



# EMinMD

## Chapter Newsletter

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### President's Message

**Michael A. Silverman, MD, FACEP**

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this edition of EMinMD finds you well and enjoying summer. We are more than two years into the global pandemic and staring straight into increasing numbers of Monkeypox cases, so it remains an exciting yet challenging time to be an emergency physician.

Maryland ACEP has remained hard at work. Reading below, you'll find a very detailed Public Policy update. We'll also be sharing news in the near future about the ED Episode Quality Improvement Program. The Chapter's Practice Management Committee, under the leadership of Dr. Chirag Chaudhari, along with content expert Dr. Jesse Pines, has been working on this program for over a year. Look for an email soon about how this program can positively impact your group's revenue. After two years, Dr. Chaudhari is turning the committee over to new leadership and I want to thank him for all of his contributions to MD ACEP and the clinical practice of emergency medicine throughout the state.

At my own site, we have some new residency graduates starting and they always bring enthusiasm, energy, and new knowledge to share with us. This is an excellent time to talk to your new colleagues about the benefits you receive from MDACEP and make sure they are members as well.

The newsletter also contains some exciting news about Maryland emergency physicians who won national ACEP Faculty Teaching Awards, reinforcing the high quality of our local residency programs.

Finally, I just want to ask that you take a little time for yourself this summer. I hope everyone can get some time away from the emergency department to spend time with family and friends. I hope many of you have already had a vacation this summer and the rest of you get one soon. Our jobs are challenging and unlikely to get easier before the end of the year. However, we're critically necessary to the healthcare of Maryland. Our friends, neighbors, and communities rely on us 24/7.

Thank you for what you do!

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

**Roe v. Wade - What it means for our Emergency Department Patients**

On June 24th the Supreme Court overturned the landmark decision of Roe v. Wade, placing access to abortion and women's health care in peril. Shortly after, national ACEP issued a [statement](#) expressing concern about laws that interfere with the Physician-Patient Relationship.

[About half the states have trigger laws](#) that have gone into effect that either restrict or outright prohibit abortions, including the neighboring state of West Virginia. Other states, like Pennsylvania and Virginia, are awaiting further action by lawmakers and the courts to determine if and how abortion access will be affected.

In this tumultuous time of access being restricted or prohibited to basic women's medical care across the country, Emergency Physicians can expect to see more self-managed abortions, medical tourism for abortions from surrounding states, and more severe emotional effects on patients with new, unplanned and/or unwanted pregnancies. Dr. Koyama composed an [excellent article](#) highlighting challenges in attaining adequate care for pregnant women and steps that EM physicians should consider when navigating this new, legal landscape.

Above all, it is imperative to remember that the [obligations of EM physicians](#) have not changed with the overturning of Roe v. Wade. We are still bound by an ethical, professional, and a legal duty to provide stabilizing treatment to all emergency department patients presenting with an emergency medical condition. This obligation "preempts any directly conflicting state law or mandate that might otherwise prohibit or prevent such treatment. Thus, CMS is making it explicitly clear here that the federal EMTALA requirements will always apply regardless of what state laws are in place."

Fortunately, Maryland does not have laws in place that restrict or prohibit abortions. While there is debate about scope expansion, Maryland recently [adopted a law](#) that will permit NPs, PAs, and nurse midwives with specialized training to perform abortions, in an attempt to increase access to medical care.

**Changes Coming to Emergency Department Documentation Requirements**

Expect to see some changes to the documentation required for Emergency Department visits starting January 2023. While the changes have not yet been finalized, the guidelines are expected to change for the first time in nearly 30 years. Take a listen to the [ACEP Frontline interview](#) with Maryland's own, Dr. Jason Adler, as he discusses the 4Ds of Medical Decision Making that will be needed for our documentation and how this documentation shift is a positive change and will better reflect the hard work and complex decision making we do every day in the emergency department.

**MDACEP Key Focus Areas**

Maryland ACEP held a Chapter Board and Committee meeting on June 17, 2022.

The public policy committee provided an overview of the accomplishments during the Maryland General Assembly and determined policy focus areas for the next year.

The policy areas Maryland ACEP plans to focus are as follows:

1. Mental health access
2. Workplace violence
3. Gun violence
4. Physician reimbursement models
5. Scope expansion of other healthcare professionals

### **New Nationwide Hotline for Mental Health**

On July 16th, a new Nationwide Hotline for any individual experiencing a mental health crisis or in need of help with substance use. Those needing assistance will be able to call 9-8-8 for on-demand access to mental health support. You can learn more [here](#) or [here](#).

988 will be available on July 16. People are supportive of policies to improve crisis response.

**91%** support creating 24/7 mental health, alcohol/drug, and suicide crisis call centers that can respond effectively to callers and follow-up later

The survey was conducted by Ipsos using their online, probability-based KnowledgePanel®, of among the American general population (ages 18+). Interview dates: May 20-22, 2022. Number of interviews: 2,045. Margin of error: +/-2.3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

**REIMAGINE** Crisis Response *Learn more and get involved at [ReimagineCrisis.org](https://ReimagineCrisis.org)*

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

Thank you for allowing me to be the Chair of the MDACEP Practice Management Committee for the past 2-years. While in-person meetings were difficult over that time, we had a series of virtual meetings with topics that were pertinent to all of us through the pandemic. Hopefully those were helpful as we navigated our new reality. We were thrilled to have our first in-person gathering at a Happy Hour in June at the Guinness Brewery. Our hopes are that we will be able to have another Happy Hour in the fall.

A very big thank you to all of you who were involved in the EQIP discussions that have been held over the past year as well.

I am thrilled to hand the Practice Management Committee baton to two very capable and accomplished colleagues, Drs. Gatz as the new Chair and Dr. Mann as Co-Chair. Both Drs. Gatz and Mann who will no doubt take our Practice Management Committee to new heights.

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### **Practice Management Committee** **Future Goals**

The MDACEP Practice Management Committee remains dedicated to issues related to the practice of Emergency Medicine. We envision a combination of in-

person and virtual events over the next year addressing the most pressing issues in Maryland EDs.

How will the new documentation guidelines impact your practice? Will MIEMSS finally eliminate the Red/Yellow alert system? How do we reduce the risk of violence in the emergency department? Can we more effectively address substance abuse and emergency department psychiatric overcrowding? How should we continue to manage our resources and prepare for the next pandemic/epidemic (COVID, Monkeypox), and much more....



J. David Gatz MD, FACEP, is an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and Assistant Medical Director of the Adult Emergency Department at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC).

He is passionate about ED operations, especially as they relate to quality improvement and patient safety.

He is currently the Alternate Councillor of the ACEP QIPS Section and previously served as one of the House Staff Officers for Patient Safety and Quality at UMMC. As a strong believer in not "reinventing the wheel," he is excited to co-chair the Maryland ACEP Practice Management Committee and facilitate educational conversation across the state on how to best address the many operational challenges faced in the ED setting.

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Edana Mann, MD FACEP is an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

She has been a practicing emergency physician for over 20 years and currently serves as the Associate Clinical Director for the Johns Hopkins Adult Emergency Department.



She has been the Clinical Director of the St. Agnes Healthcare Chest Pain Center, the Vice Chair of the MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center's (MSFSMC) Emergency Department and has chaired multiple quality and safety committees. She continues to be heavily involved in quality and safety, sepsis management and workflows, stroke improvement projects, and clinical operations for the Johns Hopkins System and Adult Emergency Department. She is also currently a Councillor representing the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Medicine (ACEP). Dr. Mann is excited to co-lead the Maryland ACEP Practice Management Committee with Dr. Gatz to help our Maryland emergency department leaders address daily and long-term challenges we face so that we may more successfully and efficiently manage our practices.

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**News Membership Committee**  
**Sydney E. DeAngelis, MD, FACEP**

As I am writing this in the hazy, humid July days when everyone is looking to escape to the beach or the lake, I am not harboring illusions that many docs have been pondering their Maryland ACEP membership. That said, I'm asking you to take a few minutes of your precious summer to consider a few things.

First of all, PLEASE RENEW your membership! Each and every one of you is important. This is a time when many get renewal notices to renew national ACEP membership. If you do both together it takes literally seconds. It saves our chapter time and money in sending out renewal letters. It also ensures that you don't miss anything important from getting canceled.

To that end, we are starting an initiative to recruit board-certified EM doctors who have not joined Maryland ACEP. Many times, I have heard that it's because they don't perceive the value of paying extra for the state chapter dues. As a member, if you can say a few words to a colleague, it can make a huge difference. We can share that we have successfully advocated to protect our specialty from harmful scope of practice legislation, and we sure have upcoming challenges in the next legislative session related to the No Surprises Act. Moreover, with issues like gun safety and reproductive health at the forefront of current affairs, we need all hands-on deck to help to navigate the best possible outcomes for our patients and ourselves.

Any organization is only as strong as its members. My experience of working in Maryland and serving as a Board Member is that we have highly talented and dedicated physicians in our state. Please consider getting involved. There are several committees including Education, EMS, Legislative/Advocacy, and Practice Management. Personally, I can attest that becoming an Alternate Councillor and then Councillor for Maryland and helping to draft resolutions that were presented at national ACEP was one of the most democratic and inspiring experiences in my career. We would welcome new perspectives and encourage you to join us.

If there is something you want Maryland ACEP to do for you as a member, [please reach out](#). We are constantly looking to tailor our services to best meet the needs of our constituency. Whether it is related to sharing best practices during COVID, confronting workplace violence, or offering premier educational opportunities, we strive to make your experience better. Who knows, maybe you have a great idea for the next new initiative.

Finally, if you are contacted by a Board Member or other Chapter Leader, it is because we care about you personally. We are reaching out to hear from you and want to know how we can better serve you. I have taken up enough of your valuable summer reading. Thanks for taking the time. Stay safe and enjoy your summer. I hope to [hear from](#) you soon!

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**2022 National ACEP Faculty Teaching Award Recipients**





Announcing the 2022 National ACEP Faculty Teaching recipients in Maryland!

**2022 National Emergency Medicine Faculty Teaching Award**

Laura Bontempo, MD, FACEP  
Andrew Stolbach, MD, FACEP

**2022 National Emergency Medicine National Junior Faculty Teaching Award**

Michael Ehmann, MD, FACEP

These award recipients will be recognized through national ACEP's social media channels, in ACEPNow, and on a dedicated webpage which will include an awards brochure and pre-recorded acceptance remarks from the award winners.

More information about the 2022 award recipients will be posted soon on national ACEP's website [here](#). Keep a look out for it!

Join us in congratulating these chapter members!

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**Welcome Members!**

Armella Poggi  
Chinenye Okudoh  
Daniela Borges  
Erika J. Russell-Ofori , DO  
Jeremy James St. Thomas, MD  
Kevin J. Flanagan, DO  
Kokou Kekeli Israel Ahama

Kristen B. Dowdy, DO  
Lauren Ashley Briskie, MD  
Martin H. Yang, MD  
Mary Girgis, MD  
Nicole L. Ho-Sang  
Vincent Chiara, MD

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**Adriana's Corner**

Considering going to [ACEP22](#) in San Francisco? Need CME? Want to listen to some very informative presentations from top leaders? Want to catch up and socialize with your colleagues? Don't hesitate and [register!](#)

I have a promo code you can use to get a \$150 discount. The deadline to use the promo code is Monday, August 15th. For more details about the promo code, please contact me [here](#).

**PROMO CODE: A608540**

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## Other Chapter Events

**SAVE THE DATE**  
15th Annual DC ACEP  
**LLSA REVIEW  
CONFERENCE**

**Prep for your exam**  
*getting up to date on the latest specialty-defining literature on current topics in Afib, stroke, sedation, seizure, and many more!*

**Monday, August 8th  
8am-10am  
Zoom**

**Register:**  
dcacep.org

Follow us on Social Media!



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