



*WACEP President's Message
February 2021*

Brad Burmeister, MD, FACEP

February is always my favorite month. This February seems extra special: we have vaccines for COVID; COVID numbers are down; and the days are getting longer and longer!

I think, though, we have another glimmer of hope in our ongoing push for fair reimbursement from the Medicaid program. The state is projected to have a more than \$600 million Medicaid surplus (partly due to increased federal funding related to COVID). WACEP has been making the case to the Governor and Legislature for increased Medicaid reimbursement rates. Having essentially the lowest reimbursement rates in the country for Emergency services and having not seen an increase in decades, WACEP continues to advocate for fair increase. This is hopefully the prime opportunity for us to move forward. We may need your help, so stay tuned—we'll let you know if there becomes a time where we need your grassroots help!

In the meantime, save the date for these two important advocacy opportunities:

- May 5: Wisconsin Doctor Day (virtual); Visit <https://www.widoctorday.org> to sign up. Meet with your state legislator and/or their staff at the state level. Building relationship is incredibly important. Although the exact legislative priorities we will advocate are still to be determined it would be nice to have a good representation of Emergency physicians.
- July 25-27: ACEP Leadership and Advocacy Conference (LAC)
- Visit <https://www.acep.org/lac/> to learn more. Meet with your federal legislators and/or their staff. This might be virtual, it might be in person, it might be a hybrid! For now, save the date!

Also, don't forget about our own WACEP 2021 Spring Symposium on April 8. It'll be virtual this year and is always a great opportunity to learn and network with your peers. [Register today!](#)

And finally, how can Wisconsin ACEP help you? If you have any questions, concerns or needs, please do not hesitate to reach out! My email is BradleyBurmeister@gmail.com.

Gov. Evers' Budget to Include \$25 Million on Crisis Intervention and Emergency Detention

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Governor Evers announced important proposals he will include in his Executive Budget including several that are aimed at reforming crisis intervention and emergency detention—all of which are a direct result of ongoing work of the WPA/WACEP Emergency Psych Task Force and its collaboration with law enforcement and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

While these proposals are only the first steps in the biennial budget process and must go through both the Joint Finance Committee and the full Legislature, WACEP is thankful for the Governor's recognition of these shared challenges, and the work of the Emergency Psych Task Force for bringing these proposals and important issues to the forefront.

[Read Gov. Evers' Budget Proposal Press Release.](#)

Physician Leaders Sought for Leadership Development Conference

The Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) sponsors an annual educational conference on leadership. Because of the pandemic, this year's conference will be split into a half-day of online talks on March 12, and then two half-days of in-person talks and discussion on September 14 and 15, 2021.

WHA welcomes physicians in leadership positions, and especially those physicians with a developing interest in leadership, to participate in the conference.

[Learn more and register.](#) Be sure to click on the featured presenter tab near the top of the web page to see the outstanding group of speakers for this conference.

Last Call for Distinguished Service Award Nominations

Submit a nomination by March 1 for the WACEP 2021 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.

WACEP 2021 Spring Symposium is April 8th

Register early to receive a conference care package compliments of our conference sponsors! This year's Symposium will be presented virtually and will include keynote presentations from ACEP Board Member Aisha Terry, MD sharing tips for achieving diversity in the workforce; David

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Talan, MD, FIDSA who will share what he's learned from studying infections disease in the ED; and Wisconsin's own Ryan Westergaard, MD, PhD, MPH who will do a deeper dive into the science behind COVID. Must-know pharmacology and trauma updates are also part of the lineup, and WACEP is again partnering with Univ. of WI and MCW on the Annual EM Research Forum. [Register today.](#)



Annual WACEP Membership Meeting: During the 2021 Symposium, WACEP will hold its Annual Membership Meeting and awards program. Details for joining the annual meeting will be forthcoming. Save the date for April 8 at 12:15 pm CT to hear annual updates from WACEP leaders.

Doctor Day 2021 is May 5



This year's virtual event will feature a policy and politics panel with members of the powerful budget-writing Joint Committee on Finance. Committee co-chairs Representative Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam) and Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) will be joined by their Democrat colleagues Representative Evan Goyke (D-Milwaukee) and Senator Jon Erpenbach (D-West Point). [Learn more & register.](#)

ACEP Leadership & Advocacy Conference (LAC)

ACEP is finalizing plans for an in-person Leadership & Advocacy Conference (LAC) to take place **July 25-27, 2021** (Sunday-Tuesday) at the Grand Hyatt in Washington DC. A virtual options is also being planned. Additional details will be available in the coming week. Save the dates!

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