

DECEMBER 2012



PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

LAURA PIMENTEL, MD

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Welcome to the holiday season and the run up to the MD Legislative Session.

This past month, our state was spared the worst of Hurricane Sandy, though not left unscathed. I was struck again by the dedication of emergency physicians to their hospitals and communities. As the news media hyped the public into emptying the grocery store shelves of bread and toilet paper, EM physicians calmly made plans to prepare for a crisis. Physicians booked hotel rooms or made plans to sleep in call rooms; worked double shifts, and covered for colleagues unable to return from Oral Boards in Chicago or ill-timed vacations. Directors adjusted coverage to meet the needs of patients referred from every other specialty; unable to access dialysis; and the usual crises precipitated by interruption of the health care routines of the 9 to 5 world. I was truly proud to be part of this specialty and the wonderful group of physicians committed to working with anyone, any time, to meet any need.

Now that elections are past, it is clear that our state will move forward with implementation of the Patient Protection and Access to Care Act. Members of our public policy committee, executive director, and lobbyist met with Medicaid Director, Chuck Milligan on November 30. They discussed his vision for implementation of the Act as it pertains to Medicaid. A key question raised was that of the recourse of physicians when MCOs down code, deny, and otherwise fail to pay for emergency physician services. Is oversight primarily through DHMH or the MIA? Look forward to a full report of the meeting outcome next month.

On December 4, I am scheduled to testify before the Joint Committee on Health Care Delivery and Financing on medication shortages. My objective will be to describe the impact of shortages on critical aspects of patient care including intubation, resuscitation, sedation, and pain control. As all EM physicians know, these shortages are adversely affecting quality, efficiency, patient safety, and cost. Our goal is to ensure that the legislators understand the importance of reliable supply and distribution of effective pharmaceuticals.

I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season.

SAVE THE DATE:

APRIL 18, 2013

MD ACEP ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

WESTIN BWI HOTEL



EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

MICHAEL WINTERS, MD, FACEP

The Maryland ACEP Education Committee has been hard at work the last several months preparing for the Annual Educational Conference on Thursday, April 18th 2013 at the BWI Westin Hotel. We are excited to announce an outstanding program this year with some of the leading educators in emergency medicine. Topics are diverse and include risk management, pediatrics, cardiology, ENT, critical care, administration, and psychiatric emergencies. This promises to be one of the best conferences we've had in years. Don't miss out one of the premier educational conferences for 2013.

Laura Bontempo, MD, FACEP: *Nightmare ENT Emergencies*

Arjun Chanmugam, MD, MBA, FACEP: *Avoiding Common Errors*

John Greenwood, MD: *The Critically Ill Patient with Pulmonary HTN*

Jay Kaplan, MD, FACEP: *Nurses Are from Saturn, Physicians from Jupiter, Administrators from Mars - How Can We Speak the Same Language?*

Kevin Klauer, DO: *High Risk Scenarios in EM: Strategies and Solutions*

Amal Mattu, MD, FACEP, FAAEM: *Recent Cardiology Articles You've Got to Know!*

Rob Orman, MD: *The ED Guide to Suicide Risk Assessment*

Al Sacchetti, MD, FACEP: *Advanced Pediatric Procedural Sedation*

Congratulations Maryland emergency physicians!

We have grown to well over 600 members- making us the 16th largest chapter in the US! This is a testament to your commitment to your specialty as well as your support of effecting positive change in both local and national emergency care.

The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program working with representatives from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), and the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) has designed a multi-phase quality improvement initiative to ensure that all emergency departments (EDs) are ready to care for children. Entitled the **National Pediatric Readiness Project**, it is the first national survey of pediatric readiness in emergency departments across the United States.

The Project includes a national assessment of EDs, immediate feedback in the form of a "Pediatric Readiness" score and gap analysis report; and a clearinghouse of resources to empower EDs to align themselves with the 2009 National Guidelines on pediatric readiness through quality improvement and performance initiatives.

Beginning in January 2013, using a staggered deployment plan, EDs will be invited to access a secure web-based portal and complete a pediatric readiness assessment that is designed to indicate a facility's pediatric readiness.

The EMS for Children program is utilizing their infrastructure of State Managers to assist in deployment of the assessment, and we are asking our key partner organizations for assistance in identifying champions in each state. Volunteers will raise awareness of the project; encourage ED staff to participate in the assessment; and increase utilization of the free on-line resources available to EDs who embark on quality and performance improvement measures targeted at increasing their readiness score.

We believe that collaboration with national organizations is vital to the success of this project. Specifically we ask that state/regional champions perform the following:

- Champion the Project within your state/region;
- Educate fellow members about the Pediatric Readiness Project and importance of ED participation;
- Encourage your colleagues to complete the assessment;
- Share resources that can improve an ED's capability to provide appropriate pediatric care; and

Visit the National Pediatric Website at www.PediatricReadiness.org to stay informed about relevant literature, pediatric readiness champions in your state, and the latest news about the Project.

Link to www.PediatricReadiness.org on state and region ACEP web pages.

If you are interested in becoming a champion in your state or region, please contact Karen Belli at kbelli@ChildrensNational.org or call 301-244-6227.

MEDCHI APPLAUDS OPINION BY THE COURT OF APPEALS

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, applauds the opinion by the Court of Appeals in *Spence v. Julian and Mercy Medical Center v. Julian*. In the *Spence* case, Maryland's highest court upheld an opinion of Maryland's intermediate appellate court, the Court of Special Appeals, that a hospital's pre-trial settlement with a plaintiff did not bar a physician who was subsequently found liable to the plaintiff for his actions in the same alleged incident of malpractice from seeking to collect from the hospital a portion of the damages awarded to the plaintiff even though the hospital had previously settled with the plaintiff prior to trial. Had the court ruled the other way, the physician would not have been able to seek to establish the hospital's liability and consequently, would have been on the hook for the entire amount of the awarded damages, regardless of the hospital's actual fault in the case.

MedChi had submitted an amicus brief in the *Spence* case in support of the physician. MedChi President Brian M. Avin, M.D., commented that "This case illustrates why it is important that MedChi advocate for physicians in the Maryland court system."

Gene M. Ransom, III
CEO, MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society

PSYCHIATRIC BED REGISTRY UPDATE

Congratulations and thank you to the following Psychiatric Facilities/Units for beginning to provide their availability in the Psychiatric Bed Registry.

- Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center
- Northwest Hospital Center
- Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital
- Sheppard and Enoch Pratt - Ellicott City
- Sinai Hospital of Baltimore
- St Joseph's Medical Center

All Psychiatric Facilities/Units and Emergency Departments are encouraged to participate in the Psychiatric Bed/Registry as it will only become useful with full participation. If you have not yet received your log-in credentials please e-mail Jeffrey Huggins at jhuggins@miemss.org and he will forward you the information required to access the system.

Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems is working with the Mental Hygiene Administration to determine which facilities did not attend training and will be establishing additional targeted training sessions. We will advertise them as soon as they are scheduled.

Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with, and begin to use the new Registry. We hope it will be useful for both the Emergency Departments as well as the Psychiatric Facilities/Units. If you have questions, suggestions or run into difficulties while attempting to access the system, please e-mail Jeff Huggins.

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

NEEL VIBHAKAR, MD, FACEP

For this month's newsletter, instead of summarizing a recent discussion of the Practice Management Committee, I would like to make the MD ACEP members a bit more aware of our committee and what we do.

The Practice Management Committee has been a longstanding and active committee within MD ACEP, started up by Joe Twanmoh many years ago. The committee has seen its membership and email activity grow significantly over the years and in the past 2-3 years the committee has discussed over 70 topics, exchanged policies and procedures, and provided information to their colleagues to help change practices at their very own hospitals. The ability to share ideas and best practices has been invaluable to many EDs across the state.

As new physicians join ACEP and begin to take on leadership roles within their hospital, I would encourage you to get involved and join the Practice Management Committee. Our discussions are done almost exclusively over email, so there is no real time commitment, just the benefit of discussing various ED issues with your colleagues!

If you would like to join, please send me an email at nvibhakar@bwmc.umms.org.