

Emergency Telehealth Section Meeting Minutes
ACEP 2022
Hybrid (In-person w/ virtual listen-in)
October 2, 2022

ETS Chair Aditi Joshi, MD, FACEP, welcomed members to the meeting.

List of Attendees:

- Aditi Joshi, Outgoing Chair
- Emily Hayden, Incoming Chair
- Alison Haddock – Board Liaison
- Ryan McBride – Staff Liaison
- Fred Essis – ACEP Staff
- Chris Johnson – ACEP Staff
- Michael Baker
- Ken Gram
- Jon Michael Cuba
- Iva Clement
- Michael Carr
- Bryan Balentine
- Joely Merriman
- Francis
- Ed Barthell
- Julia M. Huber
- Jon Olson
- Shruti Chandra
- Deborah Mulligan
- David Ernst
- Kim Landry
- Alex Kleinmann
- Iyesatta Emeli
- Rishi Khakhkhar
- Hartmut Gross
- Seth Lotterman
- CJA
- Stephen Karas
- Kathy Li
- Dave Whitehead
- Mark Friedman

Dr. Joshi began the meeting with a brief welcome and introduced Dr. Alison Haddock, the Section's Board Liaison, for an update from the Board of Directors. She noted that all of the components of the Telehealth Task Force recommendations had fully made it through the Board's review process and have been approved, with some slight modifications to the

reimbursement section. She highlighted the Section's contributions to the Task Force's work and how it will help expand the College's vision for telehealth especially for those who aren't currently practicing in this space. One of the next steps in this process is the New Practice Models Task Force and telehealth will be an important concept in this work, particularly given the recent workforce projections and how the College is looking to expand practice options for emergency physicians other than just working physically in a standard emergency department. She further detailed how this fits into the newly-implemented ACEP strategic plan.

ELECTIONS

Chair-Elect

The Section voted to name Dr. Michael Baker as the Section Chair-elect. Dr. Baker ran against Dr. Shruti Chandra and Dr. Deborah Ann Mulligan. Drs. Chandra and Mulligan had previously formally responded to the call for nominations, while Dr. Baker noted his intent to run from the floor. All candidates provided brief speeches prior to the vote.

Secretary

Dr. Rishi Khakhkhar ran unopposed and will be the new Section Secretary. There were no nominations from the floor.

Website Editor

The Website Editor position had no candidates for the position. Dr. Joshi noted that after the ACEP22 meeting, Dr. Hayden could reach out to the broader section membership for individuals to fulfill this role. Dr. Joely Merriman reached out to Dr. Hayden post-ACEP22 and offered to fill the role.

Newsletter Editor

No candidates had formally been nominated for the position. Dr. Iyesatta Emeli nominated herself from the floor and was elected to the Newsletter Editor position.

Councilor

The section voted to name Dr. Aditi Joshi as the Section Councilor. Dr. Erica Olsen, Dr. Aditi Joshi, and Dr. Deborah Ann Mulligan were the three candidates for the position. Dr. Mulligan ultimately withdrew her intent to run for the position, noting the other excellent candidates, and opted to nominate herself for the Alternate Councilor position instead.

Alternate Councilor

The section voted to name Dr. Deborah Ann Mulligan as Alternate Councilor. Dr. Erica Olsen, Dr. Mulligan, and Dr. Alex Kleinmann ran, with Dr. Kleinmann giving a brief speech.

Outgoing Remarks from Dr. Joshi

Dr. Joshi provided some remarks about her term as Chair of the section and assuming the role during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how telemedicine expanded rapidly during this time. She noted how the College recognized the necessity of the section and how the section engaged more meaningfully with the College and various committees. She also shared how other outside organizations and advocacy groups sought the section's input. She also discussed several of the fundamental questions and challenges that are on the horizon for the Section, including telehealth's place in new practice models and the work coming out of the College on that; the issue of reimbursement parity for telehealth emergency care and traditional in-person telehealth, as well as considerations of oversight and what constitutes an emergency visit; and the issue of credentialing, particularly the decision not to require it as to not limit adoption of the modality. Additionally, Dr. Joshi noted how the section now has an official representative from EMRA to help facilitate dialogue with them. She concluded her remarks by raising the issue of the future of the physician workforce and burnout, and how telehealth may help EM workforce issues and give emergency physicians more flexible options to practice, and then turned the section over to Dr. Hayden.

Dr. Hayden presented Dr. Joshi with a plaque recognizing her term as Section Chair and thanking her for her service to the section and the College.

Ryan McBride, Section Staff Liaison, then provided a legislative and regulatory update on the telehealth landscape at the federal level. The main points of the presentation detailed existing telehealth policy under Medicare, existing policy under Medicaid, the legislative landscape, and what may be on the horizon for telehealth at the federal level. The presentation detailed the pre-pandemic federal policies and the temporary flexibilities provided as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as a breakdown of what policies are expiring at the end of the public health emergency (PHE) or after the 151-day period following the end of the PHE, an extension that was provided by Congress. Mr. McBride also noted how federal attitudes around telehealth are generally positive, with both regulators and legislators agreeing that telehealth is "here to stay," but how and to what extent remains unclear. There were questions from the audience regarding reimbursement parity for emergency care delivered via telehealth and on what data is necessary or useful to help make the case to regulators and legislators on the value of telehealth and the role of emergency medicine within this space.

Dr. Hayden then gave her remarks as the new Chair of the section. She began by raising an issue regarding amending the section's operational guidelines, particularly as to how the Alternate Counselor role fits in the section and whether that position should be modified, and noted that some changes to the voting process may be coming. She then proceeded to share her vision for the section moving forward, and the "Who, What, Where, When, and How" of telehealth. She

discussed the uptake of telehealth during the pandemic, including how even though there seems to be a pull to return to the status quo in-person care, many individuals, programs, and systems are taking different pieces of telehealth and tools and integrating them into their care, and as a result, there are many different visions and models of care that continue to develop. Dr. Hayden laid out how the section, utilizing its collective experience and knowledge, can serve as both messengers and mythbusters inside and outside of the profession. She also moved the section from quarterly meetings to monthly meetings in order to keep the section engaged.

Vapotherm, the section's sponsor for ACEP22, then gave a presentation on the company and the products they offer to provide treatment for undifferentiated respiratory distress, including the experiences learned through the pandemic, and provided a brief demonstration of the product.

Dr. Hayden then thanked the attendees and encouraged them to use the remaining time to network, and concluded the meeting.