



October 31, 2008

Chapter Resolutions Adopted at ACEP Council Meeting

At the October 25-26 ACEP Council meeting in Chicago, the chapter submitted six resolutions. Of these, four were adopted, and two were defeated.

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.

The six PaACEP resolutions recommend that ACEP:

1. Study the feasibility of adopting an associate member category for emergency physicians who do not meet criteria for active membership.
 - **Council Action:** It was amended and adopted that ACEP will appoint a task force to identify a common ground on this issue. The task force will report back to the 2009 Council.
2. Work with the appropriate government agencies to enact federal law making it a felony to assault any emergency physician, on-call physician or staff member working in a hospital's emergency department.
 - It was amended by the chapter prior to the meeting. **Council Action:** Adopted that ACEP will work to enact state laws making it a felony to assault a health care worker rendering emergency medical care.
3. Survey all 50 state Departments of Health regarding their policies, guidelines and procedures for addressing hospital and ED crowding, to include their responses to common and effective solutions to crowding such as use of hospital inpatient and ED hallways; and that the results of this survey be reported back to the Council in 2009.
 - **Council Action:** This was combined with elements of another resolution. As a result, a substitute resolution was adopted to investigate options to collect data from individual hospitals throughout the states regarding boarding and crowding; to encourage members to work with their state medical associations and/or state health departments to develop appropriate mechanisms to facilitate the availability of inpatient beds and use of inpatient hallways for admitted ED patients; that ACEP identify and develop a speakers bureau of individuals who have successfully implemented boarding and crowding solutions.
4. Study the feasibility of a no cost retired membership category or reducing the cost of Life Membership as a means of retaining retired members.
 - **Council Action:** Adopted
5. Appoint a task force to study modification and implementation of revised fellowship criteria that honor true service to the College and/or advancement of the specialty, and that the recommendations of the task force be discussed as Council business at the 2009 Council meeting.
 - **Council Action:** The resolution was not adopted
6. Require that the Board of Directors and Council officer candidates be actively involved in the practice of clinical emergency medicine at the time of their nomination.
 - **Council Action:** The resolution was not adopted.

In addition, the Pennsylvania and Ohio chapters co-sponsored a resolution that was adopted that called for ACEP to study the existence of "excited delirium" as a disease entity (or not); characteristics that help identify the presentation and risk for death; and preferred methods of control and treatment to minimize patient and caregiver risks so that the patient may be successfully managed in a medical environment; and that ACEP develop and disseminate a white paper on findings to appropriate entities (e.g. EMS, law enforcement).

Pennsylvania's delegation to the ACEP Council was a mixture of PaACEP board members, committee chairs, past chapter leaders and rank-and-file members.

Representing the Chapter were:

Charles Barbera, MD, FACEP
Michael Bohrn, MD, FACEP
Keith Conover, MD, FACEP
C. James Holliman, MD, FACEP
Blair Hontz, DO – resident representative
sharing the seat with resident Eric Maur, MD

John Kelly, DO, FACEP
Scott Korvek, MD – Young Physician
Representative
Douglas McGee, DO, FACEP
Ericka Powell, MD, FACEP
Ralph Riviello, MD, FACEP
John Skienziewski, MD, FACEP

Michael Turturro, MD, FACEP
Henry Unger, MD, FACEP
Daniel Wehner, MD, FACEP
Alternates:
David Lemonick, MD
Noelle Rotondo, DO, FACEP

An in-depth article regarding the 2009 Council meeting will appear in the December/January edition of the chapter newsletter.

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