The attached video is an interview with Dr. Fermin Barrueto. Dr. Barrueto testified on behalf of MD ACEP on Senate bill 76 regarding regulation of synthetic cannabinoids. He brought the mother of one of his patients who told the tragic story of the effect of this toxin on her son. He describes the toxic effects of synthetic cannabinoids and contrasts them with marijuana.

http://youtu.be/UhDCNncEEZ8

MD ACEP member, Dr. Bill Zirkin made us aware of House Bill 496, Child Abuse and Neglect - Failure to Report - Penalties. The bill would have made failure to report abuse that "should have been suspected" a misdemeanor with penalties including fines and jail time. Bill is the brother of State Senator, Bobby Zirkin, a great advocate for emergency physicians. Bobby opposed the bill in the Senate and it received an unfavorable vote by the House Judiciary committee. MD ACEP thanks the Zirkins for their work on our behalf.

Bill UPDATE: “House Bill 496 - Child Abuse and Neglect – Failure to Report – Penalties” was voted UNFAVORABLE by the House Judiciary Committee.

MD ACEP opposed this legislation because it would have put physicians at risk of misdemeanor charges and penalties including significant fines and jail time for knowingly failing to report suspected child abuse.

GARAGIOLA RECEPTION

On February 23, 2012, the Maryland Chapter of ACEP hosted a fundraiser for 6th District Congressional Candidate, Robert Garagiola. Senator Garagiola currently serves as the State Senate Majority Leader in Maryland. He is the Head of the Finance Committee, and as such, has been a supporter of physicians. Most notably, Senator Garagiola helped spearhead the passage of the Assignment of Benefits Bill in the 2010 Session. He has met with members of Maryland ACEP, and attended a Public Policy Meeting with our group in September of 2011.

The Sixth District of Maryland is newly redistricted. This new district spans through Western Maryland and into areas of Montgomery County. It is an integrated district, which is neither solidly Democratic nor Republican. Both the primaries and general election are being hotly contested.

The event was hosted at the home of Public Policy Chair, Orlee Panitch. ACEP members from across the state attended this event. A generous contribution of $5000 was collected from NEMPAC, the National Emergency Medicine PAC to support the Senator.

We wish Senator Garagiola success in his bid for Congress. We look forward to having another strong ally in the House of Representatives!
Greetings from Annapolis.

We have just passed the half way point of the 90 Day Session, spring is in the air (or maybe winter never arrived), and the pace has definitely picked up. With the passage of the marriage bills the Budget has moved to the forefront. Discussions have intensified in the quest to balance the budget through cuts and revenue enhancements. The Senate President has drafted a doomsday budget of cuts, while bills have been introduced to raise revenues through a variety of measures including: application of the state sales tax to services that are currently untaxed (roadside car repair, legal services, etc.); expanded gambling, and a millionaires tax. The next few weeks will be a bumpy ride, stay tuned for further details.

Maryland Acep has been very active testifying on issues ranging from synthetic cannabinoids to truth and transparency in health care to scope of practice; and was successful in helping to defeat a bill that would have imposed very strict penalties on physicians who fail to report abuse on top of penalties that already exist under law. We are closely following and weighing in on the ongoing discussions on health care delivery reform and development of the health insurance benefit exchange. Of interest the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) submitted its report to the Governor and Maryland General Assembly outlining how the state could provide technical assistance and support to safety net providers as Maryland prepares to implement the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This report can be accessed online: CHRC business plan

In the coming weeks we will be participating in the budget hearings and discussions concerning Maryland’s Medicaid program. Legislation was just introduced that will establish a Medicaid Sustainability Task Force. This task force specifically charged with requiring the Commission to study and make recommendations regarding specified matters relating to the sustainability of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program (House Bill 1341/Senate Bill 953). A full list of bills, copies of testimony, and information of interest can be found at www.bmbassoc.com/mdacep.

We encourage you to contact us with any questions or if you want to come to Annapolis and attend a hearing or lend your expertise on an issue: Barbara@bmbassoc.com or 410-269-1503

MEDCHI WORKS TO PREVENT PRIOR PREAUTHORIZATION BILL

GENE M. RANSOM, III

The General Assembly session is half over and MedChi continues to place a high priority piece of legislation to reform the prior-authorization process. As I am sure you are aware, insurance carriers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) impose various “priorauthorization” requirements before a physician is able to obtain needed pharmaceuticals or medical services for his or her patient. Countless hours of administrative time in a physician’s office are spent in securing preauthorization approvals. In almost all cases, the preauthorization is approved but only after considerable delay and administrative expense. As the result of testimony and summer study work by MedChi and General Assembly leaders, the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) has proposed a process for moving to mandated uniform standards for preauthorization. The recommendations can be downloaded at THIS SITE. MedChi is proposing that the MHCC be granted the authority to require carriers to conform to its standards and timeframes.

At a time when physicians are being asked to help bring about higher health care quality with lowered costs, it is important that their efforts not be hindered by antiquated and unnecessary requirements. The bill has been heard in the House and a hearing in the Senate is scheduled for next week. Contact your legislator and request that they support the MedChi bill to empower the MHCC to streamline the prior authorization process. Identical bills on the subject are being introduced in each house by Senator John Astle and Delegate Shawn Tarrant. Please call or email your legislators today, especially those on the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee, and ask them to Support the MedChi Bill on Preauthorization. Visit MedChi’s Legislative Action Center at http://capwiz.com/medchi/state/main/?state=MD to take action now.
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE
MARYLAND ACEP
2012 EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE
THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012

The Westin BWI
1110 Old Elkridge Landing Rd, Baltimore, MD

7:30 – 8:00 am  General Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:00 - 8:10  Welcome
8:10 - 9:10  Pseudoaxioms: Medical Myths in EM
Presenter: David Newman, MD, FACEP
9:10 – 10:00  Professionalism and Conflict Resolution
Presenter: James G. Adams, MD, FACEP
10:00 - 10:30  BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS
10:30 - 11:30  Avoiding Abdominal Apocalypse.... A choose your own adventure
Presenter: Josh Broder, MD, FACEP
11:30 - 12:20 pm  Cutting edge drugs of abuse
Presenter: Robert S. Hoffman, MD, FACCT, FACMT, FRCP
12:20 – 1:30  LUNCHEON AND AWARDS
Maryland ACEP Business Meeting
1:30 – 2:25  Tackling the patient with agitated delirium
Presenter: Robert S. Hoffman, MD, FACCT, FACMT, FRCP
2:25 – 2:50  Clinical Pearls for the Crashing Pediatric Patient
Presenter: Mimi Lu, MD, MS
2:50 – 3:10  BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS
3:10 – 3:40  Telemetry in Low-Risk Chest Pain...Where’s the Evidence?
Presenter: Jack Perkins, MD, FACEP, FAAEM, FACP
3:40 – 4:15  Radiation Exposure in the ED: How much is too much for your patient?
Presenter: Linda Regan, MD, FACEP
4:15 pm  END

6.25 AMA PRA CATEGORY 1 CREDITS™
BEING APPLIED FOR THROUGH THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

Target Audience
Emergency physicians, emergency residents, emergency nurses and pre-hospital providers practicing in Maryland.

Emergency Nurses Association
This activity is being submitted to The Emergency Nurses Association for approval to award contact hours. The Emergency Nurses Association is accredited as an approver of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

Program Description
This course is being presented to update emergency medicine personnel on current issues pertaining to the scope of practice of clinical emergency medicine, specifically relating to the topics of myths in emergency medicine, conflict resolution in the emergency department, diagnosis of abdominal pain, treating the severely agitated patient, understanding the new abused drugs, diagnosis of shock in infants, chest pain, and radiation exposure in the emergency department. The program will consist of live presentations by expert faculty; each session will include a question and answer period.

REGISTRATION AVAILABLE MID-MARCH