PACED, the nation's only specialty-specific accreditation program, will provide the education, tools & resources you need to provide better care for patients in pain & those with substance misuse.

Elevate the quality of patient care with innovative treatments, alternative modalities, and impactful risk reduction strategies in a collaborative team setting, resulting in positive outcomes for your patients, families, providers, and communities. <https://www.acep.org/paced> or contact us at [paced@acep.org](mailto:paced@acep.org)

**JACEP Open** is the official Open Access journal of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). Complementing ACEP's flagship journal, *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, *JACEP Open* welcomes high quality reports representing the full spectrum of emergency care.

Why publish in *JACEP Open*?

- Open access – free to read for everyone
- PubMed Central indexed
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Submit at [www.editorialmanager.com/jacep](http://www.editorialmanager.com/jacep)

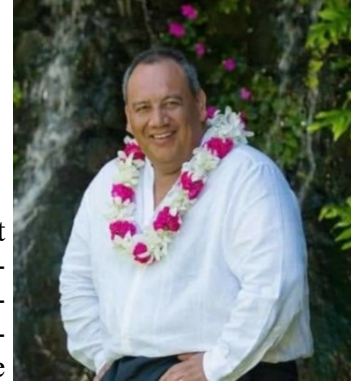
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Andres Hernandez, M.D.  
02/26/1960 - 08/27/2020

EM Physician  
Maricopa Medical Center EM residency graduate 1996



Andy passed at 1123 am on the 27th of August in the ICU at NorthEast Baptist hospital secondary to COVID-19. He had served the San Antonio community since 1996. He spent half of his career with the Methodist system at the Metropolitan hospital in service to the indigent and impoverished of San Antonio. He finished up his career working with the Veterans at Audie L. Murphy VA Medical Center in the ER. Andy was a amateur boxer in his youth and was involved with ring side doctor positions. He was a loving father with a big heart and was loved by the community. He was always very proud of his training at Maricopa County. The community of San Antonio has benefited greatly from his service and he will be missed! You can click on the link below to wish his family condolences.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/san-antonio-tx/andres-hernandez>

*This submission request was received soon after the last issue was published.*

## COVID-19/Vaccine Resources

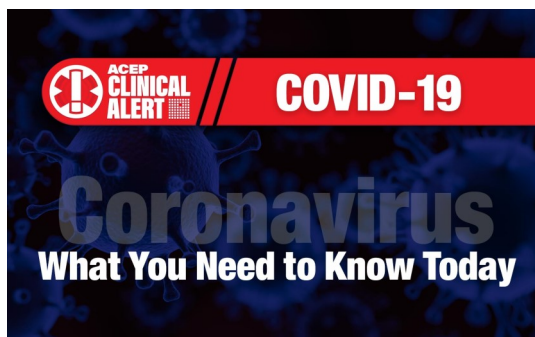
ACEP continues to update its COVID resources regularly to reflect the latest information. Visit the [COVID-19 Center](#) for access to all COVID content, including the following most popular tools from the past few months:

[COVID-19 Field Guide](#) | [COVID-19 Communication Hub \(engagED Forum\)](#) | [COVID-19 Media Hub](#) | [Wellness/Counseling](#) | [COVID-19 Severity Classification Tool](#) | [Elemeno/ACEP Tool](#) | [Literature Library](#) | [ACEP Statements on PPE & Other Physician Protections](#)

### NEW Resources and Toolkits

[COVID-19 Vaccine Resources](#) including [What EM Physicians Need to Know About the COVID Vaccine](#).

ACEP's new [COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkit](#) has information from the FDA, Pfizer and more to help you prepare for the upcoming distribution to physicians and the public. More information will be added regularly, so check back often.



The [Toolkit for Preparing for the Next Wave](#) features helpful resources based on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic first wave in early 2020. Includes webinars, checklists, best practice tip sheets and more.

The [Monoclonal Antibody Toolkit](#) provides several resources for the investigational monoclonal antibody therapy bamlanivimab.

## **ACEP Helps Get 3-Day Bupe Rule Changed to Improve Patient Care**

As part of the stopgap funding bill approved by Congress late last week, emergency physicians will now be able to dispense up to a three-day supply of buprenorphine at one time to a patient suffering from acute withdrawal symptoms. The funding bill included the "Easy Medication Access and Treatment for Opioid Addiction Act" (Easy MAT Act), H.R. 2281, which ACEP has been working on with Congressman Dr. Raul Ruiz (D-CA) since last year.

The previous three-day waiver for emergency physicians was helpful but patients had to come back every 24 hours within the 72-hour window while they awaited arrangements for long-term narcotic treatment.

Because many patients have difficulty coming back to the emergency department each day for a variety of reasons, this becomes a barrier to patient care and providers could be less likely to initiate treatment. With the ability to give 3 days of treatment at one time, patient care is improved.

Emergency physicians will be able to administer buprenorphine in the ED without an x-waiver, as long as it's just a 3-day supply. However, emergency physicians will still need an x-waiver to prescribe buprenorphine for the patient to access outside of the ED post-discharge. (ACEP continues to advocate for this change, as well.)

Through the tenacious work our ACEP's leaders, DC staff and many of our members, this important change will ensure that patients suffering from opioid use disorder get the necessary treatment, and that emergency physicians have the flexibility and resources needed to do their jobs.

The Drug Enforcement Administration will need to revise regulations within 180 after the bill is signed into law. [More details about the Act can be found here.](#)

ACEP has been working on this issue for several years. ACEP leaders and members of the DC staff have met with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and HHS multiple times and have included a specific request to change the three-day rule in numerous letters to the administration and to Congress.

In March 2018, now-ACEP President Dr. Mark Rosenberg testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee about the importance of ED-initiated MAT programs and ACEP has been working with Dr. Ruiz's office on this three-day waiver legislation (H.R. 5770) since it was first introduced in May 2018.

ACEP supported Dr. Ruiz's legislation and efforts to get it included in what became the "SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act" (where the ALTO and the POWER Act were authorized), but Dr. Ruiz ultimately withdrew his bill as an amendment during the mark-up process.

However, Dr. Ruiz, with ACEP's support, re-introduced the bill (H.R. 2281) in this Congress (April 2019). ACEP also supported the legislation when Dr. Ruiz successfully brought it before the House Energy and Commerce Committee for approval on Sept. 9, 2020 and then again when the House approved the bill on Nov. 17, 2020.

Before the House voted on the bill, ACEP facilitated a call between the ACEP DC staff, ACEP member Dr. Eric Ketchum, and the Congressional Budget Office to promote the legislation and help them develop the financial implications to the federal budget, a necessary step so it could be brought up for consideration.



## **AZ EM MSC: Updates for the Coming Year**

**TL;DR**

1. **Instagram Account** = @azemmssc
2. **Join our email list** = <https://forms.gle/S3S88oixk8Wz9XbZA>
3. **Scribe mentorship program signup** = <https://forms.gle/enp6PGHLR4SArbK67>

Hope your year is going well so far (2020 is almost over!). We have made the transition to our new leadership for the AZ EM Medical Student Council and there are some announcements for the year ahead.

First off we'd like to announce our new **Instagram** account @azemmssc. We will be posting a lot of information on here including upcoming events, perspectives of different rotations, and takeovers by residency programs. This is a great opportunity to see what some of the EM residency programs in the valley are like on a day-to-day basis. So please go take a look and follow us!

Next if you are not already on our **email list** and want to stay up-to-date on all the great EM events going on throughout Arizona then please fill out this google form: <https://forms.gle/S3S88oixk8Wz9XbZA>

Finally, we are continuing our **Scribe Mentorship Program** in which local AZ medical students will be able to mentor local scribes! If you would like to be a mentor to a pre-med scribe, then please fill out this google form: <https://forms.gle/enp6PGHLR4SArbK67>

Warm Regards,

Tyler Fowler - Chair  
Arizona EM Medical Student Council



## Legislative Update

*By John Thomas, AzCEP Legislative Counsel*

It's been quite a year!

We started the year with the legislature in Session and a number of important healthcare-related bills being introduced (most of them by our own AzCEP Board Member, Representative Amish Shah) and then adopted by the full House. Unfortunately, the legislative session process ground to a halt in March and then the legislature adjourned in May without any further movement on the proposed bills.

The next part of the year was spent working with our medical partners and the Department of Health Services on Executive Orders that were being issued on almost a weekly basis. Now, with January approaching, our focus has turned to the legislature which is currently scheduled to head back into Session on Monday, January 11th.

With the results of the Arizona Legislative races finalized, the House remains 31 Republicans and 29 Democrats. Representative Shah will again serve on the House Health and Human Resources Committee and the new Health Committee chair will Representative Joanne Osborne. On the Senate Side, the Senate is now composed of 16 Republicans and 14 Democrats (17-13 before the November elections) with former House Health Committee Chair Senator Nancy Barto the new Senate and Human Services Committee Chair. Governor Doug Ducey remains the Governor until the 2022 elections.

We are hoping that the healthcare -related bills that already passed out of the House earlier this year will be "fast-tracked" which will allow them to move faster through the legislative process once they are introduced and given a bill number.

**AzCEP ED DOC DAY AT THE CAPITOL IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10TH.**

AzCEP will again provide for a featured speaker and a chance to talk with your legislators prior to a luncheon with the legislators that will be held on the Capitol grounds. **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT, INFORMATIVE AND FUN-FILLED EVENT!**

In the meantime, enjoy our respite from the heat and have a great holiday season!

John Thomas  
AzCEP Lobbyist



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If you change your business or home address please notify the National ACEP Office or AzCEP & the correction will be forwarded.

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**AzCEP Mission Statement**

***The Arizona College of Emergency Physicians (AzCEP) supports the highest quality emergency medical care and serves as an advocate for our patients, our members and our specialty. {readopted by the AzCEP board, 6/2019}***

**Winter Issue of the Arizona EPIC**

Submittal Deadline: February 1, 2021

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EPIC Editors: Stephanie A. Butler & Brad Butler

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