

A Newsletter for the Members of the Colorado Chapter - Summer 2023



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CO ACEP President's Corner

Anna Engeln, MD, FACEP

Preserve your ideals, don't let the people around you poke fun at them, and look for where you get your fulfillment and make sure that it is still there and go after it if it is not.

-Peter Rosen, MD

Summer is one of my favorite times of year... not only for the hot days and cooling thunderstorms, beautiful mountains and their trails that welcome us, summer concerts, Chaco tans, and ice cream, but also because is a time when we celebrate accomplishments and renewal within our profession.

We celebrate all that our graduating residents and fellows have accomplished throughout their training as we welcome new interns into our amazing specialty. In my undoubtedly biased (but clearly correct) opinion- they are joining the ranks of the best specialty. Our responsibility isn't just to clinical excellence, diagnosis, treatment, and all that fancy medical stuff... Being an Emergency Medicine Physician means that we are immediately inserted into people's most vulnerable and defining moments- some good, some bad, most hard, and this is where I find the most impactful and humbling moments of our job. As Emergency Medicine Physicians- we care for our communities and we also must invest in our personal community, in each other.

"It is in the shelter of each other that people live" -Irish Proverb

As an Emergency Medicine Physician, you have been the shelter for literally thousands of patients providing treatment, comfort, safety, and hope. As we look at how much we give to others and how much the nature of our job takes from us... we must make sure to invest in those that are our shelter, enabling us to fill our tank so that we are able to give to others.

To these people we are forever indebted. These are our friends, our family, our colleagues who take the baton at the end of a long shift, our teachers who are still the quiet voice in the back of our head when the going gets tough, or sometimes even a peaceful place where we can find solace.

I encourage you to take time this summer and beyond to invest in yourself and in your support system. At CO ACEP we want to help cultivate our community of Emergency Medicine Physicians throughout the state. CO ACEP is very active throughout the year and are currently working hard on legislation for this next legislative year including addressing administrative hurdles, promoting Emergency Medicine Physician practice in the rural setting, and other legislation to support Emergency Medicine Physicians throughout the state and the patients that we care for. We are continuing to work diligently with CMS as the PA practice rules are being refined, advocating for patient safety and our specialty. We welcome all our members to engage in being an integral part of our "think tank of advocacy" as we work hard to support Emergency Medicine Physicians and the patients we care for. As the front-line in every corner of our great state, you have the unique perspective to create positive change through sharing your ideas and stories, your barriers to providing care, and opportunities for solution. In addition, CO ACEP is hosting different events throughout the year to connect as well as learn together. CO ACEP is hosting the 2nd Annual Leadership Symposium and Emergency Medicine: High Risk – Do Not Risk continuing medical education conference this fall.

- Join us for our **Leadership Symposium CME event on November 2nd** at the Park Hyatt in Beaver Creek. The afternoon leadership symposium will be followed by a happy hour to network with amazing speakers as well as peers throughout the state.

Nationally recognized speakers participating in this event include Drs. Christopher Kang, Aisha Terry, Ramnik Dhaliwal, and Steve Quach in addition to ACEP's Senior Vice President of Advocacy & External Affairs, Laura Wooster.

Lecture topics will include Building **Legislative** relationships and what issues are facing emergency medicine at the nation's Capital, **Leadership** Development, Updates on **Billing and Coding**, and better understanding of how billing and reimbursement works for you.

- Join us for **CME event with lectures, and hands-on Ultrasound workshop on November 3rd** also at the Park Hyatt in Beaver Creek with a special focus on management of **critical pediatric patients** as an incredible opportunity to further your clinical expertise while making important connections with Emergency Physicians from across the state.

Lectures will include Management of **Pediatric Seizures** and **Pediatric Sepsis, Neonatal Resuscitation** and the emergent management of the blue neonate, Care of the **Drowning** Victim, **Endocrine Emergencies**, and Update on **Drugs of Abuse** today.

The **Ultrasound Workshop** led by Dr. Matthew Riscinti, an international leader of ultrasound education and clinical application, and will include opportunities for **hands-on** learning of **nerve blocks, ultrasound guided procedures**, and advanced ultrasound techniques that will impact your everyday clinical care.

- Throughout the year we host **events with local and national legislatures** to discuss issues and legislation impacting our practice as Emergency Medicine Physicians and our patients.

In June, we met with Congresswoman Caraveo, a physician herself, she is an incredible advocate for medicine at the national level with a deep understanding of the issues impacting the practice of medicine.

Join us for our upcoming **fundraiser to meet with and support State Representative Lindsay Daugherty** as she begins her campaign for state senate. In the state House of Representatives, she has been an essential champion for the issues affecting Emergency Medicine. From scope of practice to healthcare administration, to challenges influencing patient care, Representative Daugherty has been a tireless advocate for the issues that impact us and our patients. Join as **Tuesday, September 26th 5pm** in central Denver. Please email suzanne.acep@comcast.net for more information or to RSVP.

- Join us for our **Young Physicians Happy Hour** to connect with other Emergency Physicians. All are welcome, both the young and young at heart, as we connect with Emergency Medicine Physicians who have recently started their career in Colorado and create connection with new colleagues. Our next event will be in combination with our meeting with Representative Daugherty, **Tuesday, September 26th** as an opportunity to get involved in statewide advocacy.
- Join us and the **CHA October 19th 12-1pm** for a virtual webinar to prepare us for the upcoming pediatric respiratory season. Look for details to follow.

I am humbled and proud to have you as my colleagues. Good luck to everyone on new adventures this summer. I am looking forward to working closely with you throughout the year as we continue to strengthen our specialty and each other.

Save the Date

**2nd Annual
Medical Directors' Summit
&
Emergency Medicine: High Risk – Do Not Miss**

**November 2 & 3, 2023
Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort and Spa**



Registration Opens Soon

- **November 2nd - Medical Directors' Summit**

Leadership and Advocacy Skills from Nationally Recognized Speakers.
This activity has been approved for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*

- **November 3rd - Emergency Medicine: High Risk – Do Not Miss**

High Yield Lectures with an Emphasis on Pediatrics and Ultrasound Guided Procedures

This activity has been approved for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*
Special room and resort rates for both events and through the weekend have been negotiated. This is a great opportunity to get to the mountains and mingle with your colleagues from across the state.



From the Capitol

Dan Jablan
CoACEP Lobbyist

Even though the Colorado legislature is not in session right now, the politics affecting the practice of emergency medicine never takes time off. In addition to the regulators adopting rules and regulations for the implementation of the new physician assistants' statute, the Colorado Medical Board contemplating the Colorado opioid prescribing guidelines in light of the new CDC prescribing guidelines, and legislative interim committees focusing on opioid and other substance use disorders and behavioral health care, your leadership is busy preparing for the 2024 legislative session which begins on January 10th with identifying legislative priorities and strategy. 2024 is already shaping up to have a heavy focus on healthcare and CO ACEP intends to be right in the middle of the mix advocating for you. We will come back to that after we look at what's happening in this interim.

House Democrats File Lawsuit Against House Leadership:

Freshman Reps. Elisabeth Epps (D-Denver) and Bob Marshall (D-Highlands Ranch) have sued the House of Representatives and its leaders, including Speaker Julie McCluskie (D-Dillon), Majority Leader Monica Duran (D-Wheat Ridge), and Minority Leader Mike Lynch (R-Wellington). Reps. Epps and Marshall are alleging that the legislature (including themselves) regularly uses an encrypted messaging app to discuss legislative business and repeatedly holds unpublished meetings between multiple legislators, in violation of open meetings and open records laws. Rep. Marshall says that the goal is to get House leadership to agree to follow the law without a court order. He also believes the open meetings law is currently unworkable and he hopes to fix it in the next legislative session.

Voters approved the Sunshine Law by 20 percentage points in 1972 when it appeared on the ballot as a citizen's initiative. One of the law's components requires state lawmakers and agencies to conduct public business in open meetings. The law says that any meeting of two or more members of a state public body, like the Legislature, must be open to the public if any public business is discussed or formal action may be taken. And it says that any meeting where the adoption of policy or a position occurs must be preceded by timely public notice.

In 1983 with the Colorado Supreme Court ruling in *Cole v. State*. Ralph Cole, a Republican state senator, objected to legislative caucus meetings — where members of a party gather to discuss positions and bills — being subject to

Sunshine. The court declared that caucus meetings should indeed be open to the public, and it articulated why in artfully persuasive passages like this: “A free self-governing people needs full information concerning the activities of its government not only to shape its views of policy and to vote intelligently in elections, but also to compel the state, the agent of the people, to act responsibly and account for its actions.

Colorado Conservatives File Lawsuit to Stop Secret “Quadratic Voting”

Advance Colorado announced they have filed a lawsuit to stop the secret preference polling process used by Colorado Democrats to determine what legislation receives funding each session as a violation of the Colorado Open Meetings Law. You will find the link to Colorado Politics article here:

[Colorado conservatives sue to block 'quadratic voting' by legislative Democrats | Courts | coloradopolitics.com](#)

Musical Chairs Under the Gold Dome

Residents of northwest Denver will soon have a new representative in the state House. Rep. Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez, who has represented the House District 4 since 2019, resigned to join the Denver City Council. She was inaugurated into her new office on in mid-July. Via Colorado Politics, Gonzales-Gutierrez's resignation will be effective on August 4, giving Denver Democrats until September 3 to identify her replacement. The vacancy election is tentatively planned for August 26.

At the same time... State Sen. Rhonda Fields (Chair of the Senate Health Committee) announced she will make a bid for Arapahoe County Commission in the 2024 election. Fields, an Aurora Democrat who has served in the state legislature since 2011, is term-limited out of her Senate seat in 2024. She served six years in the House and will serve eight years in the Senate at the end of her current term.

Kirkmeyer Opts to Stay in State Senate

Republican State Senator Barbara Kirkmeyer has said that she won't run again Congresswoman Caraveo next year in Colorado's highly competitive 8th Congressional District. She's opting instead to seek another four-year term in the Colorado Senate, where she is a member of the powerful Joint Budget Committee.

Following Kirkmeyer's announcement, Weld County Commissioner Scott James announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination becoming the first declared challenger hoping to unseat Democratic U.S. Rep. Yadira Caraveo. Other potential Republican candidates include freshman State Rep. Gabe Evans, Weld County Commissioner Steve Moreno, and former state Rep. Dan Woog.

Governor's Office Sees Staff Changes

Governor Polis named a new director of his Office of State Planning and Budget (OSPB) who is no stranger to Colorado politics. The new director is former Speaker Mark Ferrandino (D-Denver), who has been the Executive Director of the Department of Revenue since November 2020. He spent four years on the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) before being elected House Speaker in 2013 and later served as Denver Public Schools' Chief Financial Officer. In his new role, Ferrandino will be responsible for developing the governor's budget proposal. Also, Governor Polis announced the retirement of Anthony Neal-Graves, the Chief Information Officer and Executive Director of the Office of Information (OIT). Polis now has two cabinet level positions to fill in the near future.

So, with both Republicans and Democrats suing their own legislature, many scrambling for their next political endeavors and all the interim activities noted at the beginning of this article, for CO ACEP protect your ability to practice the best medicine for your patients, we will need all CO ACEP members to engage. As highly politically charged as the 2023 legislative session was, 2024, being an election year, is expected to be even more divisive. Stay tuned – the way you practice medicine hangs in the balance.

Legislative Champion Highlight

A CO ACEP Interview with **Representative Lindsey Daugherty**



Why did you choose to pursue a career in the legislature?

I first ran for office because I wanted to solve complex problems, create lasting, positive change, and amplify the voices of those who too often go unheard. As an attorney specializing in family and juvenile law, I've seen firsthand the struggles of abused and neglected children and the barriers faced by individuals struggling with addiction. It became clear that my work needed to extend beyond individual cases, addressing the systemic issues underlying these struggles in mental health, education, and healthcare. In the legislature, I can apply my passion for justice and my expertise in law to influence policies and laws that directly impact vulnerable populations, ensuring that their challenges are addressed at the societal level.

What surprised you the most about working as a legislator?

One of the most unexpected elements of my legislative work has been the immense scope of issues I've become familiar with in just a few years. The wide range of subjects that pass through our committees is astounding. On any given day, we may be discussing agricultural policies, high-tech industry regulations, environmental protections, or even the nuances of beekeeping in Colorado. Each bill brings with it a new universe of expertise, stakeholders, and potential consequences. The ongoing learning process keeps this role uniquely engaging while helping me represent my constituents with greater insight and efficacy.

What is the biggest similarity or difference in your career as a State Representative compared to working as guardian ad litem (attorney for abused and neglected children)?

While my responsibilities as a State Representative and as a juvenile attorney are quite different on the surface, my passion for both jobs stems from a desire to improve the lives of vulnerable children and families. The most noticeable difference is in the scale and scope: as guardian ad litem, my focus is on individual children and their unique needs, but in the legislature, I help to create policies that affect the entire community. The day-to-day work varies significantly between the two roles, but the underlying values remain the same: an earnest commitment to understanding complex issues, a profound empathy for those in need, and an unrelenting pursuit of positive change.

If you could change one thing about healthcare in Colorado, what would it be?

As Chair of the House Health & Insurance Committee, my focus has always been to protect Coloradans from unexpected and unmanageable healthcare costs. If there's one thing I would like to change, it's to further increase transparency in our healthcare system. I've seen how a lack of transparency can lead to devastating financial surprises for Coloradans, many of whom are already struggling to meet their healthcare expenses.

This year, I was proud to sponsor SB23-252, a bipartisan bill requiring hospitals to provide clear and upfront pricing information to help families anticipate and compare costs. We need to extend this transparency initiative to other areas of healthcare, such as prescription drug costs and health insurance, to ensure that no Coloradan is blindsided by medical bills they didn't anticipate or cannot afford. Doing so will help to promote competition, lower prices, and most importantly, put power back into the hands of the people.

What do you consider your greatest achievement in the legislature?

My greatest achievement in the legislature thus far hasn't been the passage of any single bill or piece of legislation that I've worked on. Rather, I believe it is my ability to forge strong relationships and effective collaborations with individuals from all political persuasions. Over the years, I've found that the power of constructive dialogue, compromise, and understanding cannot be overstated. It's through these hard-won relationships that we've managed to pass impactful bipartisan legislation in crucial areas like healthcare, education, and public safety. These bills represent

more than policy victories; they are testament to the strength of our democratic process when we engage with each other constructively and with mutual respect.

What can emergency medicine do better regarding advocating for the specialty and our patients?

Emergency medicine professionals have invaluable insights and expertise that can greatly inform and shape healthcare policy. To advocate effectively for the specialty and for your patients, I would encourage you to participate more actively in the legislative process, specifically by coming to the Capitol and providing testimony on bills that could affect patient care. Your perspective, expertise, and experiences can profoundly influence policy decisions and help us shape laws that truly meet the needs of our healthcare system and patients.

Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

One final thing I'd love to share with you is a recent, transformative event in my life: the birth of my first child, Theo, this past June! Becoming a mother has been a profound and unparalleled joy. However, like any major life change, it's also been filled with challenges that have tested our resilience, patience, and adaptability. Motherhood has given me a fresh perspective on life and work that has already strengthened my empathy and understanding.

This experience has been a powerful teacher, highlighting the immense responsibilities and challenges that parents and caregivers encounter daily. I've become even more passionate about advocating for policies that empower and uplift families, such as parental leave, childcare support, and truly affordable and accessible healthcare. These aren't just political issues; they are personal, and they matter deeply to families across our state.

Upcoming Events Calendar

CO ACEP 2023 Board of Directors' Meeting Schedule

- August 30, 2023, 12pm – 2pm – Special Legislative Meeting, Board of Directors
- September 27, 2023, 12pm – 2pm – Board of Directors
- November 2, 2023, 11am – 1pm – Board of Directors, Park Hyatt Resort and Spa in Beaver Creek. CO

Additional Important Meeting Dates

- October 6 -9, 2023 ACEP's 2023 Council Meeting, Philadelphia PA
- October 9 -12, 2023 ACEP's Scientific Assembly – Philadelphia PA
- November 2, 2023, 1:00pm – 5:00pm, 2nd Annual Leadership Symposium, Park Hyatt Resort and Spa in Beaver Creek. CO

- November 3, 2023, 8am - 5pm 2nd Annual High Risk - Do Not Miss, Beaver Creek, CO

For more information about participating in any of the meeting listed above, please contact CO ACEP Executive Director Suzanne Hamilton at suzanne.acep@comcast.net.

FROM NATIONAL ACEP



ACEP Resources & Latest News

ACEP President shares highlights of ACEP victories. In the July issue of *ACEP Now*, Medical Editor in Chief Cedric Dark, MD, FACEP, checks in with ACEP President Chris Kang, MD, FACEP, for the latest on the College's work to address ED boarding, physician burnout, private equity in EM and more. [Read more.](#)

Advocacy victory: In a big win for emergency physicians, changes to the surprise billing process are now in the works. We heard your concerns and used our voice to call out extensive flaws in the law's implementation. This is your dues dollars at work. [Read more.](#)

Latest updates related to the APP closure: In the wake of American Physician Partners' closing, many members need immediate support. Even if you weren't directly impacted, the changing landscape of healthcare brings uncertainty - and ACEP has [tools](#) to help.

- Watch our recent [legal webinar about job transitions](#) to help with contract decisions.
- Access our **new** [contract toolkit](#) with extensive, members-only FAQs about insurance, contracts and legal issues during career transitions
- Email presidentkang@acep.org if you or a colleague has been affected, and share specific circumstances so ACEP can provide tailored assistance.

Your newest member benefit helps with contract review and negotiations! ACEP's new partnership with Resolve gives you free access to real-time salary data, a contract scorecard to rate any new or existing contract, and

updates on the current J-1 waiver cycle. ACEP members also get 20% off additional packages from Resolve. [Read more.](#)

Millions in Funding Set for ALTO, MAT Programs. ACEP advocacy resulted in millions of dollars in grant funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The significant boost for emergency physician-led Alternative to Opioids (ALTO) and Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs will help save lives and improve care related to opioid use disorder. ACEP developed and worked to pass the law to establish ALTO and strongly supports MAT expansion, including the recent repeal of the "X-waiver." [Read more.](#)

ICYMI, ACEP releases statements on Diversity and CMGs

On July 14, ACEP issued a [Policy Statement on the Corporate Practice of Medicine](#). ACEP believes the physician-patient relationship is the moral center of medicine. The integrity of this relationship must never be compromised.

On July 20, ACEP issued a Joint [Statement from EM organizations on efforts to diversify healthcare](#) professionals in the U.S. [See all policy statements.](#)

ACEP Grassroots Advocacy

ACEP's ED Visit Program

As part of ACEP's federal advocacy efforts, we aim to have as many legislators as possible visit emergency departments in their communities to see first-hand the inner workings of an ED and those patients seeking care in the ED. Members of Congress rely heavily upon input from their constituents when considering issues and making policy decisions. As the front line of our nation's health care delivery system, emergency physicians are well-positioned to educate legislators on a wide range of issues including patient access, public health concerns, rural and inner-city health issues, and quality of care.

ACEP assists in the scheduling and preparation for these visits, including talking points and tips on coordinating the visit with your hospital staff and administration. For more information about hosting an ED visit for your federal legislator, please contact [Jeanne Slade](#) or [Liz Demorest](#) in the ACEP Washington, D.C. Office.

NEMPAC Networking Opportunities at ACEP23:

The NEMPAC Board of Trustees is inviting NEMPAC VIP donors to two exclusive events at ACEP23 – don't miss the opportunity to network with ACEP leaders and colleagues who support emergency medicine advocacy!

NEMPAC VIP Donor Reception

When: Sunday, October 8, 6-8 p.m.

Where: The Liberty View at Independence Visitor Center, 599 Market Street, Philadelphia

How to Receive an Invitation: Donate \$600 (\$365 for transitioning and retired members, \$60 for residents)

NEMPAC "Give-a-Shift" Donor Lounge

When: Monday, October 9 – Wednesday, October 11, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. each day

Where: Philadelphia Convention Center, Level 100, Room 117

How to Receive an Invitation: Donate \$1,200 (\$365 for transitioning and retired members, \$120 for residents)

[Donate to NEMPAC](#) by October 4 or during ACEP23 to join us at the Reception and Lounge!

Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

Aug. 23: [Virtual Grand Rounds: Risk Management](#)

Sep. 18: Nominations due for [ACEP's Medical Humanities Writing & Visual Arts Awards](#)

Oct 9-12: [ACEP23](#) Scientific Assembly, Philadelphia, PA

Contact Us

Anna Engeln, MD, FACEP - President
Suzanne Hamilton - Executive Director
303.905.8777 | suzanne.acep@comcast.net | [Website](#)

Colorado Chapter ACEP
1520 W Dry Creek Rd.
Littleton, CO 80120

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