

A Newsletter for the Members of the Louisiana Chapter

Spring 2017



Jon Michael Cuba, MD, FACEP, President

[Nancy Bourgeois](#), Executive Director

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From the President

Jon Michael Cuba, MD, FACEP

I would like to introduce myself as your new president. It has been my pleasure to be a member of your board for almost ten years. During this time, I have worked with many talented and dedicated officers and board members and now it is my turn to take the lead and continue the great work and leadership we have enjoyed.

I have been married to Jessica for the last fifteen years and together we have four amazing children- Jon Michael (thirteen), Gabe (eleven), Henry (eight), and Sam (four).

I was born and raised in Canton, Ohio, had two years of high school in Gadsden, Alabama, and graduated high school in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. I went to undergrad at Auburn and the University of Alabama at Birmingham for med school. I completed my Emergency Medicine residency at LSU Baton Rouge (Earl K. Long and Baton Rouge General).

When I came out of residency in 2002, I was employed as Faculty Medical Director (FMC) at Riverwest in Plaquemine for C&M Medical Services until I returned to the Emergency Residency program in Baton Rouge as clinical faculty in 2006. I joined TeamHealth as the FMD at Ochsner in 2007 and was Medical Director of the Year for Team Health in 2008. In 2009, I was promoted to Regional Medical Director and I hold that position today. I have been responsible for as many as twenty-one emergency departments in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

My overall goals for La-ACEP will be to increase membership and engagement of the ACEP members. This will give us the best chance to be sure we are working on the issues that the front-line ER docs feel the most important, so we can bring the most value to them. Residency outreach and support are also a key objective. The young physicians section is critically important to make the biggest impact on our specialty for the long term.

I would like to thank Dr. Mark Rice for his term. He has been, and continues to be, a mentor and friend. He is an ER doc's doc and has represented us all very well on a state and national level. I believe he has really moved our chapter forward and I hope to continue with his vision of improving Emergency Medicine for the citizens of Louisiana and doing everything we can to help create the best environment in the state for ER providers to practice.

Thanks to our board (and our wise Elders) in the state for their involvement, dedication, and teamwork. We have some really great people that are national Emergency Medicine Superstars in this state. I am very proud to be a part of the group.

We have a tradition of getting involved, learning the ropes, and passing knowledge onto the next generation. Wherever you are on the spectrum we welcome you!-

Jon Michael "Mike" Cuba

Executive Director Update

Nancy Bourgeois

This has been an interesting spring for emergency medicine. Not to mention what is going on in Washington, but here at home there have been several legislative efforts that impact our specialty. There is a great deal of education to be done, this is the time for all of us to take up the charge of grass roots ambassadors to advocate for needed changes in healthcare.

For those of you who are interested in getting involved in your community, please contact our office and we will hook you up with your local state legislators and United States senators and representatives. This is an excellent way to get our message out widely. As you know, most of our policy and law makers respond more to those who have the ability to vote in their districts. This coming year will be paramount in deciding which direction our country will be heading and you, as distinguished and respected professionals can be instrumental.

If any of you want to observe, or spend some time in Baton Rouge at the state legislature, I would be happy to arrange a tour and meetings, just let me know how I can help. Believe me, it's a lot easier on this side of the argument than it was when I was required to testify and defend all budget requests as a member of state government.

On a personal and professional note, I would like to report that La-ACEP will be losing two loyal and dedicated supporters at the national ACEP level. Dawn Scrofano, and Angela Moreno of ACEP Chapter Services, will both be leaving ACEP in June of this year. Dawn will be enjoying a much deserved retirement with her family and friends and Angela will be continuing her professional journey elsewhere and doing her best to keep them in line as she has me. Both of these ladies have been patient, informative and have done their best to guide me in my role as Executive Director. They were understanding and helpful during my recovery from my heart surgery and at many other times. Please join me in wishing them both well and thanking them for their assistance to La-ACEP.

It was my pleasure to represent you during EMS Week. As you know, ACEP is the national sponsor for the annual recognition along with other specialties in pre-hospital emergency medical services and of course, Emergency Nursing. I was part of a group who were honored in two separate ceremonies at the House and Senate Chambers.

I am hoping that next year there will be even more of you in attendance for this special recognition. I expect that some of you were part of local celebrations in your own community but this is an excellent time to meet legislators and receive positive comments on what you represent.

We are planning for an exciting *Scientific Assembly* in the fall and looking forward to the Council proceedings. If you are planning on visiting DC stop by to see how your Councilors are helping to solidify the importance of emergency medicine.

Please give me a call if you need something and also look for electronic member updates and quarterly newsletters throughout the year.

Officers and Board for 2017

The 2017 Annual Meeting was held in Shreveport at LSUHSC, Shreveport campus thanks to the sponsorship of the Emergency Residency Program and Dr. Mary Ann Edens greatly assisted by the program staff under the direction of Ms. Elna King.

The ACEP key note speaker was Dr. Gillian Schmitz from the San Antonio, Texas area. Dr. Schmitz spoke on the rise of freestanding ED's and the pros and cons of this method of providing emergency care. She spoke on the ACEP priorities and direction for the future. Present during the meeting were residents and staff of LSU, representatives from the Emergency Nurses Association and the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance. Evaluations were very positive and we are thankful for the support and monetary assistance from the ACEP Residency Visit Program for Dr. Schmitz travel and the delicious lunch from Monjunis, a local legend in Shreveport.

Committees and Task Forces

La-ACEP is privileged to serve in appointed positions on several statewide committees that are advising the government and administrative and legislative branches, particularly the Louisiana Department of Health. (LDH).

A longstanding committee is the Louisiana Medicaid Quality Committee. We are represented by Dr. Laura Richey, past president of La-ACEP. She has been asked to chair and emergency medicine focus group and is asking for volunteers from our members. The purpose of the committee is to provide focus and direction activities that assure access and quality, evidence based healthcare for all Louisiana Medicaid recipients.

The Quality Committee is forming an Emergency Medicine Subcommittee and is looking for volunteers. The subcommittee will research policy issues, review data and develop recommendations to improve the quality of care. A separate letter of invite to join the subcommittee will be sent to all members under separate email.

Another active and important task force is the **Louisiana Commission on Preventing Opioid Abuse**. The purpose of this commission as established by the 2016 legislature is to study and

make recommendations regarding measures that can be taken to tackle prescription opioid and heroin abuse and addiction in Louisiana. We are represented on this work group by Dr. Philip (Luke) LeBas a member of our board. This group has been working over a year and has developed a collection of recommendations for the governor and state legislature. Governor John Bel Edwards has made Opioid abuse a priority for his administration because of the growing incidence of deaths and criminal offenses from opioid abuse. If you are interested in viewing the final report or attending any of the GOV Speak meetings and forums being held across the state, please contact our office for further information.

Dr. Beau Clark, EBR Coroner, New president of the Louisiana State Medical Society, and past president of La-ACEP and Dr. Lee Tynes of Our Lady of the Lake Psychiatry Department have invited La-ACEP to participate in the new PEC Legislation Task Force to address the issues of mental health care and treatment and the growing problem with safe transportation and in house programs in Louisiana. The group has divided into subcommittees who are addressing this complicated issue. We are represented on this Task Force by Drs Mike Cuba, Chuck Burnell, Jeff Elder and Dan Godbee. If you have an interest in this issue or want to participate on any of the subcommittees, please contact us.

Alternative Transportation

This committee although slow moving at present may be super charged in the future given the direction that the state takes regarding freestanding EDs and other sites for transportation in addition to hospital E.Ds. There is a question regarding state and federal funding for transports to these separate E.Ds. Drs Elder and Burnell, both directors of EMS services and board members represent you on the committee.

EMS Task Force

The LDH has re-activated the EMS Task Force to advise the Bureau of EMS in matters related to structure, function and scope of practice for prehospital care providers. Members are appointed by the Secretary of LDH. Dr. Chuck Burnell, Jeff Elder and Angela Cornelius serve on the Task Force as medical directors for EMS and Executive Director, Nancy Bourgeois serves as former Bureau Director on the Task Force. The Bureau is currently involved in interviewing and hiring a new director and repositioning themselves under the temporary direction of the State Fire Marshall. The ultimate goal is to explore the viable potential for an independent board of EMS similar to the state board of medicine, nursing or pharmacy.

Upcoming Dates

ACEP17, formerly entitled *Scientific Assembly*, will be held in Washington, DC October 30-November 2, 2017. The Council meeting will be held October 27 and 28.

The Board will be hosting two additional teleconferences before the end of the year. One is scheduled for August 2 and October 15. If you are interested in participating, please call the office for call in information.

La-ACEP Annual Meeting 2018

The board is planning on hosting the 2018 Annual meeting in Baton Rouge with the LSUHSC Residency program at Our Lady of the Lake in March or early April. This is an excellent opportunity to recruit new emergency physicians into our organization and to deliver the current message for healthcare policy.

The meeting, which is held prior to the state legislative session, is an opportunity to inform and empower members to prepare for the challenges of legislative process with expected issues such as balance billing, mal practice caps, transportation and other controversial and relevant issues.

We will be announcing the date of the annual meeting by separate email as a "Save the Date." Please mark your calendars early and plan to attend. There will be national and state speakers and a luncheon included.

Legislative Session

The following bills are being tracked in the Louisiana legislature by ACEP:

LA HB 192- Drugs/controlled substances. Provides for limitations on the prescribing of opioids.

La HB 435-Insurance/Health. Requires a healthcare facility to provide notice of balance billing.

La HB 490 – Drugs/prescriptions. Creates the Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education.

LA SB216 Healthcare. Provides for physicians' assistants executing emergency certification relative to alleged mental illness or substance abuse. If you have any concerns you can search through 2017 legislative session bills filed for further information.

EMS on the Hill

This year La-ACEP was represented by Dr. Avery Callahan, Medical Director of the Shreveport Fire Department. Dr. Callahan attended the formal and informal activities planned for EMS with members of the LANREMT and attended Hill visits with several of our Senators and Representatives, or their staff.

This was a great opportunity for networking between emergency medicine and EMS as we addressed mutual areas of concern regarding healthcare and funding. The LANREMT organization has worked with our organization for years, our physician members have served as speakers for their annual conferences and the EMS Memorial.



LERN

The Louisiana Emergency Response Network is constructed with an overall governing committee and nine regional commissions. We are represented on the LERN Board by Dr. Will Freeman, past president of La-ACEP.

Also we have nominated and in position in their various practice regions the following: Region One, Roland Waguespack; Region Two, Johnny Jones; Region Three, Owen Grossman; Region Four, Mark Olivier; Region Five, Juan Ramirez; Region Six, James Hebert; Region Seven, Avery Callahan; Region Eight, Pat Taylor; and Region Nine, Charles Muntan.

These meetings are open to the public as part of the open meeting's rule. If you are interested in attending, or would like to address the commissions, please feel free to contact our office or one of the regional commissioners.

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...](#)

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