



Ohio ACEP Board of Directors & Councillor Candidates

Board Elections

Board members will be elected by ballot by majority vote of the Chapter membership at the Chapter's [Annual Meeting](#) on **May 1, 2024**.

- **Six (6) Board Members will be elected by the membership to serve a three-year term.**
 - Current Board members with expiring terms are eligible for re-nomination and re-election.
 - Their terms of office will begin at the close of the Annual Meeting at which they are elected.
-

Councillor Elections

Councillors will be elected by ballot by majority vote of the Chapter membership at the Chapter's [Annual Meeting](#) on **May 1, 2024**.

Councillors represent the Ohio Chapter on ACEP Council. [ACEP Council](#) is the deliberative and representative body that meets once a year for two days prior to the College's annual Scientific Assembly. The Council votes on resolutions, elects members to the National ACEP Board of Directors, and ensures grassroots involvement in the democratic decision-making process.

- **Seven (7) Councillors will be elected by the membership to serve a 2-year term.**
- Current Councillors with expiring terms are eligible for re-nomination and re-election.

Board Candidates



Laurel Barr, MD, FACEP; Board Candidate *(Columbus, Ohio)*

I humbly request your vote for Ohio ACEP Board of Directors. I believe strongly that physicians provide the best care to our patients when we care for ourselves. If elected to serve on the Board, I will work hard to make a positive impact on our physicians, our patients, and our community.

Ohio ACEP has allowed me to advocate for myself and my colleagues. I became active in Ohio ACEP through Advocacy Day over the last several years. I have recently expanded my involvement with Ohio ACEP through the Leadership Development Academy. This opportunity has allowed me to become more involved through participation in the Annual Meeting, as an Alternate Councillor in National ACEP Council as well as through participation in the Government Affairs Committee, Workplace Violence Task Force, and Young Physician Section, and through various efforts supporting Ohio ACEP activities including representing Ohio ACEP on the Ohio Traffic Safety Council and at the Ohio State Medical Association Annual Meeting. I am an active member of National ACEP's Young Physician Section currently serving as Councillor. I have provided content for Practice Essentials of Emergency Medicine and reviewed content for Rivers' Oral Board Review.

The profession of Emergency Medicine continues to evolve and faces new and old challenges each day. If we are to continue providing the highest quality patient care, emergency physicians must guide that evolution. If you allow me to serve on the Board of Directors, I will work proactively to ensure that Ohio ACEP provides you with the tools and support you need to provide the highest quality care to all your patients.



Dan Breece, DO, CPE, FACEP; Board Candidate *(Marietta, Ohio)*

Incumbent

Dr. Dan Breece has served as the Chief Medical Officer and Vice President of Physician Services for Memorial Health System for 5 years as well as serves as the President of Sistersville General Hospital for 3 years. He is also serving on the Ohio ACEP Executive Committee of the Board as Treasurer while completing his third term. He previously served as a Councillor for Ohio ACEP, as the President of the Medical Staff for Marietta Memorial and Selby General Hospitals for 3 years, as Core Faculty member for Marietta Memorial Hospital's Emergency Medicine Residency Program, as the Medical Director for Emergency and Urgent Care Services for Memorial Health System, and as the EMS Medical Director for Washington and Monroe counties. Dr. Breece also served in the United States navy for twelve years.

In addition to his above leadership positions, Dr. Breece is also a clinical instructor for the Marietta College Physician Assistant Program as well as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine for the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. He continues to lead Memorial Health System's Quality program. He has served on Ohio ACEP's Government Affairs Committee and Residents' Assembly Task Force. Currently he co-chairs the Leadership Development Academy for Ohio ACEP.

These past and present experiences have strengthened Dr. Breece as a leader. His desire is to continue to serve as a member of the Ohio ACEP Board of Directors to represent the interests of the members of Ohio ACEP.



Matthew Sanders, DO, FACEP; Board Candidate *(Springboro, Ohio)*

Incumbent

Dr. Matthew Sanders is employed by Community Health Partners, where he serves on the board of directors. He works primarily at Highland District Hospital, a critical access hospital. Dr. Sanders has practiced community emergency medicine since completing his residency at The Ohio State University Medical Center. He has been involved in the teaching of emergency medicine to OSU medical students rotating through the ED at Memorial Hospital; as well as supervising Family Practice residents in the ED at Highland District Hospital.

Dr. Sanders has been an ACEP member since 2001 and became an ACEP Fellow in 2011. He has served as a member of the Ohio ACEP Board of Directors since 2012 and is former Chair of the Ohio ACEP Government Affairs Committee. He is also a graduate of Ohio ACEP's Leadership Development Academy.

Dr. Sanders has participated in advocacy efforts in the fight against prescription drug abuse by representing Ohio ACEP at the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team - Emergency Department Guidelines Committee. More recently, he advocated with his state senator on Scope of Practice issues and the Prudent Layperson Standard.

Dr. Sanders was appointed to the ACEP Council Steering Committee for 2023 and 2024. He has served as an ACEP Councillor or Alternate since 2011. He represented Ohio ACEP on a Council Reference Committee in 2019, served on the Tellers, Credentials and Elections Committee at ACEP Council from (2015-2019) and served on the Council Awards Committee in 2022. He is also currently serving national ACEP on the State Legislative and Regulatory Committee.

Dr. Sanders asks for your vote so he can continue to help strengthen the Chapter while representing the patients and emergency physicians in Southwest Ohio.



Brian Scharfenberg, DO, FACEP; Board Candidate *(Marietta, Ohio)*

Dr. Brian Scharfenberg currently serves as the Medical Director of Emergency and Urgent Care Services for Memorial Health System, based in Marietta, Ohio. In this role, he oversees five emergency departments and two urgent care locations staffed by 75 physicians and NPPs. The service line continues to expand with the opening of an additional free-standing ED in Athens, Ohio, in 2024. Dr. Scharfenberg is also a member of the clinical faculty for the emergency medicine residency program at Memorial, where he was the chief resident during his training. Additionally, he serves on the board of a local non-profit pharmacy whose mission is to provide a reliable source of necessary medications for those in Southeastern Ohio without means to pay for them.

Dr. Scharfenberg is a 2023 graduate of the Ohio ACEP Leadership Development Academy and currently serves as a Councillor. He has continued to attend board meetings after graduating from the LDA, which bolstered his devotion to this chapter and its important work. He has enjoyed the privilege of representing Ohio's emergency physicians at our national meeting and is hoping for an opportunity to serve on this board as well. This is a challenging time for emergency medicine. Dr. Scharfenberg is passionate about protecting our specialty and its critical role. He is proud to be a part of this chapter and will be a considerate and persuasive representative of Ohio's emergency medicine physicians and the patients we serve.



RJ Sontag, MD, FACEP; Board Candidate *(Columbus, Ohio)*

Dr. RJ Sontag would like to be your next board member because he believes in the power of Ohio ACEP.

Dr. Sontag believes in our power to design a brighter future. Whether fighting for our patients in the trauma bay or raising our voices on Capitol Hill, EM is stronger when we stand together.

We're stronger when we create legislation to combat workplace violence. We're stronger when we unite to decrease boarding times for our psych patients. We're stronger when we guarantee every ED has a physician present at all times. Dr. Sontag is proud to have led Ohio ACEP's Government Affairs Committee as they've tackled these issues, and he knows they will continue to be successful when we stand together to advocate for our patients and our profession.

Advocacy that truly makes a difference requires strong leadership, and Dr. Sontag believes in our power to develop the next generation of leaders. As a medical student nearly a decade ago, he attended his first Ohio ACEP conference, and was welcomed with open arms. He is proud that this chapter gave him some of his first EM leadership opportunities, appointing him to the Membership and Government Affairs Committees. The skills and confidence he gained as a medical student leader with Ohio ACEP propelled him to national leadership, including serving as President of EMRA. Ohio ACEP deserves to have our next board member be a proven leader with a personal understanding of the power our chapter can provide to the next generation.

Dr. Sontag humbly asks for your vote to guarantee Ohio ACEP's bright future.



K. Robert Thompson, III, MD, MBA, FACEP; Board Candidate *(Cincinnati, Ohio)*

Dr. K. Robert Thompson III, MD, MBA, FACEP graduated from the University of Cincinnati Emergency Medicine Residency program and completed a 2-year Administration and Operations Fellowship, obtaining an MBA with a certificate in Health Care Administration. Currently, Dr. Thompson serves as the Medical Director for the University of Cincinnati Medical Center's Emergency Department – a Level 1 Trauma, STEMI, and Comprehensive Stroke Center. He serves on numerous committees from the departmental level to the health system level, most

recently designing, opening, and operating a brand-new, state-of-the-art Emergency Department. Additionally, Rob is intimately involved with the UCEM residency program allowing him to understand the ongoing and upcoming challenges of trainees and the future of the specialty.

Dr. Thompson is an active member of Ohio ACEP, serving as an Alternate Councillor for ACEP Council in Philadelphia this past year. This experience further demonstrated the impact and possibilities that involvement within ACEP brings, driving his desire to be more involved. Moreover, he plans to use his role in one of the state's largest academic centers and premiere EM residency program to increase involvement and participation in ACEP.



Nicole Veitinger, DO, FACEP; Board Candidate *(Columbus, Ohio)*

Incumbent

Dr. Nicole Veitinger is an attending physician in Columbus for Mid-Ohio Emergency Services, a democratic group serving multiple central Ohio EDs within OhioHealth. Dr. Veitinger completed her residency at Case Western Reserve University/MetroHealth Medical Center/Cleveland Clinic, where she served as Chief Resident. She has been board certified in Emergency Medicine since 2013.

She has served on the Ohio ACEP Board of Directors since 2015. She has been a leader on the Board, serving on the Executive Committee as an officer since 2017. Currently she is the chapter's Immediate Past President. She has participated on nearly all the chapter's committees, previously co-chair of the Leadership Committee and Leadership Development Academy. However, she continues to participate on the Bylaws and Government Affairs committees, in the latter leading the ED Workplace Violence work group. Dr. Veitinger has been heavily involved in national ACEP. She has been an Ohio Councillor since 2014, currently sits on the Board of Governors for the ED Accreditation Program and is the current chair of the national Membership Committee.

Dr. Veitinger hopes to continue and enhance the Chapter's outreach to members, residents, and medical students. Her experience with Ohio and national ACEP has fostered leadership experience to serve our current and future members. She has enjoyed representing and advocating for her fellow Ohio emergency physicians. Her goal is to continue to strengthen our chapter, not only in the halls of our EDs but in the halls of the Ohio Statehouse.

Council Candidates



Andrew Aten, MD, FACEP; Council Candidate *(Hilliard, Ohio)*

Dr. Aten was born and raised in Ohio and is always looking for ways to give back to this great state. He was educated at The Ohio State University and did his residency training at Cleveland Metro/CCF. Dr. Aten is currently practicing at a community Regional Medical Center in Springfield, OH, a critical access hospital in Urbana, OH and a free-standing ED in Enon, OH.

Dr. Aten has had the interest to get more involved with Ohio ACEP for some time, but with a growing family and some life challenges the timing was not right until recently. He has had the wonderful opportunity to participate in Ohio ACEP's Leadership and Development Academy and has served as an Alternate Councillor for two years at ACEP. He has found his involvement in council meetings energizing and motivating. He brings the background of practice in a variety of settings and has a passion to bring the challenges that he is seeing as a front-line EM physician to discussion. He has a focus on safety and delivering quality medicine to patients. Specifically, he is interested in the utilization, continued training, and supervision of APCs in EM. He has been serving on his hospital's Credentials Committee and APC supervisory subcommittee with a focus on this. Additionally, his work as the site's Quality Director has provided him with further insight and motivation on the topic. He would be absolutely privileged to serve as a Councillor for the next two years.



Eileen Baker, MD, PhD, FACEP; Council Candidate (*Bowling Green, Ohio*)
Incumbent

Dr. Eileen Baker has worked as a community emergency physician since 2001 and moved to Bowling Green, Ohio, to pursue her PhD in Applied Philosophy at Bowling Green State University.

She has been an active member of the American College of Emergency Physicians since medical school, serving National ACEP on the Continuing Education, EMS, Reference, Tellers, and Ethics Committees. Dr. Baker began her commitment to Ohio ACEP in 2004. She has co-chaired the EMS Committee and been involved with the Education and Government Affairs Committees. She has also served the Chapter as Secretary, President-Elect, President, and Past-President. She has been an ACEP Councillor since 2004. She has found the years spent serving Ohio ACEP and its members to be some of the most rewarding of her career.

Dr. Baker wishes to continue to serve the interests of Ohio emergency physicians and their patients. She believes the experience she brings to the governing body of ACEP allows her to provide insight into the important issues debated in this forum, each year. She would like the opportunity to continue to serve the interests of Ohio emergency physicians and their patients, as your Councillor.



Marina Boushra Freiberg, MD; Council Candidate (*Cleveland, Ohio*)

Dr. Marina Boushra Freiberg was drawn to Emergency Medicine because of its potential for social impact and service. Through her fellowships in Critical Care and Simulation Education, EM has remained the foundation of her love for the practice of medicine due to its accessibility and adaptability.

Dr. Boushra Freiberg believes the last few years have shined an ever-brighter light on the work we must do inside the specialty - and outside it - to preserve and improve it for our communities. This includes improving the safety of our workplaces, protecting physician jobs from scope creep, providing engaging learning environments for our learners, and improving accessibility to care for the most vulnerable in our communities.

Through her involvement in Ohio ACEP's Leadership Development Academy, she had the opportunity to participate in ACEP's 2023 Council Meeting as an Alternate Councillor and ACEP's 2024 Leadership and Advocacy Conference. These eye-opening experiences allowed her to participate first-hand in the work that goes into national initiatives.

Her priority as Councillor would be ensuring that EM remains a specialty worthy of the passion, dedication, and sacrifice of the physicians that enter the field. Dr. Boushra Freiberg's commitment to emergency medicine is a lifelong one, through and over whatever obstacles the coming decades bring. In the same way, she is committed to supporting and developing learning opportunities for medical students, residents, and fellows; protecting the field from scope creep; advocating for a safe medicolegal practice environment; and providing a voice for our underserved and vulnerable patients.



Joshua da Silva, DO, FACEP, MAJ, USAF, MC; Council Candidate

(Dayton, Ohio)

Dr. Joshua da Silva is currently a Major in the Air Force and immediate past medical director of the Wright-Patterson Emergency Department. He has been an active leader in the Government Services Chapter of ACEP where he has served in various roles including as a Councillor and membership committee chair. He has two years of ACEP council experience which includes serving on a 2023 council reference committee. He was recently appointed to the Bylaws Committee and he plans to continue to serve on these committees moving forward.

Dr. da Silva is also pursuing credentialing as a certified parliamentarian through the American Institute of Parliamentarians and aspires to continue his legislative education with the Ohio State Medical Association. His ultimate goal is to become more involved in state level healthcare legislation while working for ESI/Mount Carmel in Columbus after his separation from the military in June.

With separation comes a brand-new start in the civilian sector. Dr. da Silva hopes to continue his service of the college through the Ohio ACEP chapter as one of your next Councillors!



Thomas Lukens, MD, PhD, FACEP; Council Candidate *(Cleveland, Ohio)*

Incumbent

Dr. Thomas Lukens has been a member of Ohio ACEP for greater than 30 years and believes his career in emergency medicine has greatly benefited from his involvement in the Chapter. Dr. Lukens is proud that Ohio ACEP continues to remain a well-regarded resource for medical education and, in addition, has demonstrated excellence in monitoring and acting on the political forces that affect the practice of medicine today.

He has been a member of the Board for 21 years, serving as the 2011-2012 Chapter President. He has served as a Councillor for the past 19 years and is well acquainted with the processes and procedures used at the Council meeting. He previously served on the Council Steering Committee and continues to take part in several ACEP sections.

Having this experience and insight, Dr. Lukens believes he can benefit the Chapter by serving as a Councillor and a mentor for the newer Councillors. He would like to continue to contribute to our Council on behalf of Ohio ACEP for the next two years.



Jesse Park, MD, FACEP; Council Candidate *(Toledo, Ohio)*

Over the last year, Dr. Jesse Park has had the privilege to serve as part of the Ohio ACEP Chapter Leadership Development class. Through this opportunity, he has learned much about what goes on beyond the doors of clinical/academic medicine and in the arena of policymaking. He always felt the necessity to advocate for our specialty, however, found his lack of knowledge and understanding made this area of medicine seem like a challenge, one he was not suited for. This past year has changed all that.

Dr. Park notes that being a part of the Leadership Development Academy this past year has provided him with the understanding, as well as the excitement of how we can maintain and improve our specialty. He feels like there are many positive traits he would bring as a Councillor, including a willingness to serve, as shown by his military experience, the patience of being an educator, and the enthusiasm of being a lifelong learner. He is excited at the opportunity to continue working with the leadership that has made Ohio one of the premier chapters of ACEP.



Ryan Squier, MD, FACEP; Council Candidate *(Columbus, Ohio)*
Incumbent

Dr. Ryan Squier was born in Toledo, Ohio, graduated from St. John's Jesuit High School, and pursued a Bachelor of Science in Biology degree from Loyola University of Chicago. While studying at Loyola, Dr. Squier earned minors in Bioethics and Business Administration. He then returned to Toledo to attend the University of Toledo College of Medicine for his medical degree. Seeking to continue training for emergency medicine in arguably the most beneficial climate for the specialty, Dr. Squier stayed in Ohio and trained at Akron General Medical Center, the first community-based emergency medicine residency program in the country.

After residency, he relocated with his wife and four children to Powell, Ohio, joining the Mid-Ohio Emergency Services group in 2013. He currently serves as a member of the Ohio Chapter Board of Directors, previously serving as Treasurer and President. He has also continued to focus on developing his position in the specialty through involvement in the Ohio Chapter's Leadership Development Academy. Through that experience, Dr. Squier has had the opportunity to learn and interact with many of our state and national leaders and he hopes that he, too, may enact a further sense of leadership for an organization that supports our specialty of emergency medicine.

As an Ohio ACEP member, Dr. Squier has helped to further EM's voice to the community about the opioid abuse epidemic, serving as project coordinator for NIX Opiates. He has also been privileged to develop strong local, state, and national relationships in his advocacy for our specialty and the issues that are pivotal to our practice and our patients. Dr. Squier looks forward to continuing to serve emergency physicians, the specialty of emergency medicine, Ohio ACEP, and the National College.



K. Robert Thompson, III, MD, MBA, FACEP; Council Candidate

(Cincinnati, Ohio)

Dr. K. Robert Thompson III, MD, MBA, FACEP graduated from the University of Cincinnati Emergency Medicine Residency program and completed a 2-year Administration and Operations Fellowship, obtaining an MBA with a certificate in Health Care Administration. Currently, Dr. Thompson serves as the Medical Director for the University of Cincinnati Medical Center's Emergency Department – a Level 1 Trauma, STEMI, and Comprehensive

Stroke Center. He serves on numerous committees from the departmental level to the health system level, most recently designing, opening, and operating a brand-new, state-of-the-art Emergency Department. Additionally, Rob is intimately involved with the UCEM residency program allowing him to understand the ongoing and upcoming challenges of trainees and the future of the specialty.

Dr. Thompson is an active member of Ohio ACEP, serving as an Alternate Councillor for the ACEP Council in Philadelphia this past year. This experience further demonstrated the impact and possibilities that involvement within ACEP brings, driving his desire to be more involved. Moreover, he plans to use his role in one of the state's largest academic centers and premiere EM residency program to increase involvement and participation in ACEP.



Nicole Veitinger, DO, FACEP; Council Candidate

(Columbus, Ohio)
Incumbent

Dr. Nicole Veitinger is an attending physician in Columbus with Mid-Ohio Emergency Services, a democratic group serving multiple central Ohio EDs within OhioHealth. She is Medical Director for one of these sites, the Westerville Emergency Care Center. She has been on the Ohio ACEP Board of Directors since 2015 and is the chapter's Immediate Past President.

Dr. Veitinger has served as an Ohio Councillor since 2014 and as the Ohio Councillor delegate leader since 2023. Within Council she has participated in Reference Committee, both as chair and member, and also participated in the Tellers, Credentials, & Elections Committee. Currently she chairs the National ACEP Membership Committee and sits on the Board of Governors for the ED Accreditation program. Previously she served on the Member Engagement subcommittee for ACEP's Strategic Plan and the ED Reproductive Health and Patient Safety Task Force.

Dr. Veitinger hopes to continue and enhance the Chapter's outreach to members, residents, and medical students. Dr. Veitinger is running for re-election as a Councillor because she is eager to continue representing her fellow Ohio ACEP members, and she feels she is well positioned to accomplish that on ACEP Council. Her time on Council has fostered relationships across chapters and sections. She is interested in continued participation on Council committees, as well as pursuing National ACEP leadership later in her career. Dr. Veitinger has a long-term interest to better the policies and practices of Ohio emergency physicians, as well as emergency medicine colleagues nationally.