

E-News - late October edition

Six Chapter Resolutions Passed at ACEP Council Meeting

At the October 6-7 ACEP Council meeting in Seattle, the chapter submitted a record-setting nine resolutions. Of these, six were adopted, two were referred to the board, and one was defeated.

Bruce MacLeod, MD, FACEP, a member of PaACEP's board of directors, also climbed ACEP's leadership ranks by being elected as ACEP Council speaker.

About the Council

The ACEP Council is the broad-based national governing body of the College. Each year at ACEP's annual meeting, councilors representing each of the state chapters and sections gather to consider new national policies and changes to existing policies that are recommended to Council in the form of resolutions. The resolutions passed by Council are then sent to the ACEP Board of directors for its approval and action.

With 14 councilors and 2 alternates, the chapter had the third largest delegation - a mixture of PaACEP board members, committee chairs, and rank-and-file members - at the meeting.

Pennsylvania's resolutions

Of the nine resolutions the chapter submitted to ACEP Council, six were adopted with minor amendments. The Pennsylvania resolutions called on ACEP to:

- Work with the Joint Commission to clarify and modify existing medication reconciliation standards pertaining to the ED to include distinguishing these standards from those required of non-ED patient care settings.
- Support legislation that would protect and make non-discoverable, the apology or expression of sympathy or regret, or any reference thereto, during any legal proceedings which might take place.
- Revise the policy on "Boarding of Admitted and Intensive Care Patients in the ED" to state that in the interest of public safety, when the number of patients needing evaluation or treatment in the ED is equal to or exceeds the ED's treatment-space capacity, admitted patients should be distributed to inpatient units regardless of bed availability; that ACEP work with appropriate state and national organizations to promote the adoption of such policies nationwide; and that ACEP collate and distribute information to its membership and other appropriate organizations gleaned from research studies related to patient safety and outcomes, including increased morbidity and mortality, caused by the boarding of admitted patients in the ED.
- Develop a position paper on the systematic changes in hospital operations that are necessary to ameliorate overcrowding and treatment delays affecting ED and other hospital patients; and that ACEP disseminate this paper to its membership and other appropriate organizations with the intention of facilitating hospital core culture change.
- Expand the Standard of Care Review process to include review of expert witness reports felt by members to include egregious statements and conclusions; and that ACEP publicize and promote the Standard of Care Review process and ACEP members' options to pursue further actions, including referral to the ACEP Ethics Committee.
- Actively oppose the imposition on emergency medicine of any credentials developed, offered, or governed solely by other specialties; and that ACEP work with the Joint Commission and the American Hospital Association to recognize that board certified emergency physicians are adequately trained and qualified to properly administer sedative agents along the continuum of sedation levels, including moderate to deep sedation, and are qualified to credential themselves for hospital privileges relating to administering all sedative medications along the continuum.

In addition, two Pennsylvania resolutions—instructing ACEP to conduct a study on the impact of the baby boomer generation on the nation's emergency departments and to expand ACEP's definition of emergency medicine—were referred to the ACEP board. Council defeated a Pennsylvania resolution that called for a task force to study the prevalence and economic and non-economic impact of emergency physicians and hospitals providing ED services to non-contracted patients, and that ACEP formulate a policy statement on "Transfer of Patients from the Emergency Department" which prohibits the transfer of stable ED patients requiring hospital admission to other hospitals simply because of economic or "participating" insurance-related reasons.

Other important Council actions

In a history-making move, ACEP Council voted to establish a second pathway in which an ACEP member can achieve fellowship status without being board certified by ABEM, AOBEM or ABP.

The Council also passed a resolution that instructs ACEP to develop policy that defines appropriate procedures for care of patients presenting to retail health clinics who are believed to have emergency health conditions and require transfer to a higher level of care.

Physicians Join Coalition To Support Judge Maureen Lally-Green For Supreme Court

November 6, voters will select the next justices of Pennsylvania's statewide courts. The Supreme Court has influence over the way medical liability cases are handled. Important recent rules by the Court help prevent jury-shopping, require a certificate of merit, and also, clarify expert witness.

The state Supreme Court administers all civil cases in our judicial system, which includes medical liability cases.

The Pennsylvania Medical Society Political Action Committee (PAM-PAC) is supporting Judge Maureen Lally-Green's candidacy for the Supreme Court. Judge Lally-Green is widely recognized for her fair and impartial decision-making.

To learn more about this initiative, please contact Dave Thompson, Pennsylvania Medical Society, PAMPAC Executive Director, at 800-228-7823 X 7826 or dthompson@pamedsoc.org. This information is provided as a PaACEP member service and does not indicate an endorsement of the candidate.

Upcoming CME Courses

Trauma

December 7

Thomas Jefferson University
Hospital, Philadelphia

The one-day program fulfills the Pennsylvania Trauma System Foundation Trauma requirements.

13th Annual National Emergency Department Information Systems Symposium

December 10-13,
Sheraton New Orleans Hotel,
New Orleans, LA

The "premier" ED informatics course in the country offers the information system purchaser a chance to research and window-shop the various options before purchasing and implementing a hospital information system.

35th Annual Scientific Assembly

April 6-9, 2008
The Harrisburg Hilton
Harrisburg, PA

The chapter's premier CME event offers superb speakers on a variety of timely topics and provides an opportunity to dialogue with chapter leaders, attend a committee meeting, and network with your peers from around the state.

FastTrack will occasionally include links providing direct access to Internet sites other than paacep.org or acep.org. PaACEP takes no responsibility for the content or information contained on those sites and does not exert any editorial control over them.

You are receiving this e-newsletter as part of your membership communications from the Pennsylvania Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians. If this is incorrect or if you have a new e-mail account please update your information by emailing dblunk@pamedsoc.org.

[Unsubscribe](#) from future Issues of *FastTrack*.