



Quick Links

[Latest News](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Employment Opportunities](#)



President's Message Lisa Maurer, MD

One of WACEP's three priority issues this year is to improve Wisconsin's Medicaid reimbursement for emergency care. For many of you who are seasoned members of this organization, you know that this is not a new goal. Before your eyes glaze over and you scroll on, know that this is now a truly re-energized movement for the last few years, and we are closer than ever. We are currently having active meetings with the decision makers within DHS, who now recognize that as our emergency physicians are being reimbursed worse than any other state in the nation, our healthcare safety net is not sustainable. Record-low reimbursement for federally-mandated care is making it hard for our physician groups and hospitals to compete with Illinois and Minnesota for quality emergency physicians.

Perhaps we are getting such a captive audience within DHS because we come with solutions on how to trim unnecessary costs from the Medicaid budget, which funds could then be used for proper reimbursement. It makes sense, right? [Read more.](#)



EATWELL Wellness Contest Winner

We have a winner! Marielle Brenner, a first year resident at MCW, has been selected as the winner of WACEP's EATWELL contest. Doctor Brenner will receive a WACEP-branded fleece jacket, and \$200 to help cover a healthy catered meal during a department meeting or shift. Thanks to all who [posted pictures](#) of your health conscious meals and amazing eating tips to inspire your colleagues to take care of themselves! EATWELL is the first of many contests being planned in the WACEP Wellness Initiative. Stay tuned for details of the next contest this summer, which will have a focus on fitness.



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Maurer Recognized with Council Horizon Award

Lisa Maurer, MD, FACEP, President of the Wisconsin Chapter, ACEP, is the 2018 recipient of the National ACEP Council Horizon Award.

This award is presented to an individual within the first five years of Council service who demonstrates outstanding contributions and participation in Council activities. Past award winners include Gary Katz, Nathaniel Schlicher, and Alison Haddock.

Lisa's nomination stood out because her Council leadership, like her Chapter leadership, is exemplified by focus, hard work, and an ability to motivate others.

Make Change Happen in ACEP - Resolutions Due July 1

The ACEP Council meeting is YOUR opportunity to influence the ACEP agenda. If you have a hot topic that you believe ACEP should address, let your Wisconsin ACEP Councillors know! Resolutions must be written and submitted by July 1. [View the list of your WACEP Councillors](#) and [contact us](#) with your input.

Only 5.5 Percent of Emergency Visits Are Nonurgent and Wait Times Continue to Improve, CDC Says

New data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show that 136.9 million people visited the emergency department in 2015 and only 5.5 percent of these visits were considered "nonurgent," according to the latest CDC National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care (NHAMC) survey.

"Emergency care is a unique success story," said Paul Kivela, MD, MBA, FACEP, president of ACEP. "No other medical specialty is the safety net for millions of patients with such a broad range of symptoms and conditions. The nation's emergency physicians care for any patient, any time, regardless of ability to pay — and we play an increasingly integral role in our health system."

Wait times continued to improve, according to the report. [Read more.](#)

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