



### Low Volumes in EDs Sound the Alarm



*WACEP President's Message, May 2020  
Ryan Thompson, MD, FACEP*

Across the state, ED patient volumes remain significantly decreased, with some EDs seeing half or even a third of their usual volumes. While the initial decrease in volume was seen as something of a relief for some – who doesn't love an easier overnight? – the persistent downturn has led to mounting concerns.

The first concern is, of course, for our patients. In the early days of the COVID outbreak, I was routinely having patients apologize to me for being in the ED for non-COVID related problems, even when they clearly needed to be seen for emergency care. They were worried that they were pulling me away from other people who might need my care, or that they would be “wasting” healthcare resources. While this concern for their neighbors is admirable, it is clearly ill-advised in the case of severe symptoms requiring ED evaluation, such as chest pain or abdominal pain.

Another cohort of patients avoiding the ED were people who were simply afraid that they would be exposed to COVID while in the hospital. I saw more than a few patients walk into the ED, look around at the isolation procedures in the waiting room and staff in their masks and face shields, and turn right around and walk back out. While this might seem like a reasonable fear, the fact is that we deal with highly infectious diseases in the ED all the time and are experts at preventing cross-contamination of patients. [Read more.](#)

### Reflection on Virtual Hill Day 2020

*Paul Benz, MD  
Medical College of Wisconsin Emergency Medicine Residency  
Class of 2022*

On April 28, 2020 I had the opportunity to join fellow WACEP Board Members Drs. Lisa Maurer, Brad Burmeister, Aurora

### Quick Links

- [COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [Latest News](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Careers in EM](#)



Lybeck, Bill Falco and Stephanie Wagner and other Emergency providers from across the state for ACEP's first Virtual Hill Day. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these meetings were held virtually. We participated in conference calls with the staff of Wisconsin Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson as well as those from all eight Wisconsin Representatives, many including the Congress members themselves.

Though the meetings were held virtually, it was a great learning experience, and I was happy to help advocate for our specialty. Now more than ever Emergency Medicine providers as well as all personnel working in Emergency Departments across the country must have our perspectives understood as we truly are the frontline providers of the COVID-19 pandemic. I believe that we were able to successfully highlight the importance of that message to our Congress members on Virtual Hill Day. [Read more.](#)

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### **UW's Jennifer Mirrieles Receives Honorable Mention by ACEP/EMRA**

ACEP and EMRA have announced winners and honorable mentions of the 2020 National Outstanding Medical Student Award program. This year's honorees include Jennifer Mirrieles from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, who received an honorable mention.

As shared in her nomination, Jennifer's strong commitment to service toward not only underserved patient communities, but to her peers, and her strong leadership in clinical and administrative capacities, embodies the heart of this award. In support of her candidacy, faculty commented on her strong work ethic, clinical efficiency, and her ability to form strong therapeutic bonds with her patients. "Overall, Jennifer is a superbly accomplished student. This is easy to measure when looking at her care for those in great need, her desire to lead and care for her peers, and her translation of this passion into the clinical environment in the ED."

The Award annually recognizes up to five fourth year EM-bound medical students who excel in humanism, professionalism, leadership/service, research, and academic excellence. Award winners will be recognized at the EMRA Medical Student Forum in October and honorable mentions will be mailed a commemorative plaque.

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### **Upcoming WACEP Events**

#### **LLSA Virtual Study Group**

This summer, WACEP will offer an online LLSA Virtual Study Group covering the 2019 LLSA articles. This workshop has become a staple at the annual WACEP Spring Symposium,



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and while this year's conference had to be cancelled, your WACEP leadership felt the study group was important to offer in another format.

Stay tuned for a date, time and registration instructions. The workshop will provide credit hours and will be complimentary to all members.

### **Rural Outreach Program, September 18**

As part of WACEP's Rural Outreach Initiative, our second annual Rural Outreach Program originally scheduled for June has been rescheduled for Friday, September 18, 2020 and will be held at Marshfield Medical Center in Rice Lake, WI. There is no cost to participate, but for planning purposes, please [register in advance](#).

The program is an opportunity to engage clinicians who practice emergency medicine outside of the "Madison-Milwaukee corridor," but regardless of whether you practice in northwest Wisconsin or elsewhere, we hope you'll join us in Rice Lake, WI.

Scheduled to begin at noon with a welcome lunch, the program will have a pediatric focus and afternoon updates will include overviews of peds ICU, peds trauma, best practice in burn care, local transport. There is also an opportunity to tour the Lakeview Medical Center Emergency Department. The formal event on Friday will conclude with an off-site family-friendly dinner/social, but there are plenty of activities in the Rice Lake area for those interested in making a weekend out of it! [Learn more](#), and plan to get out and explore beautiful northwest Wisconsin.

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### **COVID-19 Updates / Latest News**

View WACEP's COVID-19 Resource Page ([link](#)) for updated information and resources, as well as the Latest News page ([link](#)).

Have new to share? [Submit news here](#).

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