



## **Chapter News - Election Edition**

### **North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians**

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## **Annual Membership Meeting - June 6, 2024**

The 2024 Annual Membership Meeting will be held in conjunction with the NCCEP Board of Directors' meeting and will be held on **June 6, 2024, at 12:30 pm, at the Kiawah Island Golf Resort. If you would like to attend the meeting by phone, please contact [us](#), and we will forward the call-in information to you.**

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## **2024 Election of Officers and Directors**

This year, NCCEP will be electing the President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and 4 Board members. The Nominating Committee has nominated Dr. Melanie Artho as President-Elect and Dr. Christopher Griggs as Secretary-Treasurer. The Committee has also found all candidates for the Board of Directors eligible for office. Members, please cast your vote 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*.

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## **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 22, 2024, at 2:00 pm and will close June 6, 2024, at 12:00 am.**

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.**

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## **Meet the Candidates**

### **Candidate for President-Elect**

**Melanie Artho, MD**

I would like to ask for your support as the NCCEP President-Elect. It has



been an honor to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer this past year as well as serve as member of the Board of Directors for 4 years prior to that. 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, I have come to fully appreciate the critical work that NCCEP does on behalf of all emergency physicians in our great state. It has been and will remain critical to be a strong voice for emergency medicine at all levels of the legislature. I continue to find participating 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. I look forward to continuing my travels to

Washington, DC to attend the Leadership and Advocacy Conference in April and visit with our government officials to educate them on current issues we face in providing Emergency healthcare to our patients.

I would be honored to fill the role as President-Elect to help ensure that we remain strong advocates for our physicians and patients in the emergency department. Thank you so much for your consideration and please feel free to reach out with concerns or questions at any time.

## Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer

### Christopher Griggs, MD



Current Position: Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center, Director of CMC ED Project SEED (SBIRT Program), Atrium Readmission Committee ED Lead  
 Medical School: Emory School of Medicine  
 Public Health: Emory Rollins School of Public Health, Health Policy and Management  
 Residency: Boston Medical Center  
 Board Certifications: ABEM, ABPM – Addiction Medicine

Three years ago, I received your support to serve on the NC ACEP board and I have had the honor of representing our NC ACEP members in advocating for legislative priorities both in NC and nationally. I ask you for your support and vote for me as Secretary-Treasurer.

It is clear emergency medicine has many headwinds to contend with, from ED boarding to hospital consolidation to violence in the emergency department. My service on the board has given me experience with ACEP's critical role in advocating for the emergency physician at the state and national level. Having attended our state lobbying days each year and participating in Leadership and Advocacy Conference, I have had the honor to advocating for your priorities with our government legislators. My continued work as an academic researcher and administrative roles in readmissions and population health at Atrium Health, also continues to inform my advocacy for our specialty and the challenges we face. I would be honored to serve as the Secretary-Treasurer to continue to advocate for you and our team's critical role in the healthcare.

## Candidates for Board of Directors

### David Johnson, MD



Thank you for the opportunity and your consideration for a position on the NCCEP board. I have been practicing in North Carolina since moving to the state in 2012. My medical career began in 1999 when I became an EMT, and later a paramedic in Santa Clara County. This led to pursuing my medical degree with the goal of practicing emergency medicine, completing medical school at University of California, Irvine and my residency in the Bay Area at Stanford/Kaiser Emergency Medicine Residency. My initial move to North Carolina was to complete an Emergency Medicine Ultrasound Fellowship at Carolinas Medical Center. Quickly becoming fond of the Carolinas region, my family made Charlotte our permanent home and since then I have worked in multiple departments in the Charlotte area both hospital-based and free standing. Most recently, I have been with Mid-Atlantic Emergency Medical Associates since 2019. In medicine, I have a passion for bedside

ultrasound, and I also enjoy medical education, having worked previously with residents at Carolinas Medical Center and currently with 3rd and 4th year medical students with the UNC School of Medicine Charlotte campus students who rotate with us in Novant. I look forward to lending my voice to current issues facing our specialty. Outside of work, you will find me spending time outdoors and with family and trying to stay fit, while still allowing time to research new breweries!

## Fernando Lopez, MD



Greetings Colleagues,

I would like to ask for your support and nomination for a position on the NCCEP board of directors. Throughout the years of my career, I have worn many hats serving in many administrative/director/teaching roles and have enjoyed them all. Since moving to NC years ago, I have served as Duke University ED POCUS director, Granville Health System POCUS director, WEPPA Granville EM director, WEPPA Granville County EMS director and multiple committees with WEPPA and within the Granville Health system. I continue to work with WEPPA at Granville Health System in the Emergency Department.

Over the years, I have seen many changes within the house of medicine and in particular EM. Working mostly at the local level, I was able to affect change through hospital wide changing policies with a team effort. However, I feel that greater change for the greater good can be achieved even more impressively at the state and national level with NCCEP. I am very excited about the endless possibilities!

It would be my pleasure to serve on the NCCEP board to help build upon the many great things that have already been put forth in support of EM. I hope to be able to humbly contribute to the continued championing of EM at the state and national level.

## Joshua Loyd, MD (Incumbent; Elected 2020)



Thank you for the opportunity to again 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 effectively represents the needs of emergency physicians and our patients in a way that makes me proud to be a member. As a member of the board, I have had the opportunity to meet with local and national leadership to discuss issues surrounding balance billing, physician workforce, and ED workplace violence. I also continue to serve as the Chair of the Bylaws Committee and act as the liaison to the national ACEP bylaws team, ensuring our rules are up-to-date and serve the best interests of our members.

For those of you who do not know us, my wife and I live in Charlotte where we stayed after finishing my EMS fellowship at Carolinas Medical Center. I currently work in the emergency departments of multiple Novant Health hospitals and serve as Medical Director for Novant Health Critical Care Transport and Assistant Medical Director for AirLink.

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 value the opportunity to continue to represent NCCEP on these and other urgent issues facing our profession.

I hope to continue my active involvement within NCCEP and I look forward to serving our members in a board position if reelected. Thank you for your consideration and support, and I hope to see all of you in Kiawah!

## Laura Murphy, MD



Current Position: Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at UNC Medical Center/Hillsborough, Associate Medical Director, UNC Medical Center

Residency: Vanderbilt University Medical Center

MD/MBA Vanderbilt School of Medicine and Owen Graduate School of Management, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

I would like to ask for your support to serve you on the NCCEP Board of Directors. As an early-career emergency physician with years of practice ahead, I am committed to addressing current challenges facing our specialty to improve emergency care for our patients and the practice

A proud Tar Heel graduate, I returned to North Carolina in 2021, and I currently work in academic and community practice environments at UNC Medical Center and Hillsborough. In my role as Associate Medical Director, I serve on multiple departmental and hospital committees and collaborate with other UNC system ED leaders across the state within the UNC System Emergency Services Leadership Council. Despite increasing challenges, I have enjoyed the opportunity to work on innovative solutions for delivery of emergency care for an increasingly complex patient population. As an educator, I enjoy mentoring and teaching emergency medicine residents and medical students; this work motivates me to work toward ensuring a fulfilling career for future EM physicians despite the challenges facing our field.

In addition to my own practice, my involvement with NCCEP has broadened my understanding of these challenges. My experience as one of the inaugural NCCEP Leadership and Advocacy Fellows has been immensely educational and rewarding. For the last two years, I have been involved in NCCEP's advocacy efforts at both local and national levels. I have joined other physician leaders meeting with NC state legislature and at ACEP's Leadership and Advocacy Conference to discuss critical issues such as workplace violence, patient boarding, due process for physicians, and reimbursement. These experiences have given me firsthand knowledge of the critical work that the chapter does on behalf of emergency medicine in our state and feel my involvement has prepared me to contribute effectively to the NCCEP Board. Thank you for your consideration, and I hope for the opportunity to work with you and for you to advance emergency medicine in North Carolina.

### **Joshua Sawyer, MD (Incumbent; Elected 2022)**



As a native North Carolinian, I am proud to have served my home state as an NCCEP Board member for the past two years. It has been a rewarding experience, and I would very much appreciate the opportunity to continue. Helping lobby for our specialty is important work.

Whether in a board meeting or in person at our lawmakers' offices, I never hesitate to speak my mind and stand up for what is best for the practice of emergency medicine. NCCEP is an integral part of protecting our interests, and I'm proud to be a dedicated board member.

Born and raised in New Bern, NC, I am a proud product of our North Carolina public school system. After graduating high school from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, I was awarded a Park Scholarship at NC State and graduated with degrees in Biology and International Health. For medical school, I attended the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and then trained at the University of Illinois-Chicago in both Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine.

For the last eleven years, I have lived in Wilmington, NC with my wife and two daughters. I am a partner with Eastern Carolina Emergency Physicians (ECEP). Our group of 37 physicians has provided care to Eastern North Carolina for over 30 years. ECEP services four different facilities including a large level 2 trauma center, an orthopedic hospital, a rural hospital, and a free-standing ED. I am highly involved with ECEP as a board member, Vice President, trauma committee liaison, and scheduler.

I am passionate about my career in emergency medicine and look forward to many more years of working and teaching in the field. Every shift, I bring hard work, energy, and a sense of humor to the department. I am proud to serve my community and the great state of North Carolina. I would be honored to continue to serve on the Board of Directors, if given the opportunity. Thank you for your consideration.

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## **ACEP Board Nominee - Jennifer Casaletto, MD**

We are so pleased to announce that our very own Jennifer Casaletto, MD, MBA, FACEP has been nominated to run for the ACEP Board of Directors. Dr. Casaletto is a past President of NCCEP, has served as a Councillor to ACEP for many years, and has been very active in all aspects of the NC Chapter.

Additionally, Dr. Casaletto's national service within ACEP has been exemplary, marked by numerous achievements and accolades. She was recognized as the College's Spokesperson of the Year in 2022, an attestation to her communication skills and commitment to advocacy on behalf of our College. She was twice acknowledged with Service to the College awards, a testament to her dedication and contributions. Dr. Casaletto has served as the Chairwoman of the Academic Affairs and the Educational Meetings Committees. She continues to serve on the Education Steering Committee, showcasing her leadership skills and expertise in shaping educational initiatives within

the organization. Her former role as the Chair of the Young Physicians Section further highlights her commitment to fostering the development of the next generation of emergency physicians.

Dr. Casaletto's prior participation on the Council Steering Committee, Tellers, Credentials, and Elections Committee, and the State Legislative & Regulatory Committee underscores her broad understanding of ACEP's operations and governance. Currently, she serves on the Federal Government Affairs, National Chapter Relations, and Education Steering Committees, and continues to actively contribute to ACEP's national initiatives.

Please reach out to fellow emergency physicians both here in NC and in other States to let them know what a great leader Dr. Casaletto has been and would be at ACEP and ask for their support and vote. It is not too early to have these conversations, and we hope you will assist us all in being an advocate for her candidacy.



## Upcoming Events

Board of Directors/Annual Membership Meeting, June 6, 2024, Kiawah Island, SC  
Coastal Emergency Medicine Conference, June 6-8, 2024, Kiawah Island, SC  
ACEP24, September 29-October 2, 2024, Las Vegas, NV  
Fall Conference, October 28-31, 2024, Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC (Reserve your room online [here](#) or call the hotel directly at (800) 438-5800. Identify yourself as attending the North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians' meeting (Reference: NCCEP Fall 2024 Conference).

\*If you would like to participate in the Board meeting by phone, please e-mail [us](#) for call-in information.

## Class of 2024!

New for the Class of 2024! NCCEP/ACEP has significantly expanded the resources available to new attendings through a monthly package, available only to graduating residents for their first three years in practice. The exclusive new attending bundle includes:

- NCCEP Chapter Dues
- ACEP Chapter Dues
- PEERPrep Board Certification Prep Course
- Free Section Memberships
- FACEP Application Fee Waived
- New Attending Kits to Launch Your Career (and life!)

All other ACEP and North Carolina Chapter member benefits, including Practice Essentials of Emergency Medicine, online CME, leadership opportunities, steep discounts to ACEP meetings, and more. The total value of this special package is well over \$2,500 over 3 years but will be available to graduating residents at the low rate of \$25/month.

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