



## Chapter News

# North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians

March/April 2020 Election Edition

## President's Message

**By: Sankalp Puri, MD, FACEP**

As we face the pandemic in this difficult time, I have never been prouder of our specialty. Emergency Medicine has always been and will continue to be the safety net for the health of our communities. NCCEP leadership has rapidly shifted to assist our members. NCCEP members continue to be engaged at bedside, at the state level and at the national level.

Unfortunately, the ACEP Leadership and Advocacy Conference which was to take place on April 28 has been cancelled. Even in these trying times, politics continue to be played. As recently as last week, balanced billing was being tied to a bill for pandemic relief (we have been advised that this is no longer the case). NCCEP continues to work for our patients and members and fights to have a seat at the table. With support from ACEP, we will continue to build support for issues having an impact on our members, even while participating in social distancing. ACEP has just announced that they will do a virtual "Day on the Hill" on April 28th, so please [register](#) to participate if you can – the topic, of course, will be COVID-19 and ways to support Emergency Physicians. Similarly, the next NCCEP Board meeting on April 22 will be a web meeting, instead of the initially planned in-person meeting in Greensboro.



Due to the dynamic nature of our current situation, the Coastal Emergency Medicine Conference is still scheduled for June 12 through June 14. NCCEP will monitor closely and provide sufficient time for participants to make changes should changes be necessary. Our hope is that by June the efforts being made currently will lead to some normalcy. NCCEP recognizes the importance of information fatigue in providing repetitive information pertaining to the pandemic, but information which impacts our members will be communicated.

I could not be prouder to be able to stand next to each of you as we fight for our patients during a time when the country has seen many of the safety nets coming apart. Rest assured we will get through this difficult time and will be stronger for it.

## 2020 Election of Officers and Directors

This year, NCCEP will be electing the President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and 5 Board members. The Nominating Committee has nominated Dr. Jennifer Casaletto as President-Elect and Dr. Thomas Bernard as Secretary-Treasurer. Members are asked to cast their votes, using the online voting system (see below). Members are cautioned that for the Board member positions, each member must cast a vote for each open position.

Note: All new NCCEP Board members must sign the ACEP Member Expert Witness Reaffirmation Statement, and must review and agree to the current NCCEP *Board Expectations*.

---

## How To Vote

You will receive an e-mail at your primary e-mail address used with ACEP with instructions on how to vote, including the voting website link and your Elector ID and password. The e-mail will provide details of the opening and closing dates of the online voting. All voting is secure and results are certified. **Online voting will open May 1, 2020, at 12:00 am and will close June 12, 2020, at 12:30 pm.** You will also receive a postcard by USPS with instructions for voting.

To vote, you will visit: <https://nccep.simplyvoting.com/>, or by the direct link which will be e-mailed to you.

**If you would prefer to receive a paper ballot by mail, please contact Liz Taylor by-mail or phone at (919) 809-5618, and we will provide one to you.**

---

## Meet the Candidates

### Candidate for President-Elect

#### Jennifer Casaletto, MD, FACEP



Serving as an NCCEP Councillor, Board of Directors member, and as this year's Secretary/Treasurer has been an honor. The experience has allowed me to gain a more in depth knowledge of emergency medicine practice issues specific to our state while learning about the strategic planning and legislative priorities of our chapter board. Using that experience to build on past leadership experience within national and Arizona ACEP, I look forward to the opportunity to serve you as NCCEP president-elect as we navigate through state and federal balance billing legislation and NC Medicaid reorganization as it re-emerges following passage of the state budget. I look forward to sharing with you the work ahead and our national and state progress on non-physician provider scope of practice, workplace violence, and due process protection for emergency physicians as they relate to the practice of emergency medicine here in North Carolina.

I'm a Washington, D.C. native who learned about snow while studying biochemistry and theology at the University of Notre Dame prior to completing medical education at Vanderbilt and emergency medicine training at Carolinas Medical Center. Following residency, I practiced emergency medicine as an assistant residency director at Maricopa and residency director at Virginia Tech-Carilion. While in Arizona, I had the opportunity to serve AzCEP as councillor, secretary, and president in addition to serving our patients as chairwoman of the Arizona Governor's Domestic Violence Council's Health Cares About Family Violence Subcommittee via an appointment to Arizona's Committee on the Impact of Domestic Violence and the Courts. Nationally, service includes past-chair of ACEP's Academic Affairs Committee and ACEP's Young Physicians Section. I currently practice in an urban/suburban environment within the Atrium Healthcare system in Charlotte as well as rurally within the UNC system in Rockingham County. Away from the hospital, you'll find me wakeboarding with my husband, plodding through a marathon, or being chased by our sons bearing light sabers!

### Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer

#### Thomas Bernard III, MD



Current Position: Partner, Wake Emergency Physicians, PA, Medical Director WakeMed North Hospital  
Medical School: Medical College of Georgia  
Residency: Duke University, Chief Resident  
Committees: EPIC optimization, Productivity Committee, RelyMD core team, Stroke Committee

Over the last 7 years, I have worked as an emergency physician with Wake Emergency Physicians, PA in Raleigh NC. I have served as the Legislative Chair for NCCEP over the last 2 years and have attended LAC to advocate for Emergency Medicine. I currently also sit as the medical representative for the Governor's Human Trafficking Committee. I am currently the Medical Director of WakeMed North hospital. I have staffed our telemedicine platform

RelyMD and continue to fight for a national telemedicine license, parity as well as novel ways to care for our patients.

During the last seven years, I have also been part of various hospital committees. I served on an internal peer review committee, as well as the hospital's EPIC implementation Committee as well as the stroke committee. Since implementation, I have served on the EPIC Optimization committee to assure we are maximizing technology to support our needs as Emergency physicians. During my service on the Productivity committee for Wake Emergency Physicians, I have realized that we are at a tipping point for reimbursements as we fight OON billing. If elected to serve as Secretary/Treasurer, I will work to effect change that best fits the wants and needs of Emergency Medicine.

## Candidates for Board of Directors

(I) denotes Incumbent

### Leon Adelman, MD, MBA, FACEP



During these challenging times, our communities, ED patients and emergency physicians depend on strong leadership from organized emergency medicine.

As a speciality, we have trained tirelessly to serve patients - anyone, anything, anytime. I am running to join the NCCEP Board of Directors in order to improve the state's systems of care so every emergency physician can deliver great care to every patient.

I have previously served as the Secretary-Treasurer on the Virginia College of Emergency Physicians Board of Directors. During my tenure at VACEP, we successfully created and executed a plan to revitalize the organization.

My most impactful contribution was founding the VACEP Leadership & Advocacy Fellowship for early-career EPs. The program is thriving, leading to increased involvement by young physicians and expanded organizational impact. For example, one of the fellows led VACEP's successful efforts to pass state-level balance billing legislation favorable to EPs and ED patients.

I was also a key contributor to VACEP's successful initiative to write and pass a bill funding a vast improvement in the state's ED Information Exchange. As a result, critical patient information is pushed to EPs at the point of care via every EMR in the state. (More info here)

In addition to state-level EM leadership, I led a large ED in Tennessee (Tennova Clarksville) to significant improvements in quality, efficiency, experience and ED provider wellbeing. I am a proud graduate of the University of North Carolina and am a member of the UNC School of Medicine Alumni Council. On the personal front, I have an amazing fiance & two super-cute dogs.

Simply, as we face down a pandemic together, I humbly ask you for the opportunity to serve NC's excellent emergency physicians in order to best care for our communities' ED patients.

### Jill Benson, MD, FACEP (I)



I have previously served as a member of the NCCEP Board of Directors from 2010-2016, 2018-present, and hope that you will consider me for election to further serve in this capacity. I continue to find serving on the Board rewarding both personally and professionally as a way to give back to the field of Emergency Medicine to help deal with current issues and promote a positive future for our physicians. Serving on the Board and attending these meetings has broadened my appreciation for the scope of NCCEP's accomplishments and vision for work still yet to be completed. I look forward to traveling to Washington DC to attend the Leadership and Advocacy Conference and visit with our government officials to educate them on current issues we face in providing Emergency healthcare. Each time I attend, I learn more about our speciality and how important representation by having a voice in government is for Emergency Medicine.

I am the current co-course director/planner for the NCCEP Fall Conference, began in 2014. I have taken on the additional responsibilities of serving as the Chair of the Education Committee for NCCEP, since 2015. I would relish the opportunity to serve on the Board again to further enhance the College's mission of promoting excellence in Emergency Medicine in North Carolina.

My background includes working as an Emergency Physician with Wake Emergency Physicians, PA in Raleigh, NC, a large multi-hospital democratic group practice, since 2002. I served the Vice-Chair of Emergency Department at WakeMed Cary Hospital, which includes serving as the Quality Improvement Chair for WakeMed Cary Hospital Emergency Department, as well as the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee Chair at WakeMed Cary Hospital. I have pursued the ACEP's ED Director's Academy, and

completed Phase I and Phase II. I completed my undergraduate and medical education at the University of Illinois and attended residency at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, MN. I then completed a one year fellowship in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine after residency, also at HCMC in MN.

### **Joshua Loyd, MD, NRP**



Thank you for the opportunity to run for a position on the NCCEP Board of Directors. As an active member of ACEP, NAEMSP, AMPA, and NCCEP, I am always impressed by what we accomplish at the state level in North Carolina. NCCEP does a great job of representing the needs of emergency physicians and our patients and I am proud to be a member. As a member of the board, I would continue to pursue improvements in equal access to healthcare, EMS safety and provision of services, and front-line physician leadership for disaster preparedness and response, including emerging infectious diseases.

I attended medical school at Virginia Commonwealth University (formerly known as MCV, the Medical College of Virginia) and completed my residency in Emergency Medicine at VCU. After residency, my wife and I relocated to Charlotte where I continued my medical education by completing a fellowship in Emergency Medical Services at Carolinas Medical Center. North Carolina is now our home and we are settled in the Charlotte community, where I currently work in the emergency departments of multiple Novant Health hospitals and serve as Medical Director for Novant Health Med Flight and Critical Care Transport.

My experience and involvement in emergency medicine and EMS give me a different perspective on many issues that we all face as emergency physicians. In addition to my work in the ED, I have the opportunity to interact with hospital administrators as a medical director, EMS providers as a flight physician, and government officials as the chair of the Mecklenburg EMS Medical Control Board. These interactions provide a unique opportunity to advocate for our patients and our profession in a variety of practice settings. EMTALA and balance billing issues are regular topics of conversation and I would value the opportunity to represent NCCEP on these and other urgent issues facing our profession.

I want to be more involved with NCCEP and I believe my desire to serve will be an asset to our organization. Thank you for your consideration and support.

### **John Mearns, DO, FACEP, FAAEM (I)**



It is with great passion and enthusiasm that I respectfully submit my application to serve on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians. Over the years, NCCEP has provided its members information, support and resources on many issues related to public policy, practice improvement, resource opportunities and more. My interest in serving on NCCEP Board of Directors stems from my passion in working directly with people to continue to make emergency medicine great in the state of North Carolina.

My education started at North Carolina State University. Upon graduating I worked for NORTEL Networks for two years as a Field Manager. I attended medical school at Pikeville School of Osteopathic Medicine in Kentucky. I performed a traditional rotating internship at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center in West Virginia and Emergency Medicine Residency at Charleston Area Medical Center, also in West Virginia. During all these years I was involved with many committees and stayed very involved with community events.

Currently, I serve as President of Eastern Carolina Emergency Physicians located in Wilmington, North Carolina. Our democratic group of 37 physicians services four facilities ranging from a large level 2 trauma center, a rural hospital, an Orthopedic hospital, to a self standing ER. In the past I have also worked with groups such as EMP and Team Health. My experience over the past years has provided me insight into the challenges and opportunities emergency medicine can provide. Moreover, I believe that for emergency medicine in North Carolina to remain respected as a vital speciality, we should be engaged not only in direct patient care, but also public policy. If re-elected to the NCCEP Board of Directors, I will continue to work towards helping build an effective voice for North Carolina emergency physicians.

### **Daniel Minior, MD, MBA, FACEP**

I would like to represent our emergency medicine physicians with NCCEP this coming year. I have been practicing emergency medicine in North Carolina since 2004 after I attended medical school at Tufts University in Boston, MA



**Madji Namde, MD (I)**

and did emergency medicine residence at Lincoln Hospital in New York City. These days I work clinically and serve as medical director/ chairman for 2 of ApolloMD's emergency departments in rural eastern North Carolina. I have a tremendous amount of respect for what NCCEP has done for emergency medicine and I wish to add my voice and energy to our ongoing struggle for pandemic response support, fairness with billing, boarding, and psychiatric care.



The last 2 years have been like nothing we have seen before in Emergency Medicine. From a strong defense by our college against poorly written balanced billing legislation, to increasingly aggressive payer behavior, to the current pandemic in which we find ourselves, emergency medicine has been at the forefront the national conversation and a part of every news cycle.

As we transition to life post-COVID-19 pandemic, there are sure to be a number of large-scale legislative efforts to address the perceived shortcomings of the US response. It will be critical to maintain a strong voice for emergency medicine at the legislative table. I have extensive experience with the NCCEP Board, within my own healthcare system, and have met multiple times with NC legislators to advance the interests of our specialty and patients.

NCCEP has been an incredible advocate for emergency medicine, particularly over the last several years. The fight is not done, however, and there are always new challenges on the horizon. I would be honored to advance the cause of Emergency Medicine in the state of North Carolina through a Board position with NCCEP for the 2020-2022 term. I look forward to serving you as we continue to improve the environment of care in the state. Thank you for your time and consideration.

## Other News and Upcoming Events

### COVID-19

We know there is a lot of information already coming your way, but we wanted to share some resources with you. Keep up the great work, and know that you are appreciated!

- ACEP COVID-19 Clinical Alerts - <https://www.acep.org/corona/COVID-19/>
- CDC Guidance for Healthcare Professionals - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>
- NC DHHS Guidance and Information - <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/covid-19-guidance>
- NC Medical Board's Latest Updates - [www.ncmedboard.org/covid](http://www.ncmedboard.org/covid)



*Thank you!*

TO ALL MEDICAL PERSONNEL WORKING TO  
FIGHT COVID-19. WE APPRECIATE YOU!

---

**Save the Date! 2020 NCCEP Fall Conference**

The NCCEP Fall Conference, *Excellence in Emergency Medicine: Update in Trauma and Emergency Care*, will be held October 12-15, 2020, at the Omni Grove Park Inn in Asheville, NC.



---

## Political Action Committee

Thank you to all members who have contributed to the College's Political Action Committee (EP-PAC) over the past year and to those who continue to contribute in 2020. Your donations allow the College to work on your behalf to give a voice to Emergency Medicine issues in our State Legislature.

You may contribute to the EP-PAC online, by mail to EP-PAC, PO Box 1038, Wake Forest, NC 27588, or on your ACEP dues renewal form.

[Donate to Your PAC Online](#)

---

## Upcoming Events

- Board of Directors Meeting, April 22, 2020, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, Web/Audio Only
- Board of Directors Meeting and Annual Membership Meeting, June 12, 2020, 12:30 pm, Kiawah Island Golf Resort, Kiawah Island, SC
- Coastal Emergency Medicine Conference, June 12-14, 2020, Kiawah Island Golf Resort, Kiawah Island, SC
- Fall Conference, October 12-15, 2020, The Omni Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC
- ACEP20, October 26-29, 2020, Dallas, TX

---

**COVID-19 UPDATE:** The Coastal Emergency Medicine Conference is officially still on, but we cannot ignore the situation and the evolving impact, and as such, we are watching things closely and exploring alternatives. We encourage you to register and book your accommodations if you have not already, with the understanding that if plans change, your registration can either be transferred over to new dates or be refunded with no penalty.

# Register Now!



8th Annual

## COASTAL EMERGENCY MEDICINE CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 12 - SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2020  
Kiawah Island Golf Resort, Kiawah Island, SC

[www.coastalemergencymedicineconference.org](http://www.coastalemergencymedicineconference.org)

---

### NEWS FROM ACEP



---

#### Articles of Interest in *Annals of Emergency Medicine* - Winter 2020

**Sam Shahid, MBBS, MPH, Practice Management Manager, ACEP**

ACEP would like to provide you with very brief synopses of the latest articles and articles coming soon to *Annals of Emergency Medicine*. Some of these have not appeared in print. These synopses are not meant to be thorough analyses of the articles, simply brief introductions. Before incorporating into your practice, you should read the entire articles and interpret them for your specific patient population. [View synopses here.](#)

#### **Annals Supplement: Social EM**

Want to know more on social determinants of health? Check out the special, open-access *Annals of Emergency Medicine* supplement "[Inventing Social Emergency Medicine: A Consensus Conference to Establish the Intellectual Underpinnings of Social Emergency Medicine.](#)"

## **New Policy Statements and Information Papers**

The following policy statements and information papers were recently approved/reviewed by the ACEP Board approved. For a full list of the College's current policy statements, consult the [ACEP Policy Compendium](#).

### **New Policy Statements**

[Pediatric Readiness in Emergency Medical Services Systems](#)  
[Opposition to Copays for Medicaid Beneficiaries](#)

### **Revised Policy Statements**

[Firearm Safety and Injury Prevention](#)  
[The Role of Emergency Physicians in the Care of Children](#)

### **New Information and Resource Papers**

[Information and Resources Addressing Falsification of Data in Research](#)  
[Resources on Behavioral Health Crowding and Boarding in the Emergency Department](#)

### **Announcing the new ACEP Clinical Alert**

Keep up with the latest physician guidance and clinical updates from the CDC with the [ACEP Clinical Alert](#) online.

### **Concerned About Opioid Use? \$500k ALTO Demonstration Grants for EDs**

SAMSHA released a grant opportunity for the Emergency Department Alternatives to Opioids (ALTO) Demonstration Program designed to expand non-opioid treatment protocols in emergency departments throughout the country. [Applications are due March 17.](#)

### **NEMPAC has your back in the 2020 Elections**

2020 is an important election year. This is no time to sit on the sidelines! NEMPAC is working hard to ensure the concerns of emergency medicine and patients are front and center with candidates running for federal office. Your support this year will make our voice stronger to help elect emergency medicine supporters in Congress and identify and cultivate future champions. The NEMPAC Board of Trustees and staff have put together an informative presentation on NEMPAC's role in the 2020 elections and how decisions are made to support candidates. [Click here](#) to view the presentation and [click here](#) to support NEMPAC today.

### **Update on ACEP's APM Strategic Initiative**

ACEP has an exciting update on our Alternative Payment Model (APM) Strategic Initiative. As background, a couple years ago, ACEP created the Acute Unscheduled Care Model (AUCM), a Medicare APM specifically designed for emergency physicians. Currently, individual emergency physicians and emergency medicine groups do not have any opportunities to directly participate in "Advanced APMs." Under Medicare, participation in an Advanced APM could result in a five percent payment bonus through 2024 and a higher payment fee schedule update starting in 2026. The AUCM has been endorsed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), but not yet implemented by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

As ACEP waits to see how CMS may implement the AUCM in Medicare, we are simultaneously pursuing model implementation by other payors, including Medicaid and private payors. More and more state Medicaid agencies and private payors are moving away from fee-for-service (FFS) contracts with physicians and other health care practitioners towards value-based payment arrangements, and the AUCM is an ideal APM construct for these payors to pursue for emergency medicine.

Through the APM Strategic Initiative, ACEP is continually providing information and resources to emergency medicine groups, state Medicaid agencies, private payors, and other stakeholders about how to structure and participate in emergency-medicine focused APMs that use the AUCM as a framework. We are happy to announce that we have updated our [APM Strategic Initiative website](#) with additional resources that provide a more detailed overview of the AUCM and its potential for improving emergency care and reducing costs.

While these resources are mainly background materials for you to learn more about the AUCM, ACEP is in the process of developing targeted tool kits that you can use to engage in discussions with state Medicaid agencies and private payors on emergency-medicine focused APMs. Stay tuned for this next phase of the initiative.

### **Free Counseling Available for ACEP Members**

Receive exclusive access to 3 free counseling sessions through ACEP's new Wellness & Assistance Program. Support is available 24/7, & you can conduct your sessions over the phone, face-to-face, via text message or through online chat. [Learn more.](#)

### **Be Accredited to Provide Pain & Addiction Care in the ED**

Show your community that your ED is part of the solution. ACEP will soon launch the [Pain & Addiction Care in the ED \(PACED\) Accreditation Program](#), developed for EM physicians by EM physicians. It will provide the education, tools & resources you need to provide better care for patients in pain & those with substance misuse.

## Take the Anxiety Out of Test Prep

**ITE, QE, or ConCert in 2020?** PEER online is the answer you need! Board exam prep questions, answers, and explanations to get you ready faster with less stress ... from experts you trust. Right now, PEER for ACEP members is \$295 (list price \$495) and \$175 for resident members. Start studying today! <https://www.acep.org/PEER>

## New Articles from JACEP Open

ACEP's new open access journal has published two new articles:

- Out-of-hospital assessment and treatment of adults with atraumatic headache
- Mandatory and permissive reporting laws: obligations, challenges, moral dilemmas, and opportunities

Interested in submitting to JACEP Open? Get more info.

## Cyclical Vomiting Is Not Always What You Think It Is

In this recent Frontline podcast, Dr. Raul Bhat talks to host Ryan Stanton, MD, FACEP, about causes and treatment of cyclic vomiting. Listen in. <https://soundcloud.com/acep-frontline/cyclic-vomiting-its-not-always-what-you-think-it-is>

## Until Help Arrives

The first few minutes after a major medical emergency are critical for survival, and emergency personnel aren't always the first ones on the scene. To educate the general public on basic life-saving skills, the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) created **Until Help Arrives**, a one-hour training course taught by emergency physicians in their local communities.

**Emergency Medicine Basic Research Skills (EMBRs)** is a 9-day, 2-session program where participants learn how to identify clinical research opportunities and become familiar with clinical research and outcomes. Participants also compete to receive an EMF/EMBRs grant based on their research grant application. This course targets: Junior faculty with limited research experience; Physicians in academic and community centers who are interested in research basics; Physicians who have as part of their duties involvement in research, including mentoring young researchers; Fellows in non-research fellowships. Click here to learn more: <https://www.acep.org/embrs/> and to put your name on the interest list and be the first to know when registration opens up. The next course will take place Nov. 16-21, 2020 (session 1) and April 19-21, 2021.

## NPRP Assessment Information

The National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP) is a quality improvement initiative to ensure that all U.S. emergency departments (EDs) have the essential infrastructure in place to care for children. One component of the NPRP is an assessment that EDs take to assess their pediatric readiness. The assessment is based on the Joint AAP/ACEP/ENA Policy Statement: Pediatric Readiness in the ED. Questions on the assessment address the following areas of the Joint Policy Statement:

- Administration and Coordination;
- Physicians, Nurses, and Other ED Staff;
- Quality Improvement/Performance Improvement in the ED;
- Pediatric Patient Safety; Policies, Procedures, and Protocols; and
- Equipment, Supplies, and Medications.

The first national assessment took place in 2013 with a national average score of 69. A quality improvement period followed from 2015-2019. The next national assessment period will begin in **June 2020**. Each ED that completes the assessment receives immediate feedback in the form of a readiness score and a gap analysis report. For more information go to: [Pedsready.org](https://www.pedsready.org)

Visit our  
website

