

Trauma and Injury Prevention Section Meeting Minutes  
ACEP 2022  
October 2, 2022

Chair Chris Pergrem, MD, FACEP, welcomed members to the meeting.

List of Attendees:

- Chris Pergrem, MD, FACEP, Chair
- Greg Larkin, MD, FACEP, Councilor
- Ryan Stanton – Board Liaison
- Ryan McBride – Staff Liaison
- Kristin Donaldson, MD
- Joshua Tiao, MD
- Fred Essis – ACEP Staff
- Chris Johnson – ACEP Staff

Dr. Ryan Stanton provided the ACEP Board of Directors update to the section. He provided an update on the Board's post-Council meeting where the newest Board member, Kristen McCabe-Kline, MD, FACEP will begin her term, and where the Board was set to discuss the various resolutions that passed Council, as well as upcoming Board assignments and priorities for the next year. He also noted ACEP president Chris Kang's focus on mental health for his term. He also noted the upcoming updates to the ACEP IT infrastructure and work to personalize the ACEP experience.

Dr. Pergrem raised one of the questions that came up during the meeting at ACEP21 regarding the interaction between the ACEP Trauma and Injury Prevention Committee and the TIPS Section. Dr. Stanton noted that committees are the groups assigned specific work products by the Council, and detailed how the College is looking to revamp the member involvement opportunities, whether through sections or new "member interest groups." He added that these new groups would allow smaller groups to exist and be more nimble without the membership threshold, and would be free for ACEP members. Dr. Pergrem noted that should TIPS become a member interest group, there may be better ways to coordinate and align communications and information. Dr. Stanton shared that the upcoming IT work and app development are designed to help address some of these challenges, and that the College is looking carefully at how best to meet the needs and interests of members. Ryan McBride reiterated that this is part of an ongoing effort to streamline communications within ACEP.

Dr. Pergrem then moved on to discussion of the Council resolutions, noting that most were not strictly trauma-related this year, but were more tangentially related, involving injury prevention and safety within the ED or law enforcement angles. There was also discussion around the issue of drug decriminalization being considered under the umbrella of injury prevention. Dr. Larkin shared two recent papers released within the last 24 months in the American Journal of Public Health and the New England Journal of Medicine, both of which looked nationwide in Canada and the U.S. at the morbidity and mortality of motor vehicle crashes due to cannabis being on

par with alcohol in provinces or states where cannabis is legal. He noted that from a policy perspective, this is the kind of issue we should be paying attention to given larger conversations and efforts to decriminalize or minimize harms of cannabis and other drugs. Following on the topic of motor vehicle crashes, Ryan McBride noted recent data published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) showing that 2021 was one of the most dangerous years on the road in decades, despite years of declining motor vehicle deaths.

Dr. Larkin added that there are misunderstandings even within the College membership about the harms or benefits of marijuana. He noted that even while many states are legalizing cannabis and have created lists of medical indications, none of these indications are actually evidence-based (whether for anxiety, depression, PTSD, etc.). Dr. Donaldson highlighted how the term “medical marijuana” was a misnomer given that there are no evidence-based medical indications to treat medical conditions. Dr. Pergrem and Dr. Larkin further discussed how the section should look at the issues of medicalization vs. decriminalization vs. legalization of drugs.

Dr. Pergrem asked the table if there were any additional resolutions from the ACEP Council meeting that merited consideration. The group discussed some of the resolutions that concerned law enforcement angles, but noted those were indeed more centered around specific law enforcement considerations rather than trauma and injury prevention. Dr. Pergrem referenced a post on one of the ACEP forums with a question about a patient who had physically assaulted someone, had been reported to police, and the police declined to do anything, but there was a question of EMTALA came up and whether or not if you are precluding a patient from coming in that would constitute a violation, and other various concerns around that. He noted that there could be a possibility of future council resolutions being introduced or considered in future years to address some of these questions. Dr. Larkin then discussed the potential of offering resolutions from TIPS regarding some of the issues around harm reduction and cannabis, for example, to help educate the membership, as well as other opportunities for the section to be involved in providing whitepapers or other scholarly/research publications, as well as what College resources are available or what funding opportunities may be available to help. There was general agreement about framing the section’s future efforts around harm reduction.

The group then discussed in more detail the new Member Interest Group (MIG) options available to ACEP members, and whether or not the section would be better served as a MIG or a section. It was noted that while the section has a relatively high membership level relative to the required section threshold, there is low participation. Dr. Larkin raised the possibility of reaching out to outside trauma experts for the next annual meeting in Philadelphia in 2023 in order to draw more members and interest to the section meeting.

Ryan McBride then provided a brief federal legislative updates on topics relevant to the section, including a brief summary of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the first major federal firearms policy passed in nearly thirty years that also legislation also included mental health investments and efforts to improve school safety; ACEP’s response to the PREVENT Pandemics Act developed by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, which

included comments urging the Committee to include provisions to establish a National Trauma Emergency Preparedness System (NTEPS); trauma centers reauthorization; and, the prospects for a year-end package during the lame duck session of Congress after the November 8 elections. Fred Esis then asked a question about whether or not climate issues, for example issues related to the hurricane in Florida and various responses to that, would fall under the TIPS umbrella. Several of the members clarified that there may be aspects of a response that fall under that, but climate issues generally be more in the wheelhouse of public health rather than the injury committee.

Dr. Tiao mentioned his interest in firearms research and there was brief discussion about the opportunities for grant funding to support research, including from the College through work with AFFIRM, communications with the National Coalition on Gun Violence Research (NCGVR), and a new Gun Violence Prevention Research Roundtable (GVPRR) that ACEP was a founding member of and member of the steering committee. Dr. Larkin asked about the recent joint firearms summit hosted by the American College of Surgeons and ACEP and what action items or key points came out of that. Mr. McBride and Mr. Johnson offered to look into it and find out.

There was also brief discussion about the issue of scooter safety (as it pertains to the ubiquity of electric scooters in urban areas), including ACEP's public safety awareness campaign that highlighted safety issues and injury patterns for scooter use.

Dr. Pergrem then concluded the meeting and thanked the attendees for joining the discussion.