

Candidates for FCEP's Board of Directors

FOR TERM 2021-2024



Blake Buchanan,
MD



Kyle Gerakopoulos,
MD, MBA



Eliot Goldner,
MD, FACEP



Gary Goodman,
MD, FACEP, FACP



Erich Heine, DO
INCUMBENT



Andrew Schare,
MD, FACEP



Stephen Viel,
MD, FACEP

Answers by Candidate

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Blake Buchanan, MD



1) Please list your active involvement in FCEP's chapter committees or other activities.

I have been the Government Affairs Committee Co-Chair since 2019. Part of my duty in this role has been to regularly run our quarterly committee meetings and attend Board meetings. This position is heavily involved in coordinating FCEP's advocacy efforts at the state level and planning EM Days in Tallahassee each session.

2) Why would you would like to serve on FCEP's Board of Directors?

Over the last few years, I have really enjoyed working with the current FCEP Board in my advocacy role. It has given me the experience to realize how I can contribute even more as a Board member. While I am early in my career, I know that the decisions made and leadership provided by the Board will affect our specialty for decades to come. I would like the chance to use my voice to help shape our specialty as we head into the future.

3) Over the next three years, please identify what you would deem most important for FCEP's priorities:

I believe we should prioritize increasing coordinated efforts across the medical field to stop scope creep by non-physician providers and push back against insurers not acting in good-faith when negotiating with our members. There needs to be better enforcement of our current state-level balance billing laws. We also need to directly address our members concerns about the recent work force study results and explore what ways we can influence practice changes to avoid a future discrepancy between the number of emergency physicians in this state and available jobs.

Erich Heine, DO



1) Please list your active involvement in FCEP's chapter committees or other activities.

FCEP Board of Directors, FCEP Education and Academic Affairs Committee.

2) Why would you would like to serve on FCEP's Board of Directors?

I would like to continue my service to FCEP through a second term to further support EM physicians throughout Florida.

3) Over the next three years, please identify what you would deem most important for FCEP's priorities:

1. Medical education,
2. EMS grant opportunities,
3. Increase residency advocacy at the state level.

Kyle Gerakopoulos, MD, MBA



1) Please list your active involvement in FCEP's chapter committees or other activities.

I would like to get more involved with FCEP.

2) Why would you would like to serve on FCEP's Board of Directors?

I am interested in improving medicine in Florida, as well as providing education.

3) Over the next three years, please identify what you would deem most important for FCEP's priorities:

1. Education,
2. Physician protection,
3. Covid-19 education and relief.

Eliot Goldner, MD, FACEP



1) Please list your active involvement in FCEP's chapter committees or other activities.

Government Affairs and Membership & PD Committees. ACEP Councillor. EM Days participant. (My) recent contributions to legislative lobbying efforts (include) scope of practice, pelvic exam language, and consent for treatment of minors.

2) Why would you would like to serve on FCEP's Board of Directors?

I would be honored to serve my colleagues, continuing to strengthen the framework for emergency medical care in Florida and protect the interests of fellow emergency physicians. I also want to focus on ensuring that FCEP provides value to its membership, deepening the connection individual members feel to the organization.

3) Over the next three years, please identify what you would deem most important for FCEP's priorities:

FCEP will need to continue advocating for physician-led emergency care, while ensuring access to care for our patients and appropriate reimbursement for the care provided. We must also be prepared to face challenges related to the expanding workforce and evolving economics of value-based medical care.

Gary Goodman, MD, FACEP, FACP



1) Please list your active involvement in FCEP's chapter committees or other activities.

Since my arrival to Florida in 2006, I have been an active and participating member in all of FCEP's committees, with a special interest in Membership & PD, EMS/Trauma, and Government Affairs. I do this because it is important to continuously encourage our members, and more so our junior members, to participate, as this is our life's blood moving forward.

2) Why would you would like to serve on FCEP's BOD?

Florida is a lynch pin state in many ways. National standards are being set by Florida with the bar only going higher each day. I think it's important to be a voice for our local and state communities, and more so (on) the national stage. Florida set a standard of care in the pandemic and we were all a responsible party to it. My intention is to be that voice, sharing what we have achieved and what else we can bring to the table.

3) Over the next three years, please identify what you would deem most important for FCEP's priorities:

I have concerns about the number of residents we are producing and training programs we have. While I of course encourage the training of future doctors in our craft, I think it's important that as a state, we set a bar in education that is unmatched nationally. I would like to see our representation help guide the American Board of Emergency Medicine and continue to act with the American Medical Association.

As Covid-19 pointed out, we are a vulnerable specialty. I would like to lobby our state and help our Government Affairs Committee work to revisit sovereign immunity laws with structure that helps protect us from frivolous lawsuits, (while) also helping to protect our patients from inappropriate care. It cannot be singular.

It's entirely inappropriate for politicians to weaponize and politicize healthcare for their own benefit. I would like to see our College become more involved in the state and national political scene. We need to assist those in public office (who are) attempting to do what is right for our patients and state.

Andrew Schare, MD, FACEP



1) Please list your active involvement in FCEP's chapter committees or other activities.

None.

2) Why would you would like to serve on FCEP's Board of Directors?

I would like to be an advocate for emergency medicine as a whole and for emergency physicians in particular. We play a vital role in the world (and in) medicine, and I would be honored to help protect and promote our specialty as we face many issues with litigation, politics, insurance/payors, and corporate entities that are often at odds with our number one priority: patients and their care.

3) Over the next three years, please identify what you would deem most important for FCEP's priorities:

1. Workforce issues, such as use of APPs in emergency medicine and physician supply and demand concerns.
2. Promote local practice of emergency medicine by local, physician-owned groups.
3. Fair payment for emergency care.

Stephen Viel, MD, FACEP



1) Please list your active involvement in FCEP's chapter committees or other activities.

I am currently involved with the Membership and Professional Development Committee. I have participated in their outreach to Florida EM residency programs and presented about FCEP to the residents of the UF Gainesville residency program. I also chair the Leadership Academy, and have been working with FCEP to relaunch the academy (at SBS 2021).

2) Why would you would like to serve on FCEP's Board of Directors?

I would like to contribute to the direction of the organization and help craft what the practice of emergency medicine will look like in the state of Florida for future generations of emergency physicians.

3) Over the next three years, please identify what you would deem most important for FCEP's priorities:

Legislative advocacy around emergency medicine practice and payor issues will continue to be the top priorities. Providing leadership around the workforce surplus and scope of practice expansion for APPs will be critical. Additionally, FCEP will need to focus on recruiting the next generation of emergency physicians in order to stay relevant. We will do this by adeptly addressing workforce issues and continuing to innovate in how we provide value to our membership.

Answers by Question

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BUCHANAN: "I have been the Government Affairs Committee Co-Chair since 2019. Part of my duty in this role has been to regularly run our quarterly committee meetings and attend Board meetings. This position is heavily involved in coordinating FCEP's advocacy efforts at the state level and planning EM Days in Tallahassee each session."

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