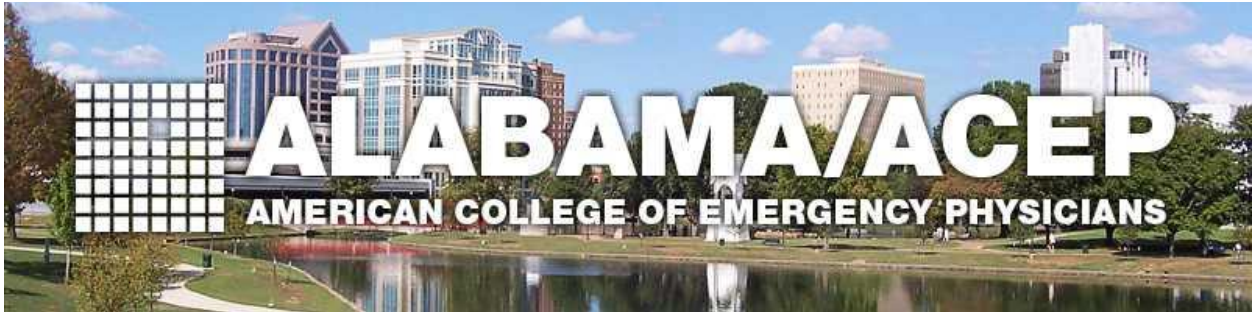


A Newsletter for the Members of the Alabama Chapter - Summer 2021

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## **President's Letter**

**Bryan Balentine MD FACEP**

**President, Alabama Chapter ACEP**

Greetings Alabama ACEP members.

I hope this finds you well midst the latest COVID surge. While you work tirelessly for your patients, please protect time to feed yourself physically, mentally, and spiritually. Staff look to us as the calm in the storm and will follow our example. You hold a powerful circle of influence so seize that today and use it to build up someone in need.

The other surges have come and gone. We now have access to a vaccine that helps tremendously with hospitalizations. This surge will also leave soon. The light at the end of the tunnel is coming and it is not a train.

Many thanks also to all of you who supported our last EMerald Coast Conference (see pictures below). It was a tremendous success with over 170 participants!!!! There was a large

financial risk involved while making the decision during the February surge. Timing was great and allowed us to meet before the current surge.

And last, many thanks to Denise Louthain as our Chapter Executive Director and her many years of service to our organization. She retires Oct 31. This opens an opportunity for someone else to help lead our organization. If you know interested individuals with conference management experience, please send them my way.

Thank you for your time. I hope you have a blessed week.  
Bryan Balentine, MD, FACEP





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## **Toxicologist unravels the dangerous medical mystery of ZaZa, Alabama's 'gas-station dope'**

Written by Matt Windsor

Experienced emergency department physicians are not easily fazed, but an outbreak of “gas-station dope” had patients in such bad shape that even the man the ED docs call for help was at a loss.

William Rushton, M.D., who runs UAB's Medical Toxicology program, is an associate professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine and medical director for the Alabama Poison Information Center (APIC), the state's poison control hotline, based at Children's of Alabama hospital.

APIC receives about 35,000 calls each year; Rushton reviews “five to 15 phone calls per day” from physicians throughout the state — snakebites, overdoses, recreational highs, hydrocarbon ingestions — which means he has little time off. (He now has assistance from Sukhshant Atti, M.D., assistant professor in Emergency Medicine and medical toxicologist at APIC.)

In August 2019, Rushton was in Las Vegas at a conference when a colleague in family medicine called his cell phone. “She had two or three patients in her clinic who were experiencing intense withdrawal-like symptoms,” Rushton recalled. “They were taking a drug called tianeptine and within one to two hours after stopping they were having severe agitation and withdrawal symptoms.” [READ FULL TEXT](#)

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## **Halloween Sadism: A Review of Poisoned Halloween Candy**

Cassidy Baldwin<sup>1</sup> and William Rushton<sup>1,2</sup>

1. University of Alabama Birmingham School of Medicine
2. Alabama Poison Information Center, Children's of Alabama

Fear of poisoned candy remains pervasive with many worried patients and guardians with presentation to health care facilities for concerned for tainted sweets during October. This phenomenon is known as Halloween sadism and refers to the concern of strangers passing out contaminated candy to innocent trick-or-treaters. In a survey from 2011, 24% of parents expressed concern about poisoned Halloween candy (which was higher than fears of abduction or falls). Yet, the historical literature reports only few isolated cases over the last 150 years which are summarized here. [READ MORE](#)

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## Thigh Pain

Kevin S. Barlotta, MD  
Courtney Blayke Gibson, MD  
University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)

**Chief Complaint:** Right thigh pain

HPI: 58-year-old female with a history of end-stage renal disease (ESRD) on intermittent hemodialysis presented to the emergency department with acute onset right lower extremity pain upon exiting her shower at home. The patient was post-operative day five following placement of a right femoral AV-graft. The patient reported sharp pain after her leg “bent backward” as her right foot failed to clear the top edge of the shower tub basin. The patient denied head injury or loss of consciousness. [READ MORE](#)



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## Trash Fire Burn

Annamalai Nadarajan Jr., MD  
Michael L. Sternberg, MD FACEP FAAEM  
University of South Alabama Health

**Chief Complaint:** “My legs are burnt”

**History of Present Illness:** A 55 yo CM with a history of seizure disorder presents to the emergency room by EMS status post sustaining burns to his lower extremities. The patient apparently suffered a seizure with loss of consciousness while unaccompanied and tending to a trash fire. Patient regained sensorium to find lower extremity burns. [READ MORE](#)



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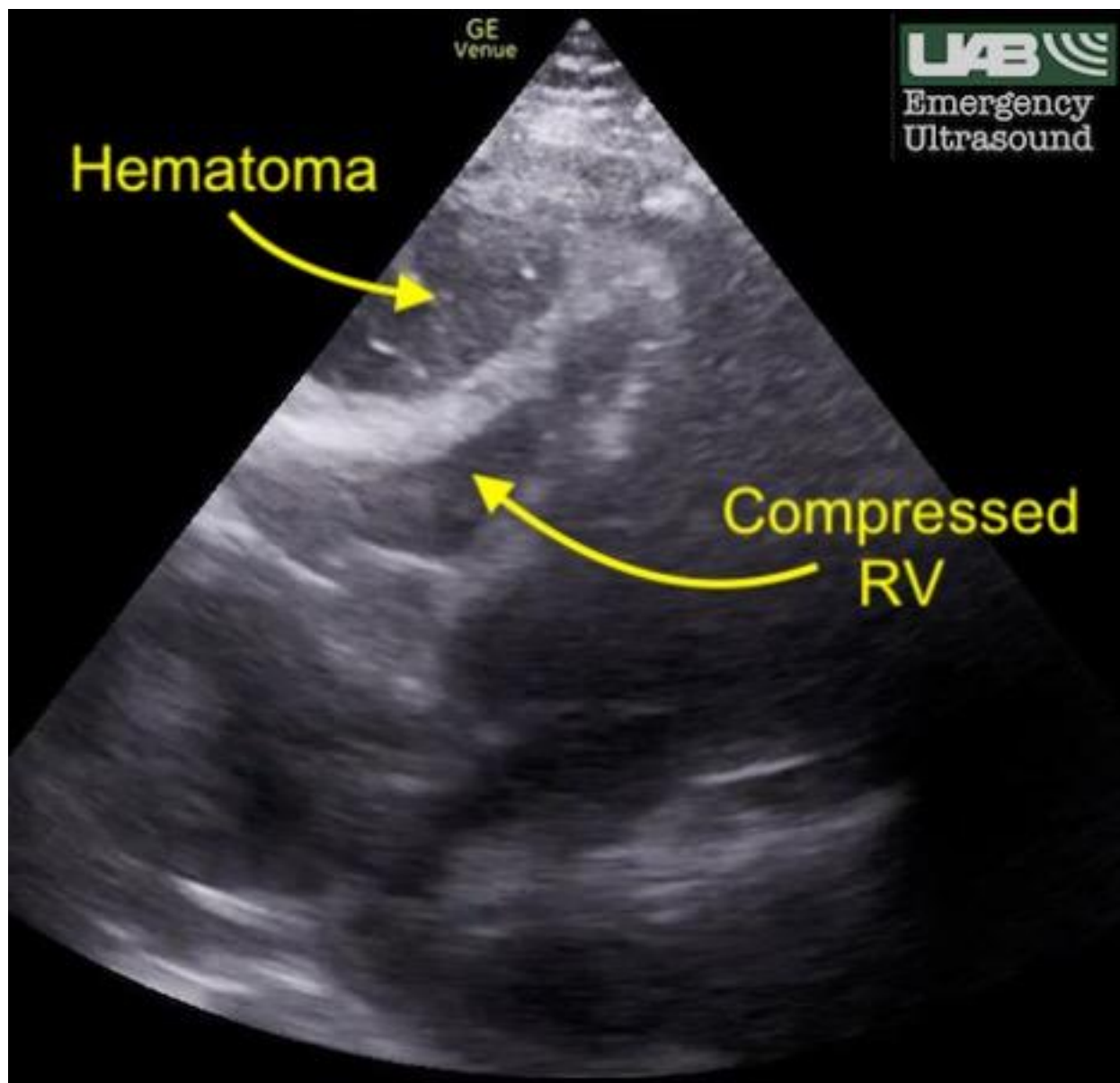
**Ultrasound Case of Interest**

David Pigott MD RDMS FACEP  
Keegan Nicodemus MD  
Stephen Knight MD  
UAB Department of Emergency Medicine  
Division of Emergency Ultrasound

**Case Presentation:** 62-year-old male with a history of CAD status post CABG 4 weeks prior, HTN, HLD, DM2, HCV, who presents with 3 days of worsening shortness

of breath. While en route to ED, he had a severe coughing episode where he felt his sternum move/shift and acute chest pain. On exam, the patient was afebrile with normal blood pressure, with HR 125, RR 25. Oxygen saturation was 97% on RA. On exam, a 3 cm ecchymosis was noted over the inferior portion of the sternal incision site. Point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) was performed:

[READ MORE](#)



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### Welcome ALACEP New Members!

Dylana Moore Adams  
Noelle Ahmed, MD  
Rebekah Cathleen Bowie

Lily Brooks  
Wesley C Brown, MD  
Alexander M Busko  
Caleb B Cantrell, MD  
Adam F Christensen, DO  
James Durden, MD  
Mel Ebeling  
Jason Eversull, MD  
Jarrett Foster, MD  
Jeremias Georgiadis, MD  
Brendon Gros, MD  
Landry Hadderton, MD  
Kaitlyn L Hall, MD  
Gregory M Heidel, MD  
Megan D Hershey, MD  
Blakeley K Hudson, MD  
Grace A Lagasse, MD  
Raymond Maguire, MD  
Carly Turner McRae, MD  
Gia-Hau P Nguyen, DO  
Garrett Nix, MD  
Walker B Plash, MD  
Rafael A Raya, MD  
John Salmon, MD  
Alexandra Frances Sappington  
Daniel Seay, MD  
Ryan Matthew Slattery  
Jessica A Smith  
Timothy B Stokes, MD  
Logan Armond Wilson, MD

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**FROM NATIONAL ACEP**

 American College of  
Emergency Physicians®

*ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE* 





**Webinar: Rural Emergency Medicine: Where We Are and Where We Are Headed**

Host: Rural Emergency Medicine Section

August 20, 2021 | 3:00 PM CT

[Register here](#)

Leaders of ACEPs Rural Section will be giving an update on current hot topics regarding rural emergency medicine. Many see rural America as the new frontier for EM workforce, and there is truth to that, but the issue is much more complex and nuanced than it may seem. Please join Drs. Scott Findley, Ashley Kochanek Weisman, and Stephen Jameson as they update ACEP sections and state chapters on rural EM workforce, Council resolutions to expand EM physician opportunities and improve rural ED patient care, rural health political initiatives, and the collaboration efforts that are underway with our NP, PA, and non-EM trained physician colleagues. There will be opportunity for Q&A during this 90-minute session as well.

### Featured News

**Senate Passes Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act**

ACEP is pleased to announce that early Friday morning, the Senate approved S. 610, the "Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act." This comes on the heels of hundreds of ACEP members joining together to lobby for this legislation during last month's Leadership & Advocacy Conference, conducting 287 meetings with legislators and staff from 44 states. [Read more details and view next steps.](#)

**EM Physician Workforce of the Future:**

- The EM Workforce Report Session from the recent Leadership & Advocacy Conference [is now available](#). Listen in as ACEP leaders discuss the data & next steps.
- The Young Physicians Section [hosted a Q&A session](#) with ACEP President Elect Dr. Gillian Schmitz and EMRA President Elect Dr. Angela Cai, asking workforce-related questions submitted by YPS members.
- "[The Emergency Medicine Physician Workforce: Projections for 2030](#)" was recently published in *Annals of Emergency Medicine*.
- **New ACEP Policy Statement:** [Emergency Medicine Workforce](#)
- Get the latest workforce updates at [www.acep.org/workforce](http://www.acep.org/workforce).

[Resident Voice: Where Medicine and Literature Meet](#) (ACEP Now, July 22)

#### **New ACEP Policy Statement & Information Paper**

- [Definition of Emergency Medicine Residency](#)
- [Medication Therapy for Psychiatric Crisis Events](#)

## COVID-19

#### **Press Releases:**

- [ACEP Urges FDA to Prioritize Emergency Physicians for COVID-19 Booster](#) (August 13)
- [Emergency Physicians to Parents and Students: Prioritize COVID Safety in Back-to-School Plans](#) (August 13)
- [Emergency Physicians Increase their Calls for Concerns around COVID-19 Delta Variant and Support Mandate to Vaccinate Healthcare Workers](#) (July 28)

#### **Do You Have a Vaccination Program in Your ED?**

As new variants continue to emerge, there is more urgency to vaccinate as many people as possible against the virus. If you have set up a vaccination program in your ED, [please take a few minutes to complete our survey for national data gathering](#). If you haven't, please consider working with your institution to provide vaccines to appropriate patients who will be discharged from the ED. An [on-demand webinar features ACEP members](#) explaining how they set up vaccine administration programs in their EDs and their lessons learned. And [there are more resources online](#), including helpful tools for addressing vaccine hesitancy.

#### **New Podcast: COVID-19 Myth Busting**

ACEP members are all fielding questions and concerns from friends and family. ACEP Frontline host Dr. Ryan Stanton sits down with Dr. Howie Mell to dispel some ongoing myths around vaccines, variants and more. [Share this episode on social media to help us battle disinformation](#).

**New:** [COVID-19 Vaccination Smart Phrase](#)

#### **Upcoming Webinars:**

[White House Conversation: Health Systems, Providers and the COVID-19 Vaccination Effort](#) (8/18, 11am CT)

[COVID-19 Variants: What Emergency Physicians Need to Know](#) (8/20, 12pm CT) During this live, free webinar we will provide an overview of Coronaviruses and the SARS-CoV-2 variants and review their classifications. The presenters will also present on the clinical implications, relevance and trends based on variants of interest, concern, and high consequence, including prevention, presentation, treatment, and management. [Register here](#).

Get the Latest Tools in the [COVID-19 Clinical Alert Center](#)

## ACEP Member Benefits

### Get the Support You Need

Stress is high right now, on so many levels. Everyone has unique needs depending on personal circumstances, but the following free support services are available:

- [Crisis counseling/wellness sessions](#) available 24/7 and strictly confidential
- [Peer support line](#) for physicians and medical students, available 24/7
- [Let's Talk forum](#) for ACEP members, our only forum to allow anonymous posts

## Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

**August 18:** [White House Conversation: Health Systems, Providers and the COVID-19 Vaccination Effort](#) (11 am CT)

**August 20:** [COVID-19 Variants: What Emergency Physicians Need to Know](#)

**August 25:** [Medical School Loans and the CARES Act: What You Need to Know](#)

**August 30:** [Rural Emergency Medicine: Where We Are and Where We Are Headed](#)

**September 23:** [Dental 101 for ED Physicians \(Webinar\)](#)

**October 25-28:** ACEP21 in Boston — [REGISTRATION IS OPEN!](#) Use promo code ACEP21CHAP for \$100 off the in-person meeting price.

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## Improve the Quality of Acute Care to Patients with ACEP Accreditation

When you choose accreditation, you are choosing to pursue a commitment to excellence across the spectrum of care that will help attract more patients and elevate your institution— providing a competitive edge in the marketplace.

- Strengthen community confidence in the quality and safety of care, treatment, and services – achieving accreditation makes a strong statement to the community about an organization’s efforts to provide the highest quality services.
- Provide a framework for organizational structure and management – accreditation involves maintaining a high level of quality and compliance with the latest standards. Accreditation provides guidance to an organization’s quality improvement efforts.
- Align emergency departments with one of the most respected names in emergency health care – being accredited by ACEP helps organizations position for the future of integrated care.

[Learn more about ACEP's Accreditation Programs](#)

### Contact Alabama ACEP

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Denise Louthain - Executive Director  
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