

President's Update

By Megan McElhinny, MD, MPH, FACEP



We've made it to a busy and exciting time of year with the start of the legislative session and the upcoming annual meeting.

At the annual meeting April 22nd we are excited to debut new lightning talks, a hands on regional block work-

shop as well as coordination with our annual SIMWars to run simultaneously. Lots of high yield content for learners and practicing physicians alike, with elections, AzCEP poster session happy hour and industry dinner. Plenty of time to reconnect, build skills and get the latest specialty updates.

As these continue to be uncertain times we head towards our ED Doc Day at the Capitol event on March 18, which promises to be as important as ever and a continued opportunity for advocacy for our specialty and our patients. For you advocacy buffs, I look forward to seeing Arizona's delegation to ACEPs Leadership and Advocacy conference as we move forward in the new year!

Cheers!

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



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 and several Pediatric ITLS courses throughout the state this this upcoming year. We held a course at White Mountain Regional Medical Center in August. The ITLS International conference was held in Charlotte, NC in November and was a fantastic conference where I was the closing speaker!

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

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



AzCEP 2026 Scientific Assembly; FINAL SCHEDULE

Resident Track			Attending Track		
Time	Content	Location	Time	Content	Location
8:00 - 8:30 AM	Arrival, breakfast				
8:30 - 9:15 AM	Keynote speaker - AI Risk > Reality > Reward, by Dr. Todd Taylor				
9:15 - 9:30 AM	Exhibits/Break All				
9:30 - 9:40 AM	SIMWars Case 1: Match 1: Team A		9:30-10 AM Lightning Talks	Dillon Warr (COPA) -- Stop Spinning Your Wheels: Getting Dizzy Right in the ED (10min)	
9:45 - 9:55 AM	Team B			Aryan Toosi (CUEVA)- Beyond the Blood Pressure: Unraveling Preeclampsia (10min)	
9:55 - 10:10 AM	Case 1: Teaching & Debrief			Ilana Mayer (Abrazo)- Measles Update: Implications for Emergency Medicine in Arizona (10min)	
			10-10:30 AM	Hepatic Encephalopathy CE Symmetry Talk	
10:15 - 10:25 AM	Case 2: Match 2: Team C		10:30-11:00 AM	Feedback Workshop Drs. Comp & Dimeo	
10:30 - 10:40 AM	Team D				
10:40 - 10:55 AM	Case 2: Teaching & Debrief				

11-11:15 AM	11-11:15 AM Exhibits/Break		11-11:25 AM Exhibits/Break Pink	
11:15 - 11:25 AM	Case 3: winner A		11:25 - 12:25 PM Workshop	Nerve Block Workshop - Fascia Iliac block
11:30 - 11:40 AM	Team E			
11:40 - 11:55 AM	Case 3: Teaching & Debrief			
12:00 - 12:10 AM	Case4: winner B			
12:15 - 12:25 PM	Team F			
12:25 - 12:45 PM	Case 4: Teaching & Debrief		Lunch/SimWARS	
12:45 - 12:55 PM	Case 5: Finals: Semifinal teams A (Lunch + Final SIMWars)			
1:00 - 1:10PM	Semifinal team B			
1:10 - 1:30PM	Case 5: Teaching & Debrief, Final thoughts, Announce team winner			
1:30 - 2 PM	Break, Exhibit Tables			
2:00 - 2:30 PM	Job Round Table Discussion			
2:30 - 4:30 PM	Job Fair/ Disperse		AzCEP Board Meeting & Elections 2:30-4:30pm	
4:30 - 5:30 PM	Research Posters/Happy Hour			
5:30 - 7:00PM	Sponsored Dinner			

- **Acknowledgement:** This CME event is not supported by any commercial entity.
- **Disclosure Statement:** Dr. Stanley Thompson is a consult/advisor for Janssen Pharmaceuticals and Salix Pharmaceuticals as well as a part of the Speakers' Bureau for Janssen Pharmaceuticals. All conflicts have been mitigated. Everyone else in control of content has no ineligible financial relationships.
- **Accreditation Statement:** This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the Joint Providership of HonorHealth and Arizona College of Emergency Physicians (AzCEP). HonorHealth is accredited by Arizona Medical Association to provide continuing medical education for physicians.
- **Credit Statement:** HonorHealth designates this live activity for a maximum of 4 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Physicians should only claim

Don't miss this event... there is something for everyone!

[Register NOW!!](#)

Dignity East Valley Residency Update
By Rebecca Roberts, DO

It's been a full and festive winter for our program. We've officially wrapped up interview season and are eagerly looking ahead to Match Day, which is now just on the horizon. It's been a privilege to meet so many outstanding applicants and we can't wait to see who will be joining us this summer in our third class of residents!



The holiday season gave us a welcome chance to celebrate together outside the walls of the ED. Residents and faculty came together for our annual White Elephant holiday gift exchange (this year featuring a highly contested foot massager), but also got double the festive spirit by joining our attendings, nurses, and ED staff for the department Ugly Sweater Christmas party in Downtown Chandler. These events provided a reminder of the strong sense of camaraderie that carries us through even the busiest shifts.



We also had a hugely successful annual Casino Night fundraiser at Culinary Dropout in Gilbert. This year's cowboy-themed event brought out some impressive Western flair and so many supporters of our residency and ED. We are so grateful for the generosity of our community to help us continue to build this program. It was a perfect way to start the new year and 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

Happy New Year Everyone!

It has been an exciting start to the new year at the COPA Cabana. Our brand-new interns are half-way through their first year of residency and they are making us very proud by managing the department and sick patients. We are also very excited for our third-year residents and their next steps in their career. We have a fairly large number of seniors who matched into fellowships, with subspecialties ranging from ultrasound, sports medicine, medical education, EMS and ED administration! Others have secured community positions in multiple states. Even among the chaos that this year has brought, we found time to celebrate the holidays with each other. Pictured below is our white elephant gift exchange for those who worked on Christmas!



MedWAR Arizona Returns Feb 21, 2026!

Trail running meets high-pressure medical and wilderness challenges at Utery Mountain Regional Park MedWAR Arizona is back in 2026, returning to the Sonoran Desert with a refreshed format built for teams who want more than a typical race. MedWAR blends trail running at Utery Mountain Regional Park with realistic wilderness and resuscitation scenarios that reward clear thinking as much as physical endurance.

Teams of four move across rugged desert terrain and stop at multiple hands-on challenge stations along the course. The course includes 5 or more miles of trail running, with strategy and trail selection decisions that can increase total distance depending on the route your team chooses. Each team must successfully complete and demonstrate required tasks to complete the race.

Medical training is suggested, and teams with wilderness, EMS, military, or medical experience may feel more prepared, but every team that shows up ready to problem-solve and work together can be successful.

Athlete Registration at a glance

Team size: 4 racers * Fee: \$180 per team * Registration deadline: February 14 * Start time: Plan for an around 8 a.m. start and a half day of adventure and learning

Not interested in racing, but want to help? We are looking for interested people to help volunteer for everything from simulated patients to scenario proctors. Please feel free to email or register as a volunteer through the link below.

Learn more and register

Event info, gear list, and updates

www.medwar.org/arizona

<https://medracephoenix.com/>

Please reach out with any questions! azdesertmedwar@gmail.com

About MedWAR

The Medical Wilderness Adventure Race, MedWAR, is a team based event that combines endurance movement with scenario based medical and wilderness challenges. Built around teamwork and practical skills, MedWAR is designed for anyone who wants a meaningful test of fitness, decision making, and composure under pressure.

Kingman Regional Medical Center's Resident's Corner
By Taylor Cornwell DO, MPH, R3

The Kingman residents are all doing fabulously. We just attended the Southwest Regional EM conference in Las Vegas, where our very own Dr. Wm. Cooper Speakman, PGY2, delivered a talk on pediatric sepsis and Dr. Adam Dawson, our EM Department Director, delivered a talk on conservative management of the common cold. 4 of our 6 seniors have secured attending jobs in Colorado Springs CO, Alamosa CO, and a travel assignment flying out of Las Vegas. Our first years are learning leaps and bounds every day and our second years are catching up to the seniors with lightning speed!

Abrazo West's Resident's Corner
By Devi Dearmon-Moore, MD

Greetings from the West Valley!

We hope the new year is off to a great start. As usual, the winter season has kept us exceptionally busy both inside and outside of the emergency department. Similar to other hospitals in the valley, we've experienced increased patient volumes along with a rise in emergency department boarding. These ongoing challenges have required tremendous effort from our physicians, nurses, and staff as we all continue to deliver timely, high-quality, life-saving care to every patient. Through it all, we have been incredibly proud of our residents as they have risen to the challenge, demonstrating continued growth in clinical judgment and procedural skills while navigating a demanding clinical environment.

Additionally, we are excited to announce our 3rd year residents have all secured positions (either in fellowships or in the community) for after graduation! We will be so sad to see them go, but are so excited for what comes next!

Ihsaan Ahmad: UNLV, Critical Care Fellowship
 Blake Allred: Abrazo Health, Phoenix
 Bryson Becker: Abrazo Health, Phoenix
 Robert Cobo: Abrazo Health, Phoenix
 Devi Dearmon-Moore: UPenn, Ultrasound Fellowship
 Justin Dombrowski: Honor Health, Phoenix
 Robin Jin: St rose Dominican, Las Vegas
 Molly Shipman: Tacoma General, Tacoma



Looking ahead, we are excited for AAEM in Seattle this April, where all our residents had case presentations accepted and will be presenting posters during the conference. We are also nearing the end of interview season, with Match Day quickly approaching in March. We eagerly await the opportunity to welcome the next class of residents to our program!

ACEP Resources & Latest News

ACEP Will Not Endorse New Sepsis Guidelines from the Surviving Sepsis Campaign

After a thorough and comprehensive review by a panel of experts convened from the membership of the College, the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) today informed the Surviving Sepsis Campaign (SSC) that ACEP will not endorse the organization's latest update to guidelines for treatment of sepsis in emergency departments. [Read more.](#)

NYACEP-Supported Law Strengthens ED Security and Violence Prevention

A new law championed by the New York chapter of ACEP (NYACEP) requires hospitals in the state to establish violence prevention programs. [Read more.](#)

Emergency Departments Should be Safe Zones for Patients

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) is committed to ensuring that emergency departments remain places where all individuals can safely seek emergency medical care without fear. [Read more.](#)

ACEP Advocacy: Advancing Rural Care, Opposing Non-Competes, Fighting Bad Insurer Behavior

ACEP advocacy keeps delivering key wins for emergency medicine at the federal and state levels. The newest installment of our [members-only Capitol Rounds webinar series](#) keeps you current on advocacy wins, policy changes and important developments in DC and across the country. [Read more.](#)

ACEP to Congress: Stronger Policies, Accountability Can Stop Bad Insurer Behavior

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) welcomes today's Congressional hearings examining the bad insurer behavior that drives up premiums and increases health care costs for millions of people, limiting access to affordable insurance. [Read more.](#)

ACEP and National Health Care Groups Issue Joint Statement on Pediatric Readiness in Emergency Departments

The lives of more than two thousand children could be saved with new recommendations included in a [joint statement](#) issued by organizations focused on caring for young people in emergencies. [Read more.](#)

ACEP Leads Call for CMS Guidance on Signage to Prevent Violence Against Health Care Workers

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and a coalition of health care organizations [sent a letter](#) urging the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to issue guidance that facilitates the posting of signage in emergency departments (EDs) discouraging violence. [Read more.](#)

Update on ABEM Physician Portal

ABEM recently transitioned to a new physician portal, MyABEM, and some physicians experienced account access challenges during the transition. [Read more.](#)

Upcoming ACEP Events & Deadlines

Talk with Tony February 12, 2026 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Central Time Join ACEP President Dr. Tony Cirillo for his monthly chat with ACEP members. Get the inside scoop on the latest at ACEP and in emergency medicine.

Capitol Rounds: The Plot Thickens in DC and Statehouses February 25, 2026 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Central Time Capitol Rounds is back—and the plot is definitely thickening. Join us for a fast, practical run-down of the latest developments important to emergency medicine in Washington, DC, and across statehouses nationwide, including key legislative and regulatory moves, what's gaining traction, and what to watch next.

The Role of HHS in Disaster Response and MASCAL Response and Medicine March 17, 2026 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Central time Explore key concepts, practical considerations, and real-world applications relevant to emergency medicine, disaster medicine, and prehospital care professionals. Gain insight into current challenges, emerging best practices, and strategies that can be applied across a variety of clinical, operational, and disaster response settings.

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.

2026 ACEP Scientific Assembly October 5-8, 2026

Chicago, Illinois The world's largest emergency medicine educational conference bringing together the global EM community. Registration is coming soon!

REGISTRATION OPEN!

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!



Legislative Update

By John Thomas, AzCEP Legislative Counsel

The 2026 Arizona Legislative Session is up and running Fast & Furious! 1989 Bills, Memorials and Resolutions have already been introduced, and I expect a record breaking 2,000+ by this time the legislative session has ended. Speaking of records, for the first time ever, over 1,000 bills have been introduced in the House alone. As all House bills start with a 2 (Senate bills start with a 1) and as the first House bill is 2001, they now have had to go to a 4 (currently 4039) for the first time ever to track the bills. If the Senate introduces more than a 1,000 bills, they would start the next bills with a 3 e.g. 3001. Quite a record for those of us that track all of the happenings down at the Capitol.

What that means for AzCEP members is that there are more bills than ever, to analyze and follow. I meet on a weekly physician lobbyist call on Mondays and we are quite busy during the call and throughout the week sorting through all of the bills and determining which to support, which to oppose and which to fix. And, this does not include reviewing all of the legislative amendments offered in committee and on the Floor, as well as the “strike everything” amendments that appear towards the end of the legislative session which allow legislators to introduce for the first time, or resurrect, issues that have already died in committee or not heard in a committee at all.

Right in the middle of all this annual legislative chaos is our ED DOC DAY AT THE CAPITOL. This year, it is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18th at 8:55 am in the Senate Gallery. We will have Representative Willoughby, a nurse, as our guest speaker. She is one of 60 state Representatives but I expect her to be one of 30 state Senators after elections this Fall. AzCEP chooses the March time period for the exact reason that the Legislature is in the midst of a flurry of bills being moved throughout the legislative process and the timing allows our members to discuss these key issues with their legislators during meetings set up by our Executive Director, Stephanie Butler. The Senate Health Committee meets that morning as well which allows our members to watch health bills being discussed and voted on when they are in between legislative appointments. We finish off the day with lunch in the Senate Majority Caucus Room which enables our members to mix and discuss their DAY AT THE CAPITOL!

The feedback we receive from the Doc Days is very positive so please consider bringing a fellow emergency doctor with you to this event.

See you on March 18th!

John Thomas

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]

Spring Issue of the Arizona EPIC

Submittal Deadline: May 1, 2026

©2026 AzCEP

EPIC Editors: Stephanie A. Butler & Brad Butler

The views expressed in this publication are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Arizona College of Emergency Physicians or the American College of Emergency Physicians.

The information within this Newsletter does not constitute legal or professional advice concerning the matters discussed. You should consult with a professional before acting such information.

All advertisements appearing in this publication are printed as received from the advertisers. The Arizona College of Emergency Physicians does not endorse any products or services.

The Arizona College of Emergency Physicians receives and distributes employment opportunities but does not review, recommend or endorse any individuals, groups or hospitals who respond to these advertisements.

AzCEP Officers & Staff

President: Megan McElhinny, MD, FACEP

President-Elect: Wayne Martini, MD, FACEP

Secretary: Adrienne Yarnish, MD, FACEP

Treasurer: Rachel Munn, DO, FACEP

Immediate Past President: Anthony Wong, MD, FACEP

Executive Director:

Stephanie A. Butler (Mobile 602-692-2376)

Legislative Counsel:

John D. Thomas, Attorney at Law (Mobile 602-826-0678)

**Arizona Chapter, ACEP
Phoenix, Arizona 85018
(602) 336-4599 Office**