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From the President **Russell P. Tarr, MD, FACEP, PhD**

I hope this article finds everyone well. Since my last article, there have been many things to reflect upon and think about. With spring in full force and summer right around the corner, there is still much work to be done.

The Arkansas Legislative session is in the past and there were some good victories for medicine. I would encourage all to remain vigilant as there was a recent special session held to discuss issues that were not resolved during the formal session. I would encourage all members to frequently check their email for updates from national ACEP regarding state specific legislative topics and encourage you to contact your local representatives. Also, the Arkansas Medical Society (AMS) has been sending out almost weekly updates regarding the bills that directly affect the medical community on many different levels. Please also keep abreast of possible Federal Health Care Reform and speaking with your Congressmen and Senators regarding protecting patient's access to Emergency Care. I would like to thank everyone who was able to be a "Doctor for the Day" at the Capitol through AMS and thanks to all who contacted their representatives to advance our causes in the legislature.

If you are not receiving emails from national ACEP, the Arkansas ACEP Chapter, or emails from the Arkansas Medical Society regarding legislation, please [contact](#) Adriana Alvarez, our Chapter Administrative Assistant, to get on the email e-list. You can also contact our respective Public Affairs/Communications Director from AMS to begin receiving the information.

On a local note, the Arkansas ACEP chapter continues to work diligently. Please be watching for emails in the near future regarding a meeting of the Board of Directors. Adriana and I are working to try and schedule a meeting in mid-late June. If there are any issues you would like considered by the Board, please feel free to [email](#) any Board member. As an update, we will be discussing the Bylaws; yes they are still on our radar. National ACEP has a Bylaws Committee that is working on preparing a draft for the Chapter to review at the end of the year and vote on. We have until November 2018 to finalize the Bylaws of the Chapter. I suspect there will be more to come in the near future regarding the Bylaws.

With the temperatures warming and outdoor activities in full swing, I would encourage all to remember the importance of patient education. In my opinion, every patient encounter is an opportunity to educate patients on prevention and safe choices. These include, but are not limited to, wearing helmets while biking, wearing life jackets while boating, and not consuming alcohol while boating and driving. Always remind high school and college age drivers of the importance seatbelts and the dangers of drinking and driving. Also, don't forget the importance of reminding patients of the dangers of hyperthermia and heat related injuries and encouraging them to drink plenty of water and electrolyte fluids when working or playing outdoors. Preventative education is something simple and quick we can do for our patients.

Just a reminder, I will be deploying with the Arkansas Army National Guard to Eastern Africa at the end of June. I will try and write an article for the next quarter e-newsletter that will be due on Monday, August 28th, but internet and time may limit what I can do. In my absence, if there is an interesting topic you'd like to share with the chapter, please [email](#) the information to Adriana and she will make sure it gets into the next chapter e-newsletter.

I wish everyone a safe and wonderful summer, and please feel free to [email](#) me any issues, concerns, or thoughts you may have!

**From the President-Elect
Charles C. Scott, MD, PhD, FACEP**

Court Mandated Cavity Searches and the Emergency Physician

Smuggling drugs by way of body cavities is not a new phenomenon.^{1,2} This system of smuggling can be deadly from rupture of the packaging and drug overdose to bowel blockages.

In airports, searches occur frequently and are more easily justifiable legally, but the TSA has made some questionable procedure choices.³ While, I think very few would consider a cavity search reasonable if it were forced upon themselves, their spouse, parents, or children, we generally tolerate this when most law enforcement state it is justified. Recently, there have been cases that I would consider egregious.^{3,4} One of which resulted in a fairly large settlement, and another with an apology by phone from the TSA. I recently read a short article by the first emergency physician that the police presented to a hospital with a search warrant for a cavity search on a person.⁵ It turned out to be the case with a large settlement. What caught my attention was his refusal to force what was then his patient to undergo this search. Often, as emergency physicians, we are put in uncomfortable situations regarding legal, ethical, and moral issues. I applaud this physician for refusing, which the second hospital and three doctors did not see any problems performing multiple forced digital rectal exams, x-rays, CT scans and 3 enemas, followed by a colonoscopy. None of these examinations found anything. What was the evidence that this patient was smuggling something in his body: he was “erect and with his legs together” after rolling a stop sign. How they ended up with a search warrant is laughable. Hoping this was a rare incident, I did a simple internet search and found a well-researched article in The Atlantic that has several incidents with video showing police performing public cavity searches.⁶ I would caution anyone who thinks this could not happen to a close family or friend to think seriously about the implications of when we do things against the patient’s will. We give it a lot of thought and are reticent to take away anyone’s rights. I think we should equally weigh potential harm to our patient when faced with a court-order or other authority that we may think supersedes our responsibilities and our fiduciary relationship to the patient.

1. Traub SJ, Hoffman RS, Nelson LS (2003). "Body packing—the internal concealment of illicit drugs". N Engl J Med. 349 (26): 2519–26
2. <http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/drug-smuggling-the-ultimate-inside-stories-rob-stepney-explains-how-customs-officers-catch-1554334.html>
3. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4008158/Mom-breast-cancer-left-violated-TSA-agents-tried-perform-body-cavity-search-public-notified-medical-cream-bag.html>
4. <http://www.cnn.com/2014/01/16/justice/new-mexico-search-settlement/>
5. On Resolution 22, Adam Ash, Annals of Emergency Medicine, p656, May 2017
6. <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/04/cavity-searches/477264/>

From a Chapter Member
Rawle "Tony" Seupaul, MD, FACEP
Chair of EM at [UAMS](#)

I'd like to thank Arkansas ACEP for allowing us to stay in touch with all of you. There are many exciting things occurring on the University and Conway campuses.

As mentioned previously, **Mike Wilson, MD, PhD** has joined the faculty and is already off to the

paces. He has received acclaim as a top reviewer for JEM, has started the work on a funded project to study inhaled antipsychotics for acute agitation in the ED (\$500,000), and is now an associate editor for JEM.

Dr. Sarah Greenberger (tOSU) will be officially on Board this July, assuming the role of Associate PD. She will join **Rachael Freeze-Ramsey, MD** (Associate PD) and **Travis Eastin MD** (PD) rounding out our program leadership team.

Dr. Chris Fowler has been named the EM Student Clerkship Director, which now includes M3s in addition to UAMS M4s and visiting students. **Sonali Jain, MD** is our new clerkship coordinator providing support for this large educational mandate.

Dr. Jerrilyn Jones from the University of Maryland will be joining us in September. Dr. Jones has an MPH and has completed an EMS Fellowship. We are really looking forward to adding her talents and expertise to the faculty.

Dr. Rosemarie Fernandez from the University of Washington will also be joining us as the Department's Vice Chair. She is a heavily funded investigator (>\$5M) with a focus on human factors engineering. She has also developed an impressive portfolio of mentorship, which will help us develop a formal faculty development program at UAMS!

Former star UAMS medical students **Megan Taylor MD** and **Hunter White MD** will be joining us in Conway, which fills our 6 spots. We will be expanding to 9 total FTEs this fall.

US Fellowship

The US fellowship is here! **Dr. Snead** will lead our fearless former chiefs, **Komi Vovor-Dassu MD** and **Zachary Lewis MD** into the fray. This is the first fellowship in the department's long and productive history.

ICARE17

Was a success! You can read the UAMS press release [here](#). The local news also covered the event. You can read about it [here](#).

Senior Resident's Scholar's Day

Lastly, our senior resident's scholar's day led by **Dr. Carly Eastin** will be on campus May 31st. **Dr. Steve Heyden** will be our special guest/visiting Professor.

There is a ton more going on that I will share in future installments. Needless to say, this is an exciting time for UAMSEM! I really hope you enjoy these updates and come back to join us for any number of our education offerings.

You are invited to join us every Wednesday for free CME at our Resident Grand Rounds from 7:00am-11:00am. You can find the schedule and more information, by clicking [here](#).

Adriana's Corner

ACEP17 is just around the corner. I hope your schedule will allow for you to attend at least one or two days of the awesome educational program that national ACEP is preparing this year.

At **ACEP17**, the Arkansas ACEP Chapter is planning a dinner again this year so that you can meet and socialize with your colleagues from Arkansas. This dinner will be a good opportunity to meet them. I hope you can attend. More details about this event will be sent via email.

In the meantime, if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to email [me](#).

Clinical News

Antibiotic Therapy for Abscesses Medical Dogma Challenged by Evidence-Based Research, Outcomes

Have you wondered when you'd start to routinely confront superbugs resistant to multiple antibiotics in your emergency...

[Read more...](#)

Should Emergency Departments Do Fewer Red Cell Transfusions, More IV Iron?

You might be surprised to learn that many of the patients who receive red cell transfusions in...

[Read more...](#)

Treatment for Acute Gastroenteritis, Acute Epididymitis in Pediatric Patients

The best questions often stem from the inquisitive learner. As educators, we love, and are always humbled...

[Read more...](#)

New! "ACEP Trauma, Stroke, and Cardiovascular CME Collection"

The "ACEP Trauma, Stroke, and Cardiovascular CME Collection" includes 48 lectures with downloadable syllabi that will help you meet your requirements.

Group pricing available.

[Learn More...](#)

Welcome New Members!

Ms. Ashley Bartels - Little Rock

Mr. Alex Sanders - Little Rock

Mr. Stephen R. Foster - Little Rock

Theron Williams, MD - Little Rock

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