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OVERVIEW

Program Overview

The California ACEP Health Policy and Advocacy Fellowship is designed to promote expertise in health care policy and develop advocacy skills so that the graduate of the program will have the tools needed to achieve system and/or policy changes at the local, state, and national levels. This fellowship was created to provide emergency medicine physicians interested in health policy and advocacy opportunities for productive, interactive learning and active advocacy. Each fellow will have their opportunities individualized both before their year commences and continually throughout the year. The fellowship is designed to last for 12 months.

Time Commitment

This fellowship was purposefully created to have flexible time commitments. The highlight of the fellowship is time spent with California ACEP advocacy staff. It is strongly recommended to schedule one day per week, at minimum, in the California ACEP office and attend weekly strategy meetings. These meetings are currently held on Thursdays in the afternoon (subject to change depending on staff resources). Meetings typically consist of the Executive Director, Contract Lobbyist, Government Affairs staff, and the Fellows. Topics discussed include current issues; active legislation; and if any Capitol visits are necessary/upcoming. It would be ideal to plan this day off every week to be available for these meetings and present in the office. Being physically available at the California ACEP office will provide the fellow with many spontaneous, rewarding activities.

Program Goals and Objectives

The Advocacy Fellowship is intended to cultivate and enhance the fellow’s abilities so that he or she may achieve the following primary goals:

1) Develop a clear, in-depth knowledge and understanding of the major issues facing the field and practice of both emergency medicine specifically, and medicine generally.

2) Develop a basic working knowledge of the Legislative and Executive branches of government in addition to the relevant political challenges, realities and coalitions which affect the interplay between and within each respective branch.

3) Develop effective advocacy skills through regular contact, and interaction with California ACEP staff and consultants, leaders of organized medicine, executive department/agency staff, legislative staff and elected officials.

4) Synthesize and implement the knowledge and experiences gained in meeting goals 1 through 4 and effectively advocate on behalf of California ACEP, practitioners of emergency medicine and medicine as a
whole through correspondence, testimony, research, *Lifeline* and other relevant methods of advocacy.

5) Become an active, engaged member of California ACEP, advocating on behalf of the organization with the ultimate aim of furthering California ACEP’s stated organizational purpose.

### Qualifications

The successful candidate must:

a) Be a graduate of an accredited emergency medicine residency.

b) Be board-eligible or board-certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine.

c) Display a strong interest in legislative advocacy and enthusiasm for examining and de-constructing complex issues and subsequently formulating viable solutions for the issues most pressing to emergency medicine.

d) Be an active member of national ACEP and California ACEP [I know we often accept applicants from other states moving to CA so is it fair to require the applicant to already be active? Should we rephrase that they must be active within their chapter? Or that they must commit to being active in our chapter?]

### On the Job Requirements and Goals

The Advocacy Fellowship is a rewarding program and the rewards gained are directly related to the time committed. The Advocacy Fellow is expected to participate and contribute in varying capacities which utilize his or her training and skill as a physician and his or her evolving advocacy skills, including:

a) **Clinical Shifts** – The amount of clinical shifts worked is dependent on the preference of the fellow. This will be discussed with the fellowship director prior to the start of the fellowship year.

b) **Academic Appointments** - For fellowship candidates interested in practicing in an academic environment opportunity for an appointment as a UC Davis Health Policy Fellow

c) **California ACEP** – The Advocacy Fellow will work closely with the fellowship director, the California ACEP Executive Director, Government Affairs staff, the Board of Directors, staff, consultants, and other association leaders toward achieving the goals listed in *Program Goals*. To that end, it is required that the Advocacy Fellow engage in:

i. Meetings - Each fellow is required to attend all board meetings, the Board Retreat, the California ACEP Emergency Medicine Legislative Leadership Conference, Council at national ACEP Scientific Assembly, and the California ACEP AdvancED Conference.
ii. Publications - Each fellow is expected to be working towards at least one publication. The subject should be an area of interest that is a priority to the Chapter. The topic will developed in consultation with the fellowship director

It is the goal that the fellow participates in the following activities:

a) **Testimony** – While providing testimony at the capitol is not a requirement, it is strongly suggested. Testifying opportunities are often spontaneous and dependent on time constraints. However, these opportunities are valuable and rewarding. Opportunities to testify are numerous and will be coordinated by CalACEP’s contract lobbyist, executive director, and the fellowship director.

b) **Meetings** – A monthly meeting will be scheduled with the fellowship director throughout the year. These meetings are designed to provide guidance to the fellow with the goal of optimizing the fellow’s activities.

c) **Committee service** – The Advocacy Fellow can serve as a member of any of the chapter committees or workgroups. These include: Government Affairs Committee (required); Reimbursement; Council subcommittees/committees; among others.

### Literature

**Suggested References**

5. Health Affairs [http://www.healthaffairs.org](#)

The fellowship director will provide and welcome current literature on an ongoing basis. Each fellow will be provided news articles relevant to California health policy by California ACEP’s government affairs staff.

### Mentoring

The fellowship director will provide guidance throughout the fellowship and help schedule activities that will be individualized and most rewarding for each fellow. In addition to the mentoring by the director, the fellow will receive de facto mentoring
from California ACEP Board Members, staff, consultants and physician-members. The fellow will have the opportunity to network with Emergency Department Directors from throughout the state. The fellow will also receive support from the organization in future career establishment and development.

Benefits

The professional and personal benefits of the Advocacy Fellowship will be of great use and importance to the graduate, most especially if the graduate continues his or her advocacy efforts after completion of the program. In addition to these experiences and knowledge, many tangible benefits are offered during the program:

a) **Salary, benefits and living expenses** – Funded through the number of clinical shifts per month, the salary, benefits and living expenses allow for the Advocacy Fellow to earn a living. This allows the fellow flexibility regarding preferred salary and time allowance for the fellowship. The Fellowship Director will provide significant help in attaining a clinical salary in the Sacramento area.

b) **Reimbursement** – Reasonable reimbursement to California ACEP functions (Board meetings, conferences) for travel expenses. Attendance at other relevant organized medicine conferences will also be covered with prior approval.

c) **Academic Appointment** – The Advocacy Fellow may have the opportunity to be granted status as a Health Policy Fellow through the University of California at Davis.

d) **Master of Clinical Translational Research** – Should the UCDMC Advocacy Fellow choose, he or she may, as part of a two-year fellowship track, pursue a NIH funded Master of Clinical Translational Research degree through the University of California at Davis. This is an opportunity to participate in mentored research in health policy.

e) **Publications** - Support will be given by CalACEP staff and mentors for the publication of articles related to emergency medicine advocacy. Scholarly activity during this time is highly encouraged.

Conclusion

Upon completion of the fellowship, CalACEP will award you with a completion certificate certifying your dedication to health policy and advocacy. The fellowship in health policy and advocacy will be extremely valuable in all of your future professional pursuits in medicine and health policy.
Contacts

Fellowship Directors
Carrieann Drenten      carrieann@drenten@gmail.com
Nick Sawyer           ntsawyer@ucdavis.edu

Executive Director
Elena Lopez-Gusman     elopez-gusman@californiaacep.org

Government Affairs Associate
Lauren Murphy          LMurphy@californiaacep.org

California ACEP

Mission and Vision
As an organization, California ACEP’s mission is to support emergency physicians in providing the highest quality of care to all patients and to their communities. California ACEP’s vision is that all people in California have timely access to high-quality emergency care, which is recognized as an essential public service. The emergency physician is the recognized leader and coordinator of a healthcare team capable of a comprehensive response to the medical needs of our patients and community. We promote and protect the personal and practice rights, safety, wellness and longevity of emergency physicians.

Strategic Plan

Goal 1- Advocacy: Enhance Emergency Care
• Support policy and legislation in California that improves emergency care.
• Ensure that patients and their healthcare providers make healthcare decisions.
• Position emergency medicine centrally in the future healthcare system.

Goal 2- Improve Quality, Patient Safety and Efficiency
• Support education and research to improve the safety and efficiency of emergency care in California.
• Ensure that all aspects of the integrated emergency care system and workforce provide the best quality and value for the community.
• Promote community health, including injury and illness prevention.

Goal 3- Guarantee Adequate Resources for Emergency Care
• Collaborate with similarly aligned organizations to shape and influence new payment methodologies to ensure fair payment for emergency care.
• Guarantee that the emergency care system is adequately funded as an essential public service, and is supported to a sufficient capacity to respond to the needs of the community.
• Ensure a sufficient workforce that is appropriately trained to meet the needs of the community.

Goal 4- Member Support and Engagement
• Support promising early career California emergency medicine clinical and policy researchers.
• Provide unique educational opportunities to California ACEP membership and other emergency care workers in California, and engage residents and new graduates.
• Promote wellness, safety, longevity, and job satisfaction of all emergency physicians throughout their careers.
• Effectively communicate the value of California ACEP.
• Increase membership and improve retention.
Ensure organizational health through strategic planning, oversight, and the adoption of appropriate policies and procedures to allocate and expand chapter resources.

THE LEGISLATURE

State Senate
Composed of 40 members, the Senate is the upper house of the California Legislature; each Senator represents approximately 900,000 Californians. The Senate’s leader is known as the President pro Tempore.

State Assembly
Composed of 80 members, the Assembly is the lower house of the California Legislature; each Assembly Member represents approximately 450,000 Californians. The Assembly’s leader is known as the Speaker.

Resources
In addition to the wealth of human resources available within the organization, California ACEP also uses online tracking resources so that the Fellow may remain engaged and informed of legislation pertinent to California ACEP.

ONLINE

The Roundup
A daily look at the capitol news provided by the editors of Capitol Weekly and AroundtheCapitol.com.
http://www.capitolbasement.com/

Rough and Tumble
A snapshot of the daily California public policy and politics.
http://www.rtumble.com/

CapitolTrack
CapitolTrack is the primary bill tracking program utilized by CalACEP. CapitolTrack allows CalACEP to track pertinent legislation, research legislation, make custom legislative reports among its many functions.
LegInfo
LegInfo is the official legislative research site of the State of California. An invaluable resource, LegInfo allows CalACEP to track legislation, view Daily Files and Journals, search the California Codes and has an historical legislation search back to 1993.
http://www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/

California State Legislature
This umbrella site has essentially the same basic information as both the Senate and Assembly sites, though it is less comprehensive than the individual sites.
http://www.legislature.ca.gov

State Senate
The official site of the Senate provides contact, biographical, legislative, institutional, and committee information for the Senate.
http://www.sen.ca.gov

State Assembly
The official site of the Assembly provides contact, biographical, legislative, institutional, and committee information for the Assembly.
http://www.assembly.ca.gov/

Governor
The official site of the Governor provides contact, biographical, appointment, press, and issue information for the governor.
http://www.gov.ca.gov

CA.gov
The official site of the State of California acts as a gateway to California state government.
http://www.ca.gov

California Medical Association
The official site of the California Medical Association.
http://www.cmanet.org

American College of Emergency Physicians
The official site of the American College of Emergency Physicians (national).
http://www.acep.org

The Sacramento Bee
The Sacramento Bee is Sacramento’s main newspaper with extensive coverage of the Legislature and goings-on in and around the Capitol.
http://www.sacbee.com
The Capitol Morning Report
The “Morning Report” is an online subscription-based publication, to which the Advocacy Fellow will be given access through CalACEP, which provides legislative news, press conference announcements, classified ads, job announcements and other pertinent Capitol-oriented information.
http://www.capitolmr.com

The Kaiser Family Foundation
Reports, surveys, issue briefs, charts, and fact sheets containing in-depth analysis on timely and critical issues such as the growing number of uninsured, Medicare, Medicaid, rising health care costs, global HIV/AIDS, racial disparities, and women’s health policy.

PRINT
Capitol Enquiry Pocket Directory of the California Legislature
The “Red Book” as it is known, is a great pocket resource which has contact, biographical and staff information for all 120 members of the Legislature, as well as similar information for statewide-elected officials, and California’s Congressional delegation. One Red Book will be provided to the Advocacy Fellow upon their entrance into the program.

Senate/Assembly Daily File
The Daily Files essentially are agendas by which the Senate and Assembly operate. There, it is possible to find which bills will be heard in committee, when and where the hearings take place, as well as the daily floor schedule. The Daily Files also contain a list of committees with their respective membership as well as important parliamentary deadlines. The Files can be viewed online at the website of each house.

Senate/Assembly Daily Journal
The Daily Journals are the legal records (the “minutes”) of the proceedings of each house. There, it is possible to find member attendance, votes, committee referrals and reports, as well as all other information relating to the previous day’s session. The Journals can be viewed online at the website of each house.

Senate/Assembly Histories
The Histories are printed records of each parliamentary and committee action taken upon each bill, resolution and constitutional amendment in each house. There are two Histories printed by each house, the Daily History, which is the record for each bill acted upon the previous session day, and the Weekly History which does the same each week. At the end of the legislative session, a Final History is compiled which tracks each action taken upon each bill, resolution and constitutional amendment during the two-year session. Histories can be viewed online at the website of each house.

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