



**EMERGENCY  
MEDICINE  
DAYS 2021**



# **EMERGENCY MEDICINE DAYS 2021:** *VIRTUAL ADVOCACY*

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**April 8-9, 2021**  
**FREE EVENT**

Registration opening soon at  
**[fcep.org/emdays](https://fcep.org/emdays)**

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- 6** COMING SOON: Priority Issues Legislative Briefing  
*This attachment will include 1-page briefings on our top issues.  
Release date: March 24*

### 2021 *Know Your Legislators Book*



View and download the handy 2021 *Know Your Legislators* book that is normally handed out during the conference. The book contains key information about each legislator and state agencies.

## Thank You Sponsors

### PLATINUM



### GOLD



### SILVER



Dear FCEP Members,

Welcome to Emergency Medicine Days 2021. Over the past year, we have navigated the most challenging times for our patients, our specialty and ourselves. Now, we are witnessing lower case counts and fatalities and increasing vaccination rates that will move us beyond this crisis, but we are still dealing with complex workforce issues that threaten our specialty's existence. Thus, our work on advocacy and government relations remains a vital cornerstone of FCEP's service to its members and the house of medicine.

The Florida legislature was forced to utilize various pandemic precautions this year to ensure the safety of our elected officials, staff and guests as they continue the daily work of state government. Likewise, your FCEP Government Affairs team conducted its own virtual remix for our advocacy in Tallahassee and made great changes to this year's program. We adjusted the agenda and the dates to bring you the most relevant information and program at the best time for the issues in play during this year's state legislative session.

FCEP's work before and during this year's legislative session has been solid and will continue through its conclusion. From testimony and advocacy on key pieces of legislation, such as personal injury protection and the reimbursement safety net in auto insurance law changes, to monitoring a myriad of health policy and regulatory matters, such as infringements on our scope of practice—we are set up for success.

We hope you will join us for this series of virtual but vital meetings to learn more and ensure our voice and the needs of emergency medicine are heard clearly by key leaders in government. This year's program includes a look into agency advocacy efforts that are important to achieving success on key issues when a regulatory or legal solution is the path forward in lieu of legislation. And, we are doing all we can to nail down quick advocacy calls with key legislators.

Using the FCEP 2021 Priority Issues Legislative Briefing and other links we provide, you can proudly and creatively share the story of our healers' work, in our 50th year and during the global pandemic, as we bring forth the right solutions and policies for the best patient outcomes and delivery of quality emergency medicine and health care policy for all Floridians in the better years to come.

Thank you for your input, involvement and support of EM Days 2021. We will see you virtually on April 8-9, 2021, and in person very soon.

Sincerely,



**Damian Caraballo, MD, FACEP**  
*Vice President & Government  
Affairs Committee Co-Chair*



**Blake Buchanan, MD**  
*Government Affairs Committee  
Co-Chair*



## Conference Agenda

*All events will take place virtually*

### **Thursday, April 8, 2021**

#### ***2021 Priority Issues Discussion with FCEP Leaders***

**10:00 am–11:00 am**

FCEP's government affairs leaders will welcome all members and review our priorities for this Legislative Session. The floor will open up for Q&A at the end.

By **Drs. Damian Caraballo & Blake Buchanan**, *Government Affairs Committee Co-Chairs*; **Toni Large**, *Lobbyist*; **Jon Dolan**, *Executive Director*

#### ***Lobbying 101 Virtual Lunch***

**11:30 am–12:30 pm**

Never met with a legislator before? Come and learn from those with years of experience over lunch with fellow members! A digital gift card will be provided to attendees that sign up for this session.

#### ***Agency Advocacy Virtual Meetings***

**1:00 pm–3:00 pm**

State agency representatives from AHCA and more will outline their priorities this Session and stick around for Q&A with members afterwards.

*Invited agency representatives include:*

**Dr. Shamarial Roberson**, Deputy Secretary, Florida Department of Health, speaking on DOH's new Community Paramedicine Initiative; **Simone Marstiller**, Secretary of the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA); **John Reilly**, Deputy Commissioner of Health & Life, Office of Insurance Regulation

### **Friday, April 9, 2021**

#### ***Legislative Advocacy Virtual Meetings***

**Varied times, TBD**

We will be setting up virtual meetings with legislators throughout the day, specifically targeting House & Senate leaders, along with health-related committee chairs and members. Stay tuned for your appointment time.

# About Emergency Physicians

Every year, 1 in 3 people will require emergency care.

Emergency physicians are the backbone of the healthcare safety net, providing care in emergency departments (EDs) 24/7/365. They meet people in their worst moments of fear, distress and need, and are bound by oath and by law to provide the best care possible without regard to race, gender, creed, socioeconomic status or severity of illness.

As the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated last year, emergency physicians play a vital role in public health and safety. As frontline healers, they are the first to witness emerging trends and novel diseases, ranging from coronaviruses to drug epidemics. Every day, they rely on their 11 years of post-graduate training to make rapid diagnostic decisions in highly intense and chaotic environments where *seconds matter*. Their days are long, but rewarding—and they use their experiences to educate their communities and others in healthcare, contributing to best practices and public interventions.

Emergency physicians represent only 4% of the nation's total physician workforce, but provide 67% of all medical care to uninsured patients and 50% of all care to Medicaid and CHIP pediatric patients. In Florida, each emergency physician provides an average of \$193,000 in uncompensated care every year—and the average bill for treatment in an ED is only \$800-\$1200. Meanwhile, private health insurance companies have employed aggressive tactics to avoid their financial responsibilities for insured patients, narrowing their networks of physicians and downcoding or outright denying reimbursement for medical care that may have saved a patient's life.

An unstable reimbursement model threatens the availability of adequate staffing in Florida's EDs by physicians who are appropriately trained to make lifesaving medical decisions. And without emergency physicians, America's healthcare safety net will collapse.

Over the last 50 years, the state of Florida has benefited from staffing EDs with emergency physicians who are experts in providing acute, unscheduled care. Their value to society has never been more apparent than now with the COVID-19 pandemic. Emergency physicians deserve to be recognized and paid fairly for the lifesaving care they provide when no one else can.



## About FCEP

The **Florida College of Emergency Physicians (FCEP)** is a state chapter of the **American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)**. FCEP is the largest specialty society for emergency physicians in Florida with more than 2,000 members, and is recognized within the Florida Medical Association (FMA). We represent our physician members, patients, and the industry of emergency medicine personnel who provide lifesaving care in Florida every day.

*Learn more at [fcep.org](http://fcep.org)*



Emergency Medicine (EM) Days is the premier advocacy event for FCEP members. Every year, emergency physicians, residents and medical students meet with Florida legislators to discuss current bills, priorities and issues affecting their ability to provide high quality emergency care.

## Contact Us

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