

American College of Emergency Physicians  
**Observation Medicine Section**

*ACEP24*  
September 30, 2024  
MINUTES

**Participants**

Section members participating for all or part of the meeting included: Margarita Pena-Morris, MD, FACEP, Outgoing Chair; David Meguerdichian, MD, FACEP, secretary; Sharon Mace, MD, FACEP, FAAP, substitute councilor; Brandon Allen, MD, FACEP; Arthur Au, MD; Taruna Aurora, MD; Christopher Baugh, MD, MBA, FACEP; Christopher Caspers, MD, FACEP; Carol L Clark, MD, MBA, FACEP; Brittany M Garza, DO; Brian Hiestand, MD, FACEP; Eustace L Lashley, MD, FACEP; Joseph D Lykins V, MD; Daniel R Martin, MD, MBA, FACEP; Abhishek Mehrotra, MD, MBA, FACEP; Vinay Mikkilineni, MD; Praveen K Mital, MD, MBA, FACEP; Sina Mostaghimi, MD; Anwar Osborne, MD, MPM, FACEP; Adam J Rodos, MD, FACEP; Michael A. Ross, MD, FACEP; Pawan Suri, MD; Vaishal M Tolia, MD, FACEP; Michael A Turturro, MD, FACEP; Carissa J Tyo, MD, FACEP; Joseph W. Watkins, IV, MD; Elizabeth B. Werley, MD, FACEP; and Alan X You, MD.

Others participating for all or part of the meeting included: Cynthia Singh, Director of Grant and Foundation Development, ACEP; and Jessica Whittle, MD, PhD, FACEP, Vapotherm, CMO

Dr. Pena-Morris welcomed everyone. She noted it was an exciting year for our section. There were several great newsletter articles including trends in observation care, updates on reimbursement, and an interview with last year's Lou Graff Award winner, Dr. Mike Ross. She reminded everyone about the JACEP Open Journal as an option for Observation Medicine articles and encouraged submissions.

Dr. Rodos provided an update on the Council meeting. There were 70 resolutions discussed. 55 were adopted, 6 were not adopted, and 9 were referred to the Board of Directors. The council also elected:  
President-Elect - L. Anthony Cirillo, MD, FACEP  
Board of Directors: Jennifer Casaletto, MD, FACEP; C. Ryan Keay, MD, FACEP; Heidi C. Knowles, MS, MD, FACEP (incumbent); and Diana B. Nordlund, DO, JD, FACEP

Strategies to sustain emergency care in the US—will provide data to emphasize safety net effect of emergency medicine. The theme from council – it feels like an inflection point for our specialty. Some of the resolutions included:

- Collecting Data on Boarding and Transfers - to use to advocate for change
- Workplace violence
- EMTALA data
- Staffing and Trainee exposure to rural medicine
- Showing value proposition of ACEP Membership

Dr. Anwar Osborne voiced the importance of defining appropriate observation admissions to present observation as a solution for boarding.

- Member voiced tracking Payor data
- A resolution to remove the 3 midnight/day rule discussed.
  - Support was shown by group to remove it
  - Dr. Anwar Osborne advocated the data exists from our experience with Observation during the pandemic when there was a waiver and the system worked well.

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Dr. Jessica Whittle, ACEP member and Chief Medical Officer of Vapotherm spoke on “Speeding up my Practice with High Velocity Therapy in the ED.” She has a research interest in critical care. She started working with Vapotherm and they are running clinical trials.

- High-velocity Nasal Insufflation—RCT compared to BIPAP showed no statistical difference in HR, RR, intubation, or CO2. Similar outcomes in failure rate seen in newer study. Patients report more comfort on NC vs BIPAP
- Therapy shown effective in pediatric patients down to neonates

### Initiatives

- [ACEP Accelerate](#) - Observation Medicine Science and Solutions Conference was incorporated into Accelerate. Next offering will be on January 18-19, 2025 during Accelerate in Orlando.
- OU Accreditation Effort Discussed
  - Type 1 unit gold standard
  - Highlighted how we have set the standard in the Observation space over the years
  - No standard for OUs
  - Dr. Margarita Pena advocating for us to set the bar
  - OUAP was approved to move forward in June of 2024
  - OU accreditation provides benefits to hospitals and EPs on multiple levels
  - Should provide public assurance of the care being provided in an accredited unit
  - OU accreditation to be based on recent updated Observation Section prep paper
  - Proposing 2 tiers
  - Tier 1 application- accreditation
  - Tier 2 application- consultation with accreditation
  - Board of Governors and advisors will provide oversight and there is opportunity to be involved if interested
  - Discussion:
    - Member encouraged to set the standard and include all types of units including IM run OUs
    - Member worried that lack of accreditation could be used against EM Observation units by Medicine Departments to argue that unaccredited EM groups can't run the OUs
    - Dr. Mike Ross encouraged a focus on EM, set the bar, and build from there
    - Member excited about consultation component which he believed will be helpful advocating to hospital c-suite
- Focused Practice Designation
  - Discussed using this to set the standard for the specialty of Observation Medicine -allows to assess and acknowledge additional expertise that physician gains through clinical experience
  - Advanced Emergency Medicine Ultrasonography (AEMUS) has this in place
    - Core Content
    - FPD Exam
  - Discussion
    - Member argued against this due to negative / challenging experience from AEMUS FPD
    - Mike Ross argued that FPD gives a set skill set designation

Dr. Pena asked that attendees reach out if interested in helping with either initiative.

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Dr. Mike Ross presented on the DECOM (Disaster Coalition of Observation Medicine) Initiative

- Showed experience and data on 6 disasters where Observation units were leveraged
- Capacity management central to disasters and also observation medicine
- Discussed SRDRS Disaster Coalition of Observation Medicine
  - Clarify role of EDOU in disaster
  - Develop specific guidelines for unique disaster conditions
  - Detail how to best leverage telemedicine with EDOUs in a disaster
  - Foster a collaborative EDOU network for disaster preparedness
- Would like to expand this to outside South East

Newsletter—Dr. Dave Meguerdichian, outgoing Secretary for the Section, advocated for submitting articles for future section newsletters.

Election results were announced.

- Chair-elect: David Meguerdichian, MD, FACEP
- Secretary: Praveen Mital, MD, MBA, FACEP
- Alternate Councillor: Joseph D. Lykins V, MD

Lou Graff Award - Sharon Mace, MD, FACEP, FAAP was presented the award for this year

- She acknowledged learning from Dr. Graff when tapped to lead her observation section
- Distinguished career reviewed and showed great appreciation for being honored with this award.

Dr. Meguerdichian presented Dr. Margarita Pena with a plaque from the Section honoring the amazing work she has done as chair for the last 2 years.

The meeting was adjourned.