



## Guide to Advocacy with EMRA

Interested in getting more involved? Here are some ideas to get you started (or keep you moving forward!) on your advocacy adventures!

### \*Celebrate EMRA's Advocacy Week at your residency!

During the month of May, EMRA members across the country will be celebrating Advocacy Month at their residency programs. It's coming soon, but it's not too late! If you'd like to help your residency acknowledge the importance of advocacy in our training, ask your program director if you can speak for a few minutes about advocacy, and remind your fellow residents about the Advocacy Handbook that they received earlier this year as an EMRA member benefit. If your program's conference schedule has more time later in the year, ask if you can present one of the easy-to-customize pre-made PowerPoint presentations available on the website, or invite a guest speaker to spread the word about advocacy to your fellow residents.

### \*Sign up for the ACEP 9-1-1 Legislative Network.

ACEP's 9-1-1 Network is the single best way to stay informed about the legislative and regulatory issues that impact us as emergency physicians. By signing up on ACEP's website, you agree to receive a weekly email summarizing the news, as well as intermittent Action Alerts when there are steps that you can take to contact your legislator and improve emergency care. Anyone with an interest in health policy and EM should be on this list! [Click here to sign up...](#)

### \*Join EMRA's Health Policy Committee.

While there is an annual application deadline for joining an EMRA Committee, additional applications are also accepted on a rolling basis. Our current projects include promoting Advocacy Week, working to improve the advocacy resources available at EMRA.org, writing about advocacy and policy topics for EM Resident magazine, and recruiting more residents to join the 9-1-1 Network and donate to NEMPAC. We are always expanding our projects and there are many ways to get involved. Applying is easy – find out how at EMRA.org today!

### \*Give to NEMPAC (or the EM Action Fund).

With regulations being written daily, even resident emergency physicians must consider sparing a few dollars to make sure legislators consider the issues facing emergency patients and providers as they make their run for office. Residents can reach the Give-A-Shift level (which comes with special benefits like admission to VIP Receptions at SA and the Leadership and Advocacy Conference) with a donation of only \$100, but donations in any amount are appreciated. Donations are also now being accepted for the EM Action Fund, a new group recently convened to act as a voice for emergency medicine in the regulatory process, where the quality and reimbursement policies that will impact us for years to come are being determined.

\*Attend the Leadership and Advocacy Conference (LAC).

Ask your program director now if your program will be participating in the annual “Chair’s Challenge” and sending a resident (or two!) to Washington D.C. for LAC. Attending this conference is the best immersion in EM advocacy available. It includes a Residents and First-Timers Track to give you the background you need on the issues, then two days of fantastic presentations on hot topics by national leaders in the field combined with an advocacy expedition to the Capitol to discuss key issues with your local legislator.

\*ACEP-EMRA Mini-Health Policy Fellowship:

Want to get hands-on experience in advocacy? This one month experience can help you do just that, by working in DC with ACEP's legislative staff in the office and on Capitol Hill. Fellows will work with several members of the staff on regulatory issues, legislative efforts, PR and media campaigns, and attend events providing real advocacy exposure. Fellows may work on one or several projects based on their interests in advocacy and health policy. George Washington University offers an optional Resident Rotation in Health Care Policy track for interested fellows. The fellowship is awarded to two residents per year- applications are due in July.