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GCEP EPIC

The Magazine of the Georgia College of Emergency Physicians

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President's Message

GCEP Members,

Life as we know it is beginning to return to some semblance of normalcy. Many emergency departments are beginning to return to pre-pandemic volumes. There has been minimal activity on Governor Kemp's Covid-19 Task Force, but many entities around the state are beginning to return to full capacity. Schools around our state have opened or are about to open. It is more important now than ever before to be vigilant. No one is immune, not even the President of the United States (POTUS). We need to focus on physician wellness for our colleagues and ourselves.



John L. Sy, DO, MS, FACEP
President, GCEP

Please come support GCEP at our annual Lake Oconee meeting - [Georgia Emergency Medicine Leadership and Advocacy Conference](#) on December 3-4, 2020. The GCEP Education planning committee and staff have worked very hard to make it possible to attend in the traditional format at the Ritz on Lake Oconee AND new this year we will be offering a virtual option for those who prefer not to travel. Programming will highlight

legislators who have been supportive of our advocacy agenda and lectures to improve leadership skills even for those seasoned physicians. Additionally, our diversity and inclusion committee will be leading interactive talks on promoting equity and inclusion in EM practice. While 2020 has proven to be challenging, your GCEP is committed to support you every step of the way.

I want to personally thank each and everyone of you for your resiliency and adaptability during this once in a century pandemic. You are the true frontline healthcare heroes in my eyes. Always remember that we serve our patients 24-7-365 and for that you should be very proud of yourself. It is my distinct honor and pleasure to represent the great emergency physicians of the state of Georgia.

Sincerely,

John L. Sy, DO, MS, FACEP

President, Georgia Emergency Physician Specialists, LLC
President, American College of Emergency Physicians, GA Chapter
Associate Professor, School of Medicine - Mercer University
Memorial University Medical Center
Savannah, Georgia 31404

Diversity & Inclusion Committee Updates

Report by Mark A. Griffiths, MD, FAAP, FACEP on behalf of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee



Mark A. Griffiths, MD,
FAAP, FACEP

As we as a country continue to identify examples of inequities as it relates to justice, our diversity council is steadily working towards mending what we can in the healthcare sector. The GCEP diversity council has put forth proposals to address immediate and long term needs in this regard. In July, we crafted our Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-racism statement where both short term and long term needs were identified and interventions were proposed. To address the acute issues we are currently facing, we committed to advocate for standardized reporting of all injuries and deaths involving law enforcement, as well as implicit bias and anti-racism training for all front-line workers. To address the long-term needs of bridging the health inequities gap, the committee has put forth a proposal to the GCEP Board of Directors to establish a scholarship for underrepresented minority medical school applicants. The intent is that with this support to complete educational and academic pursuits in the state of Georgia, we will establish a pipeline of physicians vested in serving the underserved and meeting the needs of emergency care in various communities throughout our state. There is still much work to be done, but with tangible interventions such as these, we are confident we are moving forward in the right direction for our state.

Government Affairs Update

Provided by Travis Lindley & Devin Krecl, Capitol Strategy Group, LLC

2020 GEMLAC Conference

The GCEP legislative team and GCEP leadership have been working diligently to host a great 2020 GEMLAC conference. The following legislators have agreed to join us in December to discuss the 2020 Legislative Session and 2021 Legislative Priorities:



- **Sen. Chuck Hufstetler - Senate Health Committee / OON Bill Sponsor**
- **Rep. Lee Hawkins - House Health Committee & OON Bill Sponsor**
- Sen. Butch Miller - Senate President Pro Tem
- Sen. Mike Dugan - Senate Majority Leader
- Rep. Bob Trammell - House Minority Leader
- Rep. Jodi Lott - House Health Committee & Administration Floor Leader
- Rep. Sharon Cooper - House Health Committee Chair
- Sen. Ben Watson, MD - Senate Health Committee Chair
- Sen. Nan Orrock - Senate Health Committee
- Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, MD - Senate Health Committee
- Rep. Mark Newton, MD - House Health Committee

2020 Notable Signed Legislation

The following are notable bills that were passed in the respective chambers and have become law. The Governors bill review period began Saturday, June 27th and ended on Wednesday, August 5th. Unlike most legislative years, when a bill is signed into law, may take effect July 1st of the current year. As COVID-19 halted the session in mid-March and did not resume until June 27th, all laws will not take effect until January 1, 2021, unless another date is specified in the bill itself.

SB 303 - GA Right to Shop Act

Sen. Ben Watson, MD

Transparency measure to allow consumers to have a better understanding of their health care costs through a series of quality metrics.

SB 313 - PBM Regulation and Licensure

Sen. Dean Burke, MD

Addresses pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and represents a comprehensive rewrite of Georgia's PBM code section (Chapter 64 of Title 33) that includes some belt and suspenders changes to strengthen oversight and enforcement as well as innovative first in the nation changes designed to increase transparency, level the playing field and protect patients.

SB 359 - COVID-19 Immunity

Sen. Chuck Hufstetler

Shields companies from legal liability throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, unless they show "gross negligence, willful and wanton misconduct, reckless infliction of harm, or intentional inflictions of harm."

SB 482 - Office of Health Strategy and Coordination

Sen. Dean Burke, MD

Creates the All Payers Claims Database in Chapter 53 of Title 31.

HB 789 - Transparency Rating System

Rep. Mark Newton, MD

The legislation creates a surprise rating system (using checks and x's) so that individuals can determine if the physician specialties are contracted by a facility and in-network as those specialties are the roots of most surprise billing. It requires an insurer to delineate the surprise bill rating.

HB 888 - Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act

Rep. Lee Hawkins

Gives consumers protections against surprise insurance and medical billing with out of network providers.

HB 918 - Practice of Pharmacy

Rep. Sharon Cooper

Addresses pharmacy practices and eliminates steering practices by pharmacy benefit managers to certain pharmacies and seeks to reign in audit on pharmacies by pharmacy benefit managers.

HB 946 - Pharmacy Benefit Manager Reform

Rep. David Knight

This legislation addresses regulation of pharmacy benefit managers and mirrors SB 313.

Election Alert - Vote on November 3rd!

The Georgia Emergency Medicine PAC proudly supports the following candidates for their support on key issues of importance to our patients, our practices and our profession.

Candidate Michelle Au, MD
Sen. Dean Burke, MD
Sen. Gloria Butler
Sen. Bill Cowser
Sen. Mike Dugan
Sen. Ed Harbison

Sen. Tyler Harper
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler
Sen. John Kennedy
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, MD
Sen. Butch Miller
Sen. Jeff Mullis

Sen. Nan Orrock
Sen. Chuck Payne
Sen. Blake Tillery
Sen. Lindsey Tippins
Sen. Ben Watson, MD

Rep. Jon Burns
Rep. Sharon Cooper
Rep. Katie Dempsey
Rep. Karla Drenner
Rep. Chuck Efstrotation
Rep. Terry England
Rep. Spencer Frye
Rep. David Ralston
Rep. Trey Rhodes

Rep. Houston Gaines
Rep. Michael Gravely
Rep. Matt Hatchett
Rep. Lee Hawkins
Rep. Penny Houston
Rep. Rick Jasperse
Rep. John LaHood
Rep. Kim Schofield
Rep. Deborah Silcox

Rep. Jodi Lott
Rep. Mark Newton, MD
Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver
Rep. Butch Parrish
Rep. Jesse Petrea
Candidate Betty Price, MD
Rep. Brian Prince
Rep. Mickey Stephens
Rep. Bill Werkheiser

Take Action - VOTE!!

- **VOTE!** Tuesday, Nov. 3rd, polls are open between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- **EARLY VOTING** begins October 12th and runs until October 30th.
- **LOCATE** Your Poll: <https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do>
- **KNOW** Your Elected Officials: https://openstates.org/find_your_legislator/

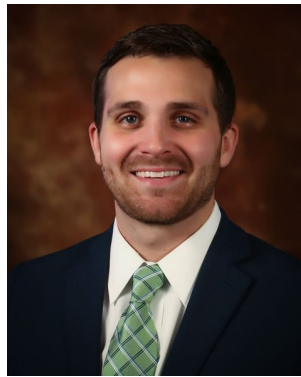
Looking Ahead

Keep an eye out for an email from the GCEP legislative team for a 2021 Pre-Legislative Session updates. We will provide regular updates as the 2021 session gets underway.

Please call us with any questions!



Travis Lindley
404.886.5058



Devin Krecl
770.655.9545

Financial Market News

Politics, Elections, and Your Portfolio: How the 2020

race may impact financial markets

Provided by Benjamin Yin, MBA & Nolan Pendleton, CFP, MBA via Eagle Strategies, LLC



Benjamin Yin, MBA



Nolan Pendleton,
CFP, MBA

Not surprisingly, many Americans are intensely passionate when it comes to their political beliefs. For some, it's a fervor that's rivaled only by their love for a favorite sports team—a passion that all too often leads them to drastically overestimate (either positively or negatively) the economic impact of whichever party happens to be in power.

The result, unfortunately, is that sometimes investors tend to allow their emotions to alter their long-term financial plans. They may react to what they perceive will be the short-term impact of an administration change by either moving into safe-haven investments if their candidate loses or becoming overly aggressive if their candidate wins.

However, truth be told, when it comes to the historical performance of markets, the political party in charge makes little to no economic difference.

PARTY AFFILIATION DOESN'T DICTATE MARKET PERFORMANCE

When historical market data is analyzed, regardless of which party is in power, there's no statistical distinction in market performance whatsoever. Since 1945, a traditional 60/40 stock to bond portfolio has delivered a 6.0% average annual return under Democrat presidents, and a 6.1% average annual return during Republican administrations.¹

What is perhaps more interesting to note, however, is that financial markets tend to respond more positively to shared power—when the Executive branch has strong Legislative checks and balances. Looking at annualized returns for the two calendar years following every presidential election since 1952, the highest stock market returns have occurred with a Democrat in the White House and either a Republican (15.8%) or split Congress (14.0%).²

Instead of political party affiliation, investors would be well-advised to focus more on tangible and measurable economic factors, where personal bias and emotions do not play a role:

- Where are we currently in the business cycle?
- Will the Federal Reserve continue its present monetary policy course, and how might that impact interest rates and inflation going forward?
- What is the likelihood that corporate profits and valuations will be able to continue rising from their current levels?

BUT PARTY PLATFORM CAN IMPACT SECTOR ROTATION

One area where politics and economics do intersect to some degree is in how a particular administration's platform and policies can impact the relative performance of various sectors. In previous election cycles, Republican wins have provided a tailwind for Defense, Energy, and Financial stocks, while Democratic administrations have

signaled growth in Healthcare, Consumer Staples, Utilities, and Real Estate. To a great degree, these trends appear to be holding true to form in 2020 based on the party platforms recently laid out.

Given the ongoing pandemic, the Healthcare sector may see a significant surge if Joe Biden is elected. The Democrats also seem highly focused on renewed infrastructure spending, which could be a boon for transportation, building, alternative energy, and broadband providers. And (unique to this election cycle) large multinational corporations could respond well to a Democrat administration, in hopes of a global loosening of trade sanctions.

Conversely, a Trump re-election will likely continue to buoy the Defense and Aerospace sector due to sustained higher levels of government spending. It would also bode well for the Materials, Financials, and Energy sectors, which could expect current deregulation and tax cut levels to be maintained.

SOMETIMES DOING NOTHING IS THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION

Between now and November 3, 2020, countless political and economic pundits will raise their voices about how one candidate or the other will save or ruin the economy and the stock market. But the actual impact of who wins and who loses is almost always overstated. The economy is driven by the actions of millions of people and thousands of institutions-not just one person or party.

Aside from perhaps dialing up or dialing back a bit on exposure to certain sectors, as well as periodically rebalancing investments to maintain an appropriate asset allocation, the best thing investors can probably do for their portfolio is to leave partisan politics out of the equation.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- The stock market has shown no historical preference for a political party but performs appreciably better when the Executive and Legislative branches are in opposition.
- Rather than a political party, investors should focus more on tangible economic data (e.g., corporate profits, valuations, interest rates, inflation, and monetary policy) to drive their investment decisions.
- While new administrations can impact the rotation of sectors in and out of favor, a thoughtfully crafted, long-term financial plan may be best served by keeping politics out of investment decisions.

1 "Annual Returns on Stock, T. Bonds and T. Bills: 1928 - Current," Stern NYU. 2 FactSet, November 2018.

Nolan and Ben can be contacted at Nolan@GenerationMD.com | Ben@GenerationMD.com or via their website, GenerationMD.com, where they help physicians plan for today, plan for tomorrow, plan for GENERATIONS. Visit for great resources, including a free copy of the book, Myth of the Rich Doctor.

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Interview with a GCEP Board Member

Carmen D. Sulton, MD, FAAP, FACEP

*Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine
Emory University School of Medicine
Sedation Services, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston
Atlanta, GA*



Carmen D. Sulton,
MD, FAAP, FACEP

GCEP: Where did you grow up?

CS: I am a Georgia native! I grew up in Atlanta and graduated from Chamblee Charter High School and Emory University for undergrad.

GCEP: So you went to Emory for undergrad...what was your major and where did you go to medical school?

CS: I have a BA in Psychology from Emory. I went to medical school at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN.

GCEP: Did you always know you wanted be a doctor? Was there someone or some event that influenced your decision?

CS: I come from a family of physicians. My Mom is a Pediatrician. My uncle is Rad Oncology. My husband is an Anesthesiologist. When I was little I actually wanted to go to law school. But I loved chemistry and math so sort of found my way to medical school. My Mom also just loves her job. Her patients. Making a difference. That has always inspired me and still does.



GCEP: You mentioned your husband...Do you have children?

CS: I am married with 3 girls, ages 16, 13 and 8. We love going out to Atlanta restaurants, especially sushi places (even the little one). We also love card games (my hubs is a poker enthusiast) and Atlanta United games.

GCEP: Speaking of restaurants, what are your favorites in ATL?

CS: Ohhh....that's tough. Gunshow is great. So is Ecco Midtown and The Optimist. For breakfast, Home Grown is good. If I'm headed in for a nightshift, Sushi Avenue right up the street from my house is my go-to :-)

GCEP: Do you volunteer for any organizations? Community service?

CS: I volunteer a lot of my time! I am a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. as well as Jack and Jill of America, Inc., which are both dedicated to service. I am the chair of the Diversity and Equity committee at Decatur High School where my oldest daughter is a student. I have volunteered as a career mentor at my church as well. The best part of that was showing kids otoscopes and trauma sheers!

GCEP: Do you have any hobbies you enjoy aside from your volunteer work?

CS: I love to read in my spare time. I'm currently reading a few Stephen King books for fiction fun. I am pre-ordering Barack Obama's new book for sure. Ibram X Kendi's "How to be an Anti-Racist" is on my list of non-fiction work. I run a few 5Ks here and there. The last I ran was a fundraiser for my Dad and my husband's alma mater, Morehouse College. It was a virtual 5K....which was....interesting. I'm also a new Peloton addict.

GCEP: What do you enjoy most about your job?

CS: Right now, I have a hybrid job, whereby I spend half of my week in the Peds ED and half of the week in Sedation Services. When I'm in the ED, I'm a night shift worker and when I'm sedating, I'm all days. It's a neat flip-flop. I like the variety of what I do now and the mix of challenges.

What do you enjoy most about GCEP?

I started in GCEP as the Peds Emergency Medicine Fellow. I've enjoyed the ability and the opportunity to grow in leadership as well as the mentorship that GCEP has provided. I have also worked on the new Diversity committee and am excited to be working on a medical student scholarship for an emergency medicine away rotation in Georgia.

GCEP: Let's end with your favorite quote!

CS: "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose." -Dr. Seuss

Important Upcoming Dates



GEMLAC Overview:

- The meeting will be a two-day format of half-day Thursday afternoon and half-day Friday morning
- The meeting will be set up as a hybrid meeting. This means that we will be running a Live Stream of all the talks. In the event of public health restrictions, the meeting will transition to solely virtual.
- For those unable to travel to the Ritz, there is a VIRTUAL ONLY registration option.
- Attendees who are ONSITE will also have access to the Live Stream so they can watch from their hotel room if they choose.
- You must either be in person or watch in real time to get CME. Recordings will not qualify but will be available as a GCEP Member benefit.
- The meeting will be set up in the safest way possible with much more meeting space and the exhibit hall in the Pavilion.

Agenda:

Thursday, December 3, 2020

- 1:00PM - 5:30PM GEMLAC Educational Program
- 5:30 - 6:30PM Beer, Wine, & Bourbons Tasting and Mocktail Mixology Reception

Friday, December 4, 2020

- 7:00AM - 7:30AM Breakfast & Visit Exhibits
- 8:00AM - 12:30PM GEMLAC Educational Program
- 12:45 - 1:45PM Lunch for the Residents
- 1:45 - 3:30PM Resident Focused Program

**Agenda subject to change*

[REGISTER for the GEMLAC](#)

Hotel Information:

Please make your reservation at The Ritz Carlton Reynolds by calling 800-944-5884

and referencing Georgia Emergency Medicine Leadership & Advocacy Conference OR [Click Here to make your Hotel Reservation](#) online.

All reservations must be received by the Hotel no later than Monday, November 16, 2020. The room rate will only apply as long as we still have rooms in our block so book your rooms early!

Group Room Rates Run of the House: \$209/night plus taxes and fees.

Questions?

Contact GCEP office at 770-613-0932 or karrie@theassociationcompany.com or tara@theassociationcompany.com





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