

# EPIC

## Looking Forward: Challenges and Opportunities for 2020

by Nathaniel Hibbs, DO, MS, FACEP



As you all know, 2019 was a very challenging year for Emergency Medicine here in Colorado. Despite taking some hits in the media and on Capitol Hill, the American College of Emergency Physicians remains steadfast in our mission to provide critically necessary care for our patients. Over the year, we argued strongly against several pieces of legislation regarding out-of-network billing, fought for improvement in our state's treatment and prevention of opioid addiction, and addressed numerous other legislative and advocacy related issues that impact our profession. This past fall we hosted the ACEP Scientific Assembly, and despite the very snowy weather, Colorado ACEP definitely put its best foot forward. These are but a few of the memorable moments from 2019.

This year will bring its own set of challenges. Nationally, out-of-network billing is all consuming. We will continue to play a critical role, as our Congressional delegation is intimately involved in crafting this legislation. When the right time comes, we will need ALL of you to make your voices heard to our delegation. Stay tuned for a call to action. Here in Colorado, we are working with our state legislators to craft legislation that "cleans up" the out-of-

network law that was passed last year. Our hope is that this "clean up" bill will provide better and more concise guidance to all parties regarding billing claims. Our goal was always to take patients out of the middle of the billing disputes and simultaneously to fight for fair and reasonable payment for our critically necessary services. We have numerous opioid related bills moving through the capitol as well. We will continue to monitor and communicate any and all legislation that may affect your practice of emergency medicine.

While legislative action and advocacy take up much our time, we are also focused on you, our members. We are again planning our annual educational conference for later on this year. One issue I think we can all agree is problematic is the current state of emergency psychiatric care in Colorado. In that vein, one way to begin the process of fixing this broken system is by creating guidelines and best practices like those we developed for opioid use in the ED. Please contact us if you are interested in participating in a multi-specialty working group to do just that. Finally, we will continue our efforts to grow our membership and provide value to our

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# EPIC



COLORADO CHAPTER  
**American College of  
Emergency Physicians**  
ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE

*"The mission of the Colorado Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians is to serve as the primary organization in the State of Colorado representing the specialty of Emergency Medicine, promoting the interests and values of emergency physicians and patients by giving physicians the tools to support the highest quality of emergency medical care."*

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## CHAPTER OFFICE

Colorado ACEP

7931 S Broadway #266

Littleton, CO 80122

Phone: 303-255-2715

Email: [suzanne.acep@comcast.net](mailto:suzanne.acep@comcast.net)

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members. As always, if any of you want to be more involved but don't know where to start, please reach out. I'm sure there is a perfect role for you on one of our committees.

Lastly, I want to personally, and on behalf of all of ACEP, thank the irreplaceable Barbara Burgess for her 25 plus years of service as our Executive Director. Barb decided last year that she wanted to spend more time with her family and to pursue other projects of her choosing. She will be so very missed. I would also take this opportunity to welcome Suzanne Hamilton as our new Executive Director. Suzanne has been our primary lobbyist for many years and is thus in very good position to fill the large shoes vacated by Barb. Suzanne has been our eyes and ears in the trenches on Capitol Hill. We are excited to welcome her as our Executive Director and look forward to her continued dedication to ensuring Emergency Medicine is all it can be in Colorado. Thanks for the time and here's to a fantastic 2020! **E**



**I want to personally, and on behalf of all of ACEP, thank the irreplaceable Barbara Burgess for her 25 plus years of service as our Executive Director.**



# Colorado ACEP Meeting Dates



## Colorado ACEP Board of Directors

**March 25, 2020** 12:00pm - 2:00pm @ COPIC

**May 27, 2020** 12:00pm - 2:00pm @ COPIC

**July 29, 2020** 12:00pm - 2:00pm @ COPIC

**Sept. 23, 2020** 12:00pm - 2:00pm @ COPIC

**Nov. 18, 2020** 12:00pm - 2:00pm @ COPIC

All meetings begin at 12 noon and are held at the **CMS/COPIC office** located at 7351 E. Lowry Blvd. Denver, CO 80230



## ACEP L & A Conference

**April 26-28, 2020** Washington, DC



## Scientific Assembly "ACEP20"

**Oct. 26-29, 2020** Dallas, TX





# Colorado State Legislative Report

by Suzanne Hamilton and Dan Jablan

This year at the State Legislature there has been a shift in attention from physicians to facilities, pharmaceuticals and the creation of a public option health insurance plan. The public option is proposed to be funded via rate setting on facilities. This is a cause of concern for hospital-based physicians since a reduction in reimbursement equates to a reduction in essential services and may ultimately negatively impact access to care for patients. That said, this is a priority for the administration and their summaries can be found below. An initial report was made public last fall. The report was short on some vital details. Colorado ACEP is on record as being neutral on the initial report with concerns that need addressed.

The costs of pharmaceuticals and pharmacy benefit managers rebates are a second source of focus. With the cost of prescription drugs ever increasing, the legislature is attempting to get their arms around the cost drivers. While the goal here is to make prescription drugs more affordable,

Colorado ACEP will continue to monitor the issue carefully for any pit falls.

Finally, the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorder task force has continued to meet during the interim. The five areas of focus remain the same – harm reduction; substance abuse; the criminal justice system; recovery; and treatment. The two most impactful areas for emergency medicine arising from this most recent set of recommendations include the additional of mandatory PDMP checks for benzodiazepine naïve patients and a requirement that health plans reimburse for naloxone dispensed through the emergency department. As it related to the mandatory PDMP checks for benzos, we were able to exempt emergency mental health episodes.

Below are the administrations information about the public option from Adam Fox, Director of Strategic Engagement of the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative. **E**

The proposed formula for hospital reimbursement under the Colorado Health Insurance Option (i.e. public option) was just released this afternoon. You can find the one pager that covers the formula at a high level: [CLICK HERE](#)

You can also find an updated actuarial analysis: [CLICK HERE](#)

The formula is already garnering media attention: [CLICK HERE](#)





# 2020 CO ACEP Annual Meeting

At the Colorado ACEP Annual Meeting held January 22, 2020 at the Denver Chop House the following awards were presented:

## Peter Rosen Legacy Award

### – Peter Rosen Family

A tribute Video to Dr. Rosen, sponsored by Colorado ACEP, and produced by Dr. Stader was previewed, followed by a beautiful tribute by Dr. Roger Barkin.

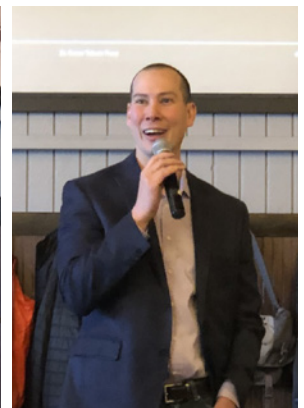
## Meritorious Service Award

### – Eric Olsen, MD, FACEP

## John Marx Education Award

### – Richard Lee Bynny, M.D., M.Sc., FACEP

CO ACEP Guest Speaker was Dr. Vidor Friedman, National ACEP Past President. Dr. Vidor shared ACEP Out Of Network strategies. 



## 2019 Colorado Chapter ACEP Fellows

Kalen Abbott, MD, FACEP – Aurora  
 Stefen M Ammon, MD, FACEP – Littleton  
 Kenton Lee Asche, DO, FACEP – Denver  
 Kelsey Drake, MD, FACEP – Arvada  
 Thomas R Eckler, II, MD, FACEP – Denver  
 Anna Engeln, MD, FACEP – Denver  
 Evan L Green, MD, FACEP – Denver  
 Rachelle M Klammer, MD, FACEP – Denver

Avery MacKenzie, MD, FACEP – Ridgeway  
 Sarah Michael, DO, FACEP – Centennial  
 Sean Michael, MD, FACEP – Centennial  
 Kendall Rockler, MD, FACEP – Colorado Springs  
 Ian E Tate, MD FACEP – Denver  
 Christopher Tems, MD, FACEP – Denver  
 Allison Marie Trop, MD, FACEP – Colorado Springs  
 Haleh Van Vliet, MD, FACEP – Fountain





# Haleh Van Vliet, M.D.

## *Where did you train?*

University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics in Madison, WI.

## *Where do you practice in Colorado?*

Just started work at Evans Army Hospital on Fort Carson, following 3.5 years at St. Mary-Corwin Hospital in Pueblo, CO.

## *Why did you choose to practice where you do?*

My husband fell in love with Colorado after traveling out here with some friends at the age of 16 and had been trying to move to the state ever since. I also grew up in the mountains in Tennessee and prefer cooler weather. I initially moved to Colorado to join a small democratic group practice, with physicians who were all very down to earth and focused on family and community. USACS took over operations at my first practice site in 2018. After a year and half with them, I decided to transition to a job at Evans as it involves much less of a commute and a better opportunity to practice my own brand of emergency medicine.

## *Hobbies outside of medicine?*

Writing, gardening, reading, social justice/advocacy, but mostly spending time with family and friends.

## *Favorite place to visit in Colorado?*

Buena Vista, although there is much of Colorado that I have yet to explore.

## *Anything else you would like us to know about you?*

I have an incredible 4 year-old son named Edison and a dedicated house-husband (Ean) who also manages to work part-time as a physical therapy assistant. **E**



## New Policy Statements and Information Papers

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

### New Policy Statements:

*Pediatric Readiness in Emergency*

*Medical Services Systems:* [CLICK HERE](#)

*Opposition to Copays for*

*Medicaid Beneficiaries:* [CLICK HERE](#)

### Revised Policy Statements:

*Firearm Safety &*

*Injury Prevention:* [CLICK HERE](#)

*The Role of Emergency Physicians in*

*the Care of Children:* [CLICK HERE](#)

### New Information and Resource Papers:

*Information and Resources Addressing Falsification of Data in Research:* [CLICK HERE](#)

*Resources on Behavioral Health Crowding & Boarding in the Emergency Department:* [CLICK HERE](#) **E**



## 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:

[CLICK HERE](#) **E**



## 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.

[CLICK HERE](#) **E**



## 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. **E**