



EMinMD

Chapter Newsletter

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President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

In this edition of EMinMD, we want to provide an update on all the areas the Maryland ACEP chapter has been hard at work for you. Our focus in September and October has been preparing for the ACEP Council Meeting and National Conference. You will see a summary of the Council Meeting from Dr. Michael Bond in this edition along with some additional great content.

The date of the 2022 Maryland ACEP Chapter Legislative Reception is Tuesday, February 1st. As you may recall, this event has historically been held at the [Red, Red, Wine Bar](#) in Annapolis and allows our legislators an opportunity to speak directly with EM physicians on the most important issues impacting our specialty. An email will follow with details on how to register for the reception. I hope you can join us!

Our next major event is our annual Educational Conference & Annual Meeting that will be held next spring. We have a great lineup of speakers, and we will end with a social event. Our board has made the decision that it will be a hybrid event. The date is Thursday, April 21st at [BWI Marriott](#) in Linthicum Heights.

During the educational conference, recognizing the rich talent and excellent performance of EM leaders across the state for their work this past year will be a major area of focus for the chapter. We want you to be thinking about those within

your department and/or region who may be considered for one of the awards which include EM Physician of the Year, EM Clinician of the year, EM Nurse of the Year, EM Chairperson of the Year, EMS Physician of the Year, APP of the Year, and Resident of the Year. We are counting on your nominations. There will be more information forthcoming as we get closer to the conference.

As a chapter we have been monitoring many Legislative issues affecting EM in Maryland. Read more about it below in the article written by Dr. Tassey and Danna our Chapter Lobbyist.

Please enjoy this edition of EMinMD!



**News Practice Management Committee
Recent Practice Changes
Chirag R. Chaudhari, MD, FACEP**

The Maryland ACEP Chapter Practice Management Committee is asking you to please take this very brief [survey](#) around any recent practice changes that EDs in the state may have put in place due to the incredible staffing and boarding challenges many of us are facing.

We thank you in advance for taking the time and will share the results in our next newsletter.

Complete the survey [here](#).



**News Legislative & Public Policy Committee
Theresa E. Tassey, MD
Danna Kauffman - Chapter Lobbyist**

MDH Responds to Optum's Provider Alert on Reimbursement for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders On August 5th, Optum, the State's Administrative Service Organization (ASO) for the Public Behavioral Health System (PBHS)

Maryland General Assembly Watch Special Session

On Friday, November 5th, Governor Hogan announced that the Maryland General Assembly would hold a Special Session on December 6, 2021 to vote on new State legislative and

issued an alert, which had the effect of limiting reimbursement by ER physicians for treating mental health and substance use disorders. MDACEP alerted the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to the negative consequences of this policy and questioned the legality.

Coincidentally, MDH has issued a [clarification](#) regarding payment responsibility between the PBHS and MCOs. Essentially, the ASO is responsible when a specialty mental health provider as defined in 10.09.59.04 renders the service. Because ER physicians are not specialty mental health providers, they would bill their professional fee to the managed care organization (MCO) for the service rendered which is medical in nature, even if the diagnosis is a carved out behavioral health diagnosis. This policy is laid out in 10.67.08.02I, which addresses non-facility specifically credentialed provider types. The provider alert incorrectly stated that ER physicians would need to bill the MCOs with a somatic diagnosis. If you need assistance in resolving any denied claims, please send a secure email with the ICNs, dates of service, HealthChoice recipient IDs, provider, and MCO information for the denied claim [here](#). MDH will work with the provider and the MCO to coordinate reimbursement.

EQIP

MDACEP continues to collaborate with MedChi, HSCRC, Prometheus, and Dr. Jesse Pines on the EQIP model and 2022 episodes of care. MDACEP has been participating in regular meetings to review and define Episodes of Care, including acute myocardial infarction, CABG and/or valve procedures, coronary angioplasty, hip or pelvic fractures and others. A full list of the proposed Episodes of Care for the first year of EQIP can be viewed below.

congressional maps. The Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission has met several times since January to redraw districts in the State. While there could be other legislation introduced, the announcement from Speaker Adrienne Jones and Senate President Bill Ferguson makes no reference to other matters being considered, so it is fair to assume that given the limited duration of the Special Session and the stated objectives of the presiding officers, the agenda will be narrow. The proposed new districts can be viewed [here](#).

2022 Legislative Session

The 444th session of the Maryland General Assembly will convene in Annapolis, Maryland from January 12th – April 11, 2022. Each week, MDACEP Legislative Committee reviews the bill profile supplied by our lobbyist and discusses which positions to take on the bills. If you are interested in joining this Committee, please [email](#) Adriana Alvarez our Chapter Executive Director.



Outline

1. [Episode Components Key](#)
2. Performance Year One (2022) Episodes of Care
 - A. [Acute Myocardial Infarction \(AMI\)](#)
 - B. [CABG &/or Valve Procedures \(CxCABG\)](#)
 - C. [Coronary Angioplasty \(PCI\)](#)
 - D. [Pacemaker/ Defibrillator \(PCMDFR\)](#)
 - E. [Hip/ Pelvic Fracture \(HIPLFR\)](#)
 - F. [Hip Replacement & Hip Revision \(HIPRPL\)](#)
 - G. [Knee Arthroscopy \(KNARTH\)](#)
 - H. [Knee Replacement & Knee Revision \(KNRPL\)](#)
 - I. [Lumbar Laminectomy \(LBRLAM\)](#)
 - J. [Lumbar Spine Fusion \(FUSION\)](#)
 - K. [Shoulder Replacement \(SHLDRP\)](#)
 - L. [Colonoscopy \(COLOS\)](#)
 - M. [Colorectal Resection \(COLON\)](#)
 - N. [Gall Bladder Surgery \(GBSURG\)](#)
 - O. [Upper GI Endoscopy \(EGD\)](#)



News Medical Student Corner

Away Rotations: The Application Process

Leslie Gailloud

Welcome to the medical student corner! This month we will be covering part 1 of Away Rotations: The Application Process. An away rotation is an opportunity for a student to spend time at a hospital outside of their home institution. Away rotations are not required for every specialty, but almost every medical student applying into Emergency Medicine will do one! Most of these rotations occur in the July – November months in the fourth year of medical school. Some programs use the Visiting Student Learning Opportunities (VSLO) website to schedule rotations, whereas others choose to go through their own portals. Below are a few tips on how to apply for and schedule an away rotation.

- **Apply Early:** There are limited spots for students to rotate. The earlier you apply, the higher your chance of landing one of these spots. By the end of January, start making a list of programs you are interested in and determine if they use VSLO or not. Check VSLO regularly (or the individual program pages for non-VSLO) for updates on when applications open. Although most open around March/April, a handful of programs may choose to accept applications earlier!
- **Choose your location wisely:** Away rotations show programs that you are interested in a particular location. Some students choose to do an away rotation in an area they have no ties to, others choose to do one in a city with many programs like New York City, Philadelphia, or Chicago. Before you apply, think about what areas of the country you are most interested in and how an away rotation will help bolster your application.
- **Consider community vs. academic vs. county:** Away rotations can also help students decide what type of program they are interested in training in: practicing at an academic program is a very different experience than at a community or county one. Using an away rotation to experience a new environment can help you decide what you're looking for in a residency program.

Keep an eye for part 2 of Away Rotations in our next column for information on what to do once you've been accepted. If you have any questions on how to apply for an away rotation, please feel free to [email me](#).

Good luck!

News Chapter Dues Change Life & Retired Dues

What is a life member?

Any regular member who has been a member of the College for a minimum of 30-years in any class shall be assigned to life status and members in this Life Category are usually still working full time seeing patients.

What is a retired member?

Any member who has retired from medical practice and is no longer seeing patients, may upon application to the Board of Directors, be elected to retired membership.

Currently, the chapter has 49-Life and 3-Retired members. Our Board recently met to review the chapter dues structure and voted to make the following changes. **Life** member dues will now be \$150 up from no fee and **Retired** member dues will be reduced to \$25 from \$88. This will place us in line with other state chapters and provide some equity between the two categories with the objective of increasing more legislative initiatives and additional chapter goals to improve emergency medicine in Maryland.

Our Board will continue to diligently do what is best for its members and emergency medicine in Maryland. Should you want to discuss these dues changes in more detail, please [contact](#) the chapter.

Your experience is valued and we appreciate your continued membership!

Council Meeting Update



From Left to Right: Dr. Hansen (Lead Councillor), Dr. DeAngelis (Councillor), Dr. Bond (Councillor), and Dr. Hirshon (Chapter Member).

ACEP's 2021 Council Meeting and Scientific Assembly was an interesting place to be. All participants needed to show proof of vaccination or use the CLEAR app. Personally, I found the CLEAR app very easy and there were no long lines trying to get into the convention center. Most interesting was the exhibit hall. It was only about 1/3 of the size from what I remember when we were last in Boston.

The Council Meeting was held on Saturday, October 25th and Sunday, October 26th and went very smoothly despite some Councillors participating via zoom. A web portal was used for voting which seemed to slow some things down, but not to any large degree. The council was able to:

- Discuss 82 resolutions,
- 57 resolutions were adopted,
- 15 were not adopted,
- 1 resolution was referred to the Council Steering Committee, and
- 10 were referred to the BOD

Asynchronous debate really helped to focus the conversation in the 4-four reference committees (we normally have had 3-three). Most of the resolutions were able to be approved via the consent agenda with only a few being pulled. Even the ones that were pulled from the consent agenda had minimum debate and were pulled for minor issues (word smithing) that could have easily been handled by the Board of Directors.

The biggest controversy was that Dr. Robert McNamarra, founding member and former president of AAEM, ran from the floor for election to the ACEP Board. Dr. McNamarra was not elected, but it generated a lot of discussion about the corporate influence on ACEP and the ACEP Board of Directors.

Overall, ACEP Council Meeting 2021 was a huge success. Even as a hybrid event, and the in-person Councillors having to leave the council room for 20-minutes so that a projector issue could be fixed. Great leadership by Gary Katz and Kelly Gray-Eurom. The Councillors would also like to congratulate Chris Kang on being named President-Elect of ACEP.

Read a full summary provided by the Speaker Dr. Kelly Gray-Eurom, MD, FACEP [here](#).

Upcoming Chapter Event



Public Policy & Chapter Board Meeting

Friday, December 17th
10:30AM EST

Virtually (Zoom)

All members are welcome to attend this meeting. The link will be shared, via email, prior to the date. Or [contact](#) the chapter if you are interested in attending.

2022 Legislative Reception

Maryland Chapter
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF
EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

FOR THE
**JOIN US! / 2022 Legislative
Reception /**

DATE:
Tuesday
February 1, 2022

DESTINATION:
Annapolis, MD

TIME:
6:00PM

VENUE:
Red, Red, Wine Bar
189B MAIN STREET
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

/BUSINESS CASUAL /

RSVP / WITH MD.CHAPTER@ACEP.ORG / 410 727 2237



Congrats to the new chapter Fellows!

Kamna Singh Balhara, MD, FACEP
Reginald M Brown, MD, FACEP
Daniel Benjamin Gingold, MD, MPH, FACEP
Phillip David Magidson, MD, FACEP

Mohammed Rafi Malik, MD, FACEP
Chloe Mccoy, MD, FACEP
Bennett A. Myers, MD, FACEP
Nicholas Pereira Risko, MD, FACEP
Girish Sethuraman, MD
Rameen Shafiei, DO, FACEP
Paul Logan Weygandt, MD, MPH, FACEP

Watch the recognition video [here!](#)



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
Andrew William Dill
Ayomide Igun, MD
Christina Tupe, MD
Gina Ambrose, DO

Justine Enns
Lisa Thomas, MD
Molly Rebecca O'Neil
Petrus J. Malherbe MB, CHB

Follow us on Social Media!



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