

American College of Emergency Physicians
Observation Medicine Section Meeting
ACEP25
September 8, 2025
MINUTES

Participants

Section members participating for all or part of the meeting included: Anthony Rosania, MD, FACEP, Chair; Margarita Pena, MD, FACEP, immediate past chair; David Meguerdichian, MD, FACEP, chair-elect; George Hughes, MD, councilor; Joe Lykins, MD, alternate councilor; Arthur Au, MD; Christopher Baugh, MD, MBA, FACEP; Meredith Busman, MD; Dillon W. Casey, MD; Christopher Caspers, MD, FACEP; Sean O. Cavanaugh, MD, FACEP; Carol Clark, MD, FACEP; Thomas Donoghue, MD; Brittany M Garza, DO; Patrick M Grace, MD, FACEP; James Humble, MD; Eustace Lashley, MD, FACEP; Angel Li, MD, MBA; Vinay Mikkilineni, MD; Ronny M Otero, MD, FACEP; Abhisek Anil Patel, MD; Immad Shahnawaz Qureshi, MBBS, MSc; Mike Ross, MD, FACEP; Kyle B Taylor, MD; Theresa M Terlecki, MD; Carissa Tyo, MD, FACEP; Talia R Walker, MD, MPH; Elizabeth B. Werley, MD, FACEP

Others participating for all or part of the meeting included: Abhi Mehrotra, MD, FACEP, Board liaison; Julie Rispoli, ACEP staff liaison; Mark Laperouse, MD, Ventra Health.

Agenda

Welcome

Council Update

Hear from our Sponsor – Ventra Health

 ED Observation Units: Best Practices and Benefits

 Mark Laperouse, MD, Emergency Medicine Strategic Advisor, Ventra Health

OU Accreditation Initiative

Disaster Coalition for Observation Medicine (DCOM)

ABEM Observation Medicine FDP Application

Report from our Board Liaison

Newsletter Updates

Observation Medicine Science and Solutions Conference

Presentation of the Lou Graff Award for Excellence in Observation Medicine

Closing Remarks & Adjourn

Major Points Discussed

Dr. Anthony Rosania welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Council Update - There weren't a lot of resolutions that impacted observation. The resolution to have a dual-trained individual involved in future ACGME discussions failed - by quite a lot. The closest vote I was part of was the resolution regarding DEI and a commitment to its concepts; by about 12 votes the resolution was referred to the board. Ryan Stanton was elected as the next ACEP president.

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Hear from our Sponsor - Dr. Mark Laperouse, Emergency Medicine Strategic Advisor, Ventra Health, gave a great presentation titled, ED Observation Units: Best Practices and Benefits. He expanded on his experience with his 15 bed Observation Unit. A question and answer session followed his presentation.

OU Accreditation Initiative - Dr. Christopher Caspers reported on the development of the Observation Unit Accreditation Program. The OUAP is being developed to signify that programs have met ACEPs minimum requirements. The criteria will be posted online once available. Applicants will apply online and there will be a pilot phase. Target for opening the portal outside of the pilot phase is July 2026. All ACEP accreditation programs have an application fee, but the pricing for OUAP hasn't been set. The program will focus on ED Observation units initially but may expand outside the ED in the future.

Disaster Coalition of Observation Medicine (DCOM) – The Southern Regional Disaster Response System (SRDRS) formed DCOM in June 2024. Dr. Ross reported that their 4 key objectives are: 1) Clarify the role of an ED Observation Unit in a disaster; 2) Develop specific guidelines for unique disaster situations; 3) Detail how to best leverage telemedicine with EDOUs in a disaster; 4) Foster a collaborative EDOU network for disaster preparedness.

ABEM Observation Medicine FDP Application – Dr. Ross reported that ABEM only currently has an FPD in Ultrasound. In November 2024, some members of the Observation Medicine met with ABEM to discuss next steps in development. ABEM suggested that we survey the section to ensure adequate interest in an Observation Medicine FPD to support the work involved in development.

Our Board Liaison, Dr. Abhi Mehrotra gave an update on the College. He reported that ACEP has hired a new Executive Director, Mike Fraser, CAE who was most recently at the College of American Pathologists. His term begins November 1, but he attended *ACEP25* in order to get a feel for the conference and to meet everyone.

Newsletter Updates – Everyone was encouraged to submit an article for the Observation Section newsletter.

Observation Medicine Science and Solutions Conference. Dr. Meredith Busman reported on the Observation conference which is happening as part of *ACEP Accelerate* in San Diego, CA on January 18-19, 2026. The Observation Medicine conference was included as part of *ACEP Accelerate* in Orlando, FL in January 2025 and we had a great turnout.

Dr. Caspers presented Dr. Christopher Baugh with the [Lou Graff Award for Excellence in Observation Medicine](#).

The meeting was adjourned.