

# A Welcome from Your 2024-2025 ICEP President

*“The practice of medicine is an art, not a trade; a calling, not a business; a calling in which your heart will be exercised equally with your head.” - William Osler MD*



**Willard W. Sharp, MD,  
PhD, FACEP, FAAEM  
2024-2025**

These words were written over a hundred years ago but are very much still relevant today. Although much has changed, the practice of medicine remains an art and a calling that requires as much intellect as empathy. As an

emergency medicine physician, I am proud of my specialty that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for those who are in the most need or have been most neglected by society. Regardless of personal, philosophical, political, or religious views, emergency physicians are united in their unwavering dedication to the care of those in need presenting at their door. We are truly blessed and grateful to be practicing the best and perhaps most impactful of all medical specialties.

Despite its praiseworthy qualities, emergency medicine is tough, dirty, and sometimes dangerous. Our practice environment characterized by patient crowding, bursts of violence, and increasing bureaucratic and regulatory requirements is stressful. Threats of decreasing reimbursement, loss of self-autonomy, and attempts at scope of practice creep by non-physician are disheartening. These threats are not only directed at us but are directed at our patients who will be put at harms risk if we fail to advocate on their behalf.

To survive, we must take care of ourselves and one another. To use the analogy of a passenger receiving instructions from a flight attendant, we must put on our oxygen masks first, before putting on the mask for others. When was the last time you put on your oxygen mask first?

My first breath of fresh air in practice came when I began to be actively involved in ICEP. I started by joining the research committee, attending advocacy days in both Washington, DC and in Springfield and finally by joining the ICEP board. These activities impacted me in 3 important ways. First, I realized that I was not alone. Instead of grumbling to myself about my frustrations, I was able to share my experiences and hear those of my colleagues both at the local, state, and national level. Sharing those experiences and working to solve them has been deeply therapeutic. Second, I realized that solutions are possible. Getting more involved in ICEP opened opportunities to learn from thought leaders from around the country to develop solutions to our problems. Third, I developed important new skills and perspectives. Fourth, I gained satisfaction from the giving back to my specialty while developing enduring friendships and a sense of accomplishments. Are you running out of oxygen? If so, I implore you to put on your oxygen mask first and make an investment in yourself by either joining ICEP or by getting more involved.

On that note, it is a great honor and privilege to serve as your ICEP President for the

2024-2025 term. Having the opportunity to give back to you and the organization that has given me so much is deeply gratifying. As I begin this new term, I would like to highlight ICEP’s 5 major accomplishments this past year on behalf of you and your patients.

**First, we retained a new public strategy firm** (Mercury Public Affairs) to help us better advocate and communicate with our patients, our members, and our state representatives. In the last 6 months we achieved the following.

- a) Met with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) which introduced ICEP leadership to the executive director and key staff members and voiced our concerns.
- b) Submitted 7 witness slips in the Illinois legislature on bills ranging from the opposition of licensing of naturopath’s as medical providers to the support of increased penalties for those committing crimes of violence against health care workers.
- c) In collaboration with ICEP’s Patient and Physician Advocacy (PPA) Committee, hosted a highly successful Advocacy Date in Springfield at the State Capitol where over 50 ICEP members came out in support of emergency medicine.
- d) Held bi-weekly legislative updates with the ICEP executive committee and chair of the PPA committee.

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e) Held monthly PPA meetings and facilitated Strategic Planning Committee at the winter ICEP Board of Directors meeting.

f) Lobbied effectively for increasing Medicaid reimbursement for EM physicians.

*A second major success was this year's leadership and advocacy day (2024 ACEP LAC) in Washington, DC with over 9 members of ICEP in attendance. There were unparalleled opportunities to work with emergency medicine leaders in other states who are facing similar issues in addition to our visits to the offices of our state senators and representatives. In the coming year, your Board hopes to be starting some new initiatives arising from this meeting.*

*Third, we held a very successful Ginny Kennedy Palys Annual Symposium. The meeting was an exciting combination of original research, pediatric EM CME, and an opportunity for residents to showcase their teaching/speaking abilities. A big shout out to the ICEP Education Committee and the Program Chairs, Dr. Chrissy Babcock, Dr. Christopher Colbert, and Dr. Joseph Palter for putting together such a stellar program. In addition, a big thank you goes out to the ICEP Research Committee and to the ICEP Research Chair Dr. Shu Chan for judging and moderating the research forum. In case you missed the program, several of the speakers were recorded for ACEP Frontline by Dr. Ryan Stanton.*

*Fourth, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) voted to ban non-compete clauses in the future and to make current ones unenforceable on March 20, 2024. ACEP/ICEP advocacy strongly supported this measure and met with the FTC Chair Lina Kahn on numerous occasions to argue this would benefit emergency medicine physicians and their patients. This means that we will be free from restrictive corporate medicine practices that have*

harmed our specialty.

*Fifth, we increased Emergency Physician Medicaid reimbursement by 20%. ICEP partnered with the Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS), met with State Senator Ann Gillespie, and lobbied the state legislature to increase patient access to care by increasing Medicaid reimbursement of emergency physicians. Medicaid reimbursement is now set at 72% of Medicare rates.*

These successes would not be possible if not for the commitment and hard work of our many members. It is appropriate in this moment to highlight several who received awards in recognition for their service at the Symposium.

Dr. Chrissy Babcock recipient of this year's Bill Smiley Award.

Dr. Mark Cichon recipient of the Meritorious Service Award.

Dr. Greg Podolej who received the Downstate Member Service Award.

ICEP cannot thank these members enough for their years of selfless devotion to ICEP and emergency medicine. Finally, let me thank our outgoing ICEP President, Dr. Howie Mell for his service to the organization and board over the last year. Howie was instrumental and helping the board hire a new executive director as President-Elect and the hiring of our new advocacy firm Mercury. We thank him for his service to ICEP. Additionally, I would also like to thank our outgoing board members Dr. Kim Stanford, Dr. Scott Heinrich, Dr. Jason Kegg and Dr. Trenika Williams for their service.

I am happy to welcome 4 new ICEP board members including Dr. Halleh Akbarnia, Dr. Nicholas Cozzi, Dr. Greg Podolej, and Dr. Joshua Miksanek. We also are fortunate to have two new 2024 ICEP Leadership scholarship recipients Dr. Jacob Cabrejas and Dr. Edie Waskel whom joined us this

year in legislative and advocacy issues.

In the coming months, I will be working with your board members and committee chairs to improve the quality of ICEP programming to you as well as better communicating the value of ICEP membership. We recognize that ICEP is an investment in yourself and in your practice and we are committed to partnering with you as we improve ourselves and our specialty. If you are not a member, I invite you to join us. If you are a member but not involved, I ask for you to consider joining one of our many committees. Involvement can also be in the form of writing a council resolution or running for elected office for the Board or as a Councillor for ACEP. Not sure where to start? Reach out to our executive director Bailey McMurray, one of our board members or myself. We need your opinions, ideas, and activism. If you have colleagues that are not members, encourage them to join. We need all Illinois emergency physicians to join the fight to better the lives of our patients through the improvement of our wellness. Let me close with another quote by Dr. Osler:

*"We doctors do not "take stock" often enough and are very apt to carry on our shelves stale, out of date goods. The (medical) society helps to keep him (physician) "up to the times and enables him (them) to refurbish his (their) mental shop with the latest wares".*

When was the last time you took stock of yourself? Isn't it time to stop and reevaluate what you want out of emergency medicine?

Invest in yourself and your patients by joining us and becoming involved. Your patients and your colleagues need you and you can gain much by giving back to the specialty that offers much. Join the cause of emergency medicine in Illinois. I look forward to greeting you personally.



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## Pay Your Membership Dues Through ACH

We are excited to announce that ACEP now offers the option to pay your membership dues through direct ACH transfers, also known as electronic check. ACH transfers are electronic, bank-to-bank money transfers processed through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) Network. Not only does this make your renewal seamless, but it also saves our chapter money! Paying by ACH greatly reduces the fees that ACEP and our chapter must remit to the credit card companies and allows us to put more dollars directly towards the advocacy

efforts and other member benefits that you value.

This new payment option is available on the membership application for new and renewing members, while those who are using installments and auto-renew can easily update their payment information any time by accessing the [Payment Methods](#) section of [My Account](#) on ACEP's website.

### 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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# When Emergency Physicians Regularly Fear Violence at Work, It's Past Time for Change

As the nation's employers acknowledge April as Workplace Violence Prevention Awareness Month, members of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) are on Capitol Hill this week to advocate for legislation to strengthen protections for health care workers on the job, as part of the [2024 Leadership and Advocacy Conference](#).

"When our status quo involves daily fear of assault, it's time for change," said Aisha Terry, MD, FACEP, president of ACEP. "Emergency physicians have to be able to focus on caring for patients, without fearing for their safety. We cannot do that if entire care teams are put in harm's way every time we go to work. Now is the time for legislative solutions that protect health care workers and patients."

More than nine in ten (91%) emergency physician respondents report being threatened or attacked in the past year, according to a [2024 ACEP poll](#) of its members. In fact, nearly three-quarters (71%) of respondents believe that violence in the emergency department is worse than last year. As part of the polling, ACEP gathered more than 800 [troubling stories](#) directly from emergency physicians.

These firsthand accounts reveal that emergency physicians and their teams are regularly assaulted. Most have been punched, kicked, or spat on. Many have had heavy or sharp medical equipment thrown at them. Some have been threatened with weapons ranging from guns and knives to hatchets or machetes.

Current and [previous](#) polling underscores that emergency physicians feel they have little to no recourse. Fortunately, nearly half (48%) of the 2024 poll respondents said that legislation to strengthen workforce protections would make them feel safer on the job.

This week, ACEP will be on Capitol Hill to support the "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act" (H.R. 2663/S. 1176), introduced by Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) and Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), which would require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue an enforceable standard to ensure health care and social services workplaces implement violence prevention, tracking, and response systems.

ACEP also supports the bipartisan "Safety

from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act" (H.R. 2584/S.2768) introduced by Representatives Larry Bucshon (R-IN) and Madeleine Dean (D-PA) and Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Marco Rubio (R-FL), which would establish federal criminal penalties for violence against health care workers.

During ACEPs annual Leadership and Advocacy Conference, legislators and policymakers will also hear directly from emergency physicians about solutions to the [boarding crisis](#), the importance of due process protections for employed emergency physicians, and more.

"We ask that Congress join us to help shore up the emergency physician workforce by ensuring that doctors on the frontlines can continue to care for anyone, anytime," said Dr. Terry. "Today, they have an opportunity to address overcrowded emergency departments, strengthen the laws that protect health care workers, and ensure the highest quality of care while making it easier for emergency physicians to do what they do best—save lives."

- [ACEP](#)

## Reminder: Council resolutions are due by Sunday, June 30, 2024

Council resolutions are due by Sunday, June 30, 2024, no later than 11:59 pm Central time, for the 2024 Council meeting. Please refer to the "[Guidelines for Writing Resolutions](#)" as you prepare your resolution. The [Resolution Preparation Checklist](#) is another helpful tool as you finalize your resolution for submission. The resolution template is attached.

Are you seeking cosponsors for your resolution? Feel free to post your resolution on this Council engagED site for comments and to solicit cosponsors. Contact the [chapter executives](#) to seek cosponsors from

any of the chapters. Contact the section chair to seek cosponsors from a section. Visit the [section website](#) (scroll down to middle of the page to "Visit a Section Website") to find out the name of the section chair or staff liaison.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need assistance with preparing a resolution.

Here are the important upcoming deadlines for the 2024 Council meeting.

**June 30** - Resolutions Due

**August 14** - Co-Sponsors Due

**August 29** - Resolutions to Council, Asynchronous Testimony Opens

**September 18** - Asynchronous Testimony Closes

**September 23** - Preliminary Reference Committee Reports Distributed

**September 27** - Council Meeting Day 1, Mandalay Bay Convention Center, Las Vegas

**September 28** - Council Meeting Day 2, Mandalay Bay Convention Center, Las Vegas

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## Congress Introduces ACEP-Developed Due Process

The "Physician and Patient Safety Act" (H.R. 8325/S. 4278) is now formally introduced in Congress. This bipartisan, bicameral bill would ensure emergency physicians are afforded due process protections under medical staff bylaws before an employer makes decisions affecting a physician's employment status.

One of ACEP's top advocacy priorities during this year's Leadership and Advocacy Conference (LAC) was urging Congress to support and pass this legislation.

ACEP helped develop this bill that would require the Department of Health and Human Services to issue regulations ensuring that any physician granted medical staff privileges at a hospital has a fair hearing and appellate review through appropriate mechanisms before any termination, restriction, or reduction of professional activity.

[Read the full article on ACEP's website here.](#)

## FTC's Noncompete Clause Rule: A Compliance Guide for Businesses and Small

As you may know, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) voted to issue a rule banning non-compete clauses on April 23rd, 2024. The rule is set to go into effect on September 4, 2024. Under the rule, non-competes are arrangements that prohibit, penalize, or functionally prevent a worker from getting a new job or starting a business after leaving their employment. In short, the rule bans employers from entering into non-competes with workers covered by the rule. It also makes unenforceable most existing non-competes, except for existing non-competes with senior executives and situations where the non-compete was allegedly breached before the effective date.

To help businesses understand what this rule means for them and how to comply, the FTC has prepared a [business and small entity compliance guide](#). The guide contains step by step instructions for complying along with FAQs further explaining the rule. Additionally, the FTC recorded a compliance webinar for businesses on May 14th, and you can access the video and transcript at <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/events/2024/05/ftc-compliance-webinar-final-noncompetes-rule>.

You can read more about the final rule on our [website](#) and in this [fact sheet](#). In particular, the text of the rule and model notices that you can use to comply with the

rule's notice requirement are available on our [website](#). You can also contact the FTC at [noncompete@ftc.gov](mailto:noncompete@ftc.gov) if you have further questions.



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# The Ginny Kennedy Palys Annual Symposium

Our Ginny Kennedy Palys Annual Symposium was a huge hit this year on May 29, 2024 at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Thank you to all the attendees, sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers and staff for making this such a huge success.

If you were unable to attend we had presentations from Chris Davlantes, MD, FACEP, Emily C. Dawson, MD, Samantha Krawiec, CCLS, Alisa A. McQueen, MD, FACEP, and Kenneth L. Wilson, MD, FACS.

Two of our presenters have shared their presentations with ICEP for you to view.

[Little Pipes, Big Problems: Unveiling Ductal Dependent Lesions in Pediatrics](#)  
Emily C. Dawson, MD

[Minimizing Healthcare Induced Anxiety and Trauma for Pediatric Patients](#)  
Samantha Krawiec, CCLS

We also had awards handed out to the following:

Chrissy Babcock, MD, MSc, FACEP  
Bill B. Smiley Award,

Mark Cichon, DO, FACEP, FACOEP  
Meritorious Service Award,

Gregory S. Podolej, MD, FACEP  
Downstate Member Service Award,

As well as our Resident Speaker winner  
Tamara Amponsah, MD.





# ICEP Calendar *of* Events 2024

*(Subject to change)*

**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  
LLSA 2024 Article Review  
CME Program and Courses**  
Downers Grove, IL

**November 18-19, 2024**

**Virtual Oral Board**  
Zoom

**December 3-4, 2024**

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