

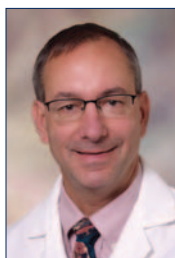
# PaACEP News

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER, AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS  
MAY/JUNE 2011

## Executive Privilege

### Handing Over the Reigns

*Daniel R. Webner, MD, MBA, FACEP  
President*



**W**ow, this year zoomed by.

It seems like just yesterday when I assumed the PaACEP presidency from Mike Turturro, MD, FACEP, and gave my first

presidential address to my friends and colleagues at the 2010 PaACEP Annual Meeting.

I began that first presidential address by stating that my charge would be to work with the executive director, staff, board of directors and committee chairs to ensure that we stay focused and carry on the mission of the Vision Statement.

The thrust of the vision statement is two-fold: to support the professional endeavors of emergency physicians and to promote the delivery of quality medical care for all patients. For this final presidential address, I thought it would be most appropriate to review the six main goals I established for myself in my first address, one year ago, and then describe how we fared with those goals.

Goal #1 was to work within PA and nationally to allow us to be able to provide deep sedation with propofol and similar agents. This was accomplished, thanks to national ACEP convincing the American

Society of Anesthesiologists to clarify its position statement on deep sedation provision by non-anesthesia trained/certified practitioners, explaining that emergency physicians are qualified to provide deep sedation. CMS then followed suit.

Goal #2 was to continue to work on trying to mitigate hospital crowding and boarding of admitted patients in our emergency departments. Five hospitals have been approved for the Full Capacity Protocol Pilot Project, which allows for the prompt transfer of stable admitted patients from the ED to predetermined non-traditional inpatient sites. The pilot project is proving to be safe and effective. We plan to continue to work with the Department of Health (DOH) to see if this can be continued and hopefully expanded to other hospitals. The Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) has been helping us with this issue, as well. PAMED, acting upon a resolution submitted by PaACEP, has established a workgroup, whose charge will be to develop a white paper and possibly some other communication vehicle, to describe the problem of boarding and crowding to physicians from all aspects of the House of Medicine, to let them know how serious the problem is, and how it negatively affects their patients.

Goal #3 was to work with PAMED and our state legislators to develop and advance legislation to raise the burden of proof in medical liability cases from the current preponderance of evidence to clear and

convincing evidence of gross negligence for ED and EMTALA-related care. Suggested legislation has been crafted. Introduction of such legislation is pending at this time. It will be introduced when PAMED believes the timing is best, in concert with other proposed medical liability legislation.

Goal #4 was to keep our membership abreast of national healthcare reform developments, and help us affect positive change. There really has not been a lot of movement affecting us in the past year, and national ACEP is taking the lead on this.

Goal #5 was to enhance our relationships with PAMED, Pennsylvania Emergency Nurses Association (PaENA), DOH, the

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## The 2011 PaACEP Scientific Assembly Was a Success!

The 38th Annual PaACEP Scientific Assembly was held April 10-13, 2011, at the Hilton Harrisburg Hotel in Harrisburg, PA. This longstanding meeting provided an educational and networking opportunity for over 150 academic, resident, and hospital-based emergency physicians and in addition, offered up to 29 ACEP AMA PRA Category I™ Credit hours of CME. Keynote speakers featured Sandra Schneider, MD, FACEP, ACEP President and Alex Rosenau, DO, FACEP, ACEP Secretary-Treasurer, nationally recognized leaders in emergency medicine. As the meeting was based in Harrisburg, legislative issues were also a primary focus. A group of physicians devoted Tuesday morning to visiting the hill and meeting with their legislators to discuss important concerns, including raising the standard of care in medical malpractice cases and teen distracted driving. John Milliron, Esq., PaACEP Lobbyist, provided a briefing session for participating physicians outlining what to expect during their visits and key talking points to cover.

Our topics were designed to develop and refine the skills required in everyday emergency medicine practice. Noelle Rotondo, DO, FACEP, Program Chair, stated, "This meeting is always a success in terms of the overall quality of the sessions and the variety of topics. It's a testament to the talent that we have in emergency medicine throughout Pennsylvania." Speakers included nationally recognized lecturers David Newman, MD, FACEP, Judd Hollander, MD, FACEP, Kevin Weaver, DO, Bryan Kane, MD, FACEP, Benjamin Abella, MD, FACEP, J. Ward Donovan, MD, FACEP, and Heather Rozzi, MD. Attendees learned current technologies on a variety of course topics, such as eye emergencies, ultrasound, cardiology, orthopedics and capnography. Supplemental workshops and labs were also available, including the Airway, Ultrasound, Procedures, Poison Symposium and Critical Communication Skills. Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to have a focused learning session. Dr. Rotondo explained, "For example,

participants were able to simulate and practice placing a transvenous pacemaker, a vaginal birth delivery, using ultrasound as a guide for the placement of central and peripheral lines and for the location of foreign bodies, and there was an airway station where they were able to use alternative adjuncts to airway placement such as the LMA and video-scopes to image the airway."

Attendees were pleased with the sessions that were offered this year. Some feedback received was, "Outstanding meeting with evidence based speakers" and "Over the top session for a chapter meeting. Best in years." PaACEP is proud to host such a high caliber educational event, made possible through the hard work of the 2011 Program Committee. The chapter would like to extend a special thank you to Program Chair Noelle Rotondo, DO, FACEP, and the Program Committee members Bryan Kane, MD, FACEP, and Walter Schradung, MD, FACEP, for putting together such an outstanding program.



## Annual Meeting Review

The 2011 PaACEP Annual Membership Meeting was held during the Scientific Assembly on Tuesday, April 12. The meeting provided members with chapter updates, board election results, financial reports, and member recognition awards. Daniel Wehner, MD, MBA, FACEP, gave a farewell address as President, and welcomed the chapter's 38th President, Henry Unger, MD, FACEP. Jeannie Slade, Political Action Director of ACEP, was the guest speaker.

Dr. Wehner recognized a number of PaACEP members and community leaders with chapter awards. **Alexander M. Rosenau, DO, FACEP**, received the chapter's 25th Annual Meritorious Service Award for his dedication to leadership roles within the chapter and ACEP, for his unyielding advocacy and diplomatic skills in working with legislators and other health care organizations, and his innovative contributions to emergency medicine services. **Laurence J. Gavin, MD, FACEP**, received PaACEP's 13th Annual Physician of the Year Award. Dr. Gavin was recognized as the consummate example of a professional and strong physician leader. An emergency department chief for 26 years, he is an innovative teacher and mentor, and challenges emergency medicine physicians to achieve their goals.

**Representative Joseph Markosek** was the recipient of the Legislator Recognition Award. Representative Markosek demonstrated his commitment to saving teen drivers' lives by upgrading the state Graduated Driver Licensing Law and has been a proven friend to medicine. In his time in the legislature he has also spearheaded efforts to provide improved services for citizens with developmental disabilities and has played an important role in improving Pennsylvania's transportation infrastructure.

Dr. Wehner recognized outgoing board members and board of directors' election results. Members leaving the board include Keith Conover, MD, FACEP, Ericka Powell, MD, FACEP, Michael Turturro, MD, FACEP, former chapter president,

*continued on page 4*



Alexander M. Rosenau, DO, FACEP



Laurence J. Gavin, MD, FACEP



Henry Unger, MD, FACEP



Jeannie Slade,  
Political Action Director of ACEP

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## *PaACEP Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting*

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Viropharma

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Representative Joseph Markosek



Keith Conover, MD, FACEP



Ericka Powell, MD, FACEP

### **Annual Meeting Review**

*continued from page 3*

and Samer Bashiti, DO, ended his two-year service on the board as a resident representative. Incumbents Michael Bohrn, MD, FACEP, and Ralph Riviello, MD, FACEP, were re-elected and newly-elected to the board was Merle Carter, MD, FACEP, and Robert Whipkey, MD, FACEP. Dr. Wehner also recognized the following candidates, Scott Korvek, MD, FACEP, and Ronald Stunz, MD, FACEP.

### **Richard Wuerz, MD, FACEP, CPC Competition**

The Richard Wuerz, MD, FACEP, CPC competition was held at the 2011 PaACEP Scientific Assembly. Meredith Williamson, MD, from Allegheny General Hospital, received the best Resident Presenter award and Jawaid Ahktar, MD, from University of Pittsburgh, was named the Faculty Discussant winner.

On January 23, 2001, the Pennsylvania ACEP Board of Directors named the PaACEP Scientific Assembly CPC Competition in memory of Richard Wuerz, MD, FACEP. Dr. Wuerz passed on October 6, 2000.

Dr. Wuerz achieved national recognition for the development of a new system for triaging ED patients, which used an innovative scoring system that he invented. It was this patient scoring system that earned him the prestigious Ester B. Kahn Fellowship Award in Emergency Medicine. The Chapter is proud to name the Scientific Assembly CPC Competition in memory of this distinguished scholar, researcher, and highly skilled emergency physician.

Thanks to Dr. Schrading for all of his efforts in making this event a success! ■

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PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER,  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF  
EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

**Chapter Advocacy Efforts**

*John Milliron, Esq., PaACEP Lobbyist*



**W**e are trying to change Pennsylvania's rules of evidence in injury cases. The current standard that a plaintiff must meet in order to receive damages is "preponderance of the

evidence." That threshold is relatively easy to meet and results in many unfair verdicts.

We want to raise that standard and require a plaintiff to prove that his or her claim is true by "clear and convincing evidence." This legal threshold requires that the accusation is highly probable or reasonably certain. This additional thought by juries will result in much fairer results.

Our language is part of a larger medical malpractice reform package that the legislature will be discussing and hopefully

voting on in the fall. This new standard would only apply in an action arising out of emergency medical care when there was not a preexisting physician patient relationship. It would extend into the emergency department or obstetrical unit or surgical suite immediately following evaluation and treatment in the emergency department.

We will be sending you more information this summer on specific language and reasons why our representatives and senators should support it. In the meanwhile, please continue to build relationships with your legislators and most importantly, contribute to PEP PAC. Your dollars will go a long way to help us in this battle. Please send a personal check (state law prohibits corporate donations) payable to PEP-PAC at 200 North 3rd Street, Suite 1500, Harrisburg, PA 17101. You can also contribute on-line at [www.paacep.org](http://www.paacep.org). Contributions to PEP-PAC are not deductible as a charitable contribution. ■



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## Want to be a Councillor?

This edition of *PaACEP News* includes a Councillor Interest fax-back form. During the summer, the chapter's board of directors will be selecting Councillors and alternates to represent PaACEP at the 2011 ACEP Council Meeting on October 13-14, in San Francisco, just before the start of ACEP's Scientific Assembly.

The ACEP Council is the national governing body of the College. All state

chapters and sections (special-interest groups) are represented on Council, which currently has over 250 members and usually meets once a year. The Council has the power to influence ACEP policy and to advise and instruct the board of directors. The Council also elects the ACEP Board of Directors and president-elect.

The chapter can send 15 Councillors and some alternates to the October meeting. To be considered, a member must meet one of the following criteria: serving as

chair or a member of a PaACEP or ACEP committee; actively involved in the chapter or at the national level; serving as faculty for a PaACEP CME program; or a member who could represent the interests of members regarding a particular issue.

If you are interested in serving as a Councillor, please complete the enclosed form and return it to the PaACEP office by **July 1**. You can also submit a form online at [www.paacep.org](http://www.paacep.org). ■

### The PaACEP Board of Directors welcomes the following as members of the American College of Emergency Physicians and Pennsylvania ACEP

Laura Borman  
Nina L. Elliott, DO  
Mark R. Foster, MD  
Brian Q. Gacloch  
Jennifer M. Hinds  
Kareem Idrees  
Matthew M. Kongkatong

Stephanie Larson, DO  
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Dustin S. Morrow  
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Mark Saks, MD

Todd W. Schneberk  
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Michael J. Varley, DO  
Christopher J. Watras  
Aaron Wonnacott  
Matthew J. Young, DO ■



## Announcing ERMI's Newest Site.

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### Your Resolution Can Make A Difference!

Each year, ACEP Representatives review and debate new ideas and current issues introduced through chapter or individual resolutions at the fall Council Meeting. The Pennsylvania chapter is the third largest in ACEP, and consistently one of the most respected and influential. It is our members who decide to contribute an idea or a resolution that truly help to affect change within the organization. Daniel Wehner, MD, MBA, FACEP, PaACEP Immediate Past-President, reminds members, "Resolutions help shape the future vision and actions of the College, and it's important as one of the largest and most respected ACEP chapters that we continue to introduce new resolutions."

This Council meeting is your opportunity to make a resounding impact by setting

our agenda for the coming years. Topics such as the direct election of the president-elect, or working with the Emergency Nurses' Association on staffing models, grew directly from member resolutions submitted to the Council. If you have a hot topic that you believe the College should address, now is the time to start writing that resolution.

Over the past few years the chapter has had several resolutions that were adopted by the ACEP Council. Some recent chapter-sponsored resolutions that were adopted by ACEP include officially defining a 'boarded patient', a position statement that mandatory reporting of epileptic drivers to licensing authorities is unnecessary and counterproductive, and to promote public education and legislative efforts to limit

the use of two-way communication devices and other distracted driving risks.

If you have a great idea but the task of writing a resolution is overwhelming, simply contact PaACEP leadership with your suggestion and the board will take the next step. For those who are interested in writing a resolution, the ACEP web site article, "Guidelines for Writing Resolutions," details the process and offers tips.

Please submit ideas and/or concerns to the PaACEP Board of Directors by July 1. All ideas for resolutions will be seriously considered by the PaACEP Board. Even if your resolution isn't passed at the Council Meeting, you will have made your voice heard. It is important in this tenuous time of healthcare reform to do everything we can as individuals and as a chapter to make a difference. Submit a resolution today! ■

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# Emergency Medicine Action Fund Announced

New grassroots effort aims to influence health care reform's regulatory implementation.

*Nancy Calaway*  
*ACEP Communications Manager*

With changes in the health care system already underway, a new initiative is looking to positively impact the regulations that will be written and implemented under this sweeping reform. The Emergency Medicine Action Fund, launched by ACEP in February, will pool contributions from individual emergency physicians and groups, chapters, and anyone else interested in advancing emergency care to provide financial support for advocacy activities in the regulatory arena. For example, evolving practice models and demonstration projects, such as accountable care organizations and bundled payments, are two areas of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act where the Action Fund might be able to wield some influence.

The following organizations have been invited to designate representatives to the initial Board of Governors – American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM), Association of Academic Chairs of

Emergency Medicine (AACEM), American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians (ACOEP), Emergency Department Practice Management Association (EDPMA), Emergency Medicine Residents' Association (EMRA), and Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM).

One of the unique features of the Emergency Medicine Action Fund is that chapters can band together to form coalitions that would be eligible to have a seat on the Board of Governors. Or chapters can organize individuals and groups in their states for collective representation. The first 10 groups of contributors at \$100,000 will be granted seats on the Action Fund's Board of Governors.

Activities planned by the Emergency Medicine Action Fund are intended to enable participants to make contributions that would be tax-deductible business expenses (tax deductibility can be determined only by participants' tax advisors).

NEMPAC, the National Emergency Medicine Political Action Committee of the ACEP, gives contributions to candidates who have listened to the needs of emergency medicine and made a positive change. However, NEMPAC may be used only to support candidates. The Action Fund can enhance regulatory advocacy with policy makers to ensure emergency physicians receive fair payment for their services. It can also fund numerous meetings with regulators to help guarantee that patients receive the best care, and provide funding for studies to demonstrate the value of emergency medicine.

"With the new Congressional session upon us, it is as important as ever to be active on both the legislative and regulatory fronts," said ACEP President Dr. Sandra Schneider. "We will depend on all of these funds to make our case. This will be the year we ask everyone to dig a little deeper. In these challenging times, we need contributions to both the Action Fund and NEMPAC."

Find out more about the Emergency Medicine Action Fund at [www.acep.org/EMActionFund](http://www.acep.org/EMActionFund). ■

## Pennsylvania's 34<sup>th</sup> Annual EMS Conference

Pennsylvania's 34th Annual EMS Conference will be held August 18 and 19 at the Lancaster County Convention Center and Marriott in beautiful downtown Lancaster. This year's program features a full day of pediatric education on August 18. The second day of the conference features multiple tracks of education focused on emergency preparedness as well as basic and advanced life support prehospital care topics such as motorcycle trauma, alcohol emergencies, forensics and EMS, and new trends in respiratory care.

As always, we welcome physician attendance at the annual conference. If you would like to attend the conference, you can register online at [www.pehsc.org](http://www.pehsc.org) or by contacting the PEHSC offices at (717) 795-0740. If you would like to visit the exhibit hall to view new prehospital equipment, you may do so at no cost by attending the exhibitor reception on Thursday evening, August 18th, from 5:00 - 7:00 pm or by visiting the registration table on Friday, August 19th, and identifying yourself as a member of PaACEP.

If you are interested in proposing an EMS topic for next year's program, please forward your proposal no later than December 31, 2011, to [pehsc@pehsc.org](mailto:pehsc@pehsc.org).

## EMS Update: Courtesy of PEHSC

New Field Protocols go in effect July 1, 2011—go to your regional council's website, the Department of Health website or [www.pehsc.org](http://www.pehsc.org) for a copy.

The New EMS Law requires EMS agencies (BLS and ALS) to have a medical director, if you are interested in working with an EMS organization please contact PEHSC at (717) 795-0740 or via [jswade@pehsc.org](mailto:jswade@pehsc.org) for a link to a local service in your area.

We are always interested in physician involvement in our committees and task forces, if you would like to assist us in the provision of advice to the PA Department of Health, please email us at [pehsc@pehsc.org](mailto:pehsc@pehsc.org) for an application. ■

## Executive Privilege

*continued from page 1*

Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP), and the Governor's office. Thanks to Marilyn Heine, MD, FACP, FACEP, (PAMED President-Elect), Bruce MacLeod, MD, FACEP, and Ted Christopher, MD, FACEP, we have a very strong relationship with PAMED, and their support of our initiatives on boarding/crowding and medical liability protection demonstrate this fact. We have involved PaENA in some of our Executive Board teleconferences, and we've invited PaENA to appoint a representative to our Education Committee, with the hope that more emergency nurses will attend our Scientific Assembly. We also are beginning to reach out to the Pennsylvania Society of Emergency Medicine Physician Assistants. Due to a change in leadership and budget cuts, the DOH has been in a state of flux. Now that things may be settling down a bit, we're scheduled to meet with the Secretary of Health to promote our agenda.

Goal #6 was to enhance communication among members. This is probably the area where we made the least amount of

progress. We continue to have a strong paper and electronic communication system and newsletter, and our ED Directors listserv has taken off quite well, but otherwise, communication has not changed much. We still have some work to do to enhance communication, in order to allow members to feel more connected to PaACEP.

One aspect that I did not include as one of my goals was PaACEP's fiscal health. Despite having a bit more revenue due to increased membership, we struggle with our budget, mostly due to short-falls in CME attendance and associated revenue, a problem common among most other chapters as well.

Our Education Committee continues to diligently work to develop profitable and well-attended CME programs, and a special Scientific Assembly (SA) subcommittee has been established to consider any and all alternatives to improve SA attendance, including possibly even eliminating SA.

On the brighter side, during the year, our membership increased, and we gained another councilor. We had a

strong showing at ACEP Council and at Leadership and Advocacy.

As I hand over the reins to Hank Unger, MD, FACEP, there's still a lot to be done. But, we remain one of the largest and most influential chapters of ACEP, and we have a strong showing at PAMED, as well. Alex Rosenau, DO, FACEP, became elected Secretary-Treasurer of ACEP and is a candidate for ACEP President-Elect. Marilyn Heine, MD, FACP, FACEP, as I mentioned, is President-Elect of PAMED. We're well-poised for the future, but we need every member's help. Stay abreast, stay involved. Contact your legislator when issues affecting EM arise. Contribute to PEP-PAC and NEMPAC. Support our CME endeavors. Consider joining a PaACEP committee. Change will continue, times will get tougher, we need to continue to all work together to ensure that we are adequately reimbursed, and allowed and able to practice quality and effective emergency medicine for ourselves, our staff, and most importantly, our patients. It's been a great year. Thank you David, Hank, the rest of the BOD, and each and every one of you PaACEP members. ■

**Residency Program Director:** The Department of Emergency Medicine (EM) at Penn State Hershey Medical Center is seeking a dynamic, EM-trained, board-certified physician to join our faculty as Program Director. Located in beautiful Hershey, PA, our new ED cares for >63,000 patient visits at a comprehensive academic health center with 24 residents in a fully accredited program. We currently have ~64+ hours of attending coverage daily, with 22+ hours per day of EM physician assistant support, and a dynamic and engaging ED Nursing staff. Research and educational missions are critically important as is providing outstanding patient care, and provide opportunities for integrated faculty development. Our unique environment includes Broadway plays, professional sports, national performers, and outdoor recreation in your traffic-free backyard. We have fellowships in EMS, Critical Care, Toxicology, and Research. An integrated 'Life Lion' flight and ground EMS division, outstanding clinical computerization, and extramurally funded research programs add to the academic opportunities. Consider adding yourself to 22 other EM boarded faculty, to complement our group and your career. Confidential inquires to Thomas E. Terndrup, MD, Chair, Dept of Emergency Medicine (H043), PO Box 850, Hershey, PA 17033. Phone 717-531-8955, or email, tterndrup@hmc.psu.edu. The Penn State Milton S. Hershey medical Center is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce. EOE-AA-M/F/HV.



### **Outstanding ED Physician Needed State College, PA:**

Independent democratic group, New Emergency Department under construction to be complete in 2013, All EM residency trained and EM boarded physicians, Full-time physician assistants, Fee for service / Excellent Compensation Package, Single hospital contract, Years of stable amicable relationship with administration, Expected volume: 50,000+ this year, 51 hours of physician coverage per day, 8.5 hour shifts, 30-40 hours of PA coverage per day, Voice recognition dictation/transcription Advanced EHR, Excellent nursing/ ED techs/ IV team, Superb admitting and consulting staff, CT/ultrasound available 24/7, University community: great schools and all the amenities without crime. E-mail [Tziff@Mounnittany.org](mailto:Tziff@Mounnittany.org), or mail to: Theodore L. Ziff MD FACEP, 1800 East Park Ave., State College, PA 16803, (814) 234-6110. [TZiff@mounnittany.org](mailto:TZiff@mounnittany.org)

**Holy Redeemer Hospital:** Outstanding opportunity for BC/BE emergency medicine physician available in a recently renovated, state of the art emergency department in the Philadelphia suburbs.

The ED employs electronic charting/tracking and order entry. Annual volume of 31,000 with 36 hours of physician coverage daily, supplemented by 8-10 hours mid-level practitioner coverage. A fast track operates daily. In house obstetrics and pediatric coverage in ED is available 24/7. Full benefits including health, dental, paid vacation, pension, stipend for cme/books/dues and subscriptions provided.

For more information, contact: Henry Unger, MD, FACEP at (215) 938-2119 or [hunger@holyredeemer.com](mailto:hunger@holyredeemer.com). EOE. ■

## Announcing the newest additions to our group

**Dr. Nicole Agostinelli**

*Residency: New York Presbyterian Hospital*

**Dr. Emily Brown**

*Residency: Harvard University*

**Dr. Larry Callahan**

*Residency: St. Francis Medical Center*

**Dr. Julia D'Alo**

*Residency: University of Connecticut*

**Dr. Dylan Flipse**

*Residency: Temple University*

**Dr. Donna Harrison**

*Residency: University of Pittsburgh*

**Dr. George Kochman**

*Residency: University of Maryland*

**Dr. Audrey McCandless**

*Residency: University of Pittsburgh*

**Dr. Jennifer Rogers**

*Residency: Georgetown University*

**Dr. Alan Shapiro**

*Residency: Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center*

**Dr. Jessica Sotelo**

*Residency: Case Western Reserve University*

**Dr. Keith Tatka**

*Residency: Midwestern University*

**Dr. Andrew Tomasi**

*Residency: Loma Linda University*

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Contact Robert Maha, MD, MBA, FACEP, President and Chief Medical Officer at  
1-888-647-9077 or email [mahar@upmc.edu](mailto:mahar@upmc.edu)



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