

A Newsletter for the Members of the Colorado Chapter - Winter 2024

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CO ACEP President's Corner

Rebecca Kornas, MD, FACEP

President-Elect CO ACEP

My name is Rebecca Kornas, and I currently work with US Acute Care Services, where I serve as the Medical Director of AdventHealth Avista.

I am honored and excited to be the next president of Colorado ACEP. For those of you that don't know me well, I want to give you a little insight into who I am and my values.

I am the kind of person who can't stay on the sidelines and watch as a problem worsens. Whether that be in a busy emergency department or a chaotic legislature. I seek out the key stakeholders and those who are more well versed in the subject than myself and try to determine if there is a better way to approach the situation, effectively. I get involved with the best of intentions to try and influence change in a proactive manner. Most times when this is successful, it involves developing relationships and collaboration with a diverse team. I am a big believer in the power of education, learning and then empowering my team.

Through a leadership development program within my company, USACS, Scholars, I was first able to attend the ACEP Leadership and Advocacy conference in 2019 and while there I got my first deep dive into the world of advocacy in emergency medicine and how passionate those who choose to stay involved in this aspect of our profession can be. I was hooked. Via one of my mentors, Chris Johnston, I heard about the Colorado ACEP Leadership and Advocacy Fellowship and served as the fellow in 2020, and I

haven't looked back since, serving as a board member, the treasurer, president-elect and now as your president.

[Read more.](#)

From the Capitol



Dan Jablan

CO ACEP Lobbyist



Suzanne Hamilton

Executive Director

To say you need to buckle down and hold on for this Legislative Session is an understatement, to begin, while not unexpected, the House of Representatives was forced to halt activity less than 30 minutes into opening day, as groups of pro-Palestinian protestors shouted from the House gallery and unfurled flags. Activists also shut down the House during the November special session. Protestors say they will continue their demonstrations throughout the session.

One controversial legislator has been frozen out of office and committees. Since her November 2022 election to House District 6, Elisabeth Epps (D-Denver) has repeatedly bucked her own leadership, from filibustering a Democrat bill to filing a lawsuit against legislative leadership. During the

November 2023 special session, she sat in the House gallery with pro-Palestinian protestors, yelled “fascists” to her colleagues, and refused to clear the balcony when ordered to do so.

Historically, we have had 4 caucuses in the Colorado General Assembly. Republican and Democratic caucuses in each chamber. In this 2024 session, we will need to navigate upwards of 10 caucuses. The House republicans have the MAGA republicans, the conservative republicans, and moderate. On the Democratic side of the aisle there are moderates, liberals, progressives, socialists, and those from both sides of the aisle that just do not fit into any caucus.

It is this wild political atmosphere, coupled with it being an election year, that we must navigate numerous legislative proposals with significant impacts on emergency medicine physicians. There are bills already introduced, and some still anticipated ranging from those that continue the state’s work on battling the opioid epidemic to the bill prohibiting the use of the term “excited delirium” in training law enforcement personnel, first responders as well as one increasing patient access to and reducing the waiting period and eliminating residency requirements persons choosing to end their lives through medical aid-in dying.

We should highlight a few proposals of directly impacting your practice.

[Read more.](#)

Colorado ACEP 2023 Interview

Senator Barbara Kirkmeyer

Hometown: Fort Lupton, CO



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

When I completed my term on the Weld County Commission, I was ready to retire. Then, the Democrat take-over of the state happened. Overnight, there were new laws attacking our jobs, our values, and way of life. For starters, just think about the regulations on our energy jobs and workers.

I ran because I wanted to make a difference, not just make a point. I strive to do that every day with my service on the Joint Budget Committee and with every bill I introduce, advocate, or oppose.

What surprised you the most about working as a legislator?

I've come to the conclusion that too many elected officials are content with just occupying space and ensuring their party wins power or remains in control. That's not me. I ran with a purpose and plan to govern.

[Read more.](#)

The CO ACEP Annual Meeting

Was held at Logan Street in Denver, CO on January 25, 2024

We were grateful for those from around the state who joined us for this engaging meeting. It was wonderful meeting up with old friends and making new connections as we all work together for our specialty and our patients.



Dr. Anna Engeln, now immediate past president for COACEP, discussed the impact that COACEP leadership and advocacy has had and will continue to have on both state and national legislation. **Dr. Rebecca Kornas** will be taking up the reins of the presidency with focus on protecting the practice of medicine in Colorado by taking on threats to the existing medical malpractice caps, improving pediatric readiness throughout the state, and will continue our advocacy around scope of practice, working to uphold that all communities have access to the gold standard of physician-led care.

[Read more.](#)

Rocky Mountain Winter Conference on Emergency Medicine



**Rocky Mountain
Winter Conference
ON EMERGENCY MEDICINE**

WELCOME TO THE BEST SKI CME IN
EMERGENCY MEDICINE!
Relax, Escape, Enjoy...

Please join us February 24th - 28th, 2024 for our annual Rocky Mountain Winter Conference on Emergency Medicine. Take your skills to the next level while enjoying the breathtaking beauty of Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Attend cutting-edge didactics on emergency medicine and workshops led by renowned experts from the country's top academic programs. Take advantage of hands-on practice in our state-of-the-art labs and mid-morning ski breaks.

The Steamboat Grand Resort & Conference Center will ensure your visit to the area exceeds your expectations. After an engaging day of CME, unwind in the quiet of the resort campus and indulge in luxurious spa treatments. Plan some night skiing or take part in relaxing networking opportunities during culinary excursions. Spend quality time with family and friends or enjoy the resort's many activities such as a snow buggy tour!

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to enhance your skills and Ski Steamboat Springs!

FEBRUARY 24TH - 28TH, 2024
ROCKYCME.COM
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO

REGISTRATION
IS OPEN

IN MEMORIAM



COACEP would like to recognize **Dr. Marilyn Gifford**, a pioneer and champion of Emergency Medicine.

Dr. Marilyn Gifford passed away on January 16th at the vibrant age of 80. A trailblazer, she was one of the first **women** to choose Emergency Medicine as a specialty graduating from the United States Naval Medical Center in

1971 and after residency began caring for patients in Boulder. In 1979, she moved to Colorado Springs, subsequently becoming the physician advisor for the Colorado Springs Fire Department and emergency room director at Memorial Hospital. She developed multiple lifesaving protocols and per Fire Chief Royal “she took our advance life support up to a level that had never been seen before.” She was a pioneer in the industry and had a passion and heart for those she served.

We are indebted to Dr. Marilyn Gifford’s profound impact on Emergency Medicine in Colorado.

Upcoming Events Calendar

CO ACEP 2023 Board of Directors’ Meeting Schedule

- January 25, 2pm – 3pm Board of Directors
- March 7, 12pm – 2pm Board Directors
- May 2, 12pm – 2pm Board Directors
- July 18, 12pm – 2pm Board Directors
- September 5, 12pm – 2pm Board Directors
- November 7, 11am – 1pm Board Directors

CO ACEP 2023 Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

- November 7, 11am – 1pm Board Directors
- April 4, 12pm – 2pm – Executive Committee
- June 6, 12pm – 2pm – Executive Committee
- August 1, 12pm – 2pm – Executive Committee

- October 3, 12pm – 2pm – Executive Committee
- December 5, 12pm – 2pm – Executive Committee

Additional Important Meeting Dates

- April 14-16, 2024 - ACEP's Leadership and Advocacy Conference, Washington, DC
- September 27 & 28, 2024 ACEP's 2024 Council Meeting, Las Vegas, NV
- September 29 – October 2, 2024, ACEP's Scientific Assembly, Las Vegas, NV
- November 7, 1pm – 5pm Leadership Symposium
- November 8, 8am – 5pm CME Program “EM: High Risk – Do Not Miss”

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 spoke at a Congressional briefing Tuesday to discuss violence in the ED and advocate for legislative solutions to protect health care workers. Aisha Terry, MD, FACEP, detailed the urgent need for accountability and stronger protections, saying, “We can’t be the safety net without feeling safe ourselves.” [Read more.](#)

Amplify your voice at ACEP's Leadership & Advocacy Conference, April 14-16. Together, we will advocate in person to policymakers for a better environment for EM and your patients. [Register today!](#)

Emergency medicine continues to move beyond traditional routes. With multiple meetings in one location within the same week, ACEP Accelerate offers different tracks to forge ahead and rise to your career goals. Get some of the best features of a large conference experience while retaining the targeted education of a focused meeting - all at a brand new resort in the exciting entertainment capital of Texas! [Read more.](#)

ACEP Advocacy: Act now to reverse Medicare physician pay cuts. Beginning Jan. 1, Medicare physician reimbursements were cut 3.4%. Legislators need to hear directly from you to reverse these harmful cuts as soon as possible. [Read more.](#)

Dive into Unionization: ACEP invites you into the hard conversations about emergency physician unionization as we collectively wrestle with how to protect EPs now and in the future. [Take a quick survey about your interest level in physician unionization.](#)

- [Watch two courses from ACEP23](#) about unions and employer models. [Listen to a recent Frontline podcast](#) about physician unions. Then commit to more discussions about next steps for EM.

ICYMI: PEER's gone mobile! All PEERprep and PEERCert+ subscribers can download and log in to use the study tool with its new mobile app today.

Available for both Apple and Android users. Also, don't miss out on the ACEP Mobile App, which provides easy, offline access to clinical policies, point of care tools, reimbursement FAQs, news, advocacy alerts and more! Download both today. [Read more.](#)

ACEP Awards: ACEP's Leadership Awards Program recognizes members in all career stages and environments for their professional contributions and service to the College. The nomination deadline is March 12. [Read more.](#)

Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

Feb. 26: [Introducing Emergency Medicine Residents to Democratic Group Practice](#)

Feb. 28: [Develop a Plan to Tackle Your Student Loans](#)

Feb 29: [Becoming a Forensic Medicine Expert Witness](#)

Feb. 29: [Ruptured Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm](#)

March 7: [Nuts and Bolts of Physician Reimbursement](#)

March 9-15: [ACEP Accelerate, Arlington, TX](#), Featuring -

- Advanced Pediatric EM Assembly – **March 11-13**
- ED Directors' Academy – **March 11-15**
- Reimbursement & Coding – **March 11-13**
- Teaching Fellowship – **March 9-14**

March 11: [Board of Directors Nominations Deadline](#)

March 12: [ACEP Award Nominations Deadline](#)

April 14-16: [ACEP Leadership & Advocacy Conference, Washington, DC](#)

Contact Us

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