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President's Message, Sept. 2019

Jeff Pothof, MD, FACEP, President

There are a few things happening in emergency medicine that I'd like to draw your attention to as we kick off the fall season.

First, I want to thank those that attended our rural outreach event earlier this month in Richland Center. We had very accommodating hosts and the educational sessions and networking were superlative. We'll be sure to plan another event like this next year so stay tuned for more details.

ACEP's Scientific Assembly is drawing closer and I hope to see some of you October 27-30 in Denver. If you find yourself in town, please make your way to Wynkoop Brewing Company at 6:00 pm local time on Monday, October 28 for our annual [Wisconsin Meet-Up](#). Also, know that along with Scientific Assembly comes the annual ACEP Council meeting where the future direction of the college is debated and takes form. The WACEP delegation to the Council meeting will be reviewing many resolutions in the upcoming weeks. If there is something that you are particularly excited about or have a strong opinion on, please reach out to us with your thoughts.

Many of our EM groups in the state schedule shifts far out. Given that, I want to bring to your attention our largest and most important advocacy event, Wisconsin Doctor Day, planned for January 29, 2020. If you haven't submitted schedule requests yet, please consider blocking that day off and hanging out with your peers in Madison for a fun day at the State Capitol. And don't forget to [sign up](#) if you plan to attend.

Finally, I want to make mention of the passing of Eric Jensen, our long-term lobbyist. Eric's work in advocating for better ways to deliver healthcare to residents in our state demonstrated his desire to make a difference in the lives of others. His skill in understanding health policy and strategy is only surpassed by his unmistakable smile, deep laughter, and friendship to those that had the opportunity to know him. Our deepest condolences to Eric's family.

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Rural Outreach Program Recap

Lisa Maurer, MD, FACEP

Earlier this month, the WACEP Board of Directors held our quarterly meeting in beautiful Richland Center and paired it with educational sessions and a dinner reception for board members and regional docs. What a great experience! Shout out to all you EPs working in the truly gorgeous corners of the state. Our Chapter arranged this event to get a better understanding of what rural practice is like and attempted to connect EPs working in rural Wisconsin with colleagues at their typical receiving facilities.



In Richland Center, we were welcomed by the most gracious host and medical director of Richland Hospital, Dr Andy Harris. I'm sure I wasn't the only one who was impressed and a little bit jealous of the practice environment, hospital support, and the skill of the emergency physicians who practice there.

To paint a picture, Richland Hospital is a pristine, independent critical access hospital with 25 inpatient beds in the southwestern corner of the state, tucked among the bluffs and rivers. When transfers are needed, they partner with receiving facilities in both La Crosse and Madison. They have bedside ultrasound in the ED, 24-hour access to OB support, and are successfully continuing to build on their team of physicians dedicated to the community. Their success is in large part due to the fantastic leadership of Dr Harris, who moved from Illinois to join their staff just two years ago, and who brings a real passion for the area and for rural practice in general.

We had fantastic educational opportunities for everyone involved, ranging from hands-on workshop for bedside ultrasound skills to the ins-and-outs of cutting-edge stroke care for patients who arrive at non-stroke centers. Click to continue reading below for my personal takeaways and lessons learned.

On behalf of the WACEP Board of Directors, I'd like to offer our sincere thanks to 1) the UW Emergency Medicine Ultrasound faculty; 2) Dr. Natalie Wheeler, neurologist who provided updates on transfers from the UW-Madison stroke team; and 3) UW Med Flight team whose participation hugely complimented the conversation on stroke care in rural areas.

[Read more.](#)



WACEP Meet-Up at ACEP-2019

Planning to attend ACEP19? While in Denver, be sure to join your colleagues from back home at WACEP's complimentary Wisconsin Meet-Up Reception.

Monday, October 28, 2019
6:00-8:30 pm
[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. There's no cost, but for planning please RSVP [here](#).

WACEP Lobbyist Loses Fight with Cancer

Eric Jensen, long-time lobbyist and friend of the Wisconsin Chapter, ACEP, passed away on September 13, 2019 after a year-long battle with liver cancer.



WACEP shares our condolences with Eric's family, and express our thanks to all that Eric has done for our members and our patients. Eric always combined an extraordinary sense of strategy, excellent communication skills and deep understanding of health policy to successfully lead our advocacy efforts. His work will not be forgotten, and his legacy will be a constant reminder for all of us to get involved.

A memorial in Eric's honor will be held on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2019 at 3:30 pm, with visitation beginning at 12:30 pm, at Cress Funeral Home, 3610 Speedway Road, Madison 53705.

A memorial fund has been established to help the Jensen children (Joe, Jake, Jane, & Jimmy) with their future education costs. Anyone wishing to contribute may make checks payable to the *Jensen Family Memorial Fund* and mail to:

US Bank
Attn: Terrie Linden/Private Banking
P O Box 7900
Madison, WI 53791-9775

The full obituary can be found [online here](#).

Doctor Day is January 29, 2020 - Register Today

Join your emergency medicine colleagues and physicians from all specialties across Wisconsin at Doctor Day on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 in Madison. This advocacy event offers Wisconsin physicians an opportunity to be a part of the legislative process.

Whether you have advocacy experience or not, your participation is vital. There is no cost, but registration is required. Learn more and sign up at www.WIDoctorDay.org.

Save-the-Date!

WACEP's 2020 Spring Symposium & Emergency Medicine Research Forum will take place April 15-16, 2020 in Madison.

The 2020 conference theme will be *Emergency Medicine: The Road Less Traveled*, and plans are underway to once again provide education on par with what is offered at national events. Stay tuned for conference details and registration information.

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