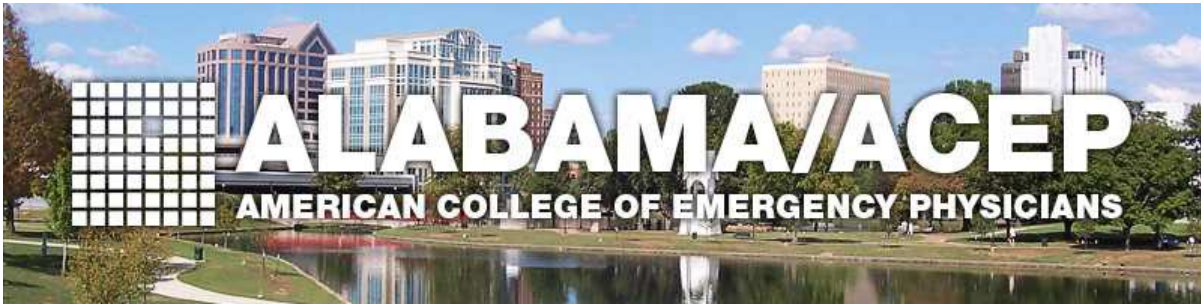


A Newsletter for the Members of the Alabama Chapter - Summer 2024

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EMerald Coast 2024 Recap

Attendees from 20 states gathered in Sandestin, Fla., June 3-6, for the regional meeting of emergency medicine providers. Education sessions included topics ranging from patient care, to media savviness and updates on the state of emergency medicine. Conference attendees also had many opportunities in between sessions to visit the Photographic Cases: Podiatric Emergencies from Nada Al-Faraj, MD and Derek Hunt, DO. The 2024 poster completion accepted 22 entries. The always popular Garvey Games, a Jeopardy-style quiz competition with residents from across the southeast, was a big hit with attendees. Monday evening featured a welcome reception at the Linkside Center for attendees, exhibitors and their families. [Read more and view image gallery.](#)



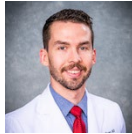
Special thanks to Annalise Sorrentino, MD, and Jaron Raper, MD, for their work in planning the conference. Join us next year at Sandestin beach and golf resort June 1-5, 2025!

Meet AL-ACEP new board members, along with our new president and president elect!



President - Sean Vanlandingam, MD, MBA, FACEP

Sean Vanlandingam, MD, MBA, FACEP has been an emergency medicine physician in Alabama for the last 10 years. Currently he practices at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and several other hospitals throughout the state. Previously he has served as Emergency Department Medical Director and Chief Medical Officer in the Ascension St. Vincent's health system. He did his undergraduate studies at Southern Methodist University, completed his MBA at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, and medical school at UAB. As a resident at UAB he became involved in ALACEP and later in 2017 he became a board member. Most recently he has served as the Treasurer and is looking forward to serving now as President. When he is not working, he enjoys music, travel and spending time with family.



President Elect - Jaron Raper, MD

Jaron D. Raper, MD, is an emergency medicine physician and assistant professor at the UAB Heersink School of Medicine.

He completed his training at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, NC, where he served as chief resident in his final year. He now serves as assistant program director of the UAB Emergency Medicine Residency program, and has been core faculty at UAB since 2018.

Dr. Raper's academic interests include innovative simulation practices and the acute diagnosis and management of patients suffering from pulmonary embolism, with a focus on appropriate triage and disposition.

In addition to his responsibilities at UAB, Dr. Raper also serves as an executive board member for the Alabama Chapter – American College of Emergency Physicians. Dr. Raper was recently designated by national ACEP as a "Young Physician Leader" in the state, and in 2022 he was honored by the Council of Residency Directors in EM as "Best Speaker" at their national conference in San Diego, Calif.

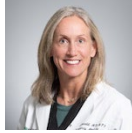


Therese Medalle, MD

Therese Medalle, MD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at University of Alabama at Birmingham Heersink School of Medicine. She completed medical school at the University of Florida College of Medicine and Emergency Medicine residency training at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Dr. Medalle has made significant contributions to the field of infectious diseases, with her clinical and research interests focusing on infection control, antimicrobial stewardship, and the management of complex infectious diseases. She has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and has been actively involved in various research projects aimed at improving patient outcomes.

In addition to her research, Dr. Medalle is a dedicated educator, mentoring medical students, residents, and fellows. Her commitment to teaching has earned her several awards and recognitions for excellence in education. Dr. Medalle's dedication to providing exceptional patient care and advancing medical knowledge continues to impact the field of medicine and improve healthcare outcomes.

**Laine McDonald, MD, MPH**

Dr. Laine McDonald is an esteemed Assistant Medical Director at the UAB Department of Emergency Medicine. With a strong foundation in biomedical science from Auburn University, Dr. McDonald pursued a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology and a Medical Doctorate at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Dr. McDonald's extensive postdoctoral training includes an internship in OB/GYN at Baylor College of Medicine and a residency in Emergency Medicine at UAB.

Board-certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine, Dr. McDonald has been a licensed physician in Alabama since 2002 and holds a medical license in Colorado. Their professional journey encompasses over 18 years of experience in emergency medicine at UAB Medical West, where they have contributed significantly to teaching and training healthcare providers, including medical fellows, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants.

Dr. McDonald is an active member of the American College of Emergency Physicians and has held various roles in hospital and non-academic appointments, including positions at Medical West, UAB Critical Care Transplant, Grandview Medical Center, and more. Their research experience spans studies on aspirin use and cancer, women's health, and prostate cancer.

Dr. McDonald's dedication to healthcare extends beyond clinical practice, demonstrated through involvement in medical missions, AIDS education, and serving as a mentor in the Big Brother/Big Sister program. They have received numerous accolades, including the UAB Hospitality Hospital Administration Award, and have completed specialized training in healthcare leadership and emergency response.

Top 10 Highlights of 2024 Session



MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA®

Top 10 Highlights of 2024 Session



**Rural Physician Workforce
Initiatives Boosted**



**K-12 CPR Training, AED
Devices in Schools Required**



**State Funded Medical
Residencies Expanded**



**Critical Safeguards, Truth in
Advertising Requirements Included
in PT Law Revamp**



**Lowering of Newborn Care
Standards and Removal of Birth
Center Oversight Prevented**



**ADPH Overhaul Largely Keeps
Politics out of Public Health**



**Access to Off-Label
Treatments Preserved**



**“Flat Fee” for 3rd Party Medical
Records Requests Fails**



**Overdue Tort Reform
Discussions Begun**

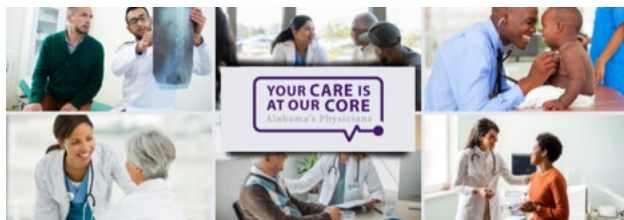


**Supported Continued Access to
IVF for Families**

During the 2024 legislative session, nearly 17 percent of the filed bills and resolutions focused on healthcare, amid debates on gambling, school choice, and DEI requirements. This year, the Association is highlighting the top 10 issues that affected medicine and health care and taking a deep dive into each. In the first installment, the focus is on boosting rural physician workforce initiatives. Through legislation and funding, efforts were

made to improve access to quality healthcare in rural and underserved areas, ensuring all patients receive the care they need.

“Your Care Is at our Core” Campaign



The Medical Association of the State of Alabama is proud to launch the Your Care is At Our Core Campaign in partnership with the American Medical Association (AMA) to strengthen America’s bond between physicians and patients.

Physicians entered the practice of medicine to treat and care for their patients, to be their patients’ strongest ally, and to give both personal and physical attention to those that they treat. They are compassionate and empathetic healers working to give their patients quality health care.

Physicians and patients both know that the doctor-patient relationship is an essential part of quality care, and spending time together plays an important role in making the best health care decisions. Time is important – Time to have questions answered, time for a second look, time to make the best choices together. Physicians do not want to be stuck dealing with the red tape and bureaucracy of health care. Physicians want to spend time with their patients, as that connection is vital to truly understanding and addressing the health care needs of those patients.

- [Visit the Your Care is at Our Core website Here](#)
- [Watch the Your Care is at Our Core PSA Here](#)

If you have a recent case study that you would like to submit to our quarterly newsletter for publication email Meghan at mmartin@alamedical.org.

FROM NATIONAL ACEP



ACEP Resources & Latest News

ACEP Urges US Senate to Pass the SAVE Act, Prevent ED Violence

ACEP and the American Hospital Association (AHA) co-hosted a Senate briefing in support of the bipartisan Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act. ACEP polling, your firsthand accounts and more can be found [here](#). [Read more](#).

It's Time to Call Out Insurance Companies — We Need Your Help

We've all seen how insurers do all they can to delay, reduce or even outright deny payments. Enough is enough — ACEP is calling out their bad behavior and **you can help by [sharing your own story of bad insurance company behavior](#)** that put you, your group, or your patients at risk. **Sharing your firsthand experience through this [short, anonymous, online poll](#)** will help fuel state and federal efforts to push insurers toward transparency and better business practices.

Urge Congress to Stop Medicare Cuts

We need your help to urge Congress to swiftly identify policy solutions to provide long-term stability for Medicare beneficiaries and the physicians who manage and provide their health care. Without action, physicians and other providers will face yet another cut to Medicare reimbursements, further destabilizing our already fragile health care safety net. [Take action today!](#)

A Big Win and Strong Step Toward Banning Non-Compete Agreements

ACEP strongly applauds the Pennsylvania court decision clearing a way for the FTC ban on non-competes to go forward. ACEP fights for you — impacting these decisions from the start — by sharing your stories and fiercely defending your rights on the job. [Read more](#).

Defending You. Demanding Better. ACEP's 2023 Impact Report

From advocating for \$25.8 million in vital funding for patient care, to confronting legislation that seeks to expand scope of practice, to influencing laws that protect your clinical authority and autonomy — ACEP is proud to share an incredible journey of advocacy and progress. [Read the report](#).

Save on Fees With New Payment Option for ACEP Membership

ACH transfers, or electronic checks, are now available for new and renewing ACEP members, allowing a secure bank-to-bank money transfer which eliminates processing fees for you and ACEP. Members on an installment plan or auto-renew can easily update their payment information any time by accessing the "Payment Methods" section of My Account on [ACEP's website](#).

Register for ACEP24!

Las Vegas is full of action, and this year, you'll have more flexibility than ever - course selection is not needed in advance. [Register before Aug. 30 and get FREE Virtual ACEP24](#) - all the courses available online for 18 months. It's your safest bet.

Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

Aug 15, 4:00 PM CT: [PEER Challenge Elite Eight](#). See who moves ahead to the Final Four in this residency program test of EM knowledge!

Aug. 28, Noon-1 PM CT: [Maximize Scoring in the 2024 MIPS Program](#) - CME - free, online

Sept. 29-Oct. 2: [ACEP24](#), Las Vegas, NV - the world's largest emergency medicine educational conference

Contact Alabama ACEP

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Alabama ACEP

c/o Medical Association of the State of Alabama

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