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**President's Corner**

Grant Scott, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine, UNM

Greetings to Everyone,

I think many of us had let out a sigh of relief watching New Mexico's Covid case counts fall week after week and are now having to take in a deep breath as we finish the summer with numbers rising again. While there is real protection from serious disease for those who have been vaccinated, we have unfortunately still not reached enough of the population. For me, it can feel especially difficult to see patients being admitted with a disease that we now largely know how to prevent.

While our role in the emergency department can often feel reactive to these types of public health concerns - only seeing patients after it is too late - please remember that there are many patients we are seeing who still have the opportunity to get vaccinated. Even a brief intervention can assess whether a patient has hesitancy about vaccination and let you find and address barriers to change. In the emergency department we can reach a population that may otherwise never have the chance to sit down and talk to a physician about why vaccination is important and to work through their concerns. If you are interested in learning more about how you and your department can support vaccination efforts with your patients, [ACEP has resources](#).

At the national level, there has been robust discussion about vaccination requirements for health care workers. This discussion has resulted in a recent ACEP endorsement of a [joint statement supporting universal vaccination for healthcare workers](#), much in the same way that many of our hospitals have routinely required influenza vaccination for years. This kind of advocacy allows us as an organization to send an unambiguous message that vaccination's benefits far outweigh the risk for ourselves, for our friends and colleagues, and for our patients.

Of course, life has certainly not slowed down in our EDs, and many of us are feeling the whiplash of going back to high volumes after last year's nadir. This feeling now makes it hard to believe that there would ever be too many emergency physicians. Nevertheless, as a College we must anticipate and plan for the future. In the August issue of the *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, Marco et al. are publishing "[The Emergency Medicine Physician Workforce: Projections for 2030](#)" where they have attempted to predict where our specialty may find itself in ten years. They raise concerns that there may soon be a relative national oversupply of EM physicians. Predictions into the future are always muddy at best, but this type of long-term thinking is important for the health of our specialty. At the local level, we must consider what it will mean for us as a relatively underserved rural state. In October, Dr. Tatsuya Norii, Dr. Tony Salazar, Dr. David Cheever (and Dr. Eric Ketcham from the pain management section) will be representing New Mexico at the national ACEP council meeting leading into the ACEP Scientific Assembly. I want to thank them for traveling to represent New Mexico's interests as ACEP tries to grapple with these types of long-term concerns for our specialty.

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## **Break the Fourth Wall**

Jessica Evans-Wall, HO3, UNM

On a busy shift there is a sad sense of relief when you pick up a chart that says chief complaint 'SI' because the disposition is effectively done. We know the patient will have to be evaluated by psychiatry and/or transferred to psychiatric services. Many studies over the years have shown that healthcare providers are poor at predicting future suicide attempts, but that senior physicians and specifically senior psychiatrists are modestly better (Wang, 2016). It seems that every shift since the start of residency I have seen an intentional overdose, someone who feels suicidal and unsafe with plans to jump into traffic, or tragically completed suicides with self-inflicted gunshot wounds. I have lost very dear people in my life to suicide, and every case I see in the ED feels personal. It felt all too common, and I was not sure if this was because now as a resident, I saw the full range of patients that I had previously been sheltered from as a medical student, or if suicide really was more common in New Mexico. We all feel that this past year and a half has been trying and challenging for mental health, both for ourselves and our patients. In speaking with our psychiatry colleagues here at UNM, they have anecdotally noticed an increase in suicidality visits over this time, data on this is pending. >> [READ MORE](#)

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**Welcome NM ACEP New Members!**

Angela M Bell, MD  
Tanya Belle, MD  
Jessica Brenes  
Melissa Cosse  
Shawn M D'Andrea, MD, FACEP  
Claire Ellen Escamilla, MD, FACEP  
Kyle Essex  
Anabela Esteves  
Robert McAtee, MD  
Gabriel Gebhart Paul, MD  
Bruno Alfred Perthus, 2382430, MD  
Riemer C Praamsma, MD  
Jeanie K Ringelberg, MD  
Michael J Salisbury, DO  
Emily Wheelis

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**FROM NATIONAL ACEP**





### **Webinar: Rural Emergency Medicine: Where We Are and Where We Are Headed**

Host: Rural Emergency Medicine Section

August 20, 2021 | 3:00 PM CT

[Register here](#)

Leaders of ACEPs Rural Section will be giving an update on current hot topics regarding rural emergency medicine. Many see rural America as the new frontier for EM workforce, and there is truth to that, but the issue is much more complex and nuanced than it may seem. Please join Drs. Scott Findley, Ashley Kochanek Weisman, and Stephen Jameson as they update ACEP sections and state chapters on rural EM workforce, Council resolutions to expand EM physician opportunities and improve rural ED patient care, rural health political initiatives, and the collaboration efforts that are underway with our NP, PA, and non-EM trained physician colleagues. There will be opportunity for Q&A during this 90-minute session as well.

### **Featured News**

#### **Senate Passes Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act**

ACEP is pleased to announce that early Friday morning, the Senate approved S. 610, the "Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act." This comes on the heels of hundreds of ACEP members joining together to lobby for this legislation during last month's Leadership & Advocacy Conference, conducting 287 meetings with legislators and staff from 44 states. [Read more details and view next steps.](#)

#### **EM Physician Workforce of the Future:**

- The EM Workforce Report Session from the recent Leadership & Advocacy Conference [is now available](#). Listen in as ACEP leaders discuss the data & next steps.
- The Young Physicians Section [hosted a Q&A session](#) with ACEP President Elect Dr. Gillian Schmitz and EMRA President Elect Dr. Angela Cai, asking workforce-related questions submitted by YPS members.
- "[The Emergency Medicine Physician Workforce: Projections for 2030](#)" was recently published in *Annals of Emergency Medicine*.
- **New ACEP Policy Statement:** [Emergency Medicine Workforce](#)
- Get the latest workforce updates at [www.acep.org/workforce](http://www.acep.org/workforce).

[Resident Voice: Where Medicine and Literature Meet](#) (ACEP Now, July 22)

#### **New ACEP Policy Statement & Information Paper**

- [Definition of Emergency Medicine Residency](#)
- [Medication Therapy for Psychiatric Crisis Events](#)

## COVID-19

#### **Press Releases:**

- [ACEP Urges FDA to Prioritize Emergency Physicians for COVID-19 Booster](#) (August 13)
- [Emergency Physicians to Parents and Students: Prioritize COVID Safety in Back-to-School Plans](#) (August 13)
- [Emergency Physicians Increase their Calls for Concerns around COVID-19 Delta Variant and Support Mandate to Vaccinate Healthcare Workers](#) (July 28)

#### **Do You Have a Vaccination Program in Your ED?**

As new variants continue to emerge, there is more urgency to vaccinate as many people as possible against the virus. If you have set up a vaccination program in your ED, [please take a few minutes to complete our survey for national data gathering](#). If you haven't, please consider working with your institution to provide vaccines to appropriate patients who will be discharged from the ED. An [on-demand webinar features ACEP members](#) explaining how they set up vaccine administration programs in their EDs and their lessons learned. And [there are more resources online](#), including helpful tools for addressing vaccine hesitancy.

#### **New Podcast: COVID-19 Myth Busting**

ACEP members are all fielding questions and concerns from friends and family. ACEP Frontline host Dr. Ryan Stanton sits down with Dr. Howie Mell to dispel some ongoing myths around vaccines, variants and more. [Share this episode on social media to help us battle disinformation](#).

**New:** [COVID-19 Vaccination Smart Phrase](#)

#### **Upcoming Webinars:**

[White House Conversation: Health Systems, Providers and the COVID-19 Vaccination Effort](#) (8/18, 11am CT)

[COVID-19 Variants: What Emergency Physicians Need to Know](#) (8/20, 12pm CT) During this live, free webinar we will provide an overview of Coronaviruses and the SARS-CoV-2 variants and review their classifications. The presenters will also present on the clinical implications, relevance and trends based on variants of interest, concern, and high consequence, including prevention, presentation, treatment, and management. [Register here](#).

Get the Latest Tools in the [COVID-19 Clinical Alert Center](#)

## ACEP Member Benefits

### Get the Support You Need

Stress is high right now, on so many levels. Everyone has unique needs depending on personal circumstances, but the following free support services are available:

- [Crisis counseling/wellness sessions](#) available 24/7 and strictly confidential
- [Peer support line](#) for physicians and medical students, available 24/7
- [Let's Talk forum](#) for ACEP members, our only forum to allow anonymous posts

## Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

**August 18:** [White House Conversation: Health Systems, Providers and the COVID-19 Vaccination Effort](#) (11 am CT)

**August 20:** [COVID-19 Variants: What Emergency Physicians Need to Know](#)

**August 25:** [Medical School Loans and the CARES Act: What You Need to Know](#)

**August 30:** [Rural Emergency Medicine: Where We Are and Where We Are Headed](#)

**September 23:** [Dental 101 for ED Physicians \(Webinar\)](#)

**October 25-28:** ACEP21 in Boston — [REGISTRATION IS OPEN!](#) Use promo code ACEP21CHAP for \$100 off the in-person meeting price.

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## Improve the Quality of Acute Care to Patients with ACEP Accreditation

When you choose accreditation, you are choosing to pursue a commitment to excellence across the spectrum of care that will help attract more patients and elevate your institution— providing a competitive edge in the marketplace.

- Strengthen community confidence in the quality and safety of care, treatment, and services – achieving accreditation makes a strong statement to the community about an organization’s efforts to provide the highest quality services.
- Provide a framework for organizational structure and management – accreditation involves maintaining a high level of quality and compliance with the latest standards. Accreditation provides guidance to an organization’s quality improvement efforts.
- Align emergency departments with one of the most respected names in emergency health care – being accredited by ACEP helps organizations position for the future of integrated care.

[Learn more about ACEP's Accreditation Programs](#)

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### Contact New Mexico ACEP

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