I am preaching to the choir with this letter, but emergency medicine really is a wonderful field of medicine. We are specialists with the knowledge and experience to provide for the acute care needs of the very young, the very old and everyone in between.

According to ACEP, emergency physicians provide 28 percent of the acute care visits in the nation, yet emergency care accounts for only 2 percent of the total cost of care. Why 28 percent of acute care visits? It is because the bulk of our patients flow through our doors after-hours and on weekends. We provide care to those without primary physicians or those who are unable to see their physicians (either due to time or lack of appointment space) during office hours. No appointments are needed to receive care in our environment.

With EMTALA legislation, we are mandated to screen and treat all patients who come for care, regardless of their ability to provide reimbursement for care. This is a challenge that emergency medicine specialists embrace, for it is ingrained in us to improve the health of those in critical need of acute and emergent care every hour of the day, every day of the year.

Governor Pat Quinn’s proclamation of March 7 as Emergency Medicine Day in Illinois shows that legislators understand the importance of emergency medicine and the access it provides their constituency. It does not necessarily mean, however, they are educated about the challenges facing emergency medicine or have a full understanding of how insufficiently researched legislative acts can harm the practice of emergency medicine and decrease the care available to all patients, whether they are insured or uninsured.

In previous letters, I have written about how the current lack of funding for mental health adversely affects the practice environment, and the out-of-network (OON) reimbursement law that leaves OON EM reimbursement at the whim of the insurer.

In addition to these ongoing advocacy issues, the latest report from our lobbyists at Illinois Strategies revealed a bill currently in committee that contains worrisome language with regards to patients who are out of network. HB 3812 amends the Illinois Insurance Code and provides that prior to providing care to a person, a health care professional or health care provider shall notify that person of the in- or out-of-network status.

I cannot imagine the havoc this bill will introduce to bedside care or the mistrust it will breed between EM physician and patient to have to discuss with 30 patients a day as to whether they are in or out of network:

“Hello sir, your EKG shows you are having a heart attack. We are giving you medicines to thin your blood and protect your heart. We have called the cardiologist and the cath lab; the staff will be coming soon to take you to the lab and open up the blocked vessel with a balloon. I must also inform you that your insurance is out of network for this hospital.”

This is an example of a bill that is not well thought out in terms of its impact on emergency medicine. Well intentioned perhaps, but it is destructive to our practice environment.

March 7th is Illinois Emergency Medicine Day. If you aren’t able to join us in Springfield for legislative visits, take time out on Wednesday to send an email or make a phone call to your legislators instead. Together, we can educate our legislators on the uniqueness of the field of emergency medicine.

— Michael S. Wahl, MD, FACEP, FACMT
ICEP President
Last Chance to Register for EM Days in Springfield, Evening Reception

ICEP’s EM Days in Springfield, the revamped downstate meeting that includes afternoon simulation skills station options for hands-on practice, will be held Tuesday, March 6 at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel & Conference Center in Springfield.

There are still spaces open, including spots at the simulation skills stations. Register online for EM Days, which provides up to 5.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™, online at ICEP.org or call ICEP staff at 630.495.6400.

The program kicks off in the morning with Nicholas M. Mohr, MD, of the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. His presentation, “ED Capnography: Sedations, Intubations and Beyond,” will examine the uses of capnography in the emergency department, evaluating its application to procedural sedation, intubation, and cardiac resuscitation. Dr. Mohr will demonstrate the principles of waveform and quantitative interpretation of end-tidal CO2 monitoring.

Christopher McDowell, MD, M.Ed, PA, FACEP, program director of the emergency medicine residency at SIU School of Medicine, will assess different models for utilizing physician extenders in the emergency department in his session, “Physician Extenders: Incorporating NPs and PAs in the ED.” He will illustrate the roles of physician assistants and nurse practitioners, supervision requirements, and mitigation of risk management.

John Hafner, MD, MPH, FACEP, associate program director and research director at the University of Illinois-Peoria Emergency Medicine Residency, is back in 2012 to revisit his popular lecture presented last year, “Game Changers: Recent Articles that Change Current Practice.” He will review current literature to outline important advances in emergency medicine, analyzing the implications and limitations of the studies on the practice of clinical emergency medicine.

ICEP President Michael S. Wahl, MD, FACEP, FACMT will also present a short ICEP update to outline current issues and challenges facing Illinois emergency physicians and ICEP’s programs for patient and physician advocacy.

The afternoon simulation skills station offers two options to choose from: “The Difficult Airway: Bougies to Video-Assisted Laryngoscopy,” or “All Things Ultrasound: Peripheral Access, Ultrasound-Guided Central Lines, and FAST/RUSH Scans.” The 2-hour small-group sessions offer hands-on practice and cost $75.

EM Days will conclude Tuesday night with an evening reception with legislators from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at the hotel. Participants will mingle with invited state senators and representatives at this evening event. More legislators continue to RSVP each day. Plan to stay for the evening to network with your colleagues or have a conversation with your legislators about the issues that matter to emergency medicine.

ICEP has made arrangements for a limited number of rooms at the hotel for a price of $89 per night plus all applicable taxes. If you have not booked your room yet, please contact ICEP staff at 630.495.6400, ext. 219 or 200. ICEP will help make your reservation.

Last Chance to Register for EM Days in Springfield, Evening Reception

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ICEP ballots to elect Board of Directors members will again be conducted electronically in 2012, following procedures identical to those in 2011.

ICEP’s members will elect four Board members to serve three-year terms. In addition, one resident member will be elected to a one-year term on the Board by the College’s candidate members.

Candidates standing for elections are:

**Active Members**
- Mila Felder, MD, FACEP
- Scott French, MD, FACEP (incumbent)
- John W. Hafner, Jr., MD, MPH, FACEP (incumbent)
- Valerie Phillips, MD, FACEP
- Dino P. Rumoro, DO, FACEP (incumbent)

**Resident Members**
- Janel Carello, DO
- Michael Paddock, DO, MS (incumbent)

Here’s an overview of how the election process will work:

- All members with an email address registered with ICEP/ACEP will receive an email the morning of March 12 with instructions for voting and links to all websites.
- Members who do not have an email address registered, or who have requested a paper ballot, will receive their ballot by mail with a postage-paid envelope to return it to ICEP.
- If you would like to request a paper ballot, please contact Kate Blackwelder at 630-495-6400, ext. 205, or kateb@icep.org.
- Members will be given a direct link in the email to take them to the online voting platform. To log in, they will use their ACEP Member number (beginning with A) and their last name (as registered with ACEP).
- If you do not receive an email with voting instructions by March 12, please contact Kate Blackwelder for assistance. Your email server may block ICEP.org emails as spam.
- As an added protection to ensure you receive the email, consider adding kateb@icep.org to your email Safe Senders List.
- The online voting platform will be open from midnight March 12 until 11:59 PM April 11.
- Once you have logged into the voting platform, you will be able to view the slate of candidates, including their profiles, personal statements, and photos, to evaluate the candidates before submitting your vote.
- The online voting platform will allow you to submit your vote only one time. After you have voted, you may log in again but you will receive a message that your vote has already been received.
- After you have submitted your vote, you may print a voting report for your records.
- The online voting program automatically tallies the winners of each election and sends certified results to ICEP. The results of the election will be announced at the Spring Symposium’s Annual Business Meeting on Thursday, April 26 at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn.

Save the Date for 2012 ED Management Forum

ICEP will again hold a half-day seminar on emergency department management issues Monday, April 16, 2012 at the ICEP Conference Center in Downers Grove.

There is no cost to attend the 2012 ED Management Forum. All ICEP members interested in management issues are invited to attend.

Several speakers have already been confirmed. Registration is expected to open online the second week of March.

ACEP Board of Directors member Mark Mackey, MD, FACEP will analyze health care reform changes related to the Affordable Care Act. ICEP Board member Les Zun, MD, FACEP will discuss the impact of cutbacks and closures of state mental health facilities on emergency medicine.

Mark Crockett, MD, FACEP, will examine Medicaid reimbursement issues, including the cuts and restructuring proposed by Governor Pat Quinn as part of his FY13 budget. ICEP is working to secure CME credit for participants. Watch your email for more details and a full schedule coming soon.

ACEP Member Number Will Be Needed to Cast Ballot

2012 ED MANAGEMENT FORUM
Comparing Notes, Sharing Solutions
MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2012
ICEP CONFERENCE CENTER | DOWNERS GROVE

2012 - Issue | Illinois EPIC
ICEP’s 2012 Spring Symposium & Annual Business Meeting will be held Thursday, April 26 at Advocate Christ Medical Center’s Conference Center in Oak Lawn.

A course brochure is in development, and online registration is already open. Please visit ICEP.org to sign up now to attend, or mark your calendar to request the day off to join us at our premier member event.

Statewide Research Showcase Submission Deadline Extended Until March 8

The deadline to submit research to be considered for presentation at the 2012 Spring Symposium has been extended but is still just one week away. Abstracts must be submitted by Thursday, March 8.

In 2012, ICEP is combining the research presentation opportunities at the Spring Symposium and Academic Forum into a single Statewide Research Showcase to be held at the Spring Symposium in April.

The Statewide Research Showcase is open to both residents and attending physicians to present oral and poster presentations of emergency medicine research.

To apply, download the Statewide Research Showcase application and submit it with a copy of your blinded abstract to Lora Finucane by email to loraf@icep.org.

Young Physician Presenters Wanted for 2012 NEXT Forum

The NEXT Forum, now in its fourth year, is designed to provide junior faculty with an opportunity to display their public speaking skills and get feedback from seasoned presenters.

All of ICEP’s young physicians (less than 5 years out from residency or chief residents) are invited to apply to participate in the program. Residency programs and other institutions may also nominate candidates to participate.

Candidates who have participated in a prior NEXT Forum are asked to allow the opportunity to other colleagues instead of applying for the program again.

Nominees will deliver a short, 15-minute PowerPoint lecture on an emergency medicine topic of their choice to the audience and panel of judges. The winner of the NEXT Forum will be given a speaking opportunity at the following year’s Spring Symposium.

The deadline to submit an application is Monday, March 14. Completed applications must be submitted electronically to Lora Finucane by email to loraf@icep.org.

ICEP Seeks Oral Board Faculty for 2012

ICEP is seeking faculty for its 2012 Oral Board Review Courses. The courses will be held this year:

- Tuesday and Wednesday, April 3-4, 2012
- Friday and Saturday, September 27-28, 2012

As an oral board faculty member, you will present single or multiple case simulations to candidates in strict oral board exam format and provide feedback on their performance. The honorarium is $200 per course day.

ICEP’s Oral Board Review courses are held at the Chicago O’Hare Marriott Hotel and run from approximately 7:45 am to 6:15 pm with coffee and lunch breaks. You can teach a morning, afternoon, or full day on one or both days of each course. Sleeping rooms at the hotel are available at no cost for faculty.

If you are available to teach, please contact Lora Finucane at 630.495.6400, ext 219 or loraf@icep.org.

Please feel free to invite your colleagues (non-member physicians also accepted) to take advantage of this opportunity as well. Many of our new faculty get referred to ICEP by coworkers or friends, and opt to come back year after year because they find the program so rewarding.
When I learned that a health care system wanted to purchase my practice, I was concerned about my medical liability insurance coverage. Then I found out I could keep my ISMIE Mutual insurance ... that made the decision easier. It made me think there are probably a lot of ISMIE policyholders who don’t know they can keep their ISMIE Mutual coverage through the flexible options for employed physicians. I’m now an ISMIE policyholder and an Advocate Medical Group associate. Great partners for me, great partners for my practice ... the perfect combination.

If you’re considering integrating your practice with a hospital, remember you can remain an ISMIE policyholder with the same coverage. You can still depend on ISMIE’s loyalty to your practice, exceptional service to every policyholder, solid coverage with flexibility and innovative risk management!

**Depend on ISMIE for your medical liability protection – so you can focus on the reason you became a physician: to provide the best patient care possible.**

Not an ISMIE Mutual policyholder and interested in obtaining a comparison quote for your medical liability coverage? Contact our Underwriting Division at 800-782-4767, ext. 3350, or e-mail us at underwriting@ismie.com. Visit our web site at [www.ismie.com](http://www.ismie.com).
Governor Quinn’s FY13 Budget Speech Calls for Medicaid Cuts, Restructuring

In his speech to outline the fiscal year 2013 budget, Governor Pat Quinn focused on a plan to restructure Medicaid and reduce its expenditures by $2.7 billion in the coming year. His goal is to overhaul the “vitaly important” program, which he described as “on the brink of collapse.”

The restructuring will seek the “right combination of liability reductions, modernized eligibility standards, utilization controls, rate reduction, acceleration of integrated managed care, and coordination of long-term programs in order to properly manage Medicaid spending,” he said, and bring it in line with appropriations.


In response to Quinn’s planned cuts, ICEP issued a press release to draw attention to the unique position of emergency physicians and Medicaid patients. The press release notes:

“Governor Quinn announced massive cuts to Illinois’ Medicaid program that will place Illinois emergency departments and the patients they serve at risk.

“The reimbursement cuts are expected to drive many more primary care physicians away from accepting Medicaid patients. With fewer available options, Medicaid patients will increasingly rely on emergency departments for their basic health care needs as well as emergency needs. This limits the capability of emergency departments to serve all patients and results in extended wait times and overcrowding.”

The press release discussed EMTALA law to drive home the point that unlike other specialties, emergency physicians cannot limit the number of Medicaid patients they see.

ICEP plans to work with its lobbyists to educate the state about the necessity of adhering to the prudent layperson standard. Both nationally and in Illinois, the prudent layperson standard applies to Medicaid managed care organizations.

**View Full ICEP Medicaid Cuts Press Release**

“As emergency physicians, we are striving to save the safety net created by emergency departments and continue to provide care for all patients, including Medicaid patients,” Dr. Wahl said in the press release. “The proposed cuts make this task exponentially harder — and make it imperative that the prudent layperson standard is preserved when cuts are implemented.”

ICEP and its lobbyists are following the issue closely and await specific details about eligibility, services, utilization, and payments as they will affect emergency medicine. Watch your email, the ICEP Facebook page, and ICEP.org for more information as it becomes available.
ICEP Members Give Interviews on Psychiatric Cuts, Potential Impact on EM

Three ICEP members — President Michael Wahl, MD, FACEP, FACMT; Board of Directors member Les Zun, MD, FACEP; and former Board member William Sullivan, DO, JD, FACEP — were recently quoted in an article published by Bloomberg news.

The article examined the effects of mental-health cuts on emergency medicine and its impact on access to care for patients in Illinois.

Read the article online at: www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-02-22/illinois-mental-health-cuts-endanger-all-patients-doctor-access.html

2012 Dates for ICEP’s Simulation Skills Lab Set: Register Today

The first of ICEP’s 2012 Emergent Procedures Simulation Skills Lab courses is just two months away and registration is already starting to fill up.

If you are looking for hands-on practice of high-risk skills for procedures that present rarely in the emergency department, register today for this popular course. The program is held at Evanston Hospital’s new state-of-the-art NorthShore Center for Simulation and Innovation (NCSI).

Course dates this year are:
- Friday, April 20
- Friday, September 7
- Friday, November 2

A complete course brochure and online registration are available at ICEP.org.

Course director Ernie Wang, MD, FACEP, developed a short video with clips from the 2011 courses to showcase a sampling of the procedures targeted in the program. View the video online at ICEP’s Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ICEPFan.

You’re in a hot spot.

In fact, we’re in over 60 of them.

Mercy Hospital & Medical Center
Chicago, IL
57,000 visits

Provena St. Mary's Hospital
Kankakee, IL
32,000 visits

Saint James Hospital & Health Centers
Chicago, IL
Olympia Fields Campus – 35,000 visits
Chicago Heights Campus – 42,000 visits

Provena St. Joseph Medical Center
Joliet, IL
70,000 visits

opportunities from New York to Hawaii.
In an effort to curb the serious HIV infection epidemic in Illinois, Illinois HIV Care Connect extends the ability of primary care providers to help people living with HIV.

“Through the program, people living with HIV find services that help them to achieve optimal health and self-sufficiency,” said Jim Nelson, executive director of the Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA). HIV-positive individuals can be referred to one of Illinois HIV Care Connect’s eight regional offices. To find the local office, go to www.hivcareconnect.com/connect.html.

Once enrolled in Illinois HIV Care Connect, people living with HIV receive confidential medical case management services at no charge, regardless of income. Also, they may qualify for a range of other health care and support services including outpatient, mental and oral health care; medical nutritional therapy; substance abuse prevention and counseling; and other support services. The program’s website (www.hivcareconnect.com) has detailed information about the resources provided by the statewide network.

MATEC provides training and consultation to primary care providers wishing to treat or currently treating HIV-positive patients. If you are a primary care provider to an HIV-positive individual, you may benefit from free and low-cost clinical education training programs and consultation services offered by the Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center (MATEC). MATEC’s training programs help primary care providers to build their HIV treatment proficiency through didactic and skill-building training. MATEC also offers free clinical consultation services by Illinois-based HIV experts to help you manage an array of HIV patient treatment needs. To learn more, go to www.matec.info. Providers wishing to see HIV-positive patients also may volunteer to be an Illinois HIV Care Connect network provider.

HIV/AIDS remains a significant health threat in Illinois. Illinois has the nation’s eighth highest cumulative number of AIDS cases, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation (www.statehealthfacts.org), with more than 37,000 reported cases and 20,000 deaths since 1981, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health HIV/AIDS Surveillance Unit and Reporting System. The department also estimates there have been about 16,000 additional reported non-AIDS HIV cases, and that more than 8,300 HIV-positive Illinois residents do not know they are HIV-positive.

Unaware of their HIV infection, undiagnosed individuals spread HIV to others through unprotected sex, intravenous drug use, or other ways. Undiagnosed individuals also do not receive the benefit of medical treatments that can slow the progression of HIV infection into AIDS or other illnesses.

To stop the progression and transmission of HIV-related disease, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all individuals age 13-64 be tested for HIV infection. As a result, the Illinois Department of Public Health expects that increased numbers of individuals will be diagnosed as HIV-positive, making referrals to HIV Care Connect an important way to contain the progression and spread of HIV infection. Those wishing not to be tested can choose to decline or “opt-out” of the program.

Funded by the Illinois Department of Public Health through federal Ryan White Part B grants, Illinois HIV Care Connect “serves as a one-stop shop for many services. Getting HIV-positive individuals to take advantage of these services helps to curb the spread and progression of HIV,” said Valerie Webb, IPHA president.

Want to reach 1,250 Illinois emergency physicians?

Contact Kate Blackwelder at 630.495.6400 x 205 or kateb@icep.org for an Illinois EPIC rate sheet and list of closing dates.
Unique Opportunity for Emergency Medicine
Board-Certified Physicians (ABEM, AOBEM or BCEM) in central Illinois

**What:** Due to the relocation of one full time member of our group, we are seeking 1 full-time physician. Full time is 6 shifts per month of 24 hour each. We typically start physicians out part-time for 4 to 6 months to assure a good fit for both the physician and the practice. This is a small group practice at a downstate hospital emergency department. The ED has a volume of ~10,500 and is a very satisfying practice environment. Our group has been at this location for 10 years and we have very strong relationships and a stable commitment from the hospital leadership and Board of Directors.

**Where:** Approximately 100 miles south of Chicago, 90 miles west of Indianapolis and 50 miles northeast of Champaign, within comfortable driving of all these major metro areas.

**Qualifications:** Experienced emergency physicians with outstanding clinical skills and a desire and enjoyment of communicating with patients, BC/BP in EM.

**Pay/Benefits:** $125/hour on weekends/holidays and $118/hours on weekdays (ED volume 10,000). Full-time benefits (>144 hours/ month): health insurance, 401K, $3,000 per year CME, paid malpractice insurance (including tail) and pre-tax business expense deductions.

**Shifts:** We have 24 hour shifts available.

**Availability:** Immediate - we have 4 full-time physicians currently and are looking for 1 more full-time physician.

If interested, send message and CV to: jtbasketballmd@msn.com or call 708-846-4329
MORE BENEFITS

GET MORE OUT OF WORK.

At ECI, we’re emergency physicians, too. We understand the importance of protecting your finances. That’s why we created our OWN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE INSURANCE COMPANY—physicians vigorously defending other physicians. Plus, our partnerships offer you the benefit of ZERO TAIL COSTS. So contact us today and we’ll help you find a rewarding job that offers you the benefits you deserve.

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Emergency Consultants, Inc. is a corporation providing management and administrative support to medical liability partnership clients. It is not a direct provider of medical care services.
EMPact Emergency Physicians, LLC, currently has an incredible career opportunity available for full-time Emergency Medicine trained, board eligible/certified Physicians. We are expanding by adding a satellite Freestanding Emergency Center. Rush-Copley Medical Center is based in the western suburbs of Chicago. We offer a highly competitive compensation package including patient satisfaction bonuses and paid malpractice! Partnership opportunities are also available. Contact Mary Deans-O’Clare, at EMPact Emergency Physicians, LLC - (847) 697-8806 or email your CV: tylercreektvl@sbcglobal.net

CHESTERTON, INDIANA: St. Anthony Memorial Chesterton Health Center is a brand new 48,000 square foot freestanding ED. The facility is affiliated with the Franciscan St. Anthony Health in Michigan City. EPMG cares about allowing clinicians to live life and do the work they love. We care about providing exceptional compensation and benefits, including a brand new partnership program. To learn more contact Sarah Hy-rety at 734.686.6327 or shytell@epmgpc.com. Visit us at www.epmgpc.com.

RIVERSIDE, ILLINOIS, KANKAKEE: Riverside Medical Center is a Level II Trauma center with 42,000 annual visits and 53 hours of clinician coverage daily. The ED environment is supported with a highly-skilled and efficient nursing staff. EPMG cares about allowing clinicians to live life and do the work they love. We care about providing exceptional compensation and benefits, including a brand new partnership program. To learn more contact Sarah Hy-rety at 734.686.6327 or shytell@epmgpc.com. Visit us at www.epmgpc.com.

PREPARING FOR YOUR ORAL BOARD EXAM?

The Illinois College of Emergency Physicians will offer its highly acclaimed Oral Board Review courses:

- Courses conducted at the ABEM Oral Board Exam site and provide a virtual dry run of the actual Board exam
- Cases are of exam-level difficulty and delivered in strict Oral Board Exam format
- Experienced faculty provide immediate individualized feedback on your performance following each case

Oral Board Review Courses

Tuesday & Wednesday, April 3-4, 2012
Friday & Saturday, September 28-29, 2012
Chicago O’Hare Marriott

ACEP Category I CME credit is provided for all courses.

Course Director - Deborah E. Weber, MD, FACEP

To register, or for more information, contact:
Illinois College of Emergency Physicians
Phone: 888-495-ICEP Fax: 630-495-6404
www.icep.org

Mock Orals Private Tutorials

are available to course participants seeking extra case practice prior to their exam. Advanced registration is advised as space is limited.

Call ICEP for more information.
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<td>March 6, 2012</td>
<td>EM Days in Springfield: Advocacy &amp; Education</td>
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<td>May 15, 2012</td>
<td>2010 EM4LIFE LLSA Article Review Course</td>
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