



## WELCOME TO THE ACEP DISASTER MEDICINE SECTION NEWSLETTER

### A Message from Your Editors, Dr. Dominique Wong & Dr. Ryan Hata

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the editorial team, we are delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of the ACEP Disaster Medicine Section newsletter. As editors, our aim is to foster a community of learning, collaboration, and innovation among professionals dedicated to disaster medicine and to keep you informed and engaged with the latest developments in our field.

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### Introducing Your Section Leadership

In this issue, Section Chair, Dr. Bryan Wexler shares his goals for the section in his Letter from the Chair.

We are also proud to present an opportunity to get to know all of your section leadership in a more personal way through an informal interview. [Get to know your leaders now!](#)

Each member of our leadership team brings unique expertise, experience and enthusiasm to advancing disaster medicine. Together, we are dedicated to creating meaningful opportunities for growth, education, and engagement.

# INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

We invite you to be an active part of our newsletter and our section.

There are many ways to get involved, including:

- Writing Articles: Share your knowledge and experiences with our community by contributing original articles on disaster medicine topics, descriptions of disaster response, disaster preparedness efforts or other topics of interest.
- Mentoring Medical Students and Residents: Guide the next generation of disaster responders and experts by mentoring them in article submissions.
- Sharing Experiences: Tell us about your recent deployments, unique cases, or lessons learned in disaster response—your stories help inspire and inform others.
- Suggesting ideas or themes for future newsletters.

Your participation enriches our newsletter and strengthens our collective mission. If you are interested in contributing, mentoring, or have ideas for future editions, please reach out to us.

## ACEP DISASTER MEDICINE COMMITTEE UPDATE: DECEMBER 2025, ROMEO FAIRLEY, MD

The ACEP Disaster Medicine Committee met on December 5, 2025, to advance several critical initiatives for the 2025-2026 term. Key efforts currently underway include updating the Hospital Disaster Assessment Guide to encompass both domestic and international preparedness, and collaborating with ABEM on the Disaster Medicine subspecialty. Notably, the Disaster Medicine ACGME Program Requirements were just reviewed by the committee and an initial draft is being sent to ACEP/ABEM/ABMS leadership. Work has begun on a standardized state policy template for the allocation of scarce medical resources during crises to ensure transparency and accountability across hospitals.

In addition to policy development, the committee is focusing on educational resources and upcoming events. Members are reviewing active shooter protocols to identify best practices for emergency departments and are building a comprehensive repository of research and educational materials for the ACEP website. Planning is also in progress for the ACEP/ASPR Disaster Leadership Conference and a dedicated Disaster Medicine track for the ACEP26 preconference. Volunteers are currently being sought to assist with the ACEP26 programming. Calls for nominations for the 2026 Disaster Medical Sciences Award will be coming out soon.

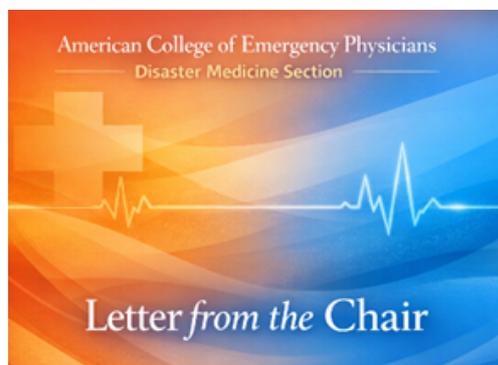
Thank you for your ongoing commitment to disaster medicine and to the ACEP Disaster Medicine Section. We value your expertise, enthusiasm, and engagement, and look forward to working together to advance the field.

With warm regards,

Dr. Dominique Wong & Dr. Ryan Hata  
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Thank you to all who attended a fantastic ACEP Scientific Assembly in Salt Lake City! As always, it is invigorating to see everyone at the Disaster Medicine section meeting in addition to other related gatherings throughout the week. I would like to wish a special congratulations to our most recent Disaster Medical Sciences award winner, Dr John Hick! Also, congratulations to our newest leadership in the Disaster Medicine section: Chair Elect Dr. Larissa Unruh, Secretary Dr. Dominique Wong, Council Representative Dr. Kylie Klemann, and Alternative Council Representative Dr. Ryan Hata.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not give thanks to Dr. James Phillips for his leadership as Chair of the section these last two years.

This period will be one of incredible potential as we inch closer towards formal subspecialty recognition. There is still a bit of a mountain to climb but no longer does it seem insurmountable.

While there were some setbacks, such as the postponement of the Medical Leadership in Disaster Preparedness and Response virtual conference, we have significant achievements in the Disaster Medicine educational conference series in partnership with University of Massachusetts, Division of EMS and Disaster Medicine and the National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (NCDMPH). I hope to see many of you attend this excellent opportunity and hear experts address challenging problems with innovative solutions.

During the coming year, our goals are to build a foundation for greater engagement. This effort includes the mentorship program and ensuring the next generation of Disaster Medicine experts has the guidance and support they need to succeed and push boundaries further than ever before. Our newsletter, co-edited by Ryan Hata and Dominique Wong, will also serve as a conduit to some of the great work of the ACEP Disaster Medicine committee, communicating efforts to you while promoting opportunities to get involved. Our subspecialty of Disaster Medicine is broad and multifaceted. It is not something that can be built and expanded on by any single individual, but by our collaborative work to ensure a comprehensive discipline that promotes healthcare resiliency.

I personally would like to thank every one of you for your continued support and work during this exciting time. This section is for all of you. If there is content you would like to see or contribute, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of our section leaders or supporting ACEP staff.

I hope to see you all in Chicago next year!

Bryan Wexler, MD, MPH, CHPCP, CHEC-III