



## Annual WACEP President's Report



*Ryan Thompson, MD, FACEP*

*Excerpted from the 2020 WACEP Business Meeting, September 15, 2020*

This has been an unprecedented year, with a myriad of challenges. COVID-19 has upended our state and our world in ways we couldn't have dreamed of a year ago. So first I would like to thank each and every one of you for what you have done this year. Emergency physicians in our state stepped up in every conceivable way to face this challenge. Your ability to continue to provide incredible care to Wisconsinites despite the challenges of PPE shortages, despite the risks to your own health, and that of your families, even while facing budget shortfalls, constantly shifting guidelines, and a mountain of uncertainty, has been absolutely incredible. So thank you all!

This year of my presidency has certainly not been what I expected. My background is as an educator, and I was excited to bring that energy to this year's Spring Symposium and continue to expand our Rural Outreach educational program. However, events conspired to cancel both of those events, and our focus by necessity shifted to advocating for our members and patients during a pandemic. I will be forever in the debt of my fellow physicians on the WACEP Executive Board and Board of Directors. Without their expertise and hard work, none of what we have accomplished this year would be possible. If you know any of these folks, please reach out to them with a hearty thank you!

I am happy to report that we have been able to have a big impact during COVID. We advocated for [liability protections](#) during the Emergency order, and were also able to convince the state to include emergency groups in [eligibility for CARES funds](#). WACEP [joined other medical societies](#) in supporting common-sense masking and social distancing, and collaborated with the Wisconsin Hospital Association to produce a [PSA](#) reassuring Wisconsinites about the safety of our Emergency Departments despite the pandemic.

Beyond COVID, we've had great success in other areas as well, including state level advocacy, membership retention, and collaborative efforts to improve mental health care in Wisconsin. Despite the challenges of the year, I feel good about what WACEP has achieved, and I look forward to what we will continue to accomplish in the year to come.

Advocating for EM physicians and our patients requires us to have the means to get our ideas and advocates in front of Wisconsin politicians. Each of our board

## Quick Links

[COVID-19 Resources](#)  
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members has committed to donating to our PAC, and I would encourage all of our members to [make a contribution as well](#)—our PAC is what allows us to advocate for substantive change in the state. There are great things on the horizon in our state, but also significant challenges. A strong PAC will allow us to face those challenges head-on. If you feel that WACEP has improved your practice environment, please consider making a contribution today!

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### Michael Replinger Honored with Distinguished Service Award

WACEP congratulates Michael Replinger, MD, PhD, FACEP as the recipient of this year's WACEP Distinguished Service Award. The award was presented during the virtual Annual Membership Meeting on September 15, 2020 by WACEP President Ryan Thompson, MD, FACEP.

Over the last 10 years, Dr. Michael Replinger has demonstrated a commitment to improving patient care and promoting the profession of emergency medicine. He was UW's first resident delegate to the WACEP Board and has continued to serve in various roles in WACEP including President in 2013 and Councilor for the past 3 years. During his tenure on the Board, Dr. Replinger has substantially contributed to numerous WACEP initiatives, resulting in important changes to Wisconsin's statutes. Examples include changing the statutory definition of informed consent for medical care, reinstating medical malpractice caps for noneconomic damages, and providing statutory liability protection when conducting body cavity searches.

Outside of political lobbying, Dr. Replinger has advocated for emergency physicians at the Wisconsin Medical Society and in teaching medical students and residents. [Read more.](#)

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### Call for Board Nominations

The Wisconsin Chapter, ACEP Nominating Committee is now accepting nominations of any member in good standing interested in serving in WACEP leadership.

WACEP's Board of Directors meets quarterly and provides ongoing strategic oversight as the organization works to advance the effectiveness, sustainability and mission of the Chapter. Board members are expected to participate in all Board meetings, the annual Spring Symposium, and to volunteer for other activities that will help advance the organization's strategic priorities.

Nominations are being accepted for the positions listed below (terms begin January 1, 2021):

- (3) Directors-at-Large on the Board of Directors (4-year term)
- President-Elect (this is a 3-year commitment, one year each as President-Elect, President and Immediate Past President)
- Secretary/Treasurer (1-year term)

If you or any of your colleagues are committed to serving in a leadership capacity and being a resource for information, education, networking and advocacy, we encourage you to get involved!

Nominate yourself or a colleague today! Nominations are due by November 20, 2020. [Submit nominations here.](#)



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## **ACEP Wellness Section Seeks Nominations**

Interested in leadership in ACEP's Wellness Section? This is a unique opportunity to serve in a role where influence and change continue to advance wellness and wellbeing for our colleagues. Nominations for the following positions is now open:

- Chair-Elect
- Newsletter Editor
- Councillor

[Learn more!](#) If you are interested in taking on a leadership role within the Wellness Section, please contact Dr. Randall Levin, Wellness Section Chair, or Joseph Kennedy, or [Joseph Kennedy](#), Wellness Section liaison.

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*In Case You Missed It...*

## **CARES Funds Now Available to Independent EM Practice Groups**

WACEP is excited to announce that as a result of our legislative committee's grassroots efforts and efforts of our lobbyists, federal CARES Act funds distributed by the State of Wisconsin are being made available to Independent Emergency Physician Practice Groups to help offset expenses and lost revenue as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Visit the [DHS COVID-19 page](#) to find the application, and note the deadline to apply by September 30. During the application process, questions can be directed directly to DHS at [DHSDMSDCPP@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSDMSDCPP@dhs.wisconsin.gov).

View the official DHS [press release](#). Please [contact WACEP](#) if we can be of assistance.

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## **WACEP Past President Dr. Jeff Pothof Discusses COVID-19 Vaccine**

WACEP Immediate Past President and UW Health's Chief Quality Officer, Dr. Jeff Pothof was interviewed on PBS Wisconsin's Here and Now. Dr. Pothof was the first among an expected 1,600 volunteers to take an experimental COVID-19 vaccine at a study run jointly by UW Health and the UW School of Medicine. He joins the program from Madison. [View interview](#).

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## **WACEP LLSA Workshop - Now On Demand!**

Missed the live webinar? It's not too late to prep for LLSA and earn CME! The recording of the recent LLSA Virtual Workshop & Study Group, which reviewed 2019 LLSA articles, is now available. [Learn more and access the webinar today!](#)

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