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A promotional graphic for the WACEP 2019 Spring Symposium. The top half has an orange background with the text "Emergency Medicine: Where the Rubber Meets the Road" in white. Below that, in a white box, is "WACEP 2019 Spring Symposium". The bottom half has a dark, textured background with the text "April 3-4, 2019 Harley-Davidson Museum, Milwaukee WI" in white.

A promotional graphic for the Wisconsin Emergency Medicine PAC. It features the letters "ER" in a large, blue, bold font on the left, with a red ECG line graphic extending from the right. Below this, the text "Wisconsin Emergency Medicine PAC" is written in a smaller, blue font. At the bottom, the text "Donate Today!" is written in a bold, red font.

A promotional graphic for Doctor Day. The top half has a blue background with the text "DOCTOR DAY" in large, white, bold letters. Below that, in a white box, is "Advocacy at the Capitol". The bottom half has a dark blue background with the text "May 1, 2019" in white. A white dome, representing the Wisconsin State Capitol, is visible in the background.

Cannabis: Getting Into the Weeds President's Message, October 2018



Lisa Maurer, MD, WACEP President

Emergency physicians do not typically think of cannabis as pertinent to our typical clinical practice. This is demonstrated by the fact that ACEP has not adopted any of 14 resolutions (both in favor of and in opposition to recreational marijuana) that have been proposed in the last 10 years. On the other hand, our practice is, in some ways, is defined by the failures of the healthcare system, from chronic intractable conditions in need of a novel treatment to the unanticipated side effects of increasing exposure to a recreational substance. We may get pulled into this debate on the national level.

But what about at the state level? Marquette Law School poll done in August showed that 61 percent of Wisconsinites say marijuana should be fully legalized and regulated like alcohol while 36 percent oppose legalization. Advisory referendum questions on marijuana will be included on ballots in 16 different counties and 2 cities next month. With all of this local action, I was recently faced with the question of "What would you say to a reporter who asked what emergency physicians of Wisconsin think about marijuana?" [Read more.](#)

Fall Legislative Update

Eric Jensen, WACEP Lobbyist

In less than three weeks, on Tuesday, November 6th, Wisconsinites will go to the polls to vote in races for the U.S. Senator, Governor, 17 of Wisconsin's 33 State Senate districts, all 99 of Wisconsin's State Assembly districts and a variety of local elections and referenda. Between now and then, we'll be inundated with radio and TV ads, campaign flyers (and maybe candidates) at our front doors, political "robocalls" and media reports about candidates, races, polls and predictions. 'Tis definitely the season!

Political insiders watch political polls like hawks, hoping to glean from them predictions of election outcomes. But in 2016 we learned a powerful lesson about political polling in modern times – not one national pollster predicted victory by President Trump, either in Wisconsin or nationally. More and more, people of different demographics are moving from

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landlines to mobile phones increasing the difficulty of getting a representative population sample in a poll. That simple fact, along with how questions are asked, who asks the questions and a variety of other factors increase the difficulty of getting statistically accurate poll results. [Read more.](#)

Psychiatric Bed Locator Survey

Wisconsin statute includes a provision that a psychiatric bed locator be maintained as a single point of reference of psychiatric bed availability. The bed locator website was developed, and is maintained, by the Wisconsin Hospital Association. The site is meant to assist emergency departments when seeking to transfer and admit patients for psychiatric reasons.

In an effort to work with WHA to identify possible areas of improvement for the bed locator, WACEP has developed a short survey for its members regarding the site's usage. Please take a moment to [answer the survey.](#)

Is Psychiatric Boarding Out of Control in Your ED?

Drs. Bobby Redwood and Mike Replinger visited Kaye Zwiacher, MD, director of Winnebago Mental Health Institute, to discuss the SMART protocol, designed to decrease ED length of stay and costs by eliminating unnecessary diagnostic labs in 65% of psychiatric medical clearances. Check it out here: ([SMART protocol](#)).

Wisconsin ACEP Meet-Up at ACEP18

Thanks to all who joined WACEP at our Wisconsin Meet-Up Reception in San Diego during ACEP18! A great time was had by all. Make sure you join us at future ACEP Annual Meetings.





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