



To my EM Physician Colleagues,

From the doors of our Emergency Department to the floor of Congress, the plague that has struck our nation in the form of opiates has shown its face. This problem that many of us have served witness to for years is now grabbing the headlines and the public's attention. As Emergency Medicine physicians we are the champions of our patients and our communities and we must embrace this issue and champion efforts to end this opioid epidemic. In a country that mobilizes forces for the healthcare crises of Ebola and Zika virus, we must speak up for our communities about the opiate crisis encountered daily in our Emergency Departments. In Ohio, more people die annually now from opiates than those who die as a result of motor vehicle accidents.

If you haven't already, I hope you'll read the remarks from past AMA President—and fellow practicing EM physician—Steve Stack, MD. It's a [compelling open letter to America's physicians](#) and a stirring call to action against the opioid epidemic. Ohio ACEP is answering Dr. Stack's call, and I hope you'll join us.

Ohio ACEP, with grant assistance from the National College, is developing a program to take to Ohio high schools to help educate parents, students, teachers, and administrators about the dangers of opiates, from Norco to heroin. Your communities respect you and rely upon the care that you provide 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. They also want to hear what you have to say, and it is our hope that a program initiated by ED docs for their own communities will be welcomed and potentially save lives.

Will you join us? We need physician leaders willing to partner with us to speak in their communities.

The Chapter has developed a kit to include presentation, resources, contact information, and steps to take in implementing presentations. As lead project manager on this grant, I ask that you please reflect upon this issue and see this as an opportunity to work towards the change you would want in your community. As we move forward to complete our presentation kit, we would appreciate your support and the ability to call on you to provide a presentation once a year to your local school district.

If you are interested in serving as a presenter or have questions, please get in touch with me by emailing OpiateAwarenessTeam@ohacep.org with your contact email, phone, and school district information.

Through our combined efforts, we can help bring an end to this crisis.

Sincerely,

Ryan Squier, MD, FACEP
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