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**Board Member Perspective**

*by Lei Lei, MD*

Decades after my family immigrated to the United States, my initial feelings of unfamiliarity, of being in a new land, and of being a stranger are a distant memory. In fact, I find myself reflecting with nostalgia on my growing up in the heart of the American Midwest. America’s ideals are firmly ingrained in my psyche: the very fundamental ideals that we now confront daily in our politics.

Immigration has become a frontline issue, and there are trends occurring that I find disconcerting as both an immigrant and an ED physician. While we watch a relentless stream of executive orders, foreign policy changes, and political battles reshaping our political and cultural landscape, in our work, we continue to care for all patients regardless of race, religion, or socioeconomic status. In a bustling ED full of patients who often have nowhere else to go for help, whether they be immigrants or citizens, illegal or legal, these issues are no longer abstract.

Emergency medicine attracts bright and talented physicians from all over the world. The 2017 Medscape survey revealed that 22 percent of EM physicians surveyed were non-Caucasian. Our specialty boasts numerous international medicine fellowships and is widely represented in international aid groups. We are fundamentally a specialty of diversity: in the medicine we practice, the patients we care for, and the places we go to provide care.

With these facts in mind, I want to encourage my colleagues and future colleagues to become a part of the solution and the collective voice of physicians. Participate in the ACEP’s #ilooklikeanERdoc campaign, call your legislators, vote, come to Doctors Day at the capital. It is more pressing than ever for physicians to speak up and defend our patients and colleagues in both the workplace and in our daily lives. Our colleagues deserve that and so do our patients.

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*Editor's Note: Lei Lei's parents moved to the U.S. from China when Lei Lei was 7 years old. She is an emergency physician in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, attended medical school at Case Western Reserve University School Of Medicine, and trained at the University of Rochester in New York. We thank Lei Lei for her service as the chair of social media and communications on the Wisconsin ACEP board of directors.*

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**Attending the Spring Symposium? Book your  
Hotel Room Soon!**

Staying overnight in Madison for the Symposium or Doctor Day? Contact the Madison Concourse Hotel soon! The deadline to book at the WACEP group rate of \$159 is March 3rd. Call the hotel at 1-800-356-8293 and reserve your room today.

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**Just Five Weeks to the Spring Symposium**

*Come for the Conference -- Stay for Doctor Day!*

Have you registered for the WACEP Spring Symposium on Tues. March 28 in Madison? Here's what's happening!

Pre-Conference sessions:

- \* Emergency Ultrasound Workshop (this course is over half full; register soon to guarantee a spot!);
- \* AAWEF Breakfast - Join AAWEF Chair Mary Westergaard, MD, FACEP, and other women emergency physicians, for breakfast and discussion.
- \* LLSA Article Study Group (includes CME credit)

Conference sessions:

- \* Keynote on Gun Violence by Stephen Hargarten, MD, MPH
- \* Examining the Emergency Physicians' Role in Wisconsin's Opioid Epidemic (this session meets the new MEB opioid prescribing CME requirement)
- \* Hot Topics in Emergency Medicine: Advocacy-- Making an Impact; Antibiotic Stewardship; Emergency Physician Burnout; Emergency Preparedness; Fluid Resuscitation in the Septic Shock Patient with a History of CHF; Sepsis CMS Quality Measure--Updates and Implementation Strategies; Tips for Negotiating a Successful Contract.
- \* Updates from the WACEP & ACEP Presidents

The conference will end with a mix & mingle Presidents' Reception with Live Jazz Music.

Register for the conference online at  
[www.WisconsinACEP.org/Annual-Conference](http://www.WisconsinACEP.org/Annual-Conference)



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## Next Steps Addressing the Opioid Epidemic

by Lisa Maurer, WACEP Treasurer/Secretary

At a recent meeting of the Wisconsin Medical Society's Council on Legislation, an update was provided on Governor Walker's latest measures to combat the opioid epidemic in our state. These measures include implementation of the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Opioid Abuse, as well as application for \$15 million in federal grant funds over the next two years to support opioid resources.

During a special session of the State Legislature, specific legislative measures will address the elimination of over-the-counter cough syrup products that contain codeine; allocation of resources to continue to fund existing addiction treatment programs as well as create additional treatment centers in underserved and high-need areas of the state; and provide legal protection for individuals brought in for acute opioid overdose after a bystander calls 911. Furthermore, there are efforts to create a program making addiction specialists available for consult statewide, at least by phone, for diagnostic services and medication management recommendations.

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## Join WACEP in DC - March 12-15!

**New this year: The Wisconsin Chapter ACEP has funds of up to \$1,000 to help cover conference registration and travel expenses for one member at-large to attend LAC.** It's not too late to take advantage of this opportunity. Contact us by email at [WACEP@badgerbay.co](mailto:WACEP@badgerbay.co) if interested!

Advocacy is a top priority for emergency physicians in Wisconsin and across the country. ACEP's annual Leadership & Advocacy Conference (LAC) will take place March 12-15 in Washington, DC. LAC attendees will learn tips and tools to advocate on issues at both the federal and state levels, as well as updated details on proposed legislation that could impact you and your patients. Attendance at Leadership Day on March 15 offers up to 4.75 hours of CME credit and will enhance your leadership skills to become more effective in your hospital and in your state. [Learn more and register.](#)