



Vol. XLII No. 2

In This Issue

2 From the President

Gregory Gafni-Pappas, DO, FACEP

"Executive Director Search Update - While the business of the College continues uninterrupted thanks to our amazing MCEP staff, Christy and Madey, the newly formed Executive Director Search Committee has also been hard at work. I don't think any president starts their year expecting to hire a new executive director, but here we are, in a position not only to hire a new College leader, but to make some changes that I believe will benefit the College for years to come."

3 From the Editor

Sara Chakel, MD, FACEP

"Spring is here. Spring is a time for renewal, for reassessments, for reflection. Spring is a prelude for change, for graduation, for moving out with the old and in with the new. This spring, we are at the end of our second year of the pandemic. And from something completely new two years ago, the pandemic now feels completely old. While I still fall into the cautious camp regarding Covid precautions, I understand the mentality of those who want to move on from Covid as we transition into a more endemic but ever-present state of the virus."

4 Legislative Column

Bret Marr, Lobbyist

Muchmore, Harrington, Smalley & Associates

"MCEP is again working with MSMS and other health care groups to raise awareness of unnecessary violence in the Emergency Department (ED) workplace. We are supporting House Bills 5084 and 5682 in the House Government Operations Committee. MCEP supported the bills in House Government Operations in late January and applauded the House on its passage of HB 5682 in mid-March. The bill passed on an 88-16 vote."

10 MCEP Resident Case Report

Amy Brough Padgett, MD of Detroit Medical Center Residency in Detroit, MI.

Contents

- 3 Calendar of Events
- 5 2022-2023 EMRAM Officers
- 6 Board Candidates
- 9 2022 EMRAM Excellence in Teaching Award Recipient



Submissions to the May/June 2022 Newsletter should be received by the Chapter office no later than May 20, 2022.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATE

While the business of the College continues uninterrupted thanks to our amazing MCEP staff, Christy and Madey, the newly formed Executive Director Search Committee has also been hard at work. I don't think any president starts their year expecting to hire a new executive director, but here we are, in a position not only to hire a new College leader, but to make some changes that I believe will benefit the College for years to come.

There are great things happening. The political environment looks ripe to pass our Violence in the ED bill, which has been a long time coming. We're hard at work planning our summer assembly with a big return to Mackinac Island. And members of the College are preparing for our trip to D.C. for the ACEP Leadership and Advocacy conference. There are a number of other exciting activities and initiatives taking place, but I want to focus on our search process and update the College on our progress, both in regard to hiring our next executive director and discussions for improved internal processes that will benefit MCEP now and into the future.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE THUS FAR?

Since the beginning of March, MCEP has reached out to our membership to solicit feedback regarding our next executive director. Through a survey and two town hall meetings, we have listened to our members to make sure we hire a leader with values, ideals, and skills that resonate with our members. What we heard loud and clear was that our members want a leader with healthcare experience - someone who understands the issues that face emergency medicine. They want someone who is a team player, is willing to learn, and understands the importance of growth for other team members. They want someone who is friendly, professional, and can build relationships with other leaders and organizations. They want someone who takes initiative, is innovative, and can grow our membership. And they want someone who is forward thinking - a leader who can take us into the next generation of emergency medicine, without forsaking the memory of our founders, their values, and the legacy that they built.

There was strong agreement with our search process. The committee has been formed with interested members from a variety of demographics. Our fabulous President-elect, Dr. Diana Nordlund, is expertly chairing the committee. The job has been posted, and we have had multiple applications to date. As of this article, we are currently reviewing those applications.

WHEN WILL WE DECIDE ON THE NEXT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR?

We are planning for first and second round interviews to narrow the pool down to our finalists. While we would like to hire the next director soon, we also understand that it takes time to find quality candidates and move through the interview process in a methodical and thoughtful manner. Our hope is to have the next executive director identified prior to summer assembly at the end of July. While I can't guarantee this timeline, it is the goal we are striving to achieve.

You said there are discussions for improved internal processes. What are they?

I think it's incredibly important to maintain transparency with our membership. In the departure of our previous executive director, we

identified some areas for improvement within the College that will benefit the whole organization. I don't mean the activities or advocacy of the College, nor do I suggest any financial issues. The College is in a great place financially and strong in our ability to advocate for and educate our



Gregory Gafni-Pappas, DO, FACEP

membership. However, we realize that many of our members do not fully understand the inner workings of the College. This includes information about our partner organizations MEMF, MEDPAC, and EMRAM.

In this light, the Executive Committee has discussed two important initiatives to educate members about the organization. First, all Board members will have a more intensive orientation upon election to the Board with specific outlined objectives and information regarding the administrative activities within the College. Second, a review of the administrative structure of MCEP and its affiliated organizations will be discussed annually at one of our Board meetings where membership has the opportunity to listen in. We have worked hard to improve our meetings to include a virtual component so that any member can be a part of the Board meetings. It is important to us that our members understand the organization better, including the activities of the College, and also have the opportunity to weigh in on important issues. This transparency will benefit the College, our members, and the patients we treat. I'm excited to roll out these improvements.

To summarize, our search is in progress and going well. We have some strong candidates and hope to introduce a new executive director by summer assembly. We have taken a deep dive into the internal workings of the College and have created some improvements that will increase transparency and benefit the College and our membership. Our members have benefited from strong executive director leadership, and I have no doubt this will continue into the future. §



www.mcep.org



REFLECTIONS ON SPRING, NEW BEGINNINGS, AND EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Spring is here.

Spring is a time for renewal, for reassessments, for reflection. Spring is a prelude for change, for graduation, for moving out with the old and in with the new.

This spring, we are at the end of our second year of the pandemic. And from something completely new two years ago, the pandemic now feels completely old. While I still fall into the cautious camp regarding Covid precautions, I understand the mentality of those who want to move on from Covid as we transition into a more endemic but ever-present state of the virus. Spring is also the time our residents are preparing for graduation and their first forays into the world as attending physicians, just as we are preparing to welcome newly graduated physicians to our training programs. This spring also marks the renewal of the MCEP Leadership Development Program (LDP), which went on hiatus last year and has been re-imagined to welcome a new class.

For me, spring is a time to assess where I am and where I am going. To an extent, it is also time to reflect on where I've been. I have been considering this a lot in thinking about the College. I am at the end of my fourth year on your Board of Directors, and I am in the midst of my third year as your newsletter editor. In addition to this, I have transitioned to a more active role within the state legislative committee. I am representing the College for the second year at the Michigan State Medical Society House of Delegates. I continue to speak for Michigan emergency physicians and our interests at the ACEP Leadership and Advocacy Conference as well as at the annual ACEP Council meeting.

I'd like to share a bit of a secret about this involvement. I wouldn't have started without the MCEP LDP, and I would not have become involved in the LDP without a big nudge from one of our College giants, our former long-time Executive Director, Diane Kay Bollman. I am an introvert at heart, and, in my free time, I'm happiest spending time with my children, reading books, traveling, and staying active. Diane convinced me that I might be a fit for the LDP, and I was pleasantly surprised to be accepted to the program. Under the tutelage of Dr. Robert Malinowski, one of our distinguished College past presidents and the first physician leader of the LDP, in addition to Diane Bollman, I learned about the day-to-day business of the College. I also learned that I could make a difference in the world of emergency medicine, both in Michigan and nationally.

I started to get involved, and, like many in my LDP class, I have remained involved in both ACEP and MCEP. The work of members of the College on the Board, in committees, and nationally is voluntary but is vital to make certain that we represent the voices of Michigan emergency physicians.



Sara Chakel, MD, FACEP

To those reading this column, spring is a great time to reconsider your involvement in our specialty and the college. I would encourage you to attend a Board meeting, either in person or by using our new virtual platform. We have worked to make the College more accessible to you, whether you live in East Lansing, East Grand Rapids, or the eastern Upper Peninsula. You may join a committee at any time. Consider whether you want to apply for next year's LDP. As someone who completed the program mid-career, getting involved and getting to know emergency physicians outside of my hospital and my group has been refreshing and eye-opening. We share so much in common, but we also have much to share with one another.

Spring is a time for change. For new beginnings and for a renewal of vows. For looking at things with a fresh perspective. I hope that I can continue to be a positive advocate for the college. I look forward to seeing those of you who will be at the MSMS House of Delegates and at the ACEP Leadership and Advocacy Conference in the upcoming week. So much of the messaging in the world of emergency medicine is negative. There are ongoing concerns about reimbursement, surprise billing, scope of practice, practice patterns, and the future of our workforce. Yet, when I think about the specialty, I can't help but be positive because I have the best job in the world. Not only do I (and all of you) have the power to take somebody's worst day and make it a little bit better, but I (and you) have the power to advocate for and implement changes for those issues we find problematic. Let's support each other. Let's create some good trouble together.

Spring is here. If you're game for a change, to increase your involvement in the College, to advocate for those issues you care most about, then I'm here to support you and cheer you on. §

MCEP Calendar of Events

May 1-4, 2022
ACEP L&A Conference
Washington, DC

May 11, 2022
Board of Directors
Chapter Office
Lansing, Michigan

May 21, 2022
Mock Oral Board Review Course
Virtual Zoom Meeting

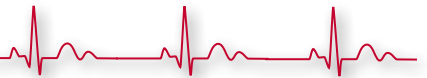
July 31- August 3, 2022
Michigan Emergency
Medicine Assembly
Grand Hotel
Mackinac Island, Michigan

August 1, 2022
Board of Directors
Grand Hotel
Mackinac Island, Michigan

August 18, 2022
EM Career Planning:
Life After Residency
Somerset Inn
Troy, Michigan

September 7, 2022
Board of Directors
Chapter Office
Lansing, Michigan

September 12-13, 2022
Observation Medicine Conference
Doubletree by Hilton Downtown
Nashville
Nashville, Tennessee



VIOLENCE IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

MCEP is again working with MSMS and other health care groups to raise awareness of unnecessary violence in the Emergency Department (ED) workplace. We are supporting House Bills [5084](#) and [5682](#) in the House Government Operations Committee. MCEP supported the bills in House Government Operations in late January and applauded the House on its passage of HB 5682 in mid-March. The bill passed on an 88-16 vote. Many changes were made in the House prior to passage. One of the changes reduced the crime being proposed from a felony to a 93-day misdemeanor. This increases current penalties but addresses legislative concerns about creating new felonies. Another change incorporated into the House-passed bill is increasing the fines for assault to \$2,000 from the current \$500 level. Lastly, the enhanced penalties and fines would not apply to patients but to loved ones or family members in the ED.

Now that the bill has passed the House, the focus for MCEP and MHSA is on Senate committee action. The bills were referred to Senate Government Operations, chaired by Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey. MHSA is working with the Majority Leader's staff to secure a hearing for the bill in May.

FY 2023 BUDGET PROCESS

The Governor kicked off the budget process in early February by proposing a FY23 state budget. The House and Senate will pass their versions the first week of May and then negotiations between the Legislative and Executive branches will occur in late May and early June. Recall that the legislature has a July 1 requirement to pass their final budget to the Governor. MCEP and MHSA are watching several health care priorities for College members, including increasing resources for behavioral health care and addressing the health care provider shortage.

2022 ELECTION CYCLE STARTED

Governor Whitmer is up for re-election this fall, but her Republican opponent will not be known until after the state's August 2nd primary.

On April 19th, we learned of the candidates for House and Senate for the fall. Congressional candidates were also required to submit signatures for ballot access by this deadline. With 38 Senate seats and 110 House seats up for election this year, there are too many to highlight at this early date. If you have questions about your future senator or representative, please look at the Secretary of State's candidate listing landing page: https://mielections.us/election/candlist/2022PRI_CANDLIST.html.



Bret Marr
*Muchmore Harrington
Smalley & Assoc.*

MICHIGAN'S REDISTRICTING PROCESS

In order to drill down to your state elected officials, you will have to consult the SOS listing of new districts after the Independent Redistricting Commission's work this past year. This process played out in 2021 through multiple public hearings around the state and produced final maps in late December. Recall that because of population decline, Michigan lost one congressional seat and will now have 13 members in the U.S. House, down from a high of 16 seats a few decades ago.

For those of you having trouble sleeping, here's a link to the final maps for Michigan's Congressional, State Senate, and State House maps: <https://www.michigan.gov/micrc/mapping-process/final-maps>. On a historical note, each map version is named after a species of Michigan tree. §



Thank you for all that you do!

To all of our frontline workers

From all of us at MCEP

2022-2023 EMRAM OFFICERS



The offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer have been filled for the 2022-2023 calendar year. We would like to congratulate the following:



President



Vice-President



Treasurer



Secretary

- President – Krishna Patel, DO - Central Michigan University Residency Program
- Vice-President – Michael Muradian, MD - Beaumont Hospital - Royal Oak Residency Program
- Treasurer – Laura Schroeder, MD, MS - Central Michigan University Residency Program
- Secretary – Ghufraan Akram, MD - Michigan State University/Sparrow Hospital – Lansing Residency Program



WWW.MCEP.ORG

EMERGENCY MEDICINE CAREER PLANNING:

LIFE AFTER RESIDENCY

SOMERSET INN - TROY, MI

AUGUST 18, 2022

THIS CONFERENCE IS INTENDED FOR SECOND AND THIRD YEAR EMERGENCY MEDICINE RESIDENTS TO LEARN WHAT LIFE WILL BE LIKE OUTSIDE OF RESIDENCY.

JOIN US FOR AN UPDATED AND
INNOVATIVE DECK OF TOPICS AND
SPEAKERS THAT YOU WON'T WANT
TO MISS! MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- PREPARING YOUR CV AND COVER LETTER
- JOB SEARCHING AND RECRUITERS
- INTERVIEWS ON SITE AND ONLINE
- EMERGENCY MEDICINE MARKET
- PERSONAL FINANCES
- ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- AND MUCH MORE...

REGISTER NOW HERE:



MCEP 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

Michael Gratson, MD, MHSA, FACEP

- Graduate, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, Michigan, 2010
- Residency in Emergency Medicine, Beaumont Health System, Royal Oak, Michigan, 2015
- Chief Resident, Beaumont Health System, Royal Oak, Michigan, 2014-2015
- Attending Physician, Beaumont Health System, Royal Oak and Troy, Michigan, 2015-present
- Associate Clinical Professor, Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, Royal Oak, Michigan, 2015-present
- Graduate, University of Michigan Health Management and Policy, 2019
- Diplomate, American Board of Emergency Medicine
- MCEP, Alternate Councilor, 2016
- MCEP, Health Finance Committee, 2012-present
- MCEP, Health Finance Committee, Vice-Chair, 2017-present
- MCEP, Legislative Committee, 2012-present
- MCEP, Leadership Development Program Graduate, 2016
- MCEP, Faculty Student Advisor, 2016-present
- MCEP, Medical Student Outreach Committee, Chair, 2017-present
- MCEP, Board of Directors, 2017-present



Dr. Gratson first became involved in MCEP while during his residency in 2012. He first became members of the Health Finance and Legislative Committees and continues to serve to this day. Dr. Gratson has completed the Leadership Development Program and in 2017, was elected to the Board of Directors by a special election. He has been active legislatively both on the local and national level to improve the conditions for both those who work and those who receive care in an emergency medical setting. Recently, Dr. Gratson has completed a Masters in Health Services Administration to better understand the complexities of the current health care delivery system. Dr. Gratson aims to continue his work on the Board of Directors and the Health Finance Committee improving physician reimbursement and improving the conditions in which emergency physicians work and our patients receive their care.



PAMELA COFFEY, MD, FACEP

- Graduate, St George's University School of Medicine, Grenada, 1999
- Emergency Medicine Residency, MSU Sparrow Hospital, Lansing, MI, 2002
- Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship, Children's Hospital of Michigan, Detroit, MI 2004
- Attending Physician, Sparrow Hospital, Lansing MI 2005-present
- Attending Physician, Hurley Medical Center, 2006-2012
- Clinical Instructor in Emergency Medicine, Hurley Medical Center, University of Michigan, Flint, MI 2006-2012
- Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, Lansing, MI, 2016-present
- Core Teaching Faculty, Michigan State University Emergency Medicine Residency, Sparrow Hospital, Lansing, MI, 2017-present
- Member American College of Emergency Physicians and Michigan College of Emergency Physician 1999-2004, 2005-present
- Member American College of Emergency Physician Pediatric EM Section 2000-present
- Member American Academy of Pediatrics Emergency Medicine section, 2006-present
- Graduate MCEP Leadership Development Program, 2016
- Founding Co-chair, Pediatrics Committee, Michigan College of Emergency Physician, 2017-2021
- Member MCEP Legislative & Health Finance Committee 2021-Present
- Fellow, American College of Emergency Physicians
- Diplomate, American Board of Emergency Medicine for EM
- Diplomate, American Board of Emergency Medicine for Pediatric EM
- Vice-Chair, Sparrow Hospital Emergency Department - Present

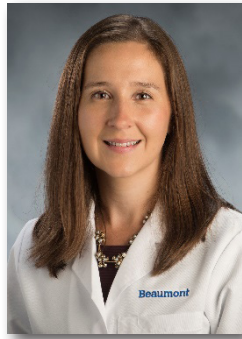


Dr. Coffey has been a member of MCEP since joining as a resident in 2000. She became actively involved in the chapter when she completed the Leadership Development Program in 2016 and founded the Pediatric Committee in 2017. She was actively involved in the Mind Mi Head campaign in 2018. She started the Kids Korner column in the MCEP newsletter with a goal of helping EM physicians tackle the unique challenges that pediatric patients bring. She participated in the 2019 Wellness Conference planning committee. She is currently involved with 3 separate Michigan DHHS workgroups to help develop statewide policies. She is a regular lecturer and core teaching faculty with the Sparrow Hospital MSU EM residency and has been a guest lecturer at the MCEP Summer Assembly. She was recently elected as Vice Chair of the Sparrow Hospital Emergency Department. Her interest is primarily pediatric emergency medicine education, but also is interested in public health issues, particularly as they apply to Emergency Medicine. As an MCEP board member, she will continue to work hard to help contribute to the exceptional work already in place by the current board to advance the specialty of Emergency Medicine.



ABIGAIL BRACKNEY, MD, FACEP

- Graduate, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, MI, 2007
- Emergency Medicine Residency, Henry Ford Hospital, 2007-2010
- Emergency Medicine Ultrasound Fellowship, Henry Ford Hospital 2010-2011
- Attending Physician, Beaumont Hospital - Royal Oak, 2011-2020
- Associate Director of Emergency Ultrasound - Beaumont Hospital - Royal Oak, 2011-2020
- Core Faculty, Emergency Medicine Residency, Beaumont Hospital - Royal Oak 2011-2020
- Assistant Professor, Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine - 2011-2020
- Course Director of Point-of-care and procedural Ultrasound rotation for MS4 students OUWB
- Distinguished Attending Award: Beaumont Department of EM 2019-2020
- Senior Staff Physician, Department of EM, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI, 2020-present
- Associate Ultrasound Division Head, Henry Ford Hospital, Department of EM, 2020-present
- Faculty MCEP Ultrasound Course 2013-present
- MCEP Educational committee - 2017-present
- Co-Director Midwest Winter Symposium 2018-present
- Co-Director Michigan Emergency Medicine Assembly 2019-present
- MCEP Board of Directors, 2019-present
- Planning Committee, World Congress on Ultrasound in Medical Education 2022
- Fellow, American College of Emergency Physician
- Diplomate, American Board of Emergency Medicine



Dr. Brackney completed her emergency medicine residency and ultrasound fellowship at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, MI. She worked at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, MI for 9 years following training. Dr. Brackney is currently a senior staff physician at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, MI, where she actively participates in resident and medical student education at Wayne State University School of Medicine. Since 2013, Dr. Brackney has participated in teaching at the MCEP ultrasound course and then became the co-Director of the Midwest Winter Symposium in 2018 and the Michigan Emergency Medicine Assembly in 2019. Dr. Brackney has served on the MCEP Board of Directors for the last three years and has been active in the MCEP Educational committee since 2017. She enjoys teaching and has an interested in resident and medical education and especially ultrasound teaching and physician and resident wellness.

(Continued on Page 8)

SAVE THE DATE

**SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2022
NASHVILLE, TN**

**10TH ANNUAL
OBSERVATION MEDICINE -
SCIENCE AND SOLUTIONS
CONFERENCE**

Approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit.™

**DoubleTree by Hilton
Nashville Downtown**
Nashville, TN

**MICHIGAN COLLEGE OF
EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS**



HEALTHCARE
PROFESSIONALS

treated fairly

With the recent acquisition of NORCAL Group, ProAssurance is now the nation's third largest medical professional insurance carrier with claims and risk management expertise in every major healthcare region.

Meet the new best-in-class, where the principle of fair treatment guides every action we take in defense of our medical professionals.



**Healthcare Professional Liability Insurance
& Risk Management Services**

Proudly endorsed by



For information regarding the NORCAL Group acquisition >>>

ProAssurance.com

MCEP 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES *(Continued from Page 7)*

NABIL ELIE KHOURY, MD, FACEP, FACP

- Graduated from University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor (1989)
- Completed joint Emergency Medicine-Internal Medicine Residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit (1994)
- Currently practicing clinically at St. Mary Mercy Hospital (Livonia), St. Joseph Mercy Hospital (Ann Arbor), Munson Cadillac Hospital and Munson Grayling Hospital (2016-Present)
- Regional Medical Director, Envision Healthcare (2016-Present)
- Clinical Assistant Professor at Wayne State University School of Medicine (2011-Present)
- Clinical Assistant Professor at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (2015-Present)
- Department Chief of Beaumont Hospital Dearborn Emergency Department (2014-2016)
- Worked in the Henry Ford Health System from 1994-2014 as an Emergency Physician and held numerous leadership roles, including:
 - Medical Director of Emergency Department Henry Ford Medical Center, West Bloomfield
 - Medical Director of Suburban Emergency Services (2005-2008)
 - Medical Director of Quality, Utilization, and Ambulatory Services (2008-2013)
 - Interim Chief Medical Officer at Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital (2013)



- President, National Arab American Medical Association (2008)
- Chair, Health Committee, American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) (2020-Present)
- Board Member, ANERA (2018-Present)
- Member of ACEP and MCEP (1994-Present)

It is with humility that I submit my name for nomination to be a Board of Directors of MCEP.

I am a senior clinician and physician leader who has practiced and lived my entire professional life in Michigan. I have worked at a number of healthcare systems and believe that I have a very broad perspective about EM in Michigan- its strengths, risks, and opportunities. My clinical interests include teaching, clinical leadership, innovation, and observation medicine.

Our young profession is going through turbulent times, and storm clouds are gathering on the horizon, with regard to workforce and billing challenges. I hope to be able to contribute to EM in Michigan in order to make it a more vibrant, sustainable, engaging, and attractive clinical practice for both existing practitioners and new residency graduates.

In seeking election to the Board of Directors, I look forward to play a more active role to support MCEP's core mission of advancing quality emergency care and supporting the interests and values of emergency physicians. As a person who, for the past 30 years has worked clinically while holding many leadership roles in multiple major health systems, I think that I have a unique perspective about the state of EM in our state. I think that MCEP should have a central voice in the issues of EM workforce and the evolution of the specialty into new roles and activities. I hope to contribute by working within MCEP to shape the future of EM in Michigan. §



**MICHIGAN
EMERGENCY
MEDICINE ASSEMBLY**



**MICHIGAN COLLEGE OF
EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS**

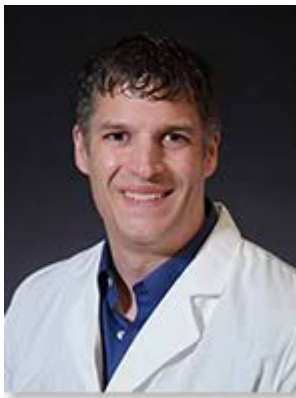
**Mackinac
Island,
MI**

**GRAND
HOTEL**

**JULY 31 -
AUGUST 3, 2022**



EMRAM Excellence in Teaching Award



Nikolai Butki, DO

The Emergency Medicine Residents' Association of Michigan (EMRAM) announces the recipient for its 30th Annual Excellence in Teaching Award is Dr. Nikolai Butki of McLaren Oakland Hospital. This award is given to recognize faculty members who have made outstanding contributions to emergency medicine resident education. The award will be presented at the Michigan Emergency Medicine Assembly President's Banquet scheduled for Tuesday, August 2, 2022, at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, MI.

LET'S DEFEAT COVID-19

By following these steps we will be able to overcome this pandemic and become stronger as a community:

- Regularly wash your hands
- Distance yourself socially
- Try and remain positive

Visit the MCEP website for updates and for our COVID-19 Resource Center here:





ISCHEMIC THALAMIC STROKE CAUSING MVC

By Amy Brough Padgett, MD of Detroit Medical Center Residency in Detroit, MI.

INTRODUCTION

Motor vehicle collisions are common, and main etiologies include human error and substance use. Underlying medical issues lead to accidents in 1.3% of cases, with seizures, syncope, and diabetic reactions accounting for 84% of all cases (1). Typically, we think of rarer causes in the elderly and in those with multiple medical conditions. However, in our case, a young, healthy male presented after a motor vehicle collision and was ultimately found to have an ischemic thalamic stroke. Although his symptoms were typical for thalamic stroke, this is a very atypical age and presentation.

CASE PRESENTATION:

The patient is a previously healthy 25-year-old male who presented to the emergency room via EMS after a motor vehicle collision. Per EMS, this was a low-speed collision in which the patient hit a parked car with minimal damage to the vehicle. The patient was restrained, and airbags did deploy. When EMS arrived, they helped assist him from the vehicle and noted that he was alert but confused and oriented only to self. He had no obvious signs of trauma. Upon arrival to the emergency department, the patient was hemodynamically stable and mildly confused, but now knew he was in a hospital. However, he still did not know the year or president. He remembered that he crashed his car but could not remember the events that occurred before the accident. He denied any substance use, including alcohol, which was confirmed with labs. He quickly became oriented and less confused. He had no history of seizures, no fecal or urinary incontinence, and no tongue lacerations.

On physical exam, he had no signs of trauma, but he was noted to have trouble holding a vertical gauze, and, upon standing, he continually stumbled to the right before catching himself and standing and ambulating normally. Although there was no obvious ataxia, he moved his right hand much slower than his left when doing finger-to-nose testing. The remainder of the neurologic exam was normal.

The patient had a full trauma panel sent, including drug screens, as well as a head CT to evaluate for signs of trauma. However, we were still concerned about an underlying medical issue as his new neurologic findings could not be explained by his accident. Neurology was consulted to evaluate for acute stroke.

EEG, CT head, and CTA of head and neck were unremarkable. Therefore, an MRI was ordered. MRI of the brain showed an acute infarct of the left thalamus. The patient's workup for etiologies that would predispose him to stroke was unremarkable, and he was ultimately discharged with aspirin, atorvastatin, and outpatient physical therapy. He continues to work and care for his children.

DISCUSSION:

The thalamus is a section of grey matter in the dorsal diencephalon of the brain that acts as a control center for the exchange of sensory and motor information to many areas of the brain (2). Lesions in this area have been known to cause a number of different symptoms, including memory loss,

speech difficulties, visual disturbances, ataxia, and unilateral motor or sensory deficits. Our patient's symptoms are a typical presentation for a thalamic stroke. However, review of the literature shows this presentation is more typically seen in patients who are older than 60 years with stroke risk factors or in young people with hemorrhagic strokes (2). Statistically, our patient was far more likely to have had a new-onset seizure with a postictal state to explain his confusion; however, a seizure could not explain his subtle neurologic findings.

As physicians, it is important to maintain a high index of suspicion for medical issues that can lead to motor vehicle crashes, even in healthy young patients. This patient had subtle findings that could have been easily missed. Ischemic thalamic strokes, although not rare in the general population, are rare in young patients. Especially following trauma and based upon our examination, we expected our patient to have had a hemorrhagic thalamic stroke, and we were surprised by the result.

REFERENCES

1. Hanna, R. (2009). *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The contribution of medical conditions to passenger vehicle crashes.* Ann Emerg Med. 2010;55:563-564.
2. Chen, X. Et al. (2017) Clinical Features of Thalamic Stroke. *Curr Treat Options Neurol* (2):5. doi: 10.1007/s11940-017-0441-x.



**MICHIGAN COLLEGE OF
EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS**

Executive Committee

Gregory Gafni-Pappas, DO, FACEP — *President*
president@mcep.org

Diana Nordlund, DO, JD, FACEP — *President-Elect*

Michael Fill, DO, FACEP — *Treasurer*

Therese Mead, DO, FACEP — *Secretary*

Nicholas Dyc, MD, FACEP — *Immediate Past President*

Editor

Sara Chakel, MD, FACEP
mcep@mcep.org

Interim Executive Director

Christy Snitgen
csnitgen@mcep.org

Michigan Emergency Medicine News & Views is the official publication of the Michigan College of Emergency Physicians. Deadline for publication of all letters/articles is the 5th of the month prior. All correspondence should be addressed to MCEP News & Views, 6647 West St. Joseph Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917. Telephone (517) 327-5700, FAX (517) 327-7530, www.mcep.org. Opinions expressed within this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the College's point of view. While News & Views believes that the ads it accepts originate from reputable sources, it takes no responsibility for the consequences resulting from, or the responses generated by, any commercial or classified advertisement.