



MACEP News

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President's Message

Elijah Berg, MD, FACEP



The summer season is usually associated with a slow down of professional activity. However, this summer was actually a very busy one for MACEP and the fall is turning

out busy as well. There has been a lot of activity surrounding the BCBS proposed initiative to directly reimburse patients, rather than providers, when a patient sees a non participating emergency physician. MACEP has voiced our members' concern that this measure may hinder appropriate access to emergency services. In the legislature, a mandatory reassignment bill was filed by Representative William Galvin who is the Massachusetts House of Representatives' Healthcare Committee Vice Chair on behalf of MACEP. After hearing testimony from three MACEP board members, reviewing a supporting statement submitted by the Massachusetts Medical Society, and also hearing testimony from representatives of BCBS, the committee went directly in to executive session and reported the bill out favorably. Additionally, MACEP representatives were able to meet directly with Speaker Finneran to discuss our concerns. At this time, the bill is in the clerk's office. It was a late file bill, and may not come out of the office this legislative year, but

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MACEP will continue to promote the passage of a mandatory reassignments of benefits law for the state of Massachusetts patterned on legislation that exists in several other states .

MACEP is looking forward to another successful Board recertification course this fall, which will be held once again just before the ABEM recertification exam. And for the first time in recent memory, MACEP has planned a new fall coding and reimbursement course which is intended to become an ongoing annual event; the course has been planned as a one day conference. Details on both conferences are available on the MACEP web site.

It is exciting that our membership is now at an all time record of 749 members as we continue to focus on encouraging growth and offering opportunities for active involvement. Collectively, emergency medicine physicians can make a difference. MACEP is also excited that a PAC was created this summer to help with legislative issues that affect the practice of emergency medicine in Massachusetts.

For those of you that do not yet know, Dean Wilkerson, formerly Executive Director of MADD, was named as the new Executive Director for ACEP last spring, and he is promoting some new initiatives. For example with his help, ACEP's Board of Directors is trying to raise ACEP's public profile without having any increases in member dues. The most effective way to promote our causes is when the ACEP national, state and local messages are consistent. To that end, ACEP has added a new program for chapters to receive a total of \$50,000 in grant money for local PR activities. The grant money may be

Save the Dates

October 24, 25 & 26, 2004

Intensive Review of Emergency Medicine Essentials: Three Day Board Review Course. Prepare for ABEM's Emergency Medicine Continuous Certification exam (EMCC) Additional evening seminar on LLSA articles.

November 12, 2004

MACEP Annual Fall Emergency Medicine Coding and Reimbursement Conference. Information and updates on reimbursement and coding for emergency physicians, billing and coding professionals, and group managers.

Please call the MACEP office at (781) 890-4407 or visit us on the web at www.macep.org for more details and registration information.

used for various public relations activities, from organizing press conferences that support ACEP objectives to issuing local press releases. MACEP would like to apply for a grant, and any members that have local issues that they would like to see be used as a basis for a grant request should contact MACEP's executive director, Susan Beer, as soon as possible. MACEP has only until November 30th to submit a proposal for the competitive grant process.

On the heels of a busy summer, we are looking forward to a busy and proactive fall, and welcome all members in playing an active roll.



Medicine's Frontline



MACEP News

MACEP News is published four times a year.

The deadline for receipt of all materials is the first of the month of publication.

<i>Display ads:</i>	Per Issue
Full-page	\$150
Half-page	\$100
Quarter-page	\$ 60
Classified	\$ 50 (75 words)

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Employment Opportunities

BEVERLY - Seeking BC/BP emergency physician to work 6-8 shifts/month. Competitive hourly rate. Excellent physician coverage and medical staff backup. Contact: Donald A. Pasquarello, MD, Northeast Emergency Associates, P O Box 128, Beverly, MA 01915; Telephone (978) 239-9280.

BOSTON - Tufts-New England Medical Center and The Floating Hospital for Children. Full time EM academic faculty position in an ACS Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center seeing 40,000 visits/year. State of the art facility located in downtown Boston. T-NEMC is the principal teaching hospital for Tufts University School of Medicine with rotating house officers in all major disciplines and residents in emergency medicine from the Harvard Affiliated Emergency Medicine Residency. Must be BP/BC in EM with clinical and teaching excellence. Interest in IS, Research, or Ultrasound encouraged. Contact Brien Barnewolt, MD, Chairman, T-NEMC, Dept. of Emergency Medicine #311, 750 Washington St., Boston, MA 02111; (617) 636-4720.

The View from the Hill

By Ronna Wallace

MACEP Legislative Consultant

The state legislature is now in "informal" session through the end of the calendar year. Generally, during informal sessions only non-controversial bills, approved by unanimous consent, will advance, rendering most substantive legislation dead for the year.

For emergency physicians, this legislative session has been marked by an increased presence in the State House and corresponding awareness by legislators and policymakers of the issues impacting emergency physicians and the patients they serve.

Undoubtedly, the most pressing matter facing emergency physicians this year is the Blue Cross/Blue Shield proposed contracting initiative under which BC/BS would discontinue the current practice of allowing patients to assign benefits to non-participating emergency physicians. Legislation was late-filed in an attempt to insure a mandatory assignment of benefits to all health care providers. In addition, meetings were held with legislative leadership and administrative officials to address the on going concerns of patient safety and access to care. MACEP membership was activated, resulting in numerous phone calls and communications to legislators and the Division of Insurance. MACEP's efforts have resulted in a delayed implementation of the plan. In addition, there has been an increase in reimbursement for participating physicians, and more attention paid to the critical issue of access to emergency care. Much has been accomplished, much remains to be done. The issue of mandatory assignment will continue to top MACEP's agenda in the next legislative session.

Another priority issue for MACEP this year has been medical

liability reform. MACEP, together with the Medical Society, and other physician specialty societies, spent the last two years actively pushing for legislative intervention to curb skyrocketing liability insurance rates. In the end, small but significant advancements were made. The fiscal year 2005 state budget cut the prejudgment interest rate in half and created a commission to study the issue and make recommendations for additional legislative action in the next session. Again, much has been accomplished, much remains to be done.

In light of new data indicating that brain injury hospitalizations are up 23 percent over the last eight years, MACEP aggressively took the offensive in pushing for increased use of helmets and seatbelts. The College was pleased to assist in securing the passage of a new law to require kids 16 and under to wear a helmet when skateboarding, rollerblading, and riding bikes and scooters. Knowing that kids aren't the only ones to benefit from the use of helmets, MACEP worked equally hard to successfully defeat the passage of legislation to allow adult motorcyclists to ride without a helmet.

Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of MACEP, and a strong coalition of non-physician advocates, legislation to allow for primary enforcement of seatbelts did not pass again this year. Hopefully, this issue will come up again early next year, and the necessary votes to pass the bill will be found among the newly elected House and Senate membership.

Other areas that will require MACEP's continued efforts in the upcoming legislative session. They include: Requiring hospitals to make emergency contraception available to rape victims; Appropriate ambulance staffing requirements; Ensuring continued full funding for the EMS Regional Councils; Promulgation of regulations to implement EMS 2000; Overcrowding and diversion.



Emergency Medicine PAC Formed

MACEP would like to announce the formation of the Massachusetts Emergency Medicine Political Action Committee (MEMPAC). The purpose of MEMPAC is to provide the opportunity for emergency physicians interested in the future of emergency medicine in Massachusetts to contribute to the support of worthy candidates for office who believe, and have demonstrated their beliefs in the principles to which emergency medicine is dedicated. You will be receiving a mailing from MEMPAC shortly looking for you to contribute generously to the efforts of this worthwhile initiative.

MACEP Congratulates...

MACEP congratulates **Dr. Stephen J. Traub** of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center who has been chosen to receive ACEP's Rookie Speaker of the Year Award. Dr. Traub distinguished himself by receiving the highest performance rating as a first year presenter during the 2003 Scientific Assembly. The award will be presented to Dr. Traub during the Faculty Appreciation and Speaker Awards luncheon on Monday, October 18 in San Francisco.

A Reminder from Shriners Hospital

Shriners Burns Hospital has asked us to remind MACEP members that they are a 30 bed pediatric burn hospital that provides acute, reconstructive, and rehabilitative care to children who have been burned at no cost to the patient, parents, or any third party. For more information, call (800) 237-5055 or visit www.shrinershq.org.

Medicare Fee Schedule Offered on CD

In November 2004, National Heritage Insurance Company will once again prepare and send the 2005 Medicare Participation Enrollment and Fee Schedule information on CD format. *No internet access is required to access the CD information.* Although the website continues to be the best and quickest source to obtain timely information (www.medicarenhic.com), there are many advantages to having the participation enrollment material on CD. Providers who billed Medicare in the past year will be mailed a CD. If after receiving the CD, they find they cannot access the data properly or download the information from the website, a paper copy of the fee schedule can be requested by calling (781) 741-3134.

MACEP Is Proud To Recognize Those Members Serving On The Following National ACEP Committees:

Academic Affairs	Jonathan Fisher, MD
Educational Meetings	Bruce Auerbach, MD, FACEP Carlo Rosen, MD, FACEP
Federal Governmental Affairs	Bruce Auerbach, MD, FACEP
Emergency Medicine	Alan Hirshberg, MD, FACEP Charlotte Yeh, MD, FACEP
Research	Carlos Camargo, MD, Dr.PH
Scientific Review	Steve Bird, MD Carlos Camargo, MD, DrPH
Public Health/ Violence Prevention	Ylisabyth Bradshaw, DO, FACEP Carlos Camargo, MD, FACEP
Clinical Policy	Jonathan Edlow, MD, FACEP
Public Relations	Stephen Epstein, MD, FACEP
Reimbursement	Elijah Berg, MD, FACEP
State Legislation/Regulatory	Bruce Auerbach, MD, FACEP
Sections Affairs	Miriam Aschkenasy, MD Ricky Kue, MD
Trauma Care & Injury	Alasdair Conn, MD Mary Patricia McKay, MD, FACEP

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Sanford (Southern Maine)

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For more information, please contact:
Laurie Gentile 800-247-8060 ext. 5038,
fax 215-957-2875, or laurie_gentile@emcare.com

For a complete listing of our job
opportunities, visit www.emcare.com

MEDICAL DIRECTOR

2004-2005 Calendar of Events

<u>Oct. 17-20, 2004</u> ACEP Scientific Assembly San Francisco, CA	<u>October 12, 2004</u> MACEP Board Meeting Radisson Hotel, Marlboro 4:30 - 6:30 pm	<u>Oct. 24-26, 2004</u> MACEP Board Recertification Review Boston Doubletree	<u>Nov. 12, 2004</u> MACEP Reimbursement Seminar MMS Building, Waltham	<u>Nov. 16, 2004</u> MACEP Board Meeting Radisson Hotel, Marlboro 4:30 - 6:30 pm
<u>December 2004</u> NO MEETING	<u>January 18, 2005</u> MACEP Board Meeting Radisson Hotel, Marlboro 4:30 - 6:30 pm	<u>February 15, 2005</u> MACEP Board Meeting Radisson Hotel, Marlboro 4:30 - 6:30 pm	<u>March 15, 2005</u> MACEP Board Meeting Radisson Hotel, Marlboro 4:30 - 6:30 pm	<u>April 12, 2005</u> MACEP Board Meeting Radisson Hotel, Marlboro 4:30 - 6:30 pm
<u>April 17-21, 2005</u> Leadership and Advocacy Washington, DC	<u>May 11, 2005</u> Annual Meeting Crowne Plaza Hotel Natick	<i>For details and registration information, please call us at (781) 890-4407 or visit www.macep.org.</i>		

MACEP welcomes the following new members:

Christine Arbelaez, MD
Tobias Barker, MD
Edward Borquez
Thomas Burke, MD, FACEP
Jacob Chapman, MD
William Davenport, MD
Adreas Dewitz, MD, FACEP
Cemil Erdem, MD
Joseph Guarnaccia, DO
Nicholas Genes

Shawn Howland, MD
Jonathan Ilgen, MD
Elizabeth Karagosian, MD
Kevin King, MD
William Krauss, MD
Marisela Marrero, MD
Regan Marsh, MD
Todd McGrath
David Morris, MD
Kimberly Morrisette

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