

President's Update

By Megan McElhinny, MD



Hello from crisp Flagstaff! The end of summer and early fall have brought us to our first annual “destination board meeting,” with a chance to connect with our northern colleagues over authentic wood-fired pizza. Particularly exciting were colleagues joining from Prescott and Tucson, a warm thanks for making the trip! Our delegation was able to enjoy fantastic

company as we discussed membership, especially rural representation. We delved into strategic next moves as we continue to address ED boarding. Flagstaff gave us a chance to reconnect with distant colleagues as well as enjoy a laid-back hike and a local beer. We spent the time discussing upcoming opportunities, including the annual meeting, with plans to include high-yield CME lectures, resident SIM wars and a hands-on U/S workshop. An animated shout-out to our medical student council and social chair, who continue to build relationships within emergency medicine. I was blown away by their enthusiasm as they held

their inaugural community CPR training event in late October. To close, recommendations for the 2026 “destination board meeting” are now open, and I look forward to meeting you in person at our upcoming events, including the November 2025 opioid summit!



Calendar of Events

Mark your Calendar and Get Active in AzCEP!

- Dec 3** Board/Membership Mtg, 1pm
- Feb 4** Board/Membership 1pm
- Mar 18** ED Doc Day
- Apr 22** AzCEP Scientific Assembly

All AzCEP members are welcome and *encouraged* to attend the Board Meetings. Contact [Stephanie](#) for additional information.

Board Meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held Virtually at 1:00pm



**CARDIAC ARREST
SURVIVAL
SUMMIT**
CITIZEN CPR FOUNDATION

**THE CARDIAC ARREST SURVIVAL SUMMIT
IS COMING TO PHOENIX THIS DECEMBER**

Dec. 3–6, 2025 • Arizona Grand Resort • Workshops Dec. 2 & 3



Be Among the First to Learn About the New ECC & CPR Guidelines!

What is CASSummit?

The Cardiac Arrest Survival Summit is the only national conference that uniquely addresses every link in the chain of survival. This high-impact event features hands-on training, powerful stories and the latest science in resuscitation. This year features our most robust program ever, with 200+ speakers and 100 sessions across 7 educational tracks.

New AHA ECC & CPR Guidelines

Learn about the American Heart Association's newly released 2025 ECC & CPR Guidelines — the first major update since 2020. Learn directly from the experts who helped write them, and discover how the updates will shape real-world emergency response.

Arizona Resident Discount

Come for 1 day, 2 days or the whole conference at discounted prices!

- Full conference pass: \$695 (save \$100)
 - 1-day pass: \$250 (save \$140)
 - 2-day pass: \$500 (save \$190)
- 1- and 2-day passes include the Opening Keynote & Welcome Reception on Wednesday
- Survivor Celebration on Thursday night — free to all with music and mingling!

When choosing your registration type, select "Arizona Resident" and your discounted rate will automatically apply. You'll provide your AZ address later.

JOIN US AT THE ARIZONA GRAND RESORT

Learn more and register at: www.citizencprsummit.org

Arizona discounts available now through the end of CASSummit • See FAQs on next page

ANNUAL ARIZONA ACEP CONFERENCE

APRIL 22ND

2026

Creighton University School
of Medicine Ballroom

REGISTER
NOW!



FREE!

HIGH YIELD FACULTY CONTENT

including lightning talks, nerve block hands-on practice, and feedback workshop



Calling all faculty!
Submit a lightning talk

RESIDENT SIMWARS COMPETITION

featuring all 5 Arizona residency programs



Submit your research now!

RESEARCH FAIR

submissions now open for medical students, residents, and faculty!



JOB

JOB FAIR


Talk with various local employers

Questions?
Reach out to
stephanie@azcep.org

December 9, 2025


STRAIGHT TALK XXXIV

Virtual Zoom Meeting



MICHIGAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS
Approved for AMA PRA Category Credit™

Find out more and register here



This course presents valuable information and updates for emergency physicians, billing and coding professionals, and group managers.



ITLS

ITLS is working on smaller regional courses in southern/southeastern AZ, central AZ (Phoenix area), and northern/northeastern AZ. We are looking at courses in Northeastern Arizona this summer and several Pediatric ITLS courses throughout the state this year. We held a course at White Mountain Regional Medical Center in August. We are looking forward to the upcoming ITLS International conference in Charlotte, NC in November.

Go to our website to look for upcoming courses: www.itlsaz.org or contact me at (Bradley.s.butler6.mil@health.mil) if you are interested in being involved in teaching and/or if you are interested in being Medical Director for ITLS in AZ!

Brad Butler, MD, FACEP
CAPT MC (FMF), USN
Medical Director
Arizona ITLS

Mark Your Calendars...NEW Date!

ED Doc Day @ The Capitol **March 18, 2026**



- Educate legislators on the critical service you provide every shift
- Learn about issues impacting emergency medicine
- Attend Committee meetings
- Network with fellow AzCEP members
- We provide training and go over issues before hand

We need your participation to make this event a success!



2025; Past AzCEP Presidents that still make this date a priority.





The Arizona Emergency Medicine Medical Student Council hosted a BLS skills lab for first- and second-year medical students from all Arizona schools. Under the guidance of EM attending and resident volunteers, learners practiced high-quality compressions on feedback mannequins and simulated running BLS codes. Students left feeling better prepared equipped to contribute on day one when they enter the wards in third year.

The following day, a separate team of trained medical student volunteers delivered a community pop-up teaching hands-only CPR and Stop the Bleed instruction, welcoming participants of all ages, including enthusiastic elementary schoolers. We could not have done it without our faculty and resident educators, as well as support from AzCEP!

Stay connected with future events by following @AzEMMSC on Instagram, joining the mailing list, or visiting our [website](#).



Dignity East Valley Residency Update

By Rebecca Roberts, DO

Big news! We have a new university affiliation in place, and with it, our residency has taken on a fresh new name. We are officially now Creighton University East Valley Arizona (aka CUE-VA) Emergency Medicine! Meanwhile,

we have been continuing our same great learning both in and out of the ED. We are rolling into the busy season in the department and our residents are keeping pace, performing all kinds of exciting procedures such as intubations, chest tubes, LOTS of ultrasounds, and one of our interns got to perform his first lateral canthotomy! It's been exciting watching our new interns grow as they take on new challenges and new experiences. Our second years have also been busy keeping the ED flowing and stepping up into more responsibility. Outside of the ED, we are keeping busy with engaging didactics and exciting conferences. We had our second annual residency Sim Wars where our residency families faced off against each other in a series of simulation challenges. Our simulation director and sim team did an amazing job putting together multiple unexpected cases from an airplane emergency to a cliff side rescue. We can't wait to see what they put together for next year! Our interns attended the Difficult Airway Course in Denver, where they learned valuable skills to manage even the most difficult of airways. We also had the amazing opportunity to host the great Dr Amal Mattu while he was in town teaching a course on EKGs. He bestowed our residents and students with helpful pearls of wisdom during a special Q&A session during one of our med student meet and greets. We can't wait to see what 2026 has in store for us!



COPA Resident's Column

By Scott Austin, DO and Colin Hurkett, MD

This fall has been off to a fast and furious start for the COPA residency program. After welcoming our new interns in what feels like yesterday, residency life has kicked into full gear. We started things off with our annual resident retreat in Strawberry, AZ. Taking full advantage of the break from the Phoenix heat, we were able to spend some precious time together with nearly our entire residency family. Pictured here is our soon to be graduating senior class and some very hungry four legged friends we met at our cabins. Unfortunately not caught on camera were our pre-retreat resident campout on the Mogollon rim and our yearly intern water balloon fight. Following the retreat, our seniors got to take another fantastic trip as a group to ACEP in Salt Lake City. Anyone else who was there may have seen them doing their best group impression of our program director, otherwise they were clearly hard at work networking as multiple have secured jobs in the Utah and Idaho Rocky Mountain region. Back home in the Valley we have had multiple fun community events including street medicine volunteering, wilderness medicine EMS experiences, and the opportunity to attend Dr Amal Mattu's ECG workshop. Looking forward, we eagerly await fellowship match results for our 3rd years and incoming fellows (which our 1st and 2nd years selfishly hope overlap), as well as our med student interview season and many more exciting events which will have to wait for the next newsletter.



RESEARCH STUDY TO DO

Researchers at Arizona State University are conducting a research study to explore the knowledge, clinical assessment and practices regarding kratom use among licensed healthcare providers in the United States.

We are recruiting licensed healthcare providers to complete a brief, anonymous research survey (Survey link: https://asu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8HrkKza4eTQgKqy), lasting 10-15 minutes. Participation in this study is voluntary and your responses will be confidential, but important to understanding the clinical implications of this emerging psychoactive substance. If you have any questions concerning the research study, please email me at PLTimmon@asu.edu

Research Study

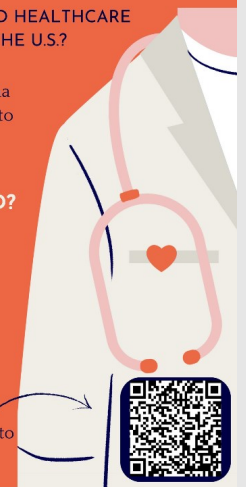
ARE YOU A LICENSED HEALTHCARE
WORKER IN THE U.S.?

Researchers at Arizona
State University want to
hear from you!

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

- Complete a 10-15 minute **online** survey
- Participation is **voluntary** and **confidential**

Please scan the QR code to see if you qualify



Kingman Regional Medical Center's Resident's Corner

By Taylor Cornwell-Hinrichs, DO, MPH, MLIS



The Kingman residents are doing great. The seniors had a blast at ACEP in Salt Lake City, learning great topics such as the approach to dizziness, perfecting our neurologic exam documentation, and managing electrolyte disturbances. The seniors are busy trying to find their "forever home" attending jobs, mostly looking in Arizona and the Southwest in general. Picture attached is the seniors with our Program Director, Dr. Derek Meeks.

Abrazo West's Resident's Corner

By Devi Dearmon-Moore, MD

It's been an exciting start to fall here in the West Valley! Medical student recruitment is in full swing, and we're thrilled to meet the future leaders of emergency medicine. Our residency dinners have been a great way to unwind and connect outside the hospital. With the cooler evenings finally here, everyone's taking advantage of the perfect weather — from patio gatherings to hiking the local trails, it's the best time of year to enjoy time outdoors!

Fellowship match season is upon us. We can't wait to hear where our senior residents Devi Dearmon-Moore and Ihsaan Ahmad end up. We are also excited to announce that 4 of our senior residents have officially signed their first attending contracts, and 3 of them will be remaining here at Abrazo. But no matter where their paths lead — whether they stay here in Phoenix or venture to new cities — we're confident that our seniors' expertise, commitment, and passion for emergency medicine will make a lasting impact wherever they go. We're excited for the year ahead and all the opportunities it will bring for continued growth, collaboration, and learning!

In other news, all our residents have submitted abstracts for AAEM this coming April in Seattle and we have started receiving acceptance offers. We're also looking forward to presenting our research locally during Abrazo Research Day this coming March, which will be a great chance to share our research projects and celebrate the work happening within our own community!

Need a Guest Lecturer?

Updated list available!

AZCEP has pulled together a list of speaker topics and presenters to assist in program needs in the state. This updated version includes what type of practice environment the lecturer practices in. Check it out for **NEW** topics and speakers! See the list on the front page of the website; www.azcep.org



ACEP Resources & Latest News

ACEP Responds to the New York Times: Emergency Physicians and Patients Need Systemic Change

An October 2025 *New York Times* article told the story of a family's devastating loss and shined a light on resource and staffing constraints, capacity challenges, and other systemic factors that complicate emergency care. [Read more.](#)

"The Pitt" Brings the Realities of Emergency Medicine to a Wilder Audience

The Emmy Award-winning medical drama "The Pitt" will reach new viewers when its complete first season airs on TNT beginning Monday, December 1. [Read more.](#)

Now is the Time to Ban Noncompete Agreements for Emergency Physicians

As the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) roots out unfair and anti-competitive work conditions, ACEP strongly supports eliminating restrictive noncompete agreements in health care. [Read more.](#)

ACEP Statement Regarding the CY 2026 Physician Fee Schedule

We share CMS' goal of ensuring that PFS valuations accurately reflect changes in resource use over time. [Read more.](#)

Emergency Physicians: Charting a Course for AI in Health Care

ACEP members are driving policies and conversations about artificial intelligence (AI) in emergency medicine and beyond. [Read more.](#)

Federal Government Shutdown Update

Please continue to visit this page for shutdown updates as the situation continues to evolve. [Read more.](#)

California ACEP Backs New Law Limiting Corporate Influence in Medicine

A new California law restricts the influence of corporations in health care practices. California ACEP strongly supported the bill, Senate Bill 351, in alignment with ACEP's policy on corporate practice of medicine. [Read more.](#)

Emergency Physicians Urge Vaccination During Flu Season

Flu season is here, and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and the [CDC](#) recommend that everyone over the age of 6 months should get a flu shot annually with rare medical exceptions. [Read more.](#)

Emergency Physicians Care for Everyone Who Needs Help

"Emergency departments (EDs) are a critical part of the nation's safety net, caring for everyone who seeks help—day or night, regardless of insurance status, immigration status, or ability to pay," said L. Anthony Cirillo, MD, FACEP, president of ACEP. [Read more.](#)

New Analyses Highlight Gaps and Emerging Risks of Health Care Consolidation and the Role of Private Equity in Health Care

ACEP is pleased that federal policymakers and expert healthcare economics researchers continue to analyze the effects of various business practices across health care. [Read more.](#)

Upcoming ACEP Events & Deadlines

Capitol Rounds: Shutdown & the Shift

November 17, 2025 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Central Time
Join us for the latest installment in our Capitol Rounds webinar series, a fast-paced and practical briefing on what the latest developments in Washington and statehouses mean for the ED.

Funding Issues in Disaster Medicine and Mass Gathering Medicine

November 18, 2025 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM Central Time
The University of Massachusetts Division of EMS and Disaster Medicine, in collaboration with the National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (NCDMPH) and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), invites you to a live, CME-accredited webinar addressing the most pressing educational needs in disaster medicine.

EMDI Now and Future: Preparing for MIPS 2025, 2026 and Beyond MIPS

November 19, 2025 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Central Time
If anything is certain during this political cycle and the world of technology, it is the certainty of change. During this discussion, attendees will gain a better understanding of how to prepare for MIPS 2025 reporting, expectations for MIPS 2026, and how to advance quality and clinical research initiatives in the rapidly changing world.

ACEP Accelerate

January 18-23, 2026 San Diego, California
Emergency medicine continues to move beyond traditional routes. And more and more emergency physicians are looking for ways to elevate their career fulfillment. With multiple meetings in one location within the same week, ACEP Accelerate offers different tracks to forge ahead and rise to your career goals.

2026 ACEP Leadership & Advocacy Conference

April 26 - 28, 2026 Washington, District of Columbia
Join your colleagues in Washington, DC, and make your collective voices heard to inspire change for your patients and your specialty.

AzCEP News & Notes

Rural AZ hospital leaders tell Hobbs they're expecting more bad debt and sicker patients

Did you catch the recent article in the Arizona Republic written by Stephanie Innes? If not, see you can read the whole article, that features AzCEP Board Member, Dr. Steven Hopkins, [here](#);



Please Apply: Advisory Committee on OB/GYN Rural Maternal Mental Health

Advisory Committee on Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Maternal Mental Health in Rural Communities. They are looking for a member who is an **Emergency physician**

This committee will play a vital role in shaping policies and recommendations to improve access to care and support for women and families in rural Arizona.

Your perspective would be a valuable addition to these discussions.

To be considered, please complete the [online application](#)

We encourage you to apply promptly. If you have any questions about the process or the committee, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your commitment to advancing maternal health in our rural communities.

Vicki Buchda, MS, RN, NEA-BC
SVP of Care Improvement
Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association
vbuchda@azhha.org

9-figure gift from John Shufeldt gives ASU medical school a new name

John Shufeldt (AzCEP Member) knew he wanted to be a physician when he was 5 years old.

“I realized early on that everyone should have a shot at health, no matter where they are in the birth lottery,” said Shufeldt, who would go on to become an emergency medicine physician and the founder of multiple health initiatives.

So when the Arizona State University alum heard President Michael Crow talking about ASU Health — a broad effort to transform how health care is designed and delivered while also producing new physicians, nurses, specialists and scientists — he was all in.

“All I could think of was, ‘Well, I know what I want to do for the next 30 years.’ I am on board to provide whatever help I can, however I can be of use,” Shufeldt said. “Literally, if it’s sweeping the floor, I’m in because I’m so excited about this medical school and what it is going to do for humanity.”

Shufeldt is doing more than picking up a broom. The university on Wednesday announced a nine-figure gift, the second largest in university history, from Shufeldt to operate the new medical school, which will be known as the John Shufeldt School of Medicine and Medical Engineering, the flagship of ASU Health.

Read the [FULL article, here](#).

2025 Cardiac Arrest Survival Summit

Did you know that the 2025 Cardiac Arrest Survival Summit will be held in Arizona this year? The event takes place Dec. 3-6, at the Arizona Grand Resort in Phoenix, Arizona. We have several AzCEP members (Drs. Garth Gemar, Gail Bradley and Josh Zeidler) on the planning committee and it is sure to be an impressive event. See page 2 for more details.

Prudent Layperson violations, Downcoding, Bad Payor Behavior

Have you been dealing with any new issues with regard to downcoding, reimbursement denials in violation of prudent layperson, or other bad payor behavior? The State Legislative and Regulatory Committee has been working with national ACEP over the last year to monitor and address any issues that arise, but wanted to make sure state chapters aren't dealing with new issues that haven't been passed along to national ACEP.

If you do have issues or questions, feel free to message me, Dr. Dan Elliott, directly on engagED or email him at dan.elliott1889@gmail.com and I will make sure your info gets passed along and addressed.

Legislative Update

By John Thomas, AzCEP Legislative Counsel

It's Fall in Arizona as indicated by me waking up in Flagstaff at the AzCEP Conference and having the temperature gauge read 34 degrees. Arrived back in Phoenix to (only) 90 degrees that afternoon which is another indication that Fall has arrived.

The Legislature starts up its 2026 Legislative Session on Monday, January 8th (as set by the Arizona Constitution which has the first day of legislative session to take place the first Monday after the first Tuesday of the year). As 2026 is an election year for all state offices as well as our House Congressional members, we are hoping that the legislature will not follow its most recent pattern of staying in session until the very end of June as most of the legislators are running for re-election (or election to another office) and need to get out on the campaign trail as the Primary Election is Tuesday, August 4th. The General election will be held Tuesday, November 3d...less than a year away, and a reminder that current AzCEP Board Member and former state representative Amish Shah is running in the Arizona Congressional District 1 primary.

Tradition up to about a decade ago was to try and finish of the legislative session is 100 days or less. The original Arizona Constitutional delegates back in 1912 wanted the legislature to be part-time so that the members could get back to working their businesses in the off session. They felt that legislators who held other jobs would have a better understanding of the issues facing the people of Arizona. The dollar amount for reimbursement for travel and lodging expenses starts to drop after 100 days. An incentive in the early 1900s to having the legislators stick to around a 100 day schedule was helped by the fact that the original Capitol building did not have air conditioning...

An extended legislative session means that bad bills that have died in committees or on the floor can be resurrected again and again until they finally adjourn. This makes for a very fast-moving legislative process for all involved. We will have a better idea of what to expect in the Health arena in December when the first of an estimated 1,800 + Bills, Memorials and Resolutions are introduced. We will also be focusing on the Key remaining legislative issues affecting AzCEP at our March 18th ED DOC DAY AT THE CAPITOL.

The ED DOC DAY, on Wed, March 18, 2026, provides AzCEP Members with an opportunity to visit the State Capitol and discuss, face-to-face, issues of importance to our membership with legislators from the House and the Senate. The morning starts off with a keynote speaker and then its off to legislative meetings and committee hearings. The morning finishes off with lunch in the state Senate and then attendees are on their way back home. Our AzCEP Executive Director Stephanie Butler does a terrific job every year in planning and executing this event from; the set-up; to arranging legislative member meetings; to the wrap up.

PLEASE mark your calendars now for this important, and fun, event.

AzCEP Mission Statement

The Arizona College of Emergency Physicians (AzCEP) supports the highest quality emergency medical care and serves as an advocate for our patients, our members and our specialty. {readopted by the AzCEP board, 6/2019}

Winter Issue of the Arizona EPIC

Submittal Deadline: Feb 1, 2026

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