

NC,ACP Governor's Newsletter

July 1, 2021

I wanna be in the room where it happens.

Aaron Burr (from the musical "Hamilton")

On May 26th, I was joined by Dr. Jenny Hinson, hospitalist with Atrium Health-Stanly; Dr. Ailia Ali, Internal Medicine resident at Wake Forest-Baptist; and MS4 Shaleen Thakur, also from Wake Forest University for our first ever "Virtual ACP Leadership Day." We met with Representative Kathy Manning and with staff for Senators Burr and Tillis and Representatives Butterfield, McHenry, Hudson, Murphy, Ross, and Budd. It was a long day but a good day.



Dr. Ali shared her example of taking care of a patient in the ICU who was sick with COVID pneumonia, and how she facilitated a call to his spouse prior to intubation. They had been married 34 years, and he told his spouse "I will see you on the other side." Unfortunately, he died from complications of COVID. Unfortunately, many of us have taken care of patients like him this past year. All of the Hill staffers were moved by Dr. Ali's personal story of being a frontline health care professional, and the fact that she was not only taking care of many sick patients, but was doing so isolated from usual sources of support such as family and friends. We used that opportunity to advocate for their support of *The Resident Physician Reduction Shortage Act* (to increase funding for GME slots) and for support of the *Dr. Lorna Breen Health care Provider Protection Act* (to address the behavioral health and well being of physicians, including depression, suicide and burnout).

Student doctor Thakur shared her experiences as well, adding that her generation is coming of age during uncertain economic times – facing a financial crisis in addition to an epidemic – and that she knows students who are not only graduating with significant student loan debt, but that there is no guarantee that there will be adequate residency training slots awaiting them. She added that there are also concerns that there may not be appropriate hiring opportunities after training. She additionally discussed the challenging situation of classmates who might have difficulty renewing their visas. Representative Kathy Manning was already aware of this issue, and mentioned the importance of passing the *Conrad 30 State and Physician Access Reauthorization Act* from the prior Congress, which would expedite visas for International Medical Graduates, permanently authorize the Conrad 30 program, and provide a pathway for IMGs and their families who are already in the US to obtain permanent residency status.

Dr. Jenny Hinson shared a powerful example of a young adult who came to her hospital after an overdose, who could have had a different outcome had she been able to access care earlier for opioid misuse, and received medication assisted treatment. She also told of a patient who presented in diabetic coma and ketoacidosis after trying to take his insulin every third day instead of daily, because he could not afford the cost of the medicine. We used those cases to advocate for passage of the *Incentivizing Medicaid Expansion Act*, the *Fair Drug Pricing Act*, and other legislation to lower drug costs and improve access to care.

We thanked Senator Tillis’ office for his support of the *TREAT Act* to temporarily allow interstate provision of telehealth services during the COVID-19 pandemic and Representatives Ross, Adams, Butterfield, Manning, and Price for their support of the *Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act* to improve maternal health, especially among disadvantaged minority groups.

***I would not say that we walked into a room... diametrically opposed... foes...
When you got skin in the game, you stay in the game
But you don't get a win unless you play in the game***

Hopefully, your NC,ACP was able to be in the room where it happens. (Today’s theme courtesy Lin-Manuel Miranda.)

Lacy Hobgood MD, FACP, FAAP

Governor, NC Chapter-American College of Physicians

Medicaid Managed Care is Live



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

On July 1st, our state’s Medicaid program’s new managed care system became a reality. If you need the most up to date information from the NC Department of Health and Human Services, please refer to their online [resources](#).

To assist Medicaid providers with the transition, the NC Medical Society has set up a [Medicaid Transformation webpage](#). This site provides valuable information and also an [online form](#) to share challenges encountered in the transition to the new Medicaid system. If you run into issues, you are encouraged to first reach out to the respective Medicaid managed care plan(s) to seek answers and solutions. Each plan has set up a process to help both providers and beneficiaries. The NCMS will be

aggregating all the submissions it receives and will also be following up with the Medicaid program to resolve any system issues.

COVID-19 Vaccination – Patient Information



We have heard concerns over the slowdown in the rate of vaccination across the state’s eligible population. The NC,ACP is therefore encouraging increased patient education about the vaccine safety and efficacy. You can play a significant role in the effort to increase vaccinations, so please take the opportunity to engage your patients and their families on the importance of getting vaccinated. To help you, we are pleased to share some resources that you can share:

NC,ACP “Just the Facts” Sheet

<https://www.ncmedsoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/NCACP-Flyer-COVID-19-Vaccine-Information-May-2021.pdf>

COVID-related myths - Busted

<https://www.ncmedsoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/The-6-biggest-Covid-related-myths-busted-Advisory-Board-May-10-2021.pdf>

How to Approach Patient Hesitancy to Get Vaccinated

<https://www.ncmedsoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Vaccine-Hesitancy-May-2021.pdf>

NCDHHS “Let’s Bring Summer Back” Campaign Info

<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/BringSummerBack#can-individuals-participate-in-the-campaign>

We hope these patient information resources are helpful. Thank you for helping in the ongoing fight against COVID-19.

OSHA Issues Standards for Health Care Employers and Workers



In case you missed it, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) released a COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) on June 10, 2021. The ETS was officially published in the Federal Register on June 21, 2021 and applies to employers and workers who provide healthcare services, including physicians, PAs, nurses, and employees who provide services in patient admission, food service, equipment and facility maintenance, housekeeping, medical waste handling, and medical equipment cleaning and reprocessing.

The following are links to online resources that provide additional information and details on compliance:

- [Summary - COVID-19 Healthcare ETS](#)

- [Is your workplace covered by the COVID-19 Healthcare ETS?](#)
 - [CURI Webinar - Overview of OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard \(ETS\) for COVID-19](#)
 - [US Department of Labor/OSHA Overview](#)
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SAVE THE DATE

2022 NC,ACP Annual Meeting

February, 11-12, 2022



MARRIOTT
RALEIGH
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