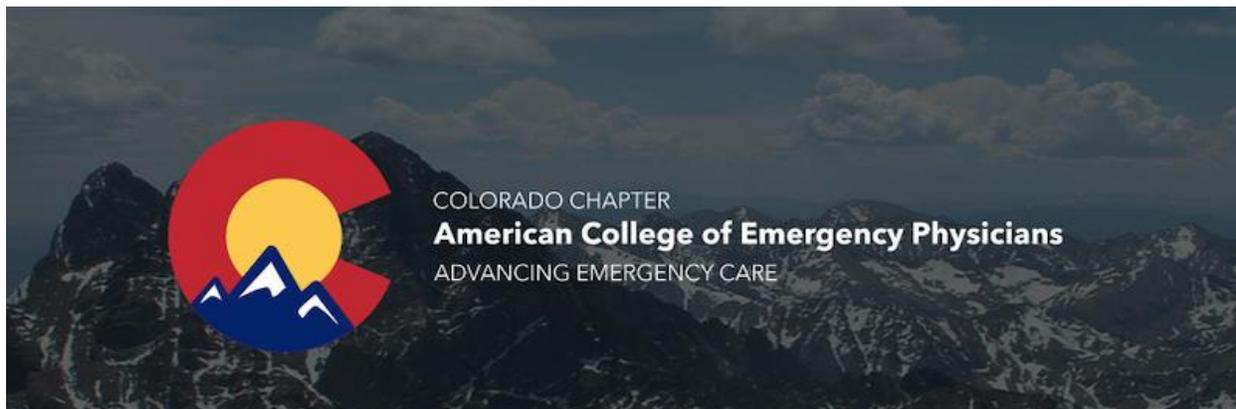


A Newsletter for the Members of the Colorado Chapter - Spring 2022



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CO ACEP President's Corner

Allison Trop, MD, FACEP

The legislative session this year has been a whirlwind! Your board has been working diligently to lobby around the clock for the need of EM docs across the state. Countless hours on the phone, via e-mail and in-person at the Capitol went into a defeat of the PA independent practice bill.

As a result, we are forming a task force to help find solutions to increasing access to care in the rural parts of our state and help PAs to be able to practice there safely and supported. This is a big accomplishment and is certain to come back again next year, so we need all the preparation help we can get. We have been diligently lobbying on the Out of Network Bill, Mental Health Holds and more.

On April 21, I had the honor of speaking at a press conference with the Colorado Governor, Jared Polis, in support of new legislation surrounding lessons learned during the past 2 years of the COVID pandemic. CO ACEP has advocated tirelessly for increased PPE stockpiles, mental health assistance for healthcare workers, and liability protections. We had monthly medical director meetings with leaders across the state to assess needs throughout Colorado. In the past year, we have worked closely with the Governor's office to delineate Crisis Standards of Care and more. This new legislation will serve to help create statutes around these concerns. The new legislation will set standards for PPE stockpiles at facilities in Colorado. Another important bill hopes to increase training of healthcare workers and incentivize them to stay in the state of Colorado to improve our staffing difficulties. With burnout and the stress of the pandemic, so many people left the healthcare field, making it clear what a staffing issue we have. A final piece of legislation will help hospitals to create disaster and surge plans to mitigate effects brought by the next disaster or pandemic we see. It was a pleasure speaking at this conference and having the opportunity to represent you all. As EM physicians, I do truly believe that we lead the way in healthcare and public health in our communities. We are the first to be impacted by changing disease patterns and stresses on society. This puts us in a unique position to be the canary in the coal mine if you will, for societal change. Having a seat at the table to help create and support legislation to further protect us is so important.

If you have specific interests in rural healthcare and would like to assist us in developing a plan to help improve access to care, please do not hesitate to reach out as we build our Rural Access Task Force. It is our goal to create a safe and effective plan to provide care to all Coloradoans, and we need input from our members on the frontlines. We have spent several years building relationships with legislators at the Capitol. These relationships are important, and it has been amazing to see CO ACEP take the lead on the state level for the House of Medicine. In future years, I look forward to collaborating with legislators to write legislation ourselves.

As we move out of the legislative season, I am looking forward to focusing on member outreach, educational opportunities and more. This past March we had a wonderful 1-hour CME event focusing on maternal hemorrhage and other emergency complications. I hope you all were able to attend and glean some valuable information from this session. As always, we are looking for people across the state who would like to be more involved with our organization and have a passion to

lead. Look forward to our coming educational opportunities this fall with a CME course and the Medical Directors Symposium.

Warmer weather is here, and we are heading into an active outdoor summer in Colorado. May the force be with you as ATVs, campfires, off-roading, rock climbing and more pick up, and our EDs begin to overflow again.

Call for Media Manager

Call for participation! We are looking for an individual that is interested in getting more involved with CO ACEP and has a passion for tech and social media. This person would ideally take the lead in managing our Twitter and Facebook accounts, as well as keeping our website updated. If this sounds like the job for you, or someone you know, please [reach out to me directly](#). We are looking forward to increasing our social media footprint and improving our on-line communication to members!

From The Capitol



Drs. Neal O'Connor (left) and Ramnik Dhaliwal (right) testify before the House Health & Insurance Committee on HB22-1284 which brought parts of Colorado's Out-of-Network statute into alignment with the federal No Surprises Act.

The second session of the seventy-third General Assembly adjourned just before midnight on Wednesday, May 11th. During this 2022 120-day legislative session there were 657 bills introduced. Needless to say, it was a busy year as CO ACEP identified 65 of those bills as being important to emergency medicine. While many of the bills we have been involved with are settled, either already signed by the Governor or postponed indefinitely (killed), as of the writing of this update, 377 bills are on the Governor's desk awaiting his action. The Governor has 30 days to sign, veto or allow a bill to become law without his signature. Please check the CO ACEP website mid-June for a final report.

[Read more for a list of legislative proposals of high priority to CO ACEP this session.](#)

Medical Directors & Statewide Emergency Leaders

Ramnik Dhaliwal, MD, JD
Immediate Past President, CO ACEP



Since the beginning of COVID, COACEP has brought together ED Medical Directors and Associate Medical Directors. Initially, the group exchanged ideas, news, treatments, and real time issues they were dealing with in different parts of the state. We were also able to have legislators and the Governor's office join calls so we could answer their questions and inform them of the major issues Emergency Departments were dealing with throughout the state.

While COVID has become less of an issue, we are still dealing with many problems within our Emergency Departments from operations to regulatory and legislative. We continue to meet, and the exchange of information and updates have been very beneficial for those attending. We continue to look for more medical directors and assistant medical directors to join the calls, so we have voices from across the state and CO ACEP can better serve you.

Finally, we will be having our first Medical Director Symposium this November in Beaver Creek. If you are a leader in your department or group and would like to join, please email Suzanne.acep@comcast.net and she will get you added to the group. We look forward to your participation and the further growth of the group as it will continue to expand the already robust conversations. MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE 2nd MONDAY OF THE MONTH.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- June 13 – 4:30pm – 5:30pm
- July 11 – 4:30pm – 5:30pm
- August 8 – 4:30pm – 5:30pm
- September 12 – 4:30pm – 5:30pm
- November 3 & 4 – Park Hyatt, Beaver Creek (more details coming soon)
- December 12 – 4:30pm – 5:30pm

ACEP Leadership & Advocacy Review

Jasmeet Dhaliwal, MD, MPH, MBA
Director, CO ACEP Board of Directors



ACEP's annual Leadership and Advocacy Conference (LAC) was held again in Washington, DC from May 1-4. Emergency physicians from across the country gathered to learn about pressing policy issues and advocate directly with our federal legislators. Our Colorado delegation included EM physicians from the front range and mountain communities. The conference started with a Health Policy Primer focused on the importance of regulatory advocacy. It turns out the passage of a bill into law by Congress is only the start of a long implementation process. Rule making by federal agencies is complicated, but also creates opportunities for stakeholders to influence the real-world impact of important legislation. The overall message was that we, emergency physicians, should be just as involved in regulatory advocacy as we are in legislative advocacy. [READ MORE](#)

CO ACEP Member Spotlight Sabrina Adams, MD



Where did you train?

- Medical school: University of Colorado School of Medicine
- Residency: Denver Health Medical Center

Where do you practice in Colorado?

- Currently, I'm an Emergency Medicine Physician at Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs.

Why did you choose to practice where you do?

- I moved to Glenwood after residency to be closer to my parents, especially with 1-year old twins at that time. Also, there is nothing better to me than living in the mountains.

Hobbies outside of medicine?

- I love spending time with my family, we go camping multiple times a year, I love hiking, snowboarding and traveling.
- I'm from Brazil and we try to make a trip back there at least once a year to spend time with my extended family.
- My kids say I'm a good cook. I enjoy cooking, in particular sweets.

Favorite place to visit in Colorado?

- My favorite places are the hidden primitive campsites, especially near rivers and lakes. I love snowboarding in the Aspen/Snowmass area. I was impressed when I visited Ouray.

Anything else you would like us to know about you?

- I was born and raised in Brazil, when I moved to the US in 2003 I barely spoke any English, but I was able to learn quickly and get into college. I love

my coworkers, the support we give one another is amazing, especially through the last couple of years of COVID, which was such a hard time for all of us. The unknown in the beginning, the deaths, the shortage of PPE among other challenges, brought a lot of anxiety, but with all the support generated by so many people involved, we were able to make it through some very tough times.

- We need to continue to be there for each other, continue to be resilient and take good care of our patients.

What issues would you like to see CO ACEP address this year?

- I'm amazed to learn how much CO ACEP is involved in so many different areas, but in particular legislation, the job done behind the scenes to persuade legislators to do the best thing is unbelievable.
- Currently practicing rural medicine, I would love to see some of our issues addressed, such as the problems we are currently facing with workforce shortages, reimbursement and insurance coverage, and mental health issues, which I think is universal and not only in the rural setting.

Clinical Corner

Matt Mendes, MD
Director, CO ACEP Board of Directors

How to Manage Refractory Ventricular Fibrillation Without ECMO: An Algorithm

Introduction

Refractory ventricular fibrillation (VF) is loosely defined as VF that is unresponsive to epinephrine, 3 defibrillation attempts, and 1 dose of an antidysrhythmic. The classic underlying etiology is a coronary occlusion. These cases are incredibly frustrating as they represent an opportunity to not only obtain return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) but result in a full neurological recovery. The recent ARREST trial published in Lancet in 2020 was stopped early due to how well the extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO or ECPR) arm of the study performed against usual care. While ECMO is an exciting and promising therapeutic agent for refractory VF, it is still largely unavailable to the typical emergency physician. Additionally, the evidence surrounding how to treat refractory VF is challenging to interpret. This article will attempt to compile that evidence into a practical algorithm for refractory VF.

The Case

You are notified by EMS that they are emergently transporting a 55-year-old male smoker with a history of hypertension and pre-diabetes who had a witnessed cardiac arrest. They have given 3 doses of epinephrine, 1 dose of amiodarone, and shocked the patient 2 times. They arrive to your ED 10 minutes later and report that the patient was witnessed by family to grab his chest and then go unresponsive at home. CPR was immediately started and 911 was called. The first rhythm for EMS was coarse ventricular fibrillation (VF) and was unresponsive to shocks. EMS reports that since starting transport they have placed an advanced airway with

capnography values consistently around 25. EMS also gave another round of epinephrine and amiodarone. [READ MORE](#)

Upcoming Events Calendar

- Board of Directors - July 27 | 12 Noon - 2PM
 - Board of Directors - September 21 | 12 Noon - 2PM
 - ACEP Council 2022 - September 29 & 30, San Francisco, CA
 - [ACEP 2022 Scientific Assembly](#) - October 1-4, San Francisco, CA
 - CME Program/Medical Directors Mtg. in Beaver Creek - November 3 & 4
 - Board of Directors - November 3 or 4 | 12 Noon - 2PM, Hyatt in Beaver Creek
 - Annual Meeting - January 25, 2023 | 12 Noon - 2PM, Denver Art Museum
 - Board of Directors - January 25, 2023 | 2PM - 3PM
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Welcome New CO ACEP Members!

Amelia R Barber
Andrew Bolano, MD
J Russell Bowman, DO
Ashley Louise Brady, MD
Ryan Michael Caulfield, DO
Samantha A Chamberlain, MD
Chelsea A Dymond, MD
Patrick Flannery
Charles Harris, III, MD
Gavin Hamilton Inglis, MD, FACEP
Laura K Ivy, MD
Eric Jones

Ronald B Lawton, MD, FACEP
Jorge Marina
Benjamin Mitchell, MD, FACEP
Daniel Owens
Daniel A Perling
Kyra Porter, DO
Caryn L Robertson, MD
Marcus R Salmen, MD
Samantha Kathleen Sposet
Samantha Tarshis, MD
Michael J. Tranovich, DO
Victoria Valdes, BS, NRP

FROM NATIONAL ACEP



ACEP Resources & Latest News

ACEP Calls for Stronger Protections for Emergency Physicians Who Raise Workplace Safety Concerns: ACEP spoke directly to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) during a public meeting about whistleblower protections. ACEP Council Speaker Kelly Gray-Eurom, MD, MMM, FACEP, [raised the need for due process protections](#) for emergency physicians on the job.

ACEP Clinical Alert: [Shortages in Iodinated Contrast Media, Baby Formula](#)

Workforce:

- **A new analysis of the EM physician resident workforce in [Annals of Emergency Medicine](#)** finds that while the number of residency programs is increasing, new programs are disproportionately located in urban areas in states with existing programs, rather than rural communities with limited access to emergency care. [Read more](#)
- **Building toward a better future, ACEP is moving forward on EM workforce initiatives.** [Watch an update](#) from ACEP President Dr. Gillian Schmitz on ACEP's progress during this April 28 town hall webinar hosted by the EM Workforce Section.
- **The Changing Role of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners in the Emergency Department:** On May 26, ACEP's Democratic Group Practice Section is hosting a webinar with a panel discussion about best practices when using PAs and NPs in the emergency department. Topics will include ACEP's new policy on the role of PAs/NPs in the ED, economic considerations, workflow challenges, and how shared visits work. [Register for this free webinar.](#)

ACEP has launched a **public campaign "Who Takes Care of You in an Emergency?"** that includes a series of videos outlining unique aspects of the job and explaining the significant difference in training and education required for physicians. Here are [new scope of practice talking points](#).

Problem solving: It's what we do. [Take a look at the issues we're tackling](#) and how you can join the cause.

More than 100 leaders, members and staff worked together to create [ACEP's new strategic plan!](#) **It's an important roadmap for our future.** Together we'll build a better future for emergency physicians everywhere!

It's Emergency Medicine Wellness Week!

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and ACEP's Wellness Section is marking the occasion by kicking off its annual Emergency Medicine Wellness Week tomorrow, May 22. View more physician wellness resources by visiting [ACEP's Wellness Hub](#).

The [May issue of ACEP Now](#) features new articles focused on behavioral health, including [The Importance of System-Level Wellness](#) and [How to Approach Psychiatric Patients who Wish to Refuse Treatment in the ED](#).

Advocacy:

Help Move the Workplace Violence Prevention Bill Forward! Ask your U.S. Senators to co-sponsor and support the "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act" (S.4182). [Take Action!](#)

On May 4, ACEP and the Emergency Nurses Association hosted a press event at Capitol Hill to increase public awareness of workplace violence in the emergency department and to push for swift passage of the "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act." [Read the press release with more information about the bill](#). Watch the [Facebook Live recording](#) of the press event.

No Surprises Act

In the latest twist, the government requests Texas court place a "hold" on its surprise billing appeal. [What does this mean for ACEP's lawsuit?](#) [Dive deeper and learn more](#) about ACEP's many years of advocacy on this issue that led up to this law.

Prioritize Physician Mental Health

It's Mental Health Month and a good time to look at the recently-passed Dr. Lorna Breen Act. This vital legislation, named after an ACEP member who struggled and was tragically lost during the first surge of the pandemic, went from an idea to a law that will help protect the emotional health and wellbeing of emergency physicians. [See ACEP's Role](#).

Regulatory Updates:

- [NEW BLOG SERIES: Value based Care in Emergency Medicine-- an Overview](#) (5/19/22)
- [CMS Finalizes New Network Adequacy Requirements for Certain Private Health Plans](#) (5/12/22)
- [No Alternative Payment Model for Emergency Physicians and other Specialists...The AMA Has a Proposed Solution](#) (5/5/22)
- [ACEP Responds to FTC and DOJ Request for Information on Mergers and Acquisitions in Health Care](#) (4/21/22)

Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

- **May 25 | 10:00 AM - 1:05 PM Central:** [ACEP Virtual Grand Rounds - Metabolic and Endocrine Emergencies](#)
 - **May 26:** [The Changing Role of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners in the Emergency Department](#) - Webinar hosted by the ACEP Democratic Group Practice Section
 - **May 31:** Last day to utilize current [student loan rate discount for ACEP members](#)
 - **May 31:** Last day to join the [ACEP22 QI Challenge](#)
 - **June 1:** [Weird Baby Stuff: Managing Brief Resolved Unexplained Events](#) - Webinar hosted by the ACEP Pediatric Emergency Medicine Section
 - **June 16:** [Breaking Down Barriers to ED Care for People with Sickle Cell Disease](#) - Webinar hosted by the CDC
 - **June 16:** [EM Clinical Support Tool for Sickle Cell Disease](#)
 - **June 17:** Last day to apply for the new [EMF health policy scholar grant](#)
 - **June 20:** [Caring for our Heroes: Special Considerations for Treating Veterans in Emergency Departments](#) - Webinar hosted by ACEP
 - **Aug. 23-25:** [Independent EM Group Master Class](#)
 - **Nov. 11:** Last day to submit [ACEP23 course proposals](#)
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Contact Us

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