

Chapter News - Election Edition **North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians**

Annual Membership Meeting - June 3, 2026

The 2026 Annual Membership/Business Meeting will be held Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 4:00 pm in Kiawah Island, SC. If you would like to attend or call into the meeting, please contact [us](#) and we will forward the meeting and call-in information to you.

Proposed NCCEP Bylaws Amendments

The NCCEP Board of Directors has recommended changes to the Chapter's Bylaws, which must be submitted to the membership for approval. The bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at the annual meeting in June. Please review the bylaws as proposed to be amended [here](#) (see text in green/blue).

2026 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. Smeet Bhimani as President-Elect and Dr. Laura Murphy 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*.

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 4, 2026, at 12:00 am and will close June 3, 2026, 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 [e-mail](#) or phone at (919) 809-5618, and we will provide one to you.

Meet the Candidates

Candidate for President-Elect

Smeeth Bhimani, DO



Smeeth Bhimani, DO, MBA, FACEP

Current Position: Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina Department of Emergency Medicine, Associate Medical Director

Business School: MBA, UNC Kenan-Flagler School of Business

Residency: Lehigh Valley Health Network, Chief Resident

Medical School: Rowan University-SOM (Formerly University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ)

Board Certification: ABEM

It has been a privilege to serve on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians. During my tenure, I've had the opportunity to advocate for our specialty both regionally and on the national stage, working to ensure that the voices of North Carolina emergency physicians are heard on key issues impacting our practice. As a representative to the ACEP Council, I've engaged in meaningful dialogue around policy and helped shape the direction of our specialty on a broader scale.

I am especially proud of my work connecting with residents and early-career physicians to highlight the importance of organized medicine and professional advocacy. As we face ongoing challenges in emergency medicine, I remain committed to supporting our members, advancing our practice environment, and promoting the highest standards of care. I would be honored to continue this work and respectfully ask for your support in my campaign as your next president-elect.

Clinically, I serve as a dedicated nocturnist at UNC Chapel Hill, working at both our large academic tertiary care center and our community hospital site in Hillsborough. I also have the privilege of serving as the Associate Medical Director for the Hillsborough Emergency Department, where I am actively involved in departmental operations across both sites. This dual role provides me with a broad and practical perspective on the challenges and opportunities within our field, which I strive to bring to my work with the board to help advocate for all emergency physicians in North Carolina.

Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer

Laura Murphy, MD



Dear Colleagues,

I ask for your support to continue serving you on the NCCEP Board of Directors as Secretary-Treasurer. I have served on the NCCEP Board since 2024 and was previously one of NCCEP's inaugural Leadership and Advocacy Fellows. My work with NCCEP has been incredibly rewarding; during my current Board term, I have been involved with chapter initiatives that directly impact emergency physicians and our patients across North Carolina. I have also worked with Board and chapter members to collaborate with colleagues and legislators to improve the involuntary commitment process and help guide the chapter's response to evolving policies such as Iryna's Law. Through work with the Membership

Committee, I have focused on strengthening engagement among residents and practicing emergency physicians statewide, with the goal of building a more connected and active chapter.

I have remained consistently involved in NCCEP's advocacy efforts at both the state and national levels. I have represented our chapter at ACEP's Leadership and Advocacy Conference, working alongside emergency physicians across the country to advocate with federal legislators on critical issues including workplace violence, patient boarding, due process protections, and fair reimbursement.

I am a proud Tar Heel graduate who returned to North Carolina in 2021 and currently practice in both academic and community settings at UNC Medical Center and Hillsborough. I serve as Associate Medical Director for the UNC Medical Center Emergency Department and collaborate with leaders across the state through the UNC System Emergency Services Leadership Council. As an early-career emergency physician with many years of practice ahead, I am committed to addressing the challenges facing our specialty and improving both patient care and the physician practice environment.

My involvement with NCCEP has broadened my understanding of the challenges facing emergency physicians across our state and the nation; it has been an honor to contribute to efforts that support both our patients and our profession and I hope to continue this for another Board term. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to continuing to serve you and advancing emergency medicine in North Carolina.

Candidates for Board of Directors

Carrie Fales, MD



I would like to be considered for an open position on the North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians Board of Directors. I am currently a practicing emergency medicine physician based in Wilmington, North Carolina, with Eastern Carolina Emergency Physicians (ECEP), where I also serve as President of our physician group.

Originally from Michigan, I completed my undergraduate education at the University of Michigan (Go Blue!) and earned my medical degree from the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. I subsequently completed my emergency medicine residency training at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, graduating in

2013. Since then, I have remained committed to advancing the field of emergency medicine through both clinical practice and professional engagement.

I have been an active participant in North Carolina College of Emergency Medicine activities for several years, regularly attending key conferences and events, including the fall conference in Asheville, the Coastal Emergency Medicine Conference on Kiawah Island, and the Operations Summit. These experiences have strengthened my connection to the organization and inspired me to take on a more active leadership role.

In addition to my clinical responsibilities, I am deeply involved in regional healthcare leadership and EMS. I work closely with the Novant Coastal Region, providing care at Novant New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Novant Orthopedic Hospital, Scotts Hill Medical Center, and Pender Memorial Hospital. I also serve as the Medical Director for New Hanover County EMS and maintain active involvement with the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) at both the state and national levels. Furthermore, I serve on the Board of the New Hanover–Pender County Medical Society, contributing to local physician advocacy and collaboration.

Beyond my professional commitments, I am honored to serve on the Board of Directors for our local Honor Flight organization, where I support efforts to recognize and assist veterans, including coordinating annual trips to Washington, D.C. to visit national memorials.

On a personal note, I value maintaining a strong work-life balance. I am married and the proud parent of a three-year-old son, Liam. My family and I enjoy spending time outdoors, particularly at the beach and on the water, taking full advantage of life in Wilmington.

I would be honored to contribute to the mission and ongoing work of North Carolina College of Emergency Medicine through service on the Board of Directors. Thank you for your consideration.

Jeremiah Gaddy, MD



From practicing in rural community emergency departments to serving as a medical director in Afghanistan with the United States Air Force, to leading a large community ED, and now to academic practice at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine — emergency medicine has taken me across a wide range of environments. Each setting has been different, but the core challenges have remained strikingly similar.

No matter the setting, emergency physicians are asked to do more with less while managing rising acuity, poor payor practices, behavioral health gaps, and an increasingly complex and unsafe work environment. Those experiences have shaped a straightforward conviction: our frontline teams need practical support, thoughtful policy, and systems that actually allow them to do their jobs safely and effectively.

My work with NCCEP has been an extension of that commitment. As Chair of Membership and Communication, I have worked to strengthen connections across our organization — including delivering testimony before the North Carolina General Assembly on behalf of NCCEP regarding the negative impacts of Iryna's Law. This legislation could force people charged with violent crimes who are in police custody to come to the emergency department as part of a judicial evaluation. I testified

that emergency departments must remain safe, open and focused on emergency care, not serve as venues for judicial evaluations.

During the past two years, we have increased membership enrollment as well as NCCEP's representation within the American College of Emergency Physicians, helping ensure that North Carolina physicians have a stronger presence in national advocacy. We have also expanded residency site visits across the state to better connect with residents—recognizing that they are the future of our specialty and vital to its continued strength.

I am seeking a seat on the Board of Directors because I believe deeply in the role NCCEP plays in advocating for you. I bring a perspective shaped by varied experiences but grounded in a simple goal: to ensure that emergency physicians across North Carolina are supported, protected, and empowered to provide the care our communities depend on.

Sierra Gilder, MD



I am writing to express my interest in serving on the Board of Directors for NCCEP. As a native North Carolinian with a background in public health and demonstrated involvement with NCCEP, I am excited about this opportunity to improve the future of emergency care across our state.

I have my MPH with a concentration in Health Policy, which I pursued because I believe it is vital for physicians to understand the healthcare system in which we work so we can effectively advocate for improvement. I chose to specialize in Emergency Medicine because our field is at the intersection of clinical care and public health. Every day in the ED, I see the impact of policy decisions on wait times, patient volumes, and boarding numbers. While I love connecting with patients at the bedside, I realized there was an opportunity to drive real change through advocacy.

Over the past year, I served as NCCEP's Leadership and Advocacy fellow. I gained meaningful insight into NCCEP's leadership and operations by attending their quarterly board meetings and conferences, including ACEP Council. I also engaged directly in advocacy efforts by attending a state senate hearing, drafting a report on the negative impact of proposed legislation, and networking with state legislators. Together, these experiences enhanced my ability to analyze policy, communicate its implications, and advocate effectively for both patients and physicians.

I believe I would be a strong addition to the Board given my background in public health and my practical experience through the fellowship. I would be honored to continue serving NCCEP and shaping the future of emergency care in North Carolina.

Thomas Knorr, MD



NCCEP Member,

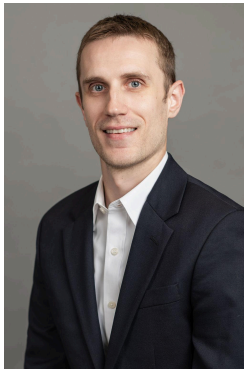
I am an emergency department physician with a deep commitment to advancing high-quality, sustainable emergency care across North Carolina. I currently serve as a board member of Mountain Emergency Physicians, a small, democratic physician group that provides care to rural communities in western North Carolina. Here I have gained firsthand experience navigating the unique operational, financial, and workforce challenges facing emergency departments outside of large health systems.

My clinical and leadership experience has shaped my interest in emergency department operations, particularly in addressing patient boarding and throughput challenges that impact both patient outcomes and provider well-being. I am also passionate about the prevention of workplace violence in the emergency setting, an issue that continues to threaten the safety and sustainability of our workforce. In addition, I am committed to advocating for fair and transparent emergency physician compensation models that support recruitment, retention, and the long-term stability of the specialty.

Through my role in a physician-led group, I have developed a collaborative leadership style and a strong appreciation for the importance of advocacy at both local and state levels. I believe that organizations like NCCEP play a critical role in amplifying the voices of frontline emergency physicians, particularly those practicing in rural and independent settings.

If selected to serve on the NCEP Board of Directors, I would bring a practical, operations-focused perspective along with a strong commitment to advocacy, physician engagement, and improving the sustainability of emergency care across diverse practice environments. I am particularly motivated to help advance initiatives that improve patient flow, enhance workplace safety, and ensure that emergency physicians are supported and fairly compensated for the essential care they provide.

Michael Merrill, MD



Current Position: Mid-Atlantic Emergency Medical Associates, Board of Managers – Member at Large

Residency: Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center

Medical School: Wake Forest University School of Medicine

Board Certification: ABEM

I am honored to announce my candidacy for a position on the NCEP Board and respectfully ask for your support.

Over the past 15 years, I have practiced emergency medicine across two of the largest health systems in North Carolina, working within independent practice groups and serving in multiple leadership roles, including Assistant Medical Director, System Sepsis Director, and peer review. I have led several quality improvement initiatives aimed at enhancing patient care and operational efficiency, and have served the last two years on the Board of Managers for Mid-Atlantic Emergency Medical Associates.

I am deeply committed to the future of our specialty and to strong physician advocacy. Emergency medicine continues to face significant challenges—from unsustainable payer practices, violence in the healthcare workplace, and the ongoing boarding crisis leading to increasing physician burnout—that demand thoughtful policy and legislative solutions. I am eager to contribute to these efforts and help advance meaningful change.

I am seeking this role to expand my impact and advocate for the resources and support emergency physicians need to deliver safe, efficient, and high-quality care to our patients.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Joshua Robertson, MD



I am writing to express my interest in applying for the NCEP board position. I am currently serving as the medical director at Atrium Health Pineville emergency department in Charlotte, North Carolina. I previously served as a regional quality administrator for Atrium Health in the greater Charlotte market for almost 8 years and was a Chief resident at CMC Main before that. I am extremely interested in continuing to advocate for emergency medicine physicians, APP's and our patients. There is valuable work to be done around appropriate compensation for the services we provide, delivery of healthcare- especially to are more marginalized populations, and, one of my greatest areas of interest, opportunities to

support children that are abandoned to our hospitals. I've spent over 25 years working in nonprofit sectors primarily in urban environments. I currently work closely with a teen mom support agency here in Charlotte as well continue to mentor young men and families from lower resourced communities. I believe the current environment of emergency medicine has incredible potential to shape a positive future both for those of us who are working clinically today as well as for those who are interested in our field. Thank you for this opportunity to be considered and please don't hesitate to reach out with any further questions.

Chelsea Rushnell, MD



I am excited to submit my application for a position on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians. My path to emergency medicine is one that I believe brings a truly unique perspective to this board and one shaped by experience on both sides of the provider spectrum.

Before attending medical school at the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine and completing my residency at Carolinas Medical Center, I worked as a physician assistant in both the ICU and emergency department settings. That experience gave me an intimate, ground-level understanding of the training, scope, and day-to-day realities of advanced

practice providers which is knowledge that I now carry with me as a physician. As debates around midlevel scope of practice continue to intensify across our state and nation, I believe having a board member who has genuinely lived and worked in both roles offers a perspective that is rare and deeply valuable.

Currently practicing in community emergency departments in the Charlotte area with MEMA, I work on the front lines where staffing challenges and resource limitations are a daily reality. I understand the pressures that community emergency physicians face in ways that complement the academic perspective, and I believe a strong board reflects both environments.

I am passionate about advocating for physician-led care, thoughtful policies around scope of practice, and expanding access to high-quality emergency care for underserved populations across North Carolina. I would be honored to bring my background and dedication to the NCCEP Board of Directors and to serve my fellow emergency medicine colleagues across our state.

Gloria Tsan, MD



Gloria Tsan MD, FACEP
Current Position: Partner, Mid Atlantic Emergency Medical Associates (MEMA)
Medical School: SUNY Downstate
Residency: Maimonides Medical Center

I am writing to express my interest in serving as a member of the NCCEP Board of Directors. I have been a practicing emergency physician for 20 years, with 11 years of experience in North Carolina. I have worked as an independent contractor for some of the larger companies, and currently I am a partner with Mid Atlantic Emergency Medical Associates in Charlotte, NC. I have always been actively engaged in emergency department development, administration, and education. I recognize the challenges we are up against as emergency physicians on the state and national level. I have actively reached out to our government legislators to advocate for Emergency Medicine physician re-imburement and funding for Medicare and Medicaid, so that we may continue to serve our community and thrive as a specialty. I would be honored to be given the opportunity to continue to advocate for our specialty by serving on NCCEP's Board.

Join Us for Our NCCEP Lobby Day on May 12th

Advocate for Emergency Medicine!

Join your colleagues on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, as we go to the NC Legislature to visit legislators and advocate for Emergency Medicine!

We will begin our morning at Birdie's Barroom & Kitchen, where we will meet for breakfast and go over the schedule for the day. Our Executive Director and lobbyist will provide you with talking points and information to guide you in your conversations with legislators.



Don't worry if you have not done this before – we will group you with at least one other physician and will talk through the issues and answer any questions you may have.

RSVP FOR OUR LOBBY DAY

When & Where

Join us on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 8:30 am, at Birdie's in Raleigh. From there, we will head over to the NC Legislative Building as a group.

Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Time: 8:30 am

Where: Birdie's Barroom & Kitchen / NC Legislative Building Complex, Raleigh



Upcoming Events

NCCEP Legislative Day – 05/12/26 – [Register here](#)

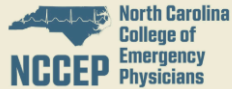
Board/Membership Meeting - 06/03/26 (Kiawah Island, SC)

[Coastal EM Conference](#), 06/04/26 - 06/06/26 (Kiawah Island, SC) - [Register Here](#)

NCCEP Board Meeting – 09/16/26 (Grandover Conference Center, Greensboro, NC)

Fall Conference - 11/09/26 - 11/12/26 (Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC) - [Reserve Your Room / Register here](#)

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



*NCCEP
Fall Conference
Nov. 9-12, 2026
Asheville, NC*



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