



### Local Tragedy Underscores Need for State EM Organization

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

A recent tragic case which occurred in Milwaukee is garnering national media attention. You can read the full story [here](#), but the broad strokes are that a young woman 9 months status post a stillbirth presented to an ED with chest pain, left after waiting 2 hours, and subsequently collapsed and died a short time later -presumably related to postpartum cardiomyopathy. (If you want to brush up on peripartum care, our friends at ACOG have provided this [great reference](#)). Ultimately, this woman's death was heartbreaking and very likely preventable.

The immediate and predictable media reaction was to blame the ED for the wait times she experienced. I do not know the physicians who were working at the time, but I'm confident that if the patient had stayed in the ED that she would have received the life-saving care that she needed. To lay the blame solely at the feet of these physicians and other ED staff is unfair and misses the whole host of failures that contributed to this woman's death. Fortunately, ACEP's Dr. Howie Mell was able to provide a small amount of context for the story, pushing back against the failed ED narrative.

As emergency physicians, we would like nothing better than to have EDs with enough staff, space, and resources to see every patient with little or no wait times at all. Unfortunately, this is far beyond our control. [Read more.](#)

### WACEP 2020 Spring Symposium Registration is Open

Join your emergency medicine colleagues for a day and a half of rapid fire, relevant education and networking at the [WACEP 2020 Spring Symposium](#), "Emergency Medicine: The Road Less Traveled," taking place April 15 and 16 at the Madison Marriott West.

This year's program has been approved for 11 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* and will start with lunch on Wednesday with an opening session on Treating Hemophilia A in the ED, followed by rapid-fire EM updates. Wednesday evening

### Quick Links

[Latest News](#)  
[Upcoming Events](#)  
[Careers in EM](#)



includes a dinner session on evaluation of psych patients in the ED, followed by an off-site sponsored reception at Eno Vino, thanks to the generous support of UW Health and the UW BerbeeWalsh Department of Emergency Medicine.

On Thursday, the conference is offering a Unique Procedures Workshop, and bringing back several sessions by popular demand, including 2019 LLSA study workshop, Hot Topics in Emergency Medicine round-table discussions, and the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Wisconsin Emergency Medicine Research Forum, presented in partnership with the Emergency Medicine Departments at UW and MCW. David Talan, MD, FACEP, Infectious Disease specialist from UCLA, will begin the Research Forum on Thursday with a keynote presentation on "What I've Learned Studying ID in EM."

Make plans to attend this year's WACEP Symposium [Learn more and register](#).

---

### **Call for Nominations - WACEP Distinguished Service Award**

Nominations are now being accepted for the WACEP 2020 Distinguished Service Award.

This award annually recognizes a WACEP member in good standing who has demonstrated exceptional commitment and service to the organization, and/or made a significant contribution toward the advancement of emergency medicine in Wisconsin or beyond.

If you know of an emergency physician who is deserving of this award, [submit your nomination today](#).

---

### **Leadership & Advocacy Conference Travel Funds Available**

Interested in taking a deeper dive into federal and state legislative issues important to emergency medicine? Plan to attend ACEP's [Leadership and Advocacy Conference \(LAC\)](#), April 26-28, 2020 at the Grand Hyatt in Washington DC.

At LAC, you will learn tips and tools to advocate on issues at both the federal and state levels, hear updates on proposed legislation that could impact you and your patients, and have an opportunity to meet with your federal legislators in person.

The Wisconsin Chapter, ACEP has earmarked funds to support travel and conference registration expenses for up to four residents and four members in practice. Simply [submit your brief statement of interest](#) by January 31 explaining your why you'd like to attend. Notice of funding will be made by mid-February.

---



---

### **Wisconsin Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians**

563 Carter Ct Suite B  
Kimberly WI 54136

920-750-7725  
920-882-3655 (fax)

[WACEP@badgerbay.co](mailto:WACEP@badgerbay.co)

## **Last Chance to Register for Doctor Day!**

It's not too late to [sign up and attend](#) Doctor Day on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Monona Terrace in Madison. The event promises to be an exciting day for physicians where your voice can be heard at the State Capitol.

WACEP President Ryan Thompson, MD and Immediate Past President Jeff Pothof, MD will host a complimentary meetup the night before Doctor Day on Tuesday, January 28 at Coopers Tavern in downtown Madison. The meetup will include with dinner, drinks and an informal policy primer discussion. If you can attend the meetup, please RSVP soon so we have a headcount.

---