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President's Corner

David Cheever, MD MS

Dear NM ACEP Members,

Yá'át'ééh! My name is David Cheever, and I am very excited to write to all of you as the newly elected New Mexico ACEP President. For those of you who I have not met yet, I am an ED doc who lives and works in Gallup, New Mexico at Gallup Indian Medical Center. In the three years since moving to New Mexico, I have fallen in love with the state and plan to make a career out of working here with the tribal health system. It is a huge honor to be elected to this role, and I look forward to representing and advocating for all New Mexico ED physicians.

As was mentioned in the last President's Corner by Dr. Scott, we currently find ourselves in a period of transition. While the pandemic is far from the over, it does feel that we are moving closer to a new stage. As we like to say in my department, it seems that we have reached a period of "stable crisis." It is undeniable that large challenges remain, but these challenges appear less existential than in the early days of the pandemic. This is in large part due to the tireless work of ED docs across the state, as well as our other frontline colleagues. Yet, it is my hope that in this new stage we can allow ourselves some distance from the immediate needs and the day to day "crises" of our departments. That within this space we can reflect on the experiences of the last few years and start to plan for the future. New Mexico ACEP can play an important role in providing the community necessary to support this kind of reflection and to help mold the future of emergency medicine in our state.

We celebrated our first in-person meeting last month in Albuquerque, and it was amazing to see many of you in person for the first time in over two years. It was clear from the meeting that despite working in very different EDs we are bonded by what we share as emergency physicians. I hope to take the excitement of that meeting and continue to bring us together over the next year. It is through strengthening our community that we can continue to keep New Mexico a special place to practice emergency medicine.

We will be having our next quarterly meeting in July, and anyone who is interested should attend. Details on the meeting time and date will be circulated in June. Please feel free to reach out to me over the next year if you would like to be more involved in NM ACEP (or if you just want to say hi!) Also, a huge thank you to those of you who have already dedicated time to NM ACEP over the years. I look forward to the upcoming year and hopefully meeting more of you in person. All the best.

Thank You Seniors

Elizabeth Lynch, MD

I distinctly remember the day my older brother left for college. Leading up to the moment, I had not believed he was leaving, that I would wake up the next morning, and he would not be there. It was unfathomable. Driving back home after leaving him at his dorm, the presence of his absence was overwhelming. As a 12-year-old kid who worshiped my older brother, it was devastating.

Facing the imminent departure of our senior residents, and my looming promotion from an intern to a “senior” resident, I feel a twinge of that sadness resurfacing. The graduating residents are our guides and teachers, and they represent the promise of what is to come, the doctors we will someday become, proof that residency will be worth the work. They softened the landing as we crashed into a new hospital system, EMR, and our new roles as residents. They showed me how to print my first prescription on the correct prescription paper, where to find turkey sandwiches for my patients, and how to trick the scrub machine into giving me more than my allotted scrubs.

More importantly though, they have modeled for me what it means to be a University of New Mexico emergency medicine resident. For the last three years they have shown up, every single day to provide care for our medically complicated, socio-economically underserved population of patients, amidst a global pandemic that to date has killed over one million Americans and over 7,000 New Mexican’s^[1]. They faced ICUs overflowing with dying covid patients. They stood at the front lines with their newly minted medical degree and one year of residency under their belt and gave all they had to stop a disease that took everything it could from us. They strapped on their face masks and did what they had to because on day #7, or night #6, the patients still had to be cared for, and our residents were there to keep the watch. Despite the unprecedented challenges they faced during residency, they were incredible teachers to me this year, gracious providers to their patients, and supports to the staff around them. On the days when it feels our world is tipping towards callousness and violence, the dedication of our senior residents to their patients and peers restores my hope in our fundamental humanity.

I hope someday I can guide an intern through their first EDRU intubation with the patience that Brian showed me. I will think of Ben trusting me with my first crash central line when I start to doubt myself. I will summon Jess's compassion when I feel myself becoming jaded by waiting room medicine. I will channel Erik's calmness when the chaos begins to fray my nerves. The grace of our graduating residents is only surpassed by their knowledge and competence. I often find myself wondering if I will ever know as much as they do, if they ever failed at anything, if they doubted their abilities. Should they ever begin to doubt, I hope they will remember how much they inspired and impressed those around them.

As they prepare for their next chapter, as attendings and fellows, I hope they will find strength in all they have journeyed through in the last three years, the legacy of excellence they have left behind, and step confidently forward knowing they made an impact on me, on our residency, and on this chapter of history. I know I speak for many when I say a simple thank you cannot convey our gratitude to the graduating UNM emergency medicine residents. You will be missed and not soon forgotten.

[1] New Mexico Department of Health: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/>

Welcome NM ACEP New Members!

Gillian M Baty, MD, MPH, FACEP
Cynthia Chan, MD
John Davis, MD
Steven Daniel Gay
Daniel M Gee, MD
Allyson M Hynes, MD
Ian Oechsle, MD

FROM NATIONAL ACEP



ACEP Resources & Latest News

ACEP President Dr. Gillian Schmitz [issued a statement on the Uvalde tragedy](#). "We offer support to all emergency physicians, who bear witness to this

epidemic as we treat victims of firearms-related violence. We will continue our work to reduce gun violence through research, innovation and evidence-based practice."

ACEP Calls for Stronger Protections for Emergency Physicians Who Raise Workplace Safety Concerns: ACEP spoke directly to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) during a public meeting about whistleblower protections. ACEP Council Speaker Kelly Gray-Eurom, MD, MMM, FACEP, [raised the need for due process protections](#) for emergency physicians on the job.

ACEP Clinical Alert: [Shortages in Iodinated Contrast Media, Baby Formula](#)

Workforce:

- **A new analysis of the EM physician resident workforce in [Annals of Emergency Medicine](#)** finds that while the number of residency programs is increasing, new programs are disproportionately located in urban areas in states with existing programs, rather than rural communities with limited access to emergency care. [Read more](#)
- **Building toward a better future, ACEP is moving forward on EM workforce initiatives.** [Watch an update](#) from ACEP President Dr. Gillian Schmitz on ACEP's progress during this April 28 town hall webinar hosted by the EM Workforce Section.

ACEP has launched a **public campaign "[Who Takes Care of You in an Emergency?](#)"** that includes a series of videos outlining unique aspects of the job and explaining the significant difference in training and education required for physicians. Here are [new scope of practice talking points](#).

Problem solving: It's what we do. [Take a look at the issues we're tackling](#) and how you can join the cause.

More than 100 leaders, members and staff worked together to create [ACEP's new strategic plan!](#) **It's an important roadmap for our future.** Together we'll build a better future for emergency physicians everywhere!

It's Mental Health Awareness Month and [EM Wellness Week](#). Check your physical and financial vitals. Did you know ACEP has a page with [EM-specific financial planning resources?](#)

The [May issue of ACEP Now](#) features **new articles focused on behavioral health**, including [The Importance of System-Level Wellness](#) and [How to Approach Psychiatric Patients who Wish to Refuse Treatment in the ED](#).

Advocacy:

Help Move the Workplace Violence Prevention Bill Forward! Ask your U.S. Senators to co-sponsor and support the "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act" (S.4182). [Take Action!](#)

On May 4, ACEP and the Emergency Nurses Association hosted a press event at Capitol Hill to increase public awareness of workplace violence in the emergency

department and to push for swift passage of the "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act." [Read the press release with more information about the bill.](#) Watch the [Facebook Live recording](#) of the press event.

No Surprises Act

In the latest twist, the government requests Texas court place a "hold" on its surprise billing appeal. [What does this mean for ACEP's lawsuit?](#) [Dive deeper and learn more](#) about ACEP's many years of advocacy on this issue that led up to this law.

Prioritize Physician Mental Health

It's Mental Health Month and a good time to look at the recently-passed Dr. Lorna Breen Act. This vital legislation, named after an ACEP member who struggled and was tragically lost during the first surge of the pandemic, went from an idea to a law that will help protect the emotional health and wellbeing of emergency physicians. [See ACEP's Role.](#)

Regulatory Updates:

- [Surgeon General Issues Advisory Addressing Health Worker Burnout: Gamechanger? \(5/26/22\)](#)
- [NEW BLOG SERIES: Value based Care in Emergency Medicine-- an Overview \(5/19/22\)](#)
- [CMS Finalizes New Network Adequacy Requirements for Certain Private Health Plans \(5/12/22\)](#)

Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

- **May 31:** Last day to utilize current [student loan rate discount for ACEP members](#)
- **May 31:** Last day to join the [ACEP22 QI Challenge](#)
- **June 1:** [Weird Baby Stuff: Managing Brief Resolved Unexplained Events](#) - Webinar hosted by the ACEP Pediatric Emergency Medicine Section
- **June 16:** [Breaking Down Barriers to ED Care for People with Sickle Cell Disease](#) - Webinar hosted by the CDC
- **June 16:** [EM Clinical Support Tool for Sickle Cell Disease](#)
- **June 17:** Last day to apply for the new [EMF health policy scholar grant](#)
- **June 20:** [Caring for our Heroes: Special Considerations for Treating Veterans in Emergency Departments](#) - Webinar hosted by ACEP
- **Aug. 23-25:** [Independent EM Group Master Class](#)
- **Nov. 11:** Last day to submit [ACEP23 course proposals](#)

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