

## EM Physician, You Don't Have to Heal Thyself



*WACEP President's Message, July 2020*  
 Ryan Thompson, MD, FACEP

Medicine has a history of at best ignoring, and at worst shaming, physicians who struggle with mental health. It is long past time for that to change. Today's EM physicians face unprecedented challenges and ever-mounting pressures. In addition to managing the increasing risk of contracting COVID at work, the physical demands of wearing PPE all day, and dealing with increasingly complex and seriously ill patients, many EM physicians across the state are seeing cuts in pay or slashed hours, adding financial pressures to the mix.

While there has always been an element of thrill-seeking and relishing in the stress of a busy ED, we must recognize the toll the job takes on each of us. It is time to end the stigma associated with seeking therapy or counseling and recognize it for what it is—self-care. Just as a physician who is ill cannot take the best possible care of their patients, neither can one struggling under a mountain of stress. We owe it to our patients to be at the top of our game when caring for them, and that means seeking out mental health care when it's needed.

Many physicians fear being labeled as "problematic" or "less-than" if they seek care. If you are a medical director, make sure that your physicians are not being asked to report on seeking counseling, as this can be a huge deterrent for physicians to get the care they need. Both ACEP and WACEP are against physicians being forced to report their mental health care.

If you feel like you could benefit from counseling, ACEP offers [free, confidential sessions](#) via phone, text, or chat. If you are in southeastern Wisconsin, the BRaVe (Building Resilience Virtually) Clinic also offers free and confidential remote counseling ([braveclinic@mcw.edu](mailto:braveclinic@mcw.edu)).

## Quick Links

[COVID-19 Resources](#)  
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## WACEP Congratulates Class of 2020 EM Residents

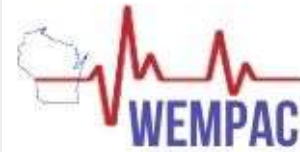
WACEP offers its congratulations to Wisconsin's 2020 Emergency Medicine residency graduates.

### The University of Wisconsin Emergency Medicine Residency Program Grads:

- Dr. Josh Buehler will be joining Eugene Emergency Physicians in Eugene, OR
- Dr. Eric Collins will be joining Mayo Clinic Eau Claire Hospital in Eau Claire
- Dr. Emily Fleming will be completing an EMS Fellowship in Madison
- Dr. Alok Harwani will be completing an Administration Fellowship in Madison
- Dr. Rosalia Holzman is heading to The Ohio State University Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, OH
- Dr. Corlin Jewell will be completing an Education Fellowship in Madison
- Dr. Ilan Kolkowitz will be completing a Global Health Fellowship in Madison
- Dr. Michelle Lum will be completing an Ultrasound Fellowship in Madison
- Dr. Erik Morrow will be joining Mayo Clinic Eau Claire Hospital in Eau Claire
- Dr. Eric Ohlrogge will be completing a Medflight Fellowship in Madison
- Dr. Dan Ritter will be going to Mercy Health in Iowa City/Cedar Rapids, IA
- Dr. Katie Ulrich will be going to Dignity Health in Chandler & Gilbert, Phoenix, AZ

### The Medical College of Wisconsin Emergency Medicine Residency Program Grads:

- Dr. Sean Mackman will be joining Emergency Medicine Specialists.
- Dr. Adam Haggerty will be joining Gundersen Health System.
- Dr. Justine Wergin will be joining Emergency Medicine Specialists.
- Dr. Marielle Brenner will be completing a toxicology fellowship at IU Health in Indiana.
- Dr. Rachel Nordstrom will be practicing at the Medical College of Wisconsin.
- Dr. Cody Bonk will be completing an ultrasound fellowship at Nebraska Medical Center.
- Dr. Reece Cooper will be joining Appleton Emergency Services SC, The DACARE Regional Medical Center in Appleton
- Dr. Sarah Kessenich will be practicing at the Medical College of Wisconsin.
- Dr. Daniel Kopatich will be doing Locum Tenens.



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## **Medical Malpractice Fund Waives Premiums for Providers**

The state's medical malpractice fund is waiving premiums for the next fiscal year for participating healthcare professionals and providers.

The Injured Patients and Families Compensation Fund's Board of Governors approved the premium holiday on Wednesday. The holiday, will run from July 1 to June 30, 2021.

The fund covers claims beyond state-mandated insurance limits, which are set at \$1 million by occurrence and \$3 million by aggregate per year. In April, lawmakers [signed off](#) on a plan not to increase participation fees for the fund for the next fiscal year.

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## **HHS/ASPR COVID-19 Clinical Rounds**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), in collaboration with the National Ebola and Special Pathogens Training and Education Centers (NETEC), and Project ECHO, launched a series of COVID-19 Clinical Rounds on March 24th.

This initiative supports a series of three weekly teleECHO programs – 1) Critical Care: Lifesaving Treatment and Clinical Operations; 2) Emergency Department: Patient Care and Clinical Operations; and 3) EMS: Patient Care and Operations. [Learn more & sign up](#) to participate.

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## **WEMPAC Needs Your Support**

In this election year more than ever, your donation to WACEP's Political Action Committee will help grow our relationships with lawmakers, support those who stand with us, and help support our current legislative efforts. Please consider a contribution to the Wisconsin Emergency Medicine Political Action Committee (WEMPAC). [Donate now](#), and thanks to all members who have donated!

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## Upcoming WACEP Events

### **WACEP Webinar: State Legislative Updates, Federal COVID updates and the Scoop on AUCM**

Thursday, July 30, 2020  
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join WACEP Legislative Chair Lisa Maurer, MD, FACEP and ACEP staffers Harry Monroe and Jeffrey Davis for a look at state-level legislative issues affecting EM docs, an update on COVID-19 legislation and regulation at both the state and national levels, and the inside scoop on AUCM: how this APM could improve your practice. [Learn more and register.](#)

### **Virtual LLSA CME Workshop**

Thursday, August 13, 2020  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

This workshop free for WACEP members and is designed to help emergency physicians prepare for the Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (LLSA) component of ABEM's Continuous Certification process by providing instruction and insight into the articles' subject matter. Key points of the 2019 articles will be reviewed by board-certified emergency physicians who have prior experience teaching this course. [Learn more and register.](#)

### **Rural Outreach Program Cancelled; Webinar being Planned**

WACEP's second annual Rural Outreach Program, scheduled for September 18th in Rice Lake, WI, has been cancelled. Please stay tuned for details on a Rural Outreach webinar being planned for mid-September. The Rural Outreach initiative is designed to engage those practicing emergency medicine in rural parts of Wisconsin and to provide support for those with fewer resources, unique practice concerns and different support needs.

### **WACEP 2021 Spring Symposium & Wisconsin's Annual Emergency Medicine Research Forum, April 7-8, 2021**

Save-the-Date and plan to join WACEP for its 2021 conference, April 7-8, 2021 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Milwaukee.