

2023 Was An Exciting Year for ICEP



Bailey A. McMurray,
IOM, MAOL

As the holiday season winds down, it's time to reflect on the exciting year ICEP had in 2023. In the past twelve months we have had over 80 new members join our organization, over 50 attendees joined last March for ICEP's Advocacy Day (**this year is held on April 11, mark your calendars**), close to 400 attendees in all our conferences (Emergency Medicine Update, The Ginny Kennedy Palys Annual Symposium and Resident Career Day), and over 100 participants join us for our Virtual Oral Board Review courses.

Looking at this upcoming year, we have a lot of exciting events throughout 2024; the first one being on February 15, 2024, at our winter Emergency Medicine Update conference in Peoria, Illinois. This conference offers a full day of diverse and innovative educational programs with something for every emergency care provider. Emergency Medicine Update is open to physicians, nurses, PAs, EMS providers, Residents, and medical students.

Topics that will be discussed:

- Buprenorphine in the Emergency Department
- Best Practices in Evaluation of Invasive Bacterial Illness in Febrile Young Infants with COVID-19

- EMS System Design featuring Howie Mell, MD, MPH, CPE, FACEP, ICEP President
- The Top 10 EM Articles of 2023
- Simulation Skills Workshop: Agitated Elderly Person and Post-Partum Hemorrhage Simulation**

**= Additional registration fee for the workshop.

If you are interested in joining us in Peoria, IL please head over to the [ICEP website](#) to check out our [brochure](#) and how to [register](#).

Are you looking for additional CME? ICEP members have access to the following CME courses at no additional cost and an added benefit of your chapter membership.

[Beyond "Not Little Adults" Critical Updates in Pediatric Emergency Care](#)

Program Description: Critical illness is more common in adults than in children, which is great for kids, but not so great for maintaining our skills. In these four modules, we discuss high stakes, low-frequency presentations of critical illness in pediatrics, and share the latest evidence-based guidelines for managing these patients in a general emergency department.

[Tackling the Golden Hour – Trauma Tools for the Emergency Physician](#)

Program Description: Trauma is a significant global health issue, leading to more

than 4.6 million deaths annually world-wide. In the United States, injury is the primary cause of death in people ages 1 to 44 years, and the fourth leading cause of death overall. Trauma does not discriminate. Patients with a significant mechanism of injury, at the extremes of life (pediatrics and geriatrics), and with medical co-morbidities and polypharmacy are at increased risk of hemorrhage, shock, and mortality. This program will provide updates on relevant clinical topics regarding trauma care for Emergency Medicine physicians to guide their management and care of these critical patients.

[Time is Brain: The Myriad of Stroke Presentations Seen in the ED Course](#)

Program Description: Stroke is a time-sensitive diagnosis that requires immediate recognition and treatment. The challenge for ED providers is recognizing the myriad of stroke presentations, ordering the appropriate neuroimaging, and safely providing therapeutic interventions. In these modules, we will discuss how to quickly diagnose and treat a variety of stroke syndromes using evidence-based guidelines.

These elearning opportunities can be found on the ICEP website under "shop" in the right-hand corner or by clicking [here](#).

As a member of ICEP, we thank you for your continued support of our Chapter as we look forward to another exciting year!

Bailey McMurray

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Amplifying the Voice of Emergency Physicians through Advocacy

We are pleased to announce the addition of [Mercury-Illinois](#), a leading global, bipartisan public strategy firm as our [new lobbying firm](#), further strengthening ICEP's dedication to advocating for the best interests of emergency physicians and driving positive change for emergency medicine in the state of Illinois.

The ICEP Board of Directors has identified enhancing advocacy and membership value as two main strategic priorities for the organization. With the collaboration with Mercury, we are focused on fostering partnerships and collaboration with our ICEP membership community, like-minded organizations and specialties, and key stake holders in Illinois.

Key advocacy initiatives for ICEP include:

- Having a physician onsite in an emergency department 24 hours a day/7 days a week
- Violence against healthcare workers
- Reimbursement
- Boarding/Crowding

If there are any issues you are passionate about or face as an emergency physician, please share with us!

Interested in getting involved in with ICEP as a volunteer? We are calling on ICEP members to join us to participate in our ICEP Advocacy Work Groups, led by the ICEP Patient and Physician Advocacy Committee. [Sign up!](#)

ICEP Advocacy Day: April 11, 2024

Join fellow members, ICEP staff, and ICEP's lobbyists IN-PERSON in Springfield to meet with state legislators to lobby for emergency medicine issues.

There is no charge to attend ICEP Advocacy Day for ICEP members, but advanced registration is required, and space is limited.

[Register to Attend](#)

New 3-Year Strategic Plan

The ICEP Board of Directors and team have been hard at work finalizing our new 3-year strategic plan and look forward to announcing this in early 2024!

2024 Physician Fee Schedule: ACEP Blunts Medicare Cuts

On Nov. 2, The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) for calendar year 2024.

A detailed analysis of the annual Medicare payment rules for physicians and other health care practitioners is available [here](#).

There are some notable wins for emergency physicians and patients:

Eliminating the Appropriate Use Criteria program. CMS will permanently pause implementation of the Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) program. We argued that the program is unnecessary and could harm patient care by postponing vital treatment.

Extending telehealth flexibilities. Finalized measures include the creation of a new process for adding telehealth codes to the Medicare Telehealth Services List. New payments for community health integration services, social determinants of health risk assessment and principal illness navigation services provided by social workers, and services furnished by community health workers and other auxiliary personnel via telemedicine will be forthcoming. Reimbursing split/shared services. A CMS proposal to reimburse for services involving a physician and non-physician (split/shared services) based on the amount of time spent providing the service was met with strong opposition by ACEP, the American Medical Association (AMA)

and others. Acknowledging these concerns, CMS will work to revise and finalize a policy with updated language reflecting the CPT E/M guidelines for CY 2024.

CMS is finalizing this policy to avoid concerns outlined by ACEP and others about administrative burdens that facilities and practices have faced as they spend time and resources preparing for potential changes that have been delayed for years, until now.

There are also some concerning provisions:

Reimbursement cuts. A 3.4% cut to overall Medicare reimbursement was finalized despite strong objections by ACEP and the entire house of medicine. Similarly, a 2%



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negative adjustment to the PFS conversion factor was deemed necessary to preserve budget neutrality.

Much of the budget neutrality adjustment stems from the implementation of G2211, the “G-code,” an add-on for complexity, which CMS estimates will only be utilized in 38% of all office visit claims.

What’s next?

ACEP urges Congress to eliminate the “G-Code,” an unnecessary payment increase focused on primary care. Work is underway to support Congress adding an inflationary update to PFS and to mitigate the impact of budget neutrality adjustments.

“Temporary fixes by Congress are appreciated, but there are still opportunities to

work toward full relief,” said Laura Wooster, senior vice president of advocacy and practice affairs. “We are putting ideas forward that would end the instability that’s built into the system and make sure that emergency physicians’ work is valued appropriately.”

ACEP advocacy is instrumental in efforts to blunt the impact of cuts as we continue working on fixes to flaws in the reimbursement framework. Through ACEP, our members gain a seat at the table and a platform to express their concerns. We are making sure that Congress and regulators hear emergency physicians loud and clear.

[Click here for the full article.](#)

Interested in being featured in EPIC and on the ICEP website?

ICEP is interested in hearing stories from our members. Complete the form below for a chance to be featured!

[Click here to submit.](#)

ACEP to CMS: Consider the Boarding Crisis in Reporting Measures

ACEP has submitted [comments](#) regarding quality and efficiency measures under annual consideration for use by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Strengthening Geriatric Emergency Care, Calling for Boarding Measures

ACEP comments about the Age Friendly Hospital Measure incorporate the 4Ms (What Matters, Medications, Mentation, Mobility), standards developed by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement from our Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation (GEDA) framework, among other standards.

ACEP also strongly supports the inclusion of a boarding-related attestation as a starting point to track boarding in the emergency

department. We implore CMS to consider the [boarding crisis](#) in future measures.

Encouraging Group/Entity Accountability

For screenings related to Social Drivers of Health (SDOH), we asked that CMS consider measure attribution, a process that would hold a group or entity accountable for selecting a patient population, providing appropriate health services, and achieving adequate health outcomes.

ACEP encourages evaluation at the clinician group level to ensure that gaps are fairly attributed to entities with agency to be responsible and accountable for outcomes.

Leveling the Playing Field on Quality Measures

Under-resourced facilities must not face undue difficulty or burdensome penalties that could affect access to care for vulnerable populations.

We asked for sensitivity and consideration of a formula to evaluate under-resourced facilities that ensures some congruency between their quality performance relative to facilities with more resources.

ACEP proudly represents your interests in our interactions with federal agencies and regulators, every day. Fueled by your engagement, this is just one way that ACEP moves behind the scenes to call for changes to improve your ability to do your job.

[Click here for the full article.](#)

Looking for a job in emergency medicine?

Visit the ICEP Career Center for employment opportunities posted by local, regional, and national hospitals, groups, and organizations looking to fill open positions. Join the ICEP Career Center email list to get all the latest opportunities sent right to your inbox.

[Visit ICEP Career Center](#)

Want to advertise a job in emergency medicine?

ICEP offers two ways to get the word out about

open positions. Choose one or both strategies to best fit your needs:

Advertise in the Illinois EPIC newsletter:

The EPIC newsletter offers classified and displays advertising at very affordable rates to help you market your job opportunities. The newsletter is published bimonthly and reaches 1,275 ICEP members directly.

[More about EPIC advertising.](#)

Place a job ad at the ICEP Career Center online:

This job board is custom-tailored for the emergency medicine industry, which means we attract the most qualified professionals in Illinois. Create an Employer Account and post your emergency medicine jobs today!

[Visit ICEP Career Center](#) to get started or contact the ICEP Career Center staff at (866) 376-0949 ext. 6985 or by [email](#).





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Lobbying Firm Announcement

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DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS – The Illinois College of Emergency Physicians (ICEP) is pleased to announce the addition of Mercury, a leading global, bipartisan public strategy firm as its new lobbying firm, further strengthening ICEP's dedication to advocating for the best interests of emergency physicians and driving positive change for emergency medicine in the state of Illinois.

Mercury's expanding roster of top strategists have unparalleled relationships with elected officials and changemakers at all levels in Springfield, Chicago, Washington, D.C. and throughout the Midwest.

Mercury-Illinois, led by former Congresswoman Cheri Bustos, brings a wealth of experience and diverse expertise to the organization including federal government relations, international affairs, digital advocacy, public opinion research, media strategy and a bipartisan grassroots mobilization network. Mercury is well-positioned to make a significant impact on ICEP's ad-

vocacy initiatives and goals for emergency physicians and the specialty of emergency medicine in Illinois.

Emergency physicians are on the front lines of our healthcare system. They deliver critical, often life-saving care to patients in their most vulnerable moments, yet emergency physicians face a constantly evolving landscape of healthcare laws and regulations that brings a host of challenges, from reimbursement issues to boarding to scope-of-practice concerns.

"We are excited to welcome Mercury-Illinois to ICEP's team," said ICEP President Howard K. Mell, MD, MPH, CPE, FACEP. "Their deep knowledge of the policy landscape in Illinois and dedication to our members' goals make them a valuable addition to our organization."

ICEP has a long-standing history of successful lobbying efforts on behalf of its members, and the addition of the Mercury team only strengthens our capabilities. ICEP will continue to adapt to expand our team and expertise, ensuring emergency physicians are well-equipped to tackle the most pressing issues and challenges facing our clients.



ICEP Mourns the Loss of Anthony (Tony) Cellitti, A.A.S., NRP, OSFM ATF

The Illinois College of Emergency Physicians (ICEP) is saddened to learn about the passing of long-time International Trauma Life Support (ITLS) volunteer, Anthony (Tony) Cellitti, A.A.S., NRP, OSFM ATF. Tony was a dear friend and colleague to many in the EMS and emergency medicine in Illinois and all over the world.

Tony was a leader, teacher, and friend with a dedication and compassion to fire service, EMS, and emergency medicine.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Tony's family, colleagues, and friends all over the world during this difficult time.

ACEP Leaders Meet with DOJ Antitrust Department

On Tuesday, Dec. 12, ACEP President Aisha T. Terry, MD, MPH, FACEP; ACEP Executive Director & CEO Susan Sedory, MA, CAE; and Senior Vice President of Advocacy & Practice Affairs Laura Wooster met with Jonathan Kanter, the United States Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust and other key Department of Justice staff to discuss the growing negative impact of insurer consolidation on emergency physicians and the patients they care for.

This focus on insurer consolidation broadens ACEP's recent advocacy efforts with the Federal Trade Commission on provider consolidation, non-competes, and corporatization of medicine.

In the meeting, ACEP raised concerns

about the impact on clinical decision making and physician autonomy that vertical consolidation by insurers who directly employ physicians can bring. Also on the agenda was the rapidly diminishing leverage that EP groups have during contract negotiations as insurance companies are acquiring more and more market share via consolidation. Discussions also involved implementation of the No Surprises Act.

ACEP will continue to work with the DOJ on these and other related issues so emergency physicians can maintain and protect their professional autonomy, thrive in supportive and fair practice environments, and provide high quality emergency care to their patients.

[Click here for the full article.](#)



Congratulations to ICEP Past President and member, Dr. Henry Pitzele for being elected to the ACEP Board of Directors!



In October The American College of Emergency Physicians ([ACEP](#)) announced its 2023-2024 board of directors and officers, as voted by the ACEP Council, during ACEP23. *Photo from ACEP Facebook page.*

Henry Z. Pitzele, MD, FACEP, is an attending physician at Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago, and part-time attending physician at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago, a level one trauma center, and Mesa View Regional Medical Center in Mesquite, Nevada, a critical access hospital. He is a past president of the Illinois ACEP chapter and member of the Illinois ACEP chapter board of directors. Dr. Pitzele has a medical degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine and completed an emergency medicine residency at University of Illinois at Chicago.

ICEP Research Abstract Deadline for the Ginny Kennedy Palys Annual Symposium is Tuesday, January 30, 2024

ICEP is seeking submissions for the annual Statewide Research Showcase held at the 2024 Ginny Kennedy Palys Annual Symposium on Thursday, May 2 at Northwestern Feinberg Pavilion. This is ICEP's only research presentation opportunity, so do not miss your chance to submit and present at a regional meeting!

The Statewide Research Showcase is open to both residents and attending physicians to present oral and poster presentations of emergency medicine research. All abstracts will be considered, even if previously presented at other meetings.

[Download 2024 Abstract Submission Rules](#)

[Download 2024 Abstract Submission Form](#)

The Research Committee will finalize and notify applicants in March. Traditionally, approximately 4 abstracts are selected for oral presentation and 10 abstracts for poster presentation.

All the information can be found on the ICEP website by clicking [here](#).



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ICEP Calendar *of* Events 2024

(Subject to change)

February 15, 2024
Emergency Medicine Update
Peoria, IL

March 18-19, 2024
Virtual Oral Board
Zoom

April 5, 2024
Emergent Procedures Simulation Skills Lab
Evanston, IL

April 11, 2024
Advocacy Day
Springfield, IL

May 2, 2024
The Ginny Kennedy Palys Annual Symposium
Chicago, IL

May 7, 2024
Emergency Medicine ILSA 2023 Article Review CME Program and Courses
Downers Grove, IL

August 19-20, 2024
Virtual Oral Board
Zoom

August 29, 2024
Resident Career Day
Chicago, IL

September 20, 2024
Emergent Procedures Simulation Skills Lab
Evanston, IL

November 7, 2024
Emergency Medicine ILSA 2024 Article Review CME Program and Courses
Downers Grove, IL

November 18-19, 2024
Virtual Oral Board
Zoom

Did you know? ICEP members have access to CME courses at no additional cost and an added benefit of your chapter membership.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



See the latest at [ICEP.org](https://www.icep.org) and follow on Facebook and Twitter!

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