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President's Corner

Tony Salazar, MD, FACEP
NM ACEP President

Hello fellow NM ACEP members,

I hope you have recovered from the end of daylight savings and are still enjoying the warm New Mexico weather! Please also take time to refresh during the lower winter volume before the upcoming viral respiratory illness kicks into high gear.

Thank you to the NM ACEP members that signed up to serve as mentors for our ACEP NM Medical Student Council members. We are still in need of additional mentors for our NM medical students interested in pursuing a career in emergency medicine. If you would like to sign up to serve as a mentor, please [email](#) us.

Please join us at our winter meeting Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 5pm at Savoy Bar & Grill in Albuquerque. We will schedule and plan our 2024 Annual Meeting, where we will also vote in our new slate of officers. If you are interested in serving as a chapter leader, please reach out to us ASAP.

For those interested in advocacy, keep an eye out for an invitation to join the Greater Albuquerque Medical Association and New Mexico Medical Society in Santa Fe for Legislative Day. This typically takes place in early February. Please also make plans to join us in Washington DC for ACEP's Leadership and Advocacy Conference April 14-16, 2024!

Respectfully,
Tony

Silence

Elizabeth Lynch, MD, PGY 3
Emergency Medicine

“What is a middle class, white woman from Connecticut going to write about Palestine?” he asked. And it is a valid question. I know nearly nothing about the Israel- Palestine conflict. I vaguely remember two whole pages dedicated to it in my United States History textbook sophomore year of high school and since then just a few snippets of news here and there. In large part, reading the occasional update about the conflict and two-state peace talks gave me the false impression that a steady state had been reached.

Now my news feeds are filled with videos of children in evident shock, heads bandaged, comforting each other because their parents are gone, and I understand that the safely neutral, politically correct version of history that I learned simplified a complicated, painful history.

Watching the news, I am horrified by the human atrocities on both sides of the conflict. Once again, I find myself showing up to work, pretending it is just another day, ignoring the grief and stress of the world around us.

But last week, one of our attendings sent an email. She broke the facade we have all been holding up, and she said what we all should've been saying. This is hard, this is painful, and we are all scared to say the wrong thing, so instead we say nothing.

She posed a question I can't stop thinking about: “what is it about the world today that we default to believing conflict robs people of their humanity?”

We need to remember each other's humanity. At work, in the parking lot, at protests and at the voting booth. We need to remember that we are all human, sentient, flawed beings with the right to live in peace and safety, free from persecution.

I do not know the words to say or write now any more than I did before, but I know that speaking out when witnessing injustice is never wrong. I'll leave you with the words that keep echoing in my head, even when I am afraid to speak:

“First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Jews

And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me.”

-Martin Niemoller

FROM NATIONAL ACEP



ACEP Resources & Latest News

ACEP Blunts Medicare Cuts in 2024 Physician Fee Schedule

CMS recently released the Physician Fee Schedule PFS for calendar year 2024, which includes some wins for you and your patients, thanks to ACEP's involvement. Other provisions are concerning and ACEP continues to fight for favorable solutions. Our goal is to ensure your work is valued appropriately. [Read ACEP's detailed analysis.](#)

ACEP Council Tackles Key Issues During Philadelphia Meeting

More than 60 resolutions were considered during the ACEP23 Council Meeting in Philadelphia in October, with many of them drawing considerable debate before 44 were ultimately adopted. [Learn more](#)

New Career Resources:

- You asked for it. ACEP delivered. ACEP's **Open Book** addresses your need for employer transparency. Gain access to information about employer group structure, leadership and more | openbook.acep.org
- **Practice Essentials of Emergency Medicine** augments your knowledge of several critical business topics: Reimbursement, Contracts and Practice Models, Negotiations, Operations Management, Risk Management and More. It's **FREE** for ACEP members | acep.org/practiceessentials

ACEP in Action: We are committed to listening to, and learning from, the challenges that physicians face on each shift and to being your network of support in this difficult environment. Actions speak louder than words. We are tackling the

issues that matter most to you. Our efforts are stronger when we stand united. [Read More.](#)

Fighting for You on Shift

- ACEP convened health care stakeholders in September to discuss barriers and solutions at our ED Boarding Summit
- We have released poll results about the public's concern about boarding in the ED | acep.org/boarding
- This [ACEP Now boarding series](#) keeps you updated on the latest boarding news and opinions
- [Contact Congress about the ED Boarding Crisis](#)

Getting it Done in D.C.

- ACEP has been involved in **NINE recent lawsuits** to protect your autonomy and [ensure fair reimbursement](#)
- We have invested more than \$1 million of member dues dollars to [push back on scope creep](#) at the federal and state levels

Member Benefit Spotlight: Map out your spending and investment accounts, retirement projections, and goal projections in one secure online platform with My Financial Coach. [Read more.](#)

ACEP Grassroots Advocacy

Urge Congress to Prevent Workplace Violence in the ED

ACEP is continuing its mission to bring both Congressional and public attention to the growing problem of violence against health care workers. [A recent video article](#) in the *New York Times* highlights the crisis of violence in emergency departments and includes compelling testimonials from emergency physicians and other health care workers about its impact on their ability to provide care to patients.

We urge you to [share the video with your legislators](#) to reinforce the urgency of the problem and the need for Congressional action. Your legislators need to hear from physicians who are experiencing and witnessing this crisis on the frontlines of our health care system so they will prioritize swift action in this Congress.

Be an Advocate for Emergency Medicine and Patients

Join with your ACEP colleagues to advocate to Congress. As a physician, health care issue expert, and constituent - you have a unique story to share. [Visit the ACEP Advocacy Action Center.](#)

Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

Dec 7: [Hot Off the Presses: Key Reimbursement from the 2024 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule](#)

Jan 9-10: [ACEP Advanced EM Ultrasonography \(AEMUS\)](#)

Jan 29-30: [ACEP Advanced EM Ultrasonography \(AEMUS\)](#)

Feb 6-8: [Independent EM Group Master Class](#)

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