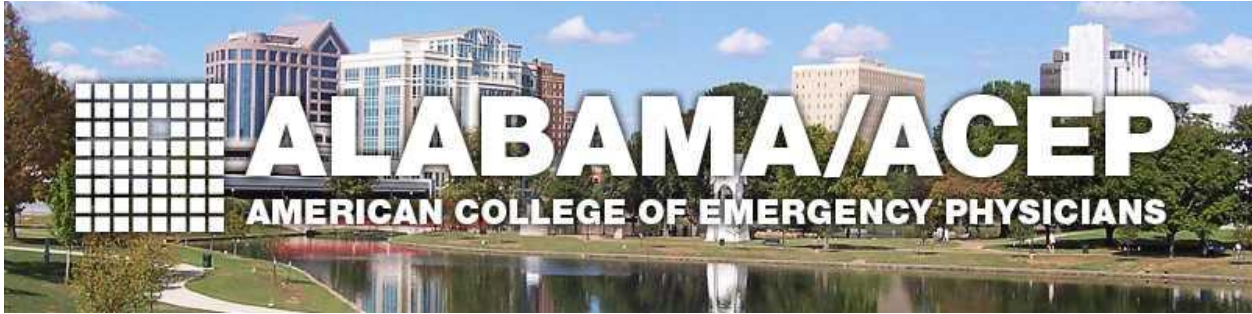


A Newsletter for the Members of the Alabama Chapter - Spring 2023



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**From Alabama ACEP**

**Bryan Balentine, MD**

**Immediate Past President, Alabama Chapter ACEP**

Thank you to our president, Dr. Husainy, for allowing me to contribute to the newsletter. It has been an honor to serve on the Board for the last 17 years, during which time many changes have occurred in the field of emergency medicine, including the advent of EMRs, changes in insurance reimbursement, documentation hurdles, and the challenges presented by the COVID pandemic.

As we reflect on our careers, it is important to remember why we entered medicine in the first place. Was it for prestige, title, or a higher income? While material possessions may come and go, the core of our desire to practice medicine lies in our desire to serve others. We serve our patients, our colleagues, our families, and our communities, building a legacy that others may want to follow.

It is easy to get caught up in the pursuit of material possessions, but we must remember that working for objects can become a trap that we never imagined. The true cost of something is always more than "just a shift." We must focus on our service to others, including those who are underserved. We don't have to travel a million miles to make a difference; there are local charity medical clinics where we can donate our time each month and make a huge impact.

For those who have the opportunity to travel further, I recommend investigating organizations such as New Horizons For Children (<https://nhfc.org>) and One Vision International

(<https://www.onevisionintl.org>) both of which I have personally worked with and highly recommend. Their locations include Ukraine, Iraq, Brazil, Africa, and the Dominican Republic. If you want to learn more, let's meet and discuss in detail at the next EMerald Coast conference June 5-8. (Rooms are filling fast!)

Life is short, so let's make a difference and leave a legacy that will inspire others to serve.

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## Register for the EMerald Coast Conference

Make plans to join us June 5-8, 2023, at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort



**REGISTRATION IS OPEN**  
**June 5-8, 2023**

Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort

Accommodations:

Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort/Linkside Conference Center  
9300 Emerald Coast Pkwy W  
Miramar Beach, FL 32550

Room rates begin at \$199 per night. For room reservations call (800) 320-8115 with group code 240904 or book online at <http://www.Sandestin.com/240904>. The deadline to reserve a room at the discounted rate is May 3, 2023.

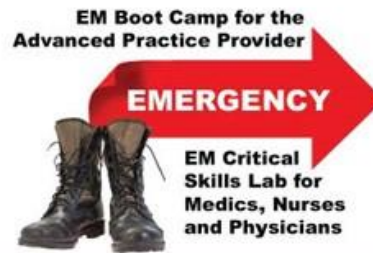
Participating ACEP Chapters: Alabama | Kansas | Kentucky | Louisiana | Mississippi | Missouri |  
Montana | Oklahoma | Tennessee

[www.alacep.org/education-and-cme/](http://www.alacep.org/education-and-cme/)

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**EMerald Coast Conference 2023 Boot Camp and Workshop agendas**

Please share with your advanced practice providers!



## Boot Camp Agenda

**7:00 a.m. – 7:15 a.m.**  
Welcome and Introductions  
*W. Ferguson, MD*

**7:15 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.**  
HEENT  
*C. White, MD*

**7:45 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.**  
Endocrine  
*W. Ferguson, MD*

**8:15 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.**  
GU/STD  
*F. Wu, MD*

**8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**  
COPD/Asthma/Resp  
*C. White, MD*

**9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.**  
Break

**9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**  
Abdominal Emergencies  
*C. Sampson, MD*

**10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**  
Sepsis  
*C. Sampson, MD*

**10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**  
Psychiatric/Excited Delirium  
*C. Sampson, MD*

**11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**  
Basic EKG/Cardiology/ACS/  
Syncope  
*W. Ferguson, MD*

**11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**  
Tricks of the Trade and Wrap up  
*F. Wu, MD*

**11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
Break

**12:00 p.m. – 12:15 p.m.**  
Documentation/Billing and  
Lunch  
*W. Ferguson, MD*

**12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
Jeopardy and Q and A  
*W. Ferguson, MD*

## Skills Lab

**1:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**  
Maximum 20 participants  
2-3 per group  
6 stations/45 minutes each

- Station 1: US CVL
- Station 2: US-Guided Peripheral IV
- Station 3: US Fast
- Station 4: Wound Care/Surgical Airway
- Station 5: Splinting/Epistaxis
- Station 6: Pit Crew CPR with LUCAS/IGEL and basic code management

## Faculty

**William Ferguson, MD, FACEP**  
UAB Heersink School of Medicine,  
Birmingham, Ala.

**Christopher Sampson, MD, FACEP**  
University of Missouri School of Medicine,  
Columbia, Mo.

**Christopher N. White, MD**  
UAB Heersink School of Medicine,  
Birmingham, Ala.

**Fred Wu, PA-C, MHS**  
University of California San Francisco,  
Fresno, Calif.

## UAB Fellows

**Blake Davidson, MD**  
**Melissa Willett-Caldwell, MD**





## 2023 WORKSHOPS

### High Risk Procedures: June 5, 2023 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.**  
Introduction

**1:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
Rotate through stations  
(45 min. each)

- US guided PIV placement
- Emergent Transvenous Pacing
- Priapism Management
- Cricothyroidotomy
- Obstructive Trach Emergency

**FACULTY**  
Vanderbilt University Medical  
Center, Nashville, Tenn.  
**Jeffrey Heimiller, MD**  
**Charles Lei, MD**  
**Jason A. Lesnick, MD**  
**Kenneth Palm, MD**  
**Ryan Walsh, MD**

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Outline the critical actions of a number of emergency medical procedures.
- Identify the indications and contraindications to performing each specific procedure.
- Perform hands on training and show knowledge of critical actions of a number of emergency medical procedures.

### Pediatric Conundrums: June 6, 2023 1:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

**1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**  
**Differentiation Between Benign and Life-threatening Rashes in Children**  
C. Zeretzke-Bien, MD

**1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
**Common Pitfalls in the Interpretation of Pediatric Imaging Studies**  
T. Wylie

**2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**  
**Common Diagnostic Errors in Pediatric Emergencies**  
C. Molins, MD

**2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.**  
Break

**2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**  
**Jeopardy - Review presentations of Pediatric Emergencies**  
C. Martinez-Martinez, MD

**3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.**  
Q&A

**FACULTY**  
**Carmen J. Martinez-Martinez, MD, MSMEd, FACEP, FAAEM**  
USA Whiddon College of Medicine, Mobile, Ala.  
**Caroline Molins, MD, MSMEd**  
USA Whiddon College of Medicine, Mobile, Ala.  
**Todd W. Wylie, MD**  
University of Florida College of Medicine, Jacksonville, Fla.  
**Cristina M. Zeretzke-Bien, MD, FAAP, FAAEM, FACEP**  
University of Florida Health, Gainesville, Fla.

### Ultrasound: June 7, 2023 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**  
Introduction

**1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**  
Rotate through stations  
(45 min. each)

- Ultrasound Guided Procedures
- Advanced Cardiac Echo
- MSK Ultrasound

**4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
Conclusion, Q & A

**FACULTY**  
**Samuel "Luke" Burleson, MD**  
**Neal Bucher, MD**  
**Kat Griesmer, MD, MPH**  
**David C. Pigott, MD**  
**Justin Pinkston, MD**  
**Maxwell Thompson, MD**  
UAB Heersink School of Medicine, Birmingham, Ala.  
**Adrienne Malik, MD**  
University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kan.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Demonstrate basic knowledge of ultrasound-guided procedures.
- Summarize echocardiographic principles used in Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS).
- Apply musculoskeletal radiology (MSK) imaging basics to patients in the emergency department.

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## Odds Are Campaign



Don Williamson, MD executive director of The Alabama Hospital Association opens the press conference with Bobby Lewis, MD, FACEP behind him ready to speak.

The Medical Association of the State of Alabama, along with Alabama's other statewide health organizations, have collaborated to raise concern about the recent dangers of illicit fentanyl, a powerful drug that is the leading cause of overdose deaths in Alabama and across the nation.

Leaders of the state medical association, hospital association, and the departments of public health and mental health gathered outside Jackson Hospital in Montgomery to launch the "Odds Are Alabama" campaign, an initiative to educate the public on the risks of fentanyl and direct them to information and help. The name of the campaign is based on a study by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency that found that 60 percent of fake pills seized by the DEA contained a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl.

Dr. Bobby Lewis, an emergency room physician at UAB Hospital, who also serves on the ALACEP board of directors, said he sees the consequences of fentanyl on a weekly basis.

“Rarely does a day go by that we don’t see at least one or more fentanyl overdoses,” Lewis said. “And unfortunately, we see several deaths per week from overdose. There are multiple things that folks take on the streets, methamphetamines, cocaine, heroin. But by far the biggest problem is the fentanyl.”

The Medical Association of the State of Alabama, The Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Alabama Department of Mental Health, Alabama Department of Public Health, The Alabama Hospital Association, The Alabama Chapter of The American College of Emergency Physicians, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, Scout Branding Company, and VitAL Alabama are partners in the “Odds Are Alabama” campaign.

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## **Grassroots is Critical to Success in the Alabama Legislature** **Evans Brown, Manager Government Relations and Public Affairs**

The 2023 Regular Session has made it crystal clear that grassroots politics is the biggest difference maker when it comes to advocating for or against a position in the Alabama Legislature. If one advocacy group is highly organized in each legislator’s district and community, legislation has a better chance of passing.

Many non-physician groups have done just that. They have cultivated relationships when the legislature is not in session, called on their senators and representatives for and against specific legislation, and showed up to the Alabama State House en masse on a weekly basis. Even if specific legislation does not affect your specialty, it is imperative that your specialty and the whole house of medicine is active in the political process because if it’s not your specialty being affected by certain “scope creep” legislation right now, your specialty - and the patients you serve and treat - could be next

Although it is tough to match some non-physicians’ grassroots efforts, your one phone call can make a difference and legislators want to know your opinion on healthcare related issues, you simply have to make sure you speak up. Legislators must hear from physicians on these issues and in fact will often - if given the opportunity - lean on your expertise before voting on these scope expansion type bills.

In a lot of ways, the State House can be likened to an Emergency Department; you do not know what to expect each day. However, what can be expected is that if legislators do not hear from physicians on a particular piece of dangerous legislation, then that bill will likely have a greater chance of passing. If your voice is not heard, bills negatively impacting patient safety could become law in Alabama.

The outstanding relationship between the Medical Association and AL-ACEP has proven many times over how effective physicians can be when their voice is magnified and heard in the State House. Just last year, our organizations worked together with other medical specialties to defeat a dangerous non-nurse midwife, homebirth VBAC bill. Through physician testimony and the conveyance of real-life experience, that bill was defeated narrowly on a 5-4 vote in committee. If it wasn’t for the testimony of an OBGYN and an Emergency Physician to the committee that day, non-nurse midwives could be attending VBACs in the homebirth setting in Alabama today. That’s a scary thought!

The Medical Association looks forward to continuing our relationship with AL-ACEP and highly value the partnership. Please feel free to contact our team with any questions you have on current and



future legislation or how you can get involved. Not surprisingly, the best way oftentimes is simply being willing to show up!

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### **Graduating in June? Renew Today. Get Discounted Dues, and Stay Involved**

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation! ACEP and ALACEP have been with you throughout your training, and we're excited to stay by your side as you continue your EM journey. ACEP is the only EM organization that invested \$1M+ of our member dues dollars to push back on scope creep. ACEP is currently involved in – not one, but nine -lawsuits to protect your autonomy and reimbursement. We also know money is tight. That's why ACEP discounts dues 75 percent in your first year after residency or fellowship. Help us stay in the fight. [Renew Today](#).

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## **FROM NATIONAL ACEP**



### **Take Action**

**Urge your Representative to help the ED boarding crisis.** Our hospital emergency departments (EDs) have reached or are past the breaking point. Ask your House member to sign a bipartisan congressional "Dear Colleague" letter urging the Administration to swiftly convene an ED Boarding Task Force with broad stakeholder representation. The more legislators that sign onto the request to the Administration, the more likely it is that they will make it a priority! **The letter closes on May 24 so we need your immediate action.** [Click here to take action.](#)

**Urge your legislators to cosponsor two bipartisan bills to address violence in the ED:**

- [The "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act" \(H.R. 2663/S. 1176\)](#)
- [The "SAVE Act" \(H.R. 2584\)](#)

## ACEP Resources & Latest News

**New Indiana Bill Requires Hospital EDs to Have a Physician On Site.** Indiana recently passed legislation that will require every emergency department in the state to have a physician onsite and responsible for the ED. Thanks to the tireless advocacy of Indiana ACEP, patients who need emergency care across the state of Indiana now have reassurance that a physician will be in the emergency department at all hours to provide high quality patient care. [Read more.](#)

**As the situation with Envision develops, ACEP is focused on you - the emergency physician.** We continue to monitor the transition closely and will ensure our members are empowered in their next steps. If you need help, [view these resources.](#)

**How does advocacy affect reimbursement?** Jordan G. R. Celeste, MD, FACEP, ACEP's RUC Advisor, [gives a helpful overview](#) in this regulatory blog post.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the [winners of ACEP's 2023 Leadership & Excellence and Council Awards!](#)

**This week, ACEP's Well-Being Committee and Wellness Section invite you to participate in quick, daily challenges to mark [EM Wellness Week](#).** Today's focus is all about celebrating the small stuff. Intentionally seeking things to celebrate, however small, can increase your sense of wellbeing and life satisfaction.

**It's [EMS Week](#),** and you are invited to this educational opportunity focused on **EMS and pediatric patients:**

- May 24 at 5 p.m. CT: ["The Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator \(PECC\): Where Emergency Care for Kids Begins"](#) will highlight the role of PECCs, also known as pediatric champions, in EMS agencies.

**Have you checked out the new asthma point-of-care tool?** [Asthma Exacerbation in the ED](#), available on acep.org and the ACEP Mobile app, walks through clinical features, pharmacologic treatments, life-threatening presentations, pediatric and pregnant considerations, discharge planning and more.

**[Join the Climate & Energy MIG](#) to study and implement ways to decrease the carbon impact of our specialty.** This new group has an interest in combating climate change, decreasing the use of single-use plastics in medicine and those who see the connection between climate change and global health.

## Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

**May 21-27:** [EMS Week](#)

**May 21-27:** [EM Wellness Week](#)

**May 25:** [Last day to submit comments on Severe Agitation policy draft](#)

**July 25:** [Last day to apply for the Annals of Emergency Medicine Resident Fellow](#)

**Oct 9-12:** [ACEP23](#) Scientific Assembly, Philadelphia, PA



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## Contact Alabama ACEP

Hamad Husainy, DO, FACEP - President

Meghan Martin - Executive Director

[Email](#) | 334-954-2500 | [Website](#)

### Alabama ACEP

c/o Medical Association of the State of Alabama

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