



### **WACEP President's Message, March 2021**

*Bradley Burmeister, MD, FACEP*

Hello WACEP Members!

I'm hoping this isn't going to be an "in like a lamb, out like a lion" March! We've been pretty lucky, and I'll be honest, I'm slightly bummed at the quickly deteriorating skiing conditions across the ski resorts in our state!

WACEP continues to be very busy. We continue to follow multiple pieces of legislation moving through at the state level including: the proposed Medicaid reimbursement budget increase; proposed balanced billing legislation; the PA bill; many bills impacting EMS and more. I'm anticipating many updates over the next few months so will save you from information overload now, but obviously if you have questions, please [reach out](#) to us!

Our most important update in the coming month is that our virtual annual meeting / Spring Symposium is April 8th! We have a great day planned full of education and networking, and I encourage everyone to join us if available! [Sign up here](#).

Another exciting transition is that the WACEP Board is planning an in-person meeting the morning of June 8th at Lambeau Field! If you are in the region or want to join us for the conversation or just the phenomenal view, Board meetings are open to all members. Just [let us know](#) if you plan to come and we'll get you details!

Thank you for your membership.

~Brad

#### **Quick Links**

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## WACEP Legislative Update

The new legislative session started at the beginning of January and while there was a lot of action in the capitol, it took some time for some priority items to become law.

Several items of note in the biennial budget proposal include several provisions that were a direct result of the WACEP/WPA Emergency Psych Taskforce efforts, as well as the Governor's proposal to include an increase of over \$5.2 million annually to improve Medicaid emergency services reimbursement rates in Wisconsin. WACEP has been advocating for this increase for over 20 years since our last consideration of an increase.

**As WACEP is working to obtain clarification on details of the Governor's provisions, we are simultaneously ramping up for an all-member grassroots advocacy effort. Your help will be needed next month! Please plan to get involved and help us obtain this goal that's been our top legislative priority for years.**

Read the full [Spring Legislative Update](#) from WACEP's lobbying team of Hubbard Wilson Zelenkova.

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## CURES Act Update and Helpful Hints

*Mike Becker, MD FACEP, WACEP Board Member*

Barack Obama signed the CURES Act into law in 2016. This 996 bill has many provisions that can be found online [through ACEP](#), and also [through HHS](#). This Act impacts Emergency Physicians in a number of ways and a brief review of the bill may be worth your time.

Throughout the past year, our institution has changed the default setting to share all emergency physician notes with certain exceptions. This action has resulted in a handful of patient complaints or requests to change the medical record.

[Read more](#) for some helpful hints that I have found through review of patient concerns.

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## Leadership & Advocacy Conference - DC in July!

Interested in taking a deeper dive into federal and state legislative issues important to emergency medicine? Plans are being made for ACEP's Leadership and Advocacy Conference (LAC) to take place in person, July 25-27 at the Grand Hyatt in Washington DC. [Sign up for information](#).

You will learn tips and tools to advocate on issues at both the federal and state levels, hear updates on proposed legislation



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that could impact you, your patients and the specialty, and have an opportunity to meet with your federal legislators.

The Wisconsin Chapter, ACEP has earmarked funds to support travel and conference registration expenses for up to four residents and four members in practice. To be considered for funds, simply [email your statement of interest](#) no later than April 1st briefly explaining your why you'd like to attend and what you hope to do with information you obtain at the conference.

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## Upcoming Events

### **April 8 - WACEP Spring Symposium - Sign up Today!**

[Learn more and sign up today!](#) This event is being brought to you virtually with exciting educational updates, many in a rapid-fire format. Register soon -- last chance to get the conference care kit mailed to you, compliments of our exhibitors and sponsors!

If you're not a PAC donor, [become one today](#) and plan to attend the VIP PAC Donor Coffee Reception for informal dialogue with a key legislator the morning of the Symposium.

### **May 5 - Wisconsin's Doctor Day**

Plans are coming together for Wisconsin's first Virtual Doctor Day, which will include a keynote presentation by AMA President Susan R. Bailey, MD as well as a panel discussion by members of the powerful budget-writing Joint Finance Committee. Policy breakout sessions will include Public Health, Health Equity, and a Legal Update that will touch on scope issues and much more. Be the voice of medicine! [Sign up](#) for this important advocacy event today.

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