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**President's Message**  
**Heather Heaton, MD, FACEP**

Colleagues: I hope this quarter 1 newsletter finds you doing well; quarter 1 in my practice seems to be a time where patient volumes in the ED slow down momentarily, but the time seems to be taken back by new initiatives as we try to iteratively improve ourselves and our processes. I'm not sure the slow down this year is aligned with our prior years, but there is still something restorative about the first of the year.

For those of you that watched the Super Bowl this year, Damar Hamlin was in attendance. Hamlin experienced a cardiac arrest on the field during a football game in Cincinnati just over a month ago. At the Super Bowl, the NFL honored the Buffalo Bills and Cincinnati Bengals training and medical staff, along with the first responders and staff at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. While there are several things one could nitpick about the ordeal, you should have great pride in the care delivered during this horrific scenario. Oftentimes, Emergency Medicine is an afterthought, but this very public display of our skills will hopefully help bring you back to the "why" of our practice. When days are long, hallways are full of boarders, and there's yet another staffing crisis to deal with, our skills, our knowledge, and our team is the one structured to intervene in these harrowing situations.

As 2023 kicks off, a few thoughts from the Board. We heard loud and clear last year that

the membership wanted additional opportunities to participate in advocacy. With that, we partnered with the Minnesota Medical Association and participated in Physicians' Day at the Capitol. You can read more about that experience in the newsletter. We'll be sharing more opportunities for you to get involved, but keep in mind [ACEP's Leadership and Advocacy conference](#) in Washington, DC, April 30-May 2, 2023. This annual meeting is an incredible opportunity to network with colleagues while learning about hot button items for Emergency Medicine, and then taking those learnings to Capitol Hill for meetings with Minnesota U. S. Senators and Representatives.

Additionally, the Board saw the desire you expressed for more educational opportunities. Previously, we've hosted in-person leadership and didactic conferences, as well as webinars on topics like health equity in Emergency Medicine. We are working on plans for this year, but this will be a focus of our team.

With that, I encourage you to reach out if you'd like to get more involved in any of our activities—contact a board member or seek us out on Facebook. We'd love to connect and hear your ideas.

Thank you for what you do,  
Heather

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## Physicians' Day at the Capitol



Minnesota ACEP participated in the Minnesota Medical Association's Physicians' Day at the Capitol for the first time on February 8. We are excited about the turn-out of attendees for our first year and hope to see the event grow in the future.

Attendees started the morning with an overview from the MNACEP legislative liaison, Buck McAlpin, and Dr. Scott who provided the results of the legislative survey our members completed. Attendees then received a highlight of the current activities at the Capitol and joined the rest of the attendees from a variety of specialties to hear from legislators, and to visit their legislators.

We focused on some key issues with legislators that day.

- No-Fault/PIP repeal
  - Conversations have taken place to not require certain Minnesotans to purchase the \$20,000 medical coverage with their auto-insurance. This funding is a significant tool to fund Trauma and Emergency Care.
- Hospital Boarding Issue
  - At any given time in MN 2,000 patients are waiting for a hospital bed to open.
  - Members of MNACEP are concerned that the degree of ED boarding that Minnesotans have been experiencing is unsustainable, and that ED boarding represents a significant marker of strain on hospital systems, a danger for boarding as well as incoming patients, and a source of moral distress to healthcare teams.
  - The statewide critical care workgroup (CCWG) continues to work on next steps to stay aligned with ACEP in terms of framing of our current statewide ED boarding crisis and developing and implementing solutions.
- Candor-Communicating an Optimal Resolution for Patient Safety
  - CANDOR is a voluntary program for physicians, facilities, and other healthcare professionals to immediately respond to adverse events.
  - Patients and their families deserve timely and honest information about adverse events.
  - Physicians and other team members involved in adverse events deserve support and care.
  - Legislation is needed to protect all communications, offers of compensation, and other materials that are prepared for a CANDOR discussion from being admissible as evidence in a lawsuit.
- Firearm Death and Safety Injury Prevention
  - Suicide is the leading cause of firearm deaths in Minnesota.
  - MMA continues to support passage of laws to provide for universal criminal background checks, "red flag" laws and expanded research.
  - Even if legislation doesn't move in 2022, continued work is needed to build momentum towards passage.
- Workplace Safety
  - MNACEP continues to support solutions on improving workplace safety.
  - We support HF#527/Clardy and SF#173/Klein that increase penalties for assaulting a healthcare worker.

Thank you to all who attended, you are the reason the event was a success! Watch for more details soon about our Advocacy Committee meetings.

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## MN ACEP's New Board Members

The following board members were elected during the 2022-23 election process. Welcome to the board, Drs. O'Neil and Wagner!



Dr. Amy O'Neil is from Wisconsin and went to medical school at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. In between third and fourth year of medical school, she came to the University of Minnesota and received a Master in Public Health degree focusing on emergency preparedness and disaster planning. She attended residency at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Following residency, Dr. O'Neil completed a simulation and education fellowship at Hennepin County Medical Center and received a certificate in academic medical education through the University of Southern California. She has been working clinically at UMMC since 2016, and recently took the role of Medical Director for the East Bank Emergency Department at UMMC. She is married with four young children and enjoys spending

time at their cabin and on the lake.



Dr. Emily Wagner is board-certified in Emergency Medicine and in Pediatrics. She works both as an emergency medicine faculty physician at Regions Hospital and as a pediatric hospitalist with the University of Minnesota Physicians group. She attended medical school at the University of Minnesota and residency in the dual Emergency Medicine/Pediatrics program at the Indiana University School of Medicine. She is especially interested in providing evidence-based pediatric medical education to emergency medicine residents, improving gender equity in academic medicine, and building community partnerships to better advocate for key issues in pediatric and emergency care. Dr. Wagner will be proud to serve her patients and medical partners as a MNACEP board member.

## MN ACEP's New Executive Director



After more than 40 years of working with MN ACEP, Shari Augustin is retiring at the end of February. The MN ACEP board performed a search for a new executive director and decided to contract with Sarah Luebbert, APR, President of Vital Strategies LLC. Sarah has many years of association management experience and has worked with the Missouri ACEP chapter for seven years.

Sarah's background includes earning a degree in public relations with a minor in advertising. She started working in the association market immediately upon graduation and has continued in this area for the majority of her career.

"I am excited to work with another ACEP chapter as I have developed a passion for Emergency Medicine during my time with the Missouri Chapter. I look forward to working

with our members and continuing to advance the chapter in the coming years,” stated Sarah Luebbert.

Sarah will take over the [MN ACEP email address](#), and you can reach her by phone with questions at 573-636-2144.

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## Welcome New MNACEP Members!

Barrett Thomas Bukowiec  
Vi Thanh Nguyen  
Daniel Obermiller  
Casey Lynn Palmer  
Madeleine Anne Wagner Sherer

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## FROM NATIONAL ACEP



### ACEP Resources & Latest News

#### **Lawsuit Win Marks Important Step Toward Fair Implementation of No Surprises Act**

ACEP fights for emergency physicians across all levels, including the courts. In the past year, ACEP's litigation efforts have increased by 400%. In a [special guest post for Regs & Eggs](#), ACEP's Chief Legal Counsel explains the significance of this week's surprise billing lawsuit win in Texas and what it means for ACEP's ongoing advocacy efforts to improve the implementation of the No Surprises Act. You can also [read our press release here](#).

#### **ACEP Responds to Medicare Advantage Proposed Regulations as CMS Attempts to Reign in Some Bad Health Plan Behavior**

[Learn more](#) about how ACEP has responded to CMS' recent efforts to crack down on this bad health insurer behavior and what we believe still needs to be done.

#### **Where We Have Been, Where We Are Now, and Where We Go Next - Black History Month Special**

A new episode of ACEP Frontline features special guests Dr. Ugo Ezenkwele, Dr. Adaira Landry and Dr. Alister Martin discussing health equity and pushing for positive change. [Listen in.](#)

### **Innovative Telehealth Models Can Benefit Geriatric Emergency Care**

It's time for the fourth installment of this special blog series delving into the concept of value-based care in emergency medicine. This one examines the innovative practice models that enable you to utilize your unique skill set outside the four walls of the ED — specifically how emergency telehealth services have been a helpful tool for geriatric patients. [Read More.](#)

### **X-Waiver No Longer Required to Treat Opioid Use Disorder**

The X-waiver requirement is officially rescinded! On January 12, 2023, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued guidance on the removal of the X-waiver — an ACEP priority that was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. [Read More.](#)

### **Tell Your Story, Help Change Things for the Better**

It's almost time for the 2023 Leadership & Advocacy Conference! Emergency physicians across the country will come together in Washington, DC, for this intimate educational and networking event where they receive leadership and lobbying instruction and get to meet with legislators to talk about the issues that affect EM physicians every day. You may think your individual voice can't move the needle. In reality, your firsthand stories and experiences make our key advocacy issues come to life for legislators. When they hear from you, it stops being an abstract problem and becomes a real, tangible issue they need to address. LAC training teaches you how to share your personal experiences in a way that makes a positive impact for your specialty. You'll come home empowered to keep advocating for change at every level, from your facility to your state and beyond. [Save \\$100 on LAC23 registration with promo code LEADERSHIP23.](#)

### **Heart Month: New ACEP Clinical Policy Examines Acute Heart Failure Syndromes**

One of ACEP's newest clinical policies answers four critical questions for the management adult patients who present to the ED with suspected acute heart failure syndrome:

- Is the diagnostic accuracy of point-of-care lung ultrasound sufficient to direct clinical management?
- Is early administration of diuretics safe and effective?
- Is vasodilator therapy with high-dose nitroglycerin administration safe and effective?
- Is there a defined group that may be safely discharged home for outpatient follow-up?

[View this clinical policy.](#)

### **Catch up on latest ACEP Frontline episodes:**

- [Having a Bloody Good Time with Dr. Megan Osborn](#)
- [ChatGPT and Healthcare with Dr. Harvey Castro](#)
- [ACS and Troponin Chat with Dr. Deborah Diercks](#)

## Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

**Feb. 24:** Deadline to sign up for [E-QUAL Opioid Use Disorder Wave](#)

**Feb 27:** [Advanced Airway Management in Children: Overcoming Obstacles and Optimizing Opportunities](#)

**March 15:** [Bias and Diagnostic Anchoring of the Behavioral Health/SUD Patient and How that Impacts Care](#)

**March 15:** Deadline to apply for [ACEP Board, Council Officer roles](#)

**March 28:** Deadline to sign up for the [E-QUAL Stroke Wave](#)

**March 31-April 3:** [ACEP's Advanced Pediatric EM Assembly](#)

**April 13-15:** [EM Basic Research Skills, Session II](#)

**April 17:** Deadline to apply for [new \\$150k EMF grant to support diagnostic excellence](#)

**April 30-May 2:** [ACEP Leadership & Advocacy Conference](#) (use promo code LEADERSHIP23 to save \$100 on registration!)

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## Contact Us

Heather Heaton, MD, FACEP - President  
Sarah Luebbert, APR - Executive Director  
573-636-2144 | [Email](#) | [Website](#)

**Minnesota Chapter ACEP**  
**PO Box 104302**  
**Jefferson City, MO 65110**

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