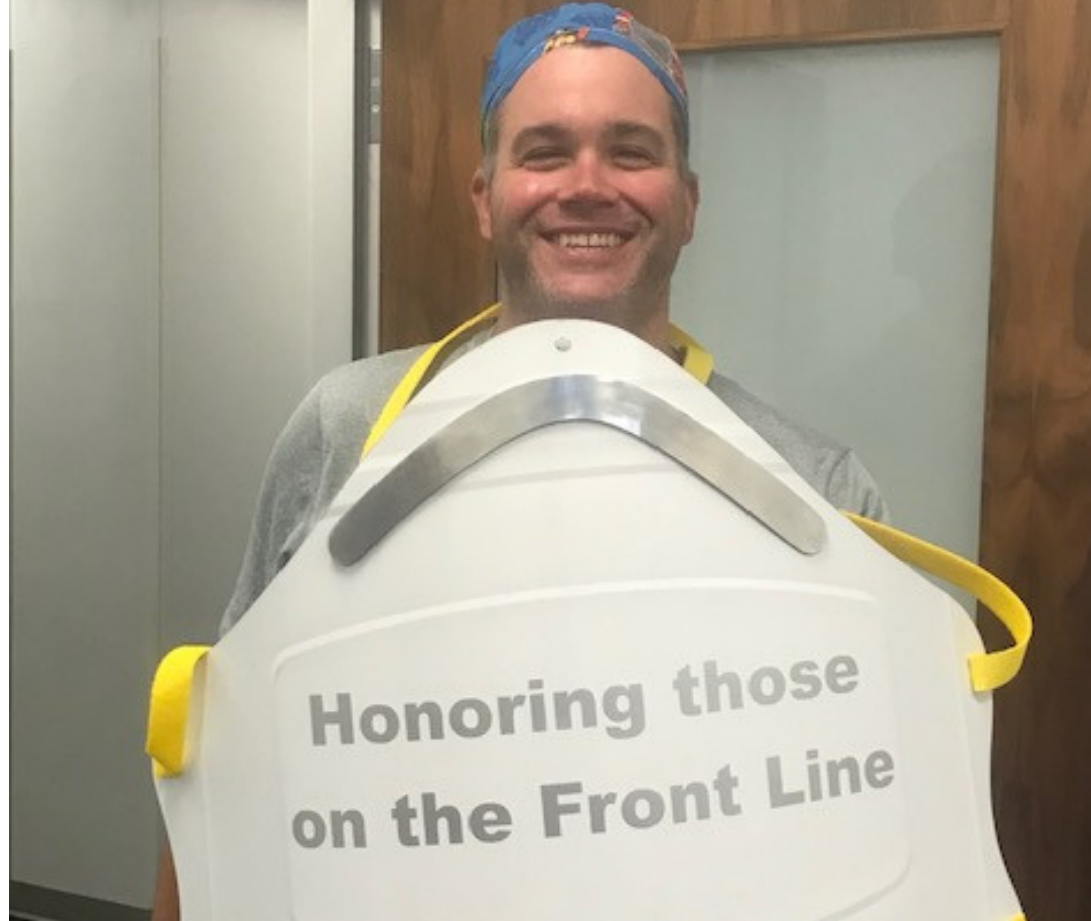


MISSOURI
COLLEGE
OF
EMERGENCY
PHYSICIANS



2020 ANNUAL REPORT



"Thank you for running toward danger when everyone's instinct is to run away."



Phone:
573-636-2144

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MOCEP.org

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Normally for a President's annual message, I would hope everyone was able to find some time off and enjoy the summer. Unfortunately for the past six months, we have been dealing with an unprecedented pandemic which has stressed our healthcare systems beyond what we ever thought could happen. Unfortunately, the end is not in sight yet, but we want our members to know that this pandemic has not prevented the MOCEP board of directors from continuing to work hard on issues important to emergency medicine in Missouri. I hope this annual report can highlight some of the work we did pre-COVID 19 and what we have accomplished recently.

I want to thank Evan Schwarz for his leadership in this organization over the past two years. As President, he led MOCEP to continued growth and advancement. Almost a year ago under Evan, the board met to develop our two-year strategic plan. We will continue to work towards those goals. Some may require "pandemic" modifications, but as emergency physicians we are used to acting on information as it rolls in and adapting. As I said early on in this pandemic, this is what we trained for in EM.

I hope our communication to membership has gotten better over the past year. We have utilized EngagED more often with some posts leading to thoughtful and interesting discussion from members all across the state.

We continue to work with our partners in the Missouri Hospital Association and Missouri State Medical Association to advance legislation that benefits Emergency Medicine physicians while at the same time fighting against bills that can negatively affect EM physicians-either through onerous education or work flow requirements. We continue to work on the downcoding issue. Our stance on this issue has not changed over the year. We continue to believe that we should be paid for the work we do and a denial of this is a violation of state and federal law. Prior to the pandemic, we held meetings with Medicaid providers in the state and plan to keep fighting this issue.

If there are any issues that you think are important to EM physicians in Missouri please do not hesitate to contact me. Issues are important if they even just affect one physician. A great example this year, was when Dr Erik Martin, an EM physician in southwest Missouri sounded the alarm on a spike in COVID-19 patients that he was concerned was overwhelming local health care facilities. MOCEP was quickly able to alert leadership in the Department of Health and Senior Services who mobilized testing resources in a matter of days.

Stay safe and thank you for taking care of Missouri's sick and injured.

Sincerely,

Christopher Sampson, MD, FACEP
President, MOCEP

MOCEP Leadership

MOCEP Officers

President:

Christopher Sampson, MD, FACEP
Columbia

Vice President:

Brian Bausano, MD, FACEP
St. Louis

Secretary/Treasurer:

Robert F. Poirier, Jr., MD, MBA, FACEP
St. Louis

Immediate Past President:

Evan Schwarz, MD, FACEP, FACMT
St. Louis

Board of Directors

Lynthia Andrews, DO, FACEP
Platte City

Sabina Braithwaite, MD, MPH, FACEP
St. Louis

Jeanise Butterfield, MD, FACEP
Columbia

Douglas Char, MD, FACEP
St. Louis

Kene Chukwuanu, MD
St. Louis

Jonathan Heidt, MD, MHA, FACEP
Columbia

Louis Jamtgaard, MD
Kansas City

Timothy Koboldt, MD, FACEP
Columbia

George Koburov, MD, FACEP
Columbia

Melissa Kroll, MD
St. Louis

Ted McMurphy, MD, FACEP
Ozark

John D. Owen, MD, FACEP
Liberty

Resident Representatives

Raymond Akinawo, MD

St. Louis University, St. Louis
Sarah Berg, MD

Washington University, St. Louis
Jared Lammert, MD

University of Missouri - Columbia
James O'Brien, MD

University of Missouri - Kansas City

Staff

Sarah Luebbert, APR
Executive Director

Jorgen Schlemeier
Legislative Liaison



Thank you!

We tried to think of the right words to express our gratitude to you, our members, but this level of gratitude is hard to put into words. We believe ACEP Young Physicians Chair, Michael Ruzek, DO, FACEP, expressed it best in his letter, which you can read at <https://www.acep.org/yps/newsroom/yps-newsroom-articles/for-the-emergency-physicians-on-the-frontlines/>. The quotes contained in this publication are pulled from his thank you letter because we can't say thank you enough for your hard work and dedication.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



**Attendees to MOCEP's
2020 Advocacy Day.**

As with all aspects of our lives, this legislative year quickly separated into pre-COVID 19 and post-COVID 19. Before March, our legislative focus was squarely aimed upon the newest challenge to the prudent layperson standard – downcoding. After fighting insurance companies’ tactics of outright denying “non-emergency” visits and passing the cost of medical care directly onto patients, they quickly pivoted to this new strategy. Under the guise of cost saving and fraud protection, several insurance companies with managed Medicaid began attempting to downcode level 4 and 5 E/M codes based upon proprietary algorithms (which means we are not allowed to review their criteria) or simply by final diagnosis alone. As this was another obvious attempt to circumvent the long-established prudent layperson standard, MOCEP has been working tirelessly to stop this practice.

During this dispute, we have met with the director of MO HealthNet, the director of managed Medicaid and the regional medical directors of each of these insurance companies. As we were gaining momentum toward a resolution, however, we suddenly hit a wall known as COVID-19. Even though we have been stalled in our effort to eliminate this practice, we will continue the fight into next year.

As significant time on the legislative calendar was lost due to the pandemic, the return of the General Assembly was greeted with a flurry of deals to get the budget and certain priority bills to the finish line. Unfortunately, that meant a couple of other MOCEP priorities did not turn out the way we had hoped.

1. The prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) sat on the calendar for too long and opposition mounted that was

simply too great to overcome. The Democrats pulled several of their votes due to an issue that became a non-issue, which sent the bill back to the Senate where it never recovered.

2. Helmet repeal was passed in a last-day deal to move a transportation bill forward, after the House sent over another version that required the Senate to use a procedure to “unpass” a bill. The helmet bill requires \$1M insurance coverage and applies the rule to those 26 and older. MOCEP signed onto a petition asking the governor to veto the bill that would allow this repeal to occur. Unfortunately, the transportation bill that was tied to the repeal was too great to overcome.

Despite these setbacks, we did have several successes. The annual attacks on scope of practice and collaborative practice agreements were successfully defended against as these bills ended their journey. Prompt pay also passed which may be useful to us being able to collect downcoded claims, as interest and penalties are now specifically assessed on claims or “portions of claims” not paid, but subsequently paid due to an appeal with the carrier.

As we move toward the next legislative cycle, we will continue to focus on protecting patients’ access to emergency medical care and for the safety and well-being of all emergency medicine physicians in our state. As COVID-19 continues to spread and the debate over Medicaid expansion heats up, we will continue to accelerate our efforts. If you have any questions or suggestions for our priorities moving into next year, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Top 10(ish) Things MOCEP Did for You Over the Past Year...

1

BATTLED AGAINST EFFORTS TO REVERSE MEDICAID DOWNCODING/REDUCED PAYMENT IN MISSOURI

2

LOBBIED SUCCESSFULLY FOR LEGISLATION THAT PASSED ADDING SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL PENALTIES TO INSURANCE COMPANIES THAT INCORRECTLY DOWNCODE CHARTS.

3

SUCCESSFULLY FOUGHT FOR CHANGES TO PROMPT CREDENTIALING BILLS REQUIRING INSURANCE CARRIERS TO PAY YOU FOR CARE DELIVERED WHILE THEY COMPLETE THEIR INTERNAL CREDENTIALING PROCESS.

4

DEFEATED LEGISLATION MANDATING ADDITIONAL ANNUAL TRAINING FOR EM PHYSICIANS REGARDING EVIDENCE COLLECTION.

5

DEFEATED ASSISTANT PHYSICIAN AND NURSE PRACTITIONER ATTEMPTS TO PRACTICE INDEPENDENT OF PHYSICIANS.

6

PUSHED FOR LIABILITY PROTECTIONS FOR EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. WE CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE GOVERNOR ON A SPECIAL SESSION TO ADDRESS THIS LIABILITY PROTECTION.

7

ADDRESSED THE NEEDS FOR PPE AND IMPROVED COVID TESTING WITH OUR U.S. SENATORS AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVES WHILE PARTICIPATING IN ACEP'S FIRST VIRTUAL HILL DAY.

8

ORGANIZED MISSOURI'S FIRST EMERGENCY MEDICINE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT TO BETTER CONNECT MEDICAL DIRECTORS AND LEADERSHIP ACROSS THE STATE.

9

PROVIDED MORE THAN \$3,000 TO RESIDENTS FOR RESEARCH GRANTS AND INITIATED A SPRING GRANT APPLICATION CYCLE.

10

ESTABLISHED A MOCEP MEMBER COMMUNICATION PLATFORM THROUGH THE ACEP *ENGAGED* PLATFORM FOR MEMBERS TO DISCUSS ISSUES THEY ARE DEALING WITH IN THEIR FACILITIES. THIS INCLUDED SPECIFIC COVID-19 MESSAGING AND DISCUSSIONS TO ASSIST MOCEP MEMBERS.

11

RAPIDLY CREATED A RESOURCE PAGE FOR MEMBERS TO EASILY ACCESS IMPORTANT COVID-19 INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO MISSOURI.

12

ACEP CREATED MANY RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS DURING THE PANDEMIC, INCLUDING A COVID-19 FIELD GUIDE AND A COLLECTION OF COVID-19 LITERATURE FROM MANY OUTSIDE SOURCES TO KEEP YOU INFORMED.

13

ACEP WORKED WITH NATIONAL RETAILERS, HOTEL CHAINS, RESTAURANTS, ETC., TO PROVIDE RESOURCES TO MEMBERS INCLUDING FREE HOTEL NIGHTS, QUICK ACCESS TO RETAILERS, FREE FOOD, AND MUCH MORE.

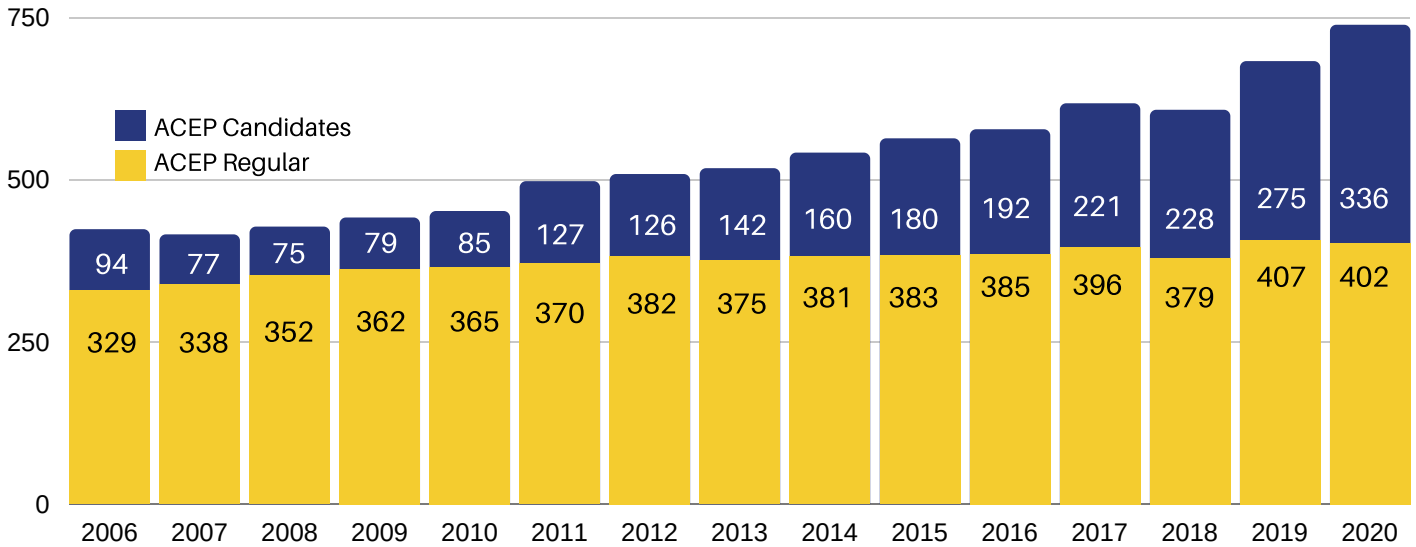
14

ACEP WORKED WITH ENA ON THE "NO SILENCE ON ED VIOLENCE" CAMPAIGN AND CONTINUES TO LOBBY FOR WORKPLACE VIOLENCE LEGISLATION.

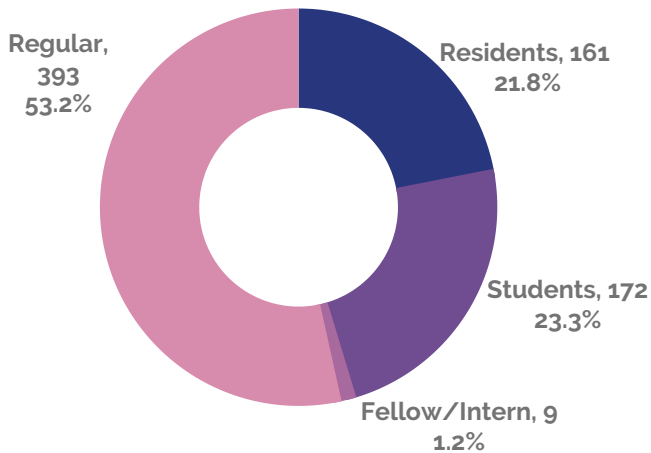
MEMBERSHIP

MOCEP is proud to say we reached our goal of 600 members at the end of 2018. Then we set another goal of reaching 700 members for 2019-21. We reached that in 2020, and want to thank you for your continued support! Below is a graph showing the number of Missouri Chapter members over the past 13 years, and a breakdown of the type of members within MOCEP.

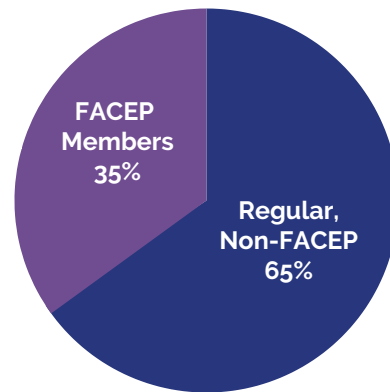
MO Chapter Membership Over Time



Membership by Category - 6/30/20



ACEP Fellows in MO - 6/30/20



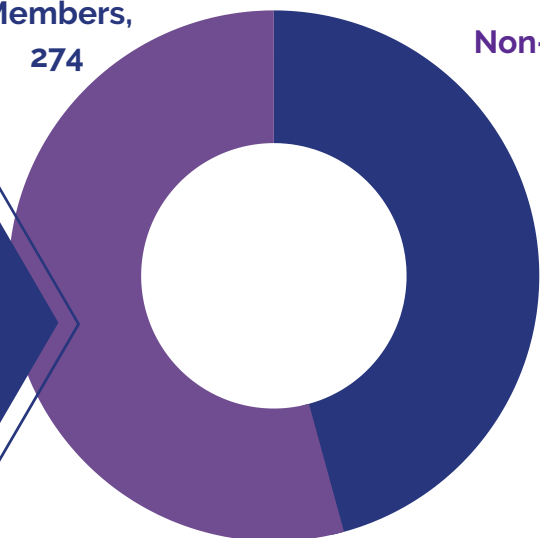
Interested in becoming a Fellow of ACEP, or FACEP? Find out more at <https://www.acep.org/membership/membership/join-acep/fellow-status/>

ABEM Certified Physicians in Missouri

Missouri currently has more than 500 ABEM-certified physicians. Of those 500, 274 are current MOCEP members, giving MOCEP 54% of marketshare. This is an area of growth that MOCEP will be focusing on with the 2019-21 strategic plan. Simply put, more members allow us to do more to try to improve emergency care for the citizens of Missouri.

Members, 274

Non-Members, 231

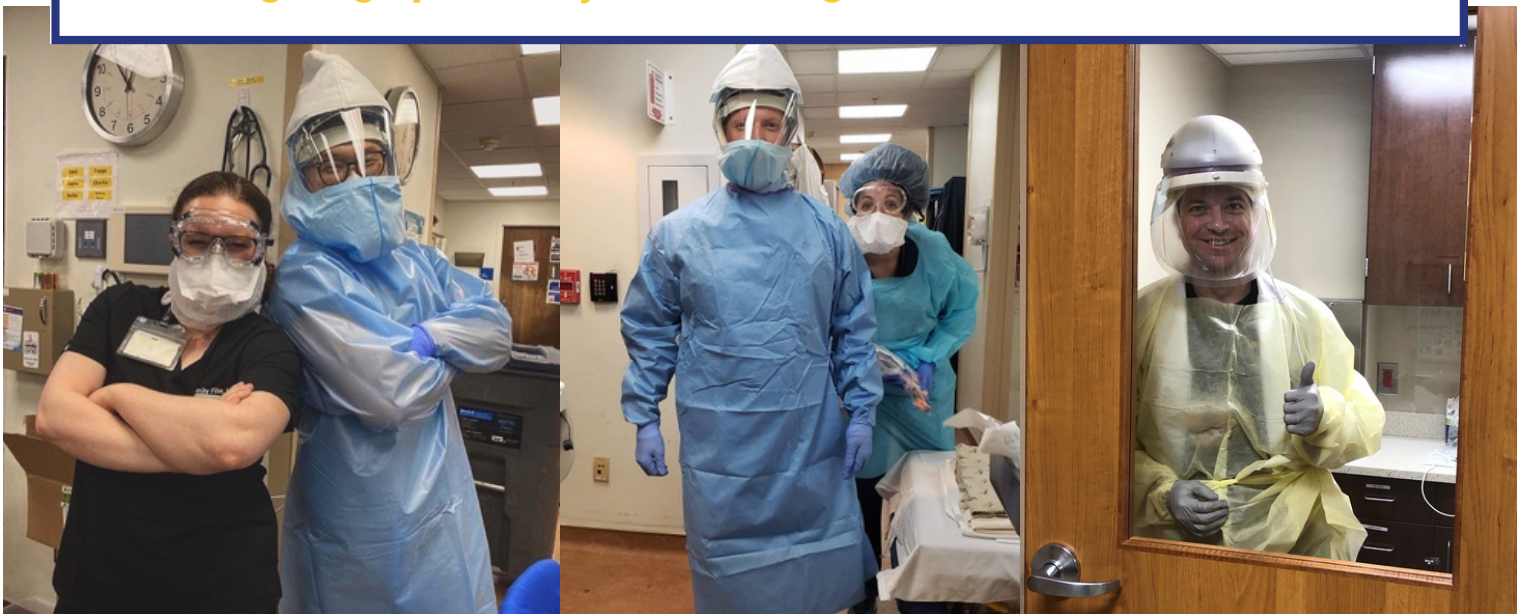


FINANCIALS

The MOCEP fiscal year runs July 1-June 30, and our Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) ended with MOCEP in a strong financial position. The following information is a highlight of the FY20 financials including the budgeted and actual fiscal year end numbers.

Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020)			
Line Item	Budget	Actual	Difference
Income			
Dues Income	\$80,000.00	\$71,949.91	-\$8,050.09
Event Income	\$200.00	\$2,709.66	\$2,509.66
Advertising & Member Services	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	-\$4,000.00
Other Income	\$7,500.00	\$8,667.25	\$1,167.25
Total Income	\$91,700.00	\$83,326.82	\$8,373.18
Expenses			
Legislative & Administrative	\$59,750.00	\$54,815.94	-\$4,934.06
Awards and Grants	\$11,960.00	\$2,512.00	-\$9,448.00
Residents	\$3,000.00	\$5,872.50	\$2,872.50
Board & Travel Expenses	\$25,400.00	\$10,584.56	-\$14,815.44
Events & Member Outreach	\$3,800.00	\$2,383.20	-\$1,416.80
Website	\$5,000.00	\$1,031.80	-\$3,968.20
Other	\$2,000.00	\$921.53	-\$1,078.47
Total Expense	\$110,910.00	\$78,121.53	-\$32,788.47
Net Income	-\$19,210.00	\$5,205.29	-\$24,415.29
International Trauma Life Support (ITLS)			
ITLS Income	\$10,000.00	\$6,210.00	-\$3,790.00
ITLS Expense	\$9,000.00	\$12,812.00	\$3,812.00
Net Income	\$1,000.00	-\$6,602.00	-\$7,602.00
Net Income			
MOCEP Net Income	-\$18,210.00	-\$1,396.71	\$16,813.29

"Thank you for being the conscience of our nation. Thank you for never giving up. Thank you for taking care of one another."



GRANTS AND AWARDS

MOCEP awards numerous grants each year to residents and students, and recognizes outstanding members through awards for their leadership and dedication to MOCEP and emergency medicine.

Grants:

This year, MOCEP awarded more than \$2,500 in grant funding to residents and students for research projects. Grants were awarded for advocacy efforts, but with the cancellation of Leadership Day, the recipients were unable to travel to Washington, D.C. to participate. MOCEP extended their resident research grant cycle by offering a spring application process in addition to the existing fall application.

Resident Research Grant Recipients:

- Matt Murphy, MD – Washington University, St. Louis
Research project: Independent Predictors of Bacterial Meningitis in an Adult Emergency Department

Bill Jermyn Advocacy Grant:

- Brandon Drazich, MD - Washington University, St. Louis
- Jared Lammert, MD – University of Missouri – Columbia

Student Advocacy Grant:

- Marlee Thomas - A.T. Still University, Kirksville

Awards

RR Hannas Award:

- RR Hannas Physician Award: Jason Wagner, MD, FACEP - Washington University, St. Louis
- RR Hannas Resident Award: Aditya "Al" Lulla, MD - Washington University, St. Louis

"Thank you for leaving your homes each day not knowing if or when you will hold your children and see your spouse again."



EMERGENCY MEDICINE PAC

Written by Evan Schwarz, MD, FACEP, FACMT

As chair of the Emergency Medicine Political Action Committee (EMPAC), I wanted to thank everyone that has continued to contribute to our PAC. I know very few of us became physicians to get into politics and realize that much about the political process is off-putting. At the same time, our involvement and strategic use of our PAC and collective voice is important. Not only does the PAC help give us a voice with candidates but also helps get physician-friendly candidates elected, which benefits us and our patients. So again, thank you so much to everyone for their generosity over this last year.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to review the work we have accomplished over the year and to let you know what your hard-earned money did. I also would like to give you a glimpse into the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Much of our work prior to COVID was about illegal downcoding, mainly with managed Medicaid. Additionally, we had formed a plan had UHC gone through with automatic downcoding on some of their private plans. COVID suddenly stopped much of this work. Fortunately, we did get legislation passed that would add costly penalties and interest to claims should insurance companies continue with these practices. We'll need to be prepared to fight these battles again next year so it's essential to have the support of our politicians. With Medicaid expansion now passed, we'll also need to support legislators that use it as a tool to support our patients and Emergency Medicine. We were also able to kill a bill that would have forced us to be in network if the hospital was in network regardless of how unfair the contract would have been for us.

Opioids and controlled substance prescribing will likely continue to be big issues. We were able to defeat bills that while likely well intended, would have been bad for patients and made prescribing opioids appropriately in the ED more difficult. In the 'you'd have to see it to believe it category,' the PDMP passed both the Senate and House and still failed. We'll be prepared to press forward again.

Tort reform will continue to be a priority. We were able to support legislation that prevents punitive damages to be used against us in malpractice cases as well as prevents plaintiff attorneys from using the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act (MMPA) to file malpractice cases to get larger awards as MMPA is aimed at prohibiting deceptive practices. Lastly there were the usual Nurse Practitioner scope of practice and Assistant Physicians bills. While we successfully defeated them, we'll need our legislators' help next year when these same issues arise again.

We appreciate the members that have contributed to the EMPAC and encourage all members to give at least \$100 in FY21 to help us reach our goal of \$20,000. While we realize that our own personal politics may not always fully align with legislative candidates, we try to support candidates that have and will continue to support emergency medicine and our patients. If you can't give \$100, we ask that you give whatever you can as every little bit helps.

You can contribute online at
<https://mocep.org/advocacy/contribute/>



"Thank you for putting the greater good of society ahead of your own health and safety."