



Awesome and Amazing

President's Message, October 2019
Jeff Pothof, MD, FACEP, President

It was well over a year ago when one of my colleagues and fellow flight physician, David Hindle, launched a new conference at our staff meeting. Entitled “Awesome and Amazing,” it was a case conference that highlighted some of the best medical care teams in the flight program delivered to critical patients. It seemed like such an obvious thing to share and an effective tool to promote learning and collaboration on our teams, but also 180 degrees opposite from what we as clinicians typically experience.

I think it's just human nature to focus on those things that aren't quite perfect or still need a little fine tuning. I postulate the rigors of medical education and the hoops we all jump through predispose us to being hypercritical of ourselves. I've been to many a lecture hall to discuss cases at the monthly M&M case review conference. Most cases would not be well described by the “awesome” adjective. I've looked at the blinded data during performance reviews and must secretly admit that there is a twinge of self-disappointment when I'm not a top performer on any single metric. I'm not arguing that we shouldn't learn from our mistakes, and I'm not saying that we shouldn't continue to hold ourselves to a very high standard. I do think we'd all be well served by just as frequently looking back to those awesome and amazing moments that seemingly come out of nowhere during our careers.

I encourage you to take a moment to reflect back to a time when you were part of something that was “awesome and amazing.” Think about a time when you added immense value and where your presence on a shift or in a room made an inflection point in someone else's life trajectory. Anyone who's committed themselves to a career in emergency medicine has these moments. I find that looking back to those times helps make that overnight shift that just won't end a little shorter, or that case where you wish you could have a do-over sting just a little bit less.

So, without overly inflating our egos, I embolden all of you to spend a little more time thinking about the awesome and amazing things you've done in addition to the things you strive to be better at. It's an important balance that paints a more accurate portrait of who we are as emergency physicians.

Call for Nominations

The Wisconsin Chapter, ACEP Nominating Committee is now accepting nominations of any member in good standing interested in serving in WACEP leadership.

WACEP's Board of Directors meets quarterly and provides ongoing strategic oversight as the organization works to advance the effectiveness, sustainability and mission of the Chapter. Board members are expected to participate in all Board meetings, the annual Spring Symposium, and various other activities related to the organization's strategic priorities. Nominations are being accepted through November 25th for open positions. [Read more.](#)

HWZ to Provide Lobbying Services for WACEP

Wisconsin ACEP is pleased to be partnering with Hubbard, Wilson & Zelenkova LLC (HWZ) for lobbying and legislative services. The firm is led by seasoned lobbyists with vast experience and exceptional relationships with policymakers across the political spectrum and on both sides of the aisle. HWZ represents groups and organizations including trade associations, healthcare interests, Fortune 500 companies, trade unions, and state and national non-profits. [Read more.](#)

Task Force Meets with AG's Office To Discuss Emergency Detentions

On Wednesday, September 25, members of the Emergency Psychiatry Task Force, a collaboration between WACEP and the Wisconsin Psychiatric Association, met with staff from Attorney General (AG) Josh Kaul's office to discuss the issue of emergency detention and how it impacts physicians and patients.



Attorney General Kaul is convening key stakeholders from across the state to discuss the issue of emergency and civil commitments, which will be the focus of the [AG's Annual Summit on October 31](#) at Union South in Madison. The summit will include representatives from the law enforcement, county administration and health care communities.

Last Call – Meet up in Denver!

Planning to attend ACEP19? While in Denver, be sure to join your colleagues from back home at WACEP's complimentary Wisconsin Meet-Up Reception. The event will take place on **Monday, October 28, 2019 from 6:00-8:30 pm at Wynkoop Brewing Co, 1634 18th St, Denver, CO 80202**. We hope you'll stop by for a beer and to meet some of the WACEP Board members along with others from Wisconsin.

Pollster Charles Franklin to Headline Doctor Day 2020



Charles Franklin PhD has served as director of the Marquette Law School Poll since its inception in 2012. During that year's highly scrutinized election cycle, he established Marquette as the definitive source for information concerning public opinion in Wisconsin. At Doctor Day on January 29, 2020, Franklin will share his insight and polling data relevant healthcare policy and the 2020 elections.

Make plans today to attend Doctor Day on January 29, where you will learn not only about the importance and process of advocacy, but about specific legislative measures and policy issues affecting emergency medicine. Sign up at www.WIDoctorDay.org.

ED RN Manager Input Sought in Retention Study

Annual turnover rate for nurses is 17.5%, and while limited department-level data exists, annual RN turnover rate in the Emergency Department is estimated at 21.5%, the second highest of any medical specialty.

To better understand department-level data on turnover rates and the factors associated with them, the Studer Group, together with representatives from ACEP and ENA, have created the 2019 Emergency Department Nurse Retention Study.

Please ask your ED RN Managers to complete a brief, 90-second survey to help with the study. Responses will be confidential and aggregate data will help gain better insight into the problem and gather solutions. [Begin survey.](#)

Emergency Departments Play Key Role in Preventing Hepatitis A Infections

Outbreaks of hepatitis A virus (HAV) have been reported across the U.S., with Minnesota being the most recent state affected. [During these outbreaks](#), 24,952 individuals have become ill, and 60% of them needed to be hospitalized.

As of this writing, the Department of Health Services (DHS) has not detected HAV outbreaks in Wisconsin. However, most Wisconsin adults are not immune to HAV, making the state vulnerable to an outbreak unless HAV vaccination is scaled up. Because the current outbreaks of HAV are predominantly impacting communities with identifiable risk factors, including unstable housing, recent incarceration, and injection drug use, targeted efforts to vaccinate high-risk individuals could substantially reduce the risk of HAV outbreaks in the state. A single dose of HAV vaccine has been shown to control outbreaks of hepatitis A and provides up to 95% seroprotection in healthy individuals for up to 11 years.

Emergency departments are a critically important partner for providing HAV vaccine to patients in need because this setting provides care for many high-risk individuals who may not seek routine preventive care elsewhere. [Read more.](#)

Save the Date & Plan to attend the WACEP 2020 Spring Symposium

April 15-16, 2020 | Madison Marriott West | Middleton, WI | [Learn More](#)



Know Your Obligation to Report

Physicians are required by law to report information to entities or individuals such as county health officials or law enforcement in certain situations. Most recently, that includes threats of school violence, which was enacted as part of a school safety law earlier this year.

Both HIPAA and Wisconsin confidentiality laws allow disclosure of protected health information where such disclosure is required by law. Failure to report as required can result in fines, civil or criminal liability and/or professional discipline. Physicians should check with their legal counsel or risk manager if they have questions about when they are required to report information to others and how to do so. [Read more.](#)

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