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<http://www.acep.org/youngphysicianssection/>

Be An Advocate: Get Involved and Make a Difference for You, Your Colleagues, and Your Patients

As you settle into practice, challenges like malpractice concerns, Medicare and state Medicaid reimbursement, boarding and overcrowded emergency departments (EDs) may appear to be insurmountable and never-ending. To address these and other issues relating to emergency medicine, the physicians' voice needs to be heard. Physician involvement in organized medicine provides an avenue for physicians to advocate for their patients and specialty. We all want to provide the highest quality of care possible, and with our combined strength, we can create effective, strong solutions that work.

ACEP's Political Advocacy Role

Through direct lobbying, grassroots and political advocacy, ACEP represents emergency physicians at both the state and national levels. ACEP's [Advocacy](#) page contains information on current efforts to help government craft the best legislation possible, and ways for ACEP members to get involved. Click on the link [Become an Advocate](#) to learn more about ACEP's grassroots program, the 911 Legislative Network, and [Sign-up](#) to join the Network. After joining the 911 Network, you will receive a weekly email update on current [federal legislative and regulatory issues](#) and notification and instructions on when ACEP needs your help to contact congressional representatives on critical issues.

ACEP's political action committee, [NEMPAC](#), is one of the most active and effective medical specialty PACs in the nation. NEMPAC is the financial vehicle through which ACEP members voluntarily contribute personal funds to support the election or re-election of congressional candidates who share their commitment to emergency medicine. It is a critical tool to help ACEP promote our legislative goals and express the concerns of emergency medicine. NEMPAC contributes to the campaigns of congressional candidates and legislators from both major parties.

In addition, the College provides many [Media Advocacy resources](#), including talking points, media training and public education materials. ACEP also has a new website with health and safety information for the public at www.EmergencyCareforYou.org.

ACEP Structure, Leadership and Member Participation

You can learn a lot [About ACEP](#) on its Web site. ACEP's national leadership includes the [Board of Directors](#), the [Council](#), [Committees](#), and [Sections](#); information about local leadership is found in the [State Chapters](#). All of these groups are made up of ACEP members, and there are opportunities for you to participate. YPS's downloadable booklet is available on the [YPS site](#). The booklet, ACEP 101: A Guide for Young Physicians, describes the ACEP membership structure, its Council structure, and ways for you to get involved.

The Council, comprised of state, section, the Association of Academic Chairs in Emergency Medicine (AACEM), the Council of Emergency Medicine Residency Directors (CORD), the Emergency Medicine Residents' Association (EMRA) and the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM) representatives, meets annually before *Scientific Assembly*. The Council significantly influences actions of the College through its resolutions. As an ACEP member, you may voice your opinion on the Council through your state chapter, and through sections to which you belong. More information about the Council and upcoming resolutions is available on ACEP's site. The Council meets this year in October at *Scientific Assembly* in Chicago, IL. If you are attending the Council meeting you may testify and voice your opinions during the reference committees.

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Finally, a great way to get involved, learn more about the College, and expand your horizons is through our section, YPS. Please join us at [Leadership and Advocacy](#) in Washington, DC from May 19-22, 2014 for the following YPS and EMRA events on Sunday:

EMRA/YPS Residents and First Timers Leadership and Advocacy Essentials!

11:00 am - 12:00 pm	EMRA Health Policy Committee Meeting All EMRA and ACEP Young Physicians Section Members invited to attend
12:40 pm - 1:10 pm	What's Up in Health Policy Sarah Hoper, MD, JD, <i>EMRA Legislative Advisor</i>
1:10 pm - 1:45 pm	The ACA and Emergency Care* Jesse Pines, MD, MBA, FACEP, <i>Center for Healthcare Quality, Washington, DC</i>
1:45 pm - 1:55 pm	Break
1:55 pm - 3:15 pm	Decreasing Non-Emergent ED Use* Matthew Foley, MD, FACEP, <i>SUNY Downstate – Department of Emergency Medicine</i> ; Aimee K. Moulin, MD, FACEP, <i>UC Davis Medical Center</i>
3:15 pm - 3:50 pm	Safe Harbors* Kevin Klauer, DO, EJD, FACEP; James F. Blumstein, <i>University Professor of Constitutional Law and Health Law & Policy Vanderbilt Law School</i>
3:50 pm - 4:00 pm	Break
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Simply Speaking! The No-Sweat Way to Prepare and Deliver Winning Presentations David Greenberg, <i>President and CEO, Simply Speaking Inc</i>
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Resident and Young Physician Section Reception <i>Underwritten in part by TeamHealth</i>

It's not too late to sign up! Join YPS at *Leadership and Advocacy* and at *Scientific Assembly*, and we'll show you how to get involved in ACEP. If you're not going this year, feel free to contact us if you are interested in these or any other opportunities.

Do you want to make a difference in the issues affecting your patients and emergency medicine? Get involved and influence ACEP's political agenda at both national and state levels. Be active in the College. ACEP is a large organization, and there are many opportunities for individuals to participate. The College is its members, and depends on you to affect positive changes. For members, it's an opportunity to contribute, learn, and network.

When it comes to organized medicine, the old adage is true: united we stand, divided we fall. Stay tuned for next month's issue: *Even a Good Move Seems Oxy-moronic: Movin' On Up and Doing It Smoothly*.

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