

EMinMD

Chapter Newsletter

In this Edition

[From the Maryland ACEP President](#)

[New Chapter Newsletter Name](#)

[Upcoming Chapter Events](#)

[Legislative Initiative](#)

[Spotlight a Chapter Member](#)

[Crushing COVID](#)

[Welcome New Members](#)



President's Message

Maryland ACEP Members,

Thank you to those who participated in the MD ACEP newsletter naming survey. It appears that respondents have settled on the name **EMinMD**! This issue marks the 1st edition under this name. In addition to the name change, we have decided to shorten the newsletter and bring it to you bi-monthly as opposed to quarterly.

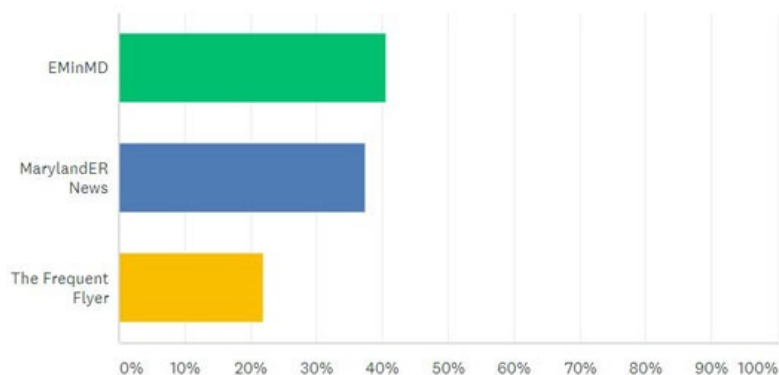
Hoping you enjoy this issue which has a great article highlighting Dr. Jon Mark Hirshon who has been active in ACEP at the local and national levels for over two decades! Dr. Kavita Jackson, MD ACEP's Social Media Ambassador, has also done some amazing work promoting the chapter through social media! Please be sure to follow Maryland ACEP on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

This has been a very active session during the 2021 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly. Maryland ACEP has been at the forefront, advocating for our members and the specialty of Emergency Medicine. We continue to stress the importance of maintaining E&M codes at their current levels (93% of Medicare). This is extremely important for Emergency Medicine reimbursement and MDACEP has successfully pushed to keep this reimbursement at current levels. In addition, we continue to advocate for increased behavioral health resources and reduced behavioral health boarding. Earlier this month I gave testimony in favor of the Maryland Healthcare Heroes Protection Act which will expand existing liability protections during catastrophic health emergencies specifically to adapt to the unique challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to bear on the healthcare system.

I have been grateful to serve as Maryland ACEP president during one of the most challenging year's we have seen. Despite a rough 2020, I am optimistic for 2021. We have a great virtual Educational Conference planned for Thursday, March 18th. Dr. Michael Bond has worked tirelessly to pull together a great lineup of speakers. Please [register](#) if you have not done so. Hope to see you there!

New Chapter Newsletter Name

Thanks to those of you that submitted options for the new chapter newsletter name and to those of you that voted. The results are in and as you can see from the above title and the below survey results, the winner is ***EMinMD!***



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ EMinMD	40.63%
▼ MarylandER News	37.50%
▼ The Frequent Flyer	21.88%
TOTAL	

Upcoming Chapter Events

2021 Educational Conference & Annual Meeting

Please join us for the Educational Conference & Annual Meeting that will be held virtually on **Thursday, March 18th** featuring nationally known speakers like Amal Mattu, Corey Slovis, and Joelle Borhart along with numerous local speakers.



Topics include Cardiology Updates, Coding & Billing Updates, Geriatric, and Pediatric topics along with a special session on when the Physician becomes the Patient. For the complete line up, please click [here](#) and to register [here](#).



Virtual Wine Tasting

Sponsored by Nuance Communications - Healthcare

[Nuance Communications - Healthcare](#) will be sponsoring a Virtual Wine Tasting for all Maryland ACEP Chapter members on **Tuesday, April 20th @ 6:30PM EST**. More details about how to register for this event will be shared via email and via the chapter social media channels as they become available.

Legislative Initiative

Thanks to Dr. Linton for testifying on Wednesday, January 3rd in the House Judiciary Committee at 2:30 PM EST on Sen Bill 311/House Bill 25.

Watch the LIVE stream [here](#) or click on the photo below to watch the video. Scroll to 2:08:50 PM EST to 2:12:45 PM EST to listen to Dr. Linton's testimony.



Spotlight a Chapter Member Written by Kavita S. Jackson, MD



You may recognize **Dr. Jon Mark Hirshon** as the Immediate Past Chair of the ACEP Board of Directors, or, as voted by his peers, a *“Hero in Emergency Medicine.”* Having dedicated his career to improving access to high quality acute care worldwide he is also known for his international efforts, primarily in Egypt and Sudan, educating researchers how to study injuries.

Long before his travels to Africa and the Middle East, as a preventative medicine resident Dr. Hirshon lived in Jamaica for 5-month surveying measles and polio. Although he had just completed his residency in emergency medicine, the opportunist in him noted this additional training would enable him to engage in healthcare abroad. His Doctorate in Epidemiology, which he acquired later, did not hurt either. Fast forward 3 decades: the same care he has sought to influence has influenced him just as much.

Dr. Hirshon gained formative friendships in addition to colleagues, absorbed African and Middle Eastern culture while evaluating international healthcare practices, and evolved as an individual while furthering global health research. One of his fondest takeaways from his immersion in Egypt is the following African Proverb, which is more relevant now than ever:

“If you want to go fast, you go alone, but if you want to go far you go together.”

His international experiences also prompted him to learn Arabic, specifically Egyptian Arabic, to his lexicon so he could better communicate abroad. “I’ve gotten by in French, Spanish, German, Swedish, Arabic, but I speak English on my good days,” Dr. Hirshon remarks jokingly.

He credits CD’s and audiobooks for engaging his auditory linguistics and aiding his ability to pick up the intricacies in sounds and dialects of languages, like Egyptian Arabic. As a self-recognized workaholic, Dr. Hirshon maximizes his day-to-day efficiency by listening to audiobooks in his car. Right now, his car audio playlist is playing *The Rift War Saga* by Raymond E. Feist. Through these novels, Dr. Hirshon has direct access to the fantasy world of Midkemia and Kelewan where characters travel by instantaneous connections across planets and solar systems, called rifts. Fortunately, unlike travel on Earth, rifts are completely unaffected by COVID-19 (thanks to which Dr. Hirshon has cancelled two trips to Egypt and Sudan so far).

Despite his affinity for traveling, if Dr. Hirshon could possess one B class superpower it would not be to conjure a rift. It would be as *Policy Man*. Interestingly; this is not the first time he is thought about this since he has acted as Policy Man in an improv class, he took several years ago. Dr. Hirshon pursued improv class as a fan and more importantly as an introvert who recognized the class as a fun way to improve his public speaking ability -- a skill he noted could be built upon to better advocate for ER physicians as Chair of the ACEP Board of Directors. Whether “we’re struggling to get adequate PPE for people or trying to make sure we do not get a big cut from CMS...[what] I’ve come to learn over the years is the importance of being able to have policy. That really impacts what we can do in the trenches as we would say,” he notes.

Looking forward, Dr. Hirshon envisions the next 5-years to include more family time and more travelling--ideally both together. His travel roster includes more fun trips like hiking the Appalachian Trail and through the Copper Canyon in Mexico. As for now, he is looking on the bright side as he eagerly waits to find out where his youngest daughter is going to design school.

Reflecting on 2020, Dr. Hirshon notes, “It’s been a rough year and I think it’s been a rough year for all of us. The key here is to be able to reach out to get support.” He feels that the passing of Dr. Lorna Breen has made him especially sensitive to making sure frontline colleagues are supporting each other. His message to Maryland ACEP members is, “We are stronger when we are together as a team. So, get involved.”

Crushing COVID



Emergency Physicians across the state are crushing COVID by getting their vaccines.

How can you support the ACEP #GotMyCOVIDShot Campaign? Continue to post your photo and keep sharing on our Chapter Facebook and Twitter channels to help promote emergency physician's belief in and support of the COVID vaccine.

- Post your photo to Facebook, tag [@MarylandACEP](#), and use the hashtag #GotMyCOVIDShot.
- Post your photo to Twitter, tag [@MarylandACEP](#), and use the hashtag #GotMyCOVIDShot.
- Or send the photo to kavitajackson.md@gmail.com Social Media Ambassador.

Welcome New Members!

A special welcome to the new members of the Maryland Chapter and to those that renewed their membership with the chapter. We are excited to have you.

Adena Ashanti David
April E Hoffman, MD
Asal Najafi, DO
Benjamin William Coleman
Bilal A Qureshi, MD
Brianne Redman
Bridget M Ivery, MD, FACEP
Caroline Salvatrice Schlee
Edna Ruth Hill, MD, FACEP
Hallie Jester
Isabelle Lock
Karly Lebher

Leah Prince
Megan Suzanne Spurrell
Nicholas James Brady
Nick Bishop
Oluwakemi Badaki-Makun
Riddhi Paudel
Sairam Balasubramanian, MD
Sarah Rimm, MD
Saskia Van Terheyden
Sheri Li
Sohail Ahmed Hussain
William Zhu

You may wonder if you should get involved with Maryland ACEP or EMRA or at the national level? We encourage you to get involved!

If you are unsure about how to get involved, feel free to contact the chapter [directly](#).

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