



## In this Edition

[From the Vermont ACEP President](#)

[Welcome New Members](#)

[News from National ACEP](#)



### **President's Message** **Alexandra Nicole Thran, MD,** **FACEP**

Hey there ACEP Vermonters,

It has been busy since taking over as President from Dr. Ryan Sexton. I would like to thank him personally for his hard work and dedication to the chapter.

My gratitude extends to all the board members and to Vermont ACEP's Past Executive Director, Rochelle (Ro) Ross, for their time and support. I would like to welcome back [Adriana Alvarez](#) who is taking over as our interim Executive Director.

We have been working behind the scenes. Here is a little peek into what we have been doing for our chapter:

- I am attempting to meet with every department in the state to promote the College and to educate our members on the many resources available and benefits of membership. Thanks to those of you who have invited me to their department, and I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming two years.

- We have reviewed the Chapters Bylaws and updated them. We will be voting to accept them in the next few months. If anyone would like to review them, or have concerns about the Bylaws, please reach out to me.

- We are hoping to have our annual meeting to coincide with UVM's Emergency Medicine Update Conference, which will be held at Stowe in January. Our tentative date is the evening of Wednesday, January 25, 2022. We are hoping to have speakers emphasizing the importance of political engagement, especially on the state level. One of my goals is to foster more political engagement from our members. We are going to be pairing up with the Vermont Medical Society in this effort.

Speaking of engagement, I attended ACEP's Leadership and Advocacy Conference earlier this month. I am so proud to represent Vermont and ACEP. I think this is the best conference to attend and encourage you to join me next year. I had the opportunity to engage with ACEP leadership and to advocate against workplace

violence and Medicare cuts, and against firing EPs without due process. I had the opportunity to have dinner with Sen. Tim Kaine and met several other senators and representatives.

At our last chapter meeting, we decided to donate to the Vermont Food Bank and to cover the dues of the UVM residents. We are only able to do this because of YOUR SUPPORT and from your dues. THANK YOU! If you have a cause that you would like to support, please let us know.

Another goal of mine is that I would like to form chapter committees. A State Advocacy and Political Engagement committee is important. Other chapters have committees on Education/CME and Membership. No chapter that I know of has a Diversity, Inclusion, and Healthy Equity (DIHE) Committee yet. If anyone is interested in being the first Chair to form this Committee, I would love to work with you on this chapter initiative.

In closing, I would love to see you in San Francisco for [ACEP22](#), aka Scientific Assembly. We are still looking for a Councillor and Alternate Councillor to join me for Council Meeting the three days preceding Scientific Assembly. Please [let me know](#) if you are planning on attending!



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## Welcome New Members!

Alex Jenkins  
Ashleigh J. Kennedy, MD  
Ellen Schenk  
Florence On, MD  
Gary C. Starr, MD, FACEP  
Grant McCullen Schumaker  
Jared Bomba, MD  
Michael A. Kelleher  
Michael Jon Gray, MD, FACEP  
Oliver JP Barnyak, MD  
Samantha Bax, MD  
Zachary Thomas Osborn

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## FROM NATIONAL ACEP



### ACEP Resources & Latest News

**ACEP Calls for Stronger Protections for Emergency Physicians Who Raise Workplace Safety Concerns:** ACEP spoke directly to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) during a public meeting about whistleblower protections. ACEP Council Speaker Kelly Gray-Eurom, MD, MMM, FACEP, [raised the need for due process protections](#) for emergency physicians on the job.

ACEP Clinical Alert: [Shortages in Iodinated Contrast Media, Baby Formula](#)

#### Workforce:

- **A new analysis of the EM physician resident workforce in [Annals of Emergency Medicine](#)** finds that while the number of residency programs is increasing, new programs are disproportionately located in urban areas in states with existing programs, rather than rural communities with limited access to emergency care. [Read more](#)
- **Building toward a better future, ACEP is moving forward on EM workforce initiatives.** [Watch an update](#) from ACEP President Dr. Gillian Schmitz on ACEP's progress during this April 28 town hall webinar hosted by the EM Workforce Section.
- **The Changing Role of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners in the Emergency Department:** On May 26, ACEP's Democratic Group Practice Section is hosting a webinar with a panel discussion about best practices when using PAs and NPs in the emergency department. Topics will include ACEP's new policy on the role of PAs/NPs in the ED, economic considerations, workflow challenges, and how shared visits work. [Register for this free webinar.](#)

ACEP has launched a **public campaign "Who Takes Care of You in an Emergency?"** that includes a series of videos outlining unique aspects of the job and explaining the significant difference in training and education required for physicians. Here are [new scope of practice talking points](#).

**Problem solving: It's what we do.** [Take a look at the issues we're tackling](#) and how you can join the cause.

More than 100 leaders, members and staff worked together to create **ACEP's new strategic plan! It's an important roadmap for our future.** Together we'll build a better future for emergency physicians everywhere!

### **It's Emergency Medicine Wellness Week!**

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and ACEP's Wellness Section is marking the occasion by kicking off its annual Emergency Medicine Wellness Week tomorrow, May 22. View more physician wellness resources by visiting [ACEP's Wellness Hub](#).

The **May issue of ACEP Now** features **new articles focused on behavioral health**, including [The Importance of System-Level Wellness](#) and [How to Approach Psychiatric Patients who Wish to Refuse Treatment in the ED](#).

## **Advocacy:**

**Help Move the Workplace Violence Prevention Bill Forward!** Ask your U.S. Senators to co-sponsor and support the "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act" (S.4182). [Take Action!](#)

On May 4, ACEP and the Emergency Nurses Association hosted a press event at Capitol Hill to increase public awareness of workplace violence in the emergency department and to push for swift passage of the "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act." [Read the press release with more information about the bill](#). Watch the [Facebook Live recording](#) of the press event.

### **No Surprises Act**

In the latest twist, the government requests Texas court place a "hold" on its surprise billing appeal. [What does this mean for ACEP's lawsuit?](#) [Dive deeper and learn more](#) about ACEP's many years of advocacy on this issue that led up to this law.

### **Prioritize Physician Mental Health**

It's Mental Health Month and a good time to look at the recently-passed Dr. Lorna Breen Act. This vital legislation, named after an ACEP member who struggled and was tragically lost during the first surge of the pandemic, went from an idea to a law that will help protect the emotional health and wellbeing of emergency physicians. [See ACEP's Role](#).

## **Regulatory Updates:**

- [NEW BLOG SERIES: Value based Care in Emergency Medicine-- an Overview](#) (5/19/22)
- [CMS Finalizes New Network Adequacy Requirements for Certain Private Health Plans](#) (5/12/22)
- [No Alternative Payment Model for Emergency Physicians and other Specialists...The AMA Has a Proposed Solution](#) (5/5/22)
- [ACEP Responds to FTC and DOJ Request for Information on Mergers and Acquisitions in Health Care](#) (4/21/22)

## Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

- **May 26:** [The Changing Role of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners in the Emergency Department](#) - Webinar hosted by the ACEP Democratic Group Practice Section
- **May 31:** Last day to utilize current [student loan rate discount for ACEP members](#)
- **May 31:** Last day to join the [ACEP22 QI Challenge](#)
- **June 1:** [Weird Baby Stuff: Managing Brief Resolved Unexplained Events](#) - Webinar hosted by the ACEP Pediatric Emergency Medicine Section
- **June 16:** [Breaking Down Barriers to ED Care for People with Sickle Cell Disease](#) - Webinar hosted by the CDC
- **June 16:** [EM Clinical Support Tool for Sickle Cell Disease](#)
- **June 17:** Last day to apply for the new [EMF health policy scholar grant](#)
- **June 20:** [Caring for our Heroes: Special Considerations for Treating Veterans in Emergency Departments](#) - Webinar hosted by ACEP
- **Aug. 23-25:** [Independent EM Group Master Class](#)
- **Nov. 11:** Last day to submit [ACEP23 course proposals](#)

**Alexandra Nicole Thran, MD, FACEP - President**  
**Adriana Alvarez - Executive Director**  
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