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**2021 GSACEP Board of Directors Ballot**  
Resident Representative Candidate Statements

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**1. Katherine Ross, MD PGY3** - I am interested in becoming a GSACEP board member because I believe wholeheartedly in the transformative work that the military accomplished thus far in advancing emergency medicine as a specialty, in always striving for better and continuing to improve, and wish to continue a tradition where military emergency medicine has a strong reputation and interface with the civilian world. Additionally, I believe I would be able to represent those values well. Both personally and professionally, I strive to continue to advance what my 'best' work is. Both in medical school and residency, I have developed academic curricula, specifically with a focus of diversifying educational resources and simulation. As the sole military member in my residency, I am frequently privy to the intersection of military and civilian medicine. It has been a privilege to interact with Navy groups going through the Navy Trauma Training Center and to participate in simulations in that environment. I wish to continue to foster this relationship as well as contribute to the legacy of Navy medicine.

**What do you think the biggest challenge facing GSACEP members is today? How would you tackle that challenge?**

I think the current biggest challenge faced by GSACEP is also that faced by ACEP itself - which is how to continue to adapt to the current pandemic. The necessary changes to education platforms that have had to happen this year have the capacity to stall research, continuing education, and networking for years to come. Virtual ACEP was a testament to continuing adaptation and professional progress in the face of significant change. Continuing to 'virtualize' opportunities and conduct and present research is vital during this time. Once these opportunities are in place, access to them is equally important. I believe one of the best ways to continue adaptation is to continue moving resources to the virtual environment, followed by streamlining communication, knowledge of, and access to those resources.

**2. Kimberly Pistell, DO/ Resident or Fellow-** My diverse background and unconventional path to medicine have afforded me a vast array of experiences, which I use to help relate to and care for patients as well as my peers. My leadership capabilities were first tested through my role as Tulane University's Womens' Rowing Captain while completing my Masters in Architecture. After feeling as though I was not doing enough for people through architecture, I decided to pursue a career in medicine while also applying for the Health Professional Service Program scholarship through the Navy. I continued to strive for more, which is how I wound up as president of the DO Dash annual 5k and 1 mile charity run in medical school. I later spent time as a General Medical Officer, serving with the Marines in Okinawa, Japan. During these two years I took part in weekly planning meetings with the command, advising the Commanding Officer, discussing medical readiness, and planning medical capabilities of future exercises.

Wanting to help improve healthcare workforce wellness and health care quality in my community, I successfully ran for a position as a board member of the Medical Society of Virginia and have completed CgOSC (Caregiver Occupational Stress Control) training. As a physician, I recognize my responsibility to give back and serve the public, and would like to serve as an advocate for both my colleagues and the community. GSACEP has similar ideals which is why I believe that I am a qualified candidate for a board position.

**What do you think the biggest challenge facing GSACEP members is today? How would you tackle that challenge?**

I believe that the biggest challenge facing GSACEP, like most organizations amidst a pandemic, is communication and support. During a time where large social gatherings are discouraged, and travel bans are in place, people are struggling to cope with the seclusion and added stressors that a pandemic brings, whether they realize it or not. Although technological innovations have made video communication easier to host meetings and communicate with people within large, nation-wide organizations, nothing can replace human interaction. I suggest that GSACEP help identify those that are in proximity to one another and host smaller, local meetings or gatherings to not only help promote the organization and its ideals, but to recognize and even prevent the mental and emotional toll that accompany seclusion.

**3. Tarakarama Musunuri, PGY1** Emergency medicine is a unique career choice in itself, but as a military physician there is a much broader scope of practice that is made available. As a leader in GSACEP, I would have the opportunity to: advocate for military relevant policy changes, be a voice for my fellow residents at the national level and network with leading military physicians. The medical and military landscape is dynamic and everchanging. It is important to be cognizant of these changes and become an active participant. I welcome the opportunity to learn about the intricacies involved in policy development. Advocating for my fellow resident physicians at the national level will allow me to make a positive change towards our promising future as military emergency physicians. I look forward to learning from established leaders in the field of military medicine. A combination of my motivation to be an active participant and established experience as a leader in national organizations will allow me to be a successful board member in GSACEP. My past leadership experience includes: president of American Medical Student Association (local chapter), president of Student Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (local chapter), treasurer for Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine Student Council. In all these various leadership experiences' I took great personal fulfillment from advocating for my fellow students, disseminating career relevant information and being an avenue for students to express concerns. As a board member of GSACEP, I hope to have the same positive effect for my fellow military resident physicians.

**What do you think the biggest challenge facing GSACEP members is today? How would you tackle that challenge?**

In military emergency medicine there are a wide range of job opportunities, career development tracks and networking events available. As a resident physician, it has been hard to identify these options in a single consolidated location. I believe military resident physicians and GSACEP member would find it valuable to have a curated list of potential job opportunities, leadership positions and networking events. This can be maintained as either a web page or a dedicated shared google document.

**4. Taylor DesRosiers, MD/ Resident or Fellow** - I aim to serve GSACEP by bringing a unique set of skills to the council; I have completed a one-year fellowship in health care policy, which has given me a unique lens to critically evaluate policy and advocate for emergency physicians. I have held many national American Medical Association leadership positions however now wish to turn my energy towards emergency medicine; specifically our military focused chapter. As I progress in my military career, I have seen both the benefits and drawbacks of our form of practice versus civilian EM. I hope to bring ideas as to how we can best position ourselves to be successful not only in the emergency department but in our operational roles as well.

Additionally, emergency medicine physicians have born the brunt of the COVID pandemic, all while rigorous deployment and operational demands persist. Our ultimate success depends not only on solid healthcare and hospital policy moving forward, but also by maintaining a strong community to support each other.

If elected to the council, I would aim to engage with the three primary goals of: using evidence-based research to forward EM-focused policy, upholding an operationally relevant mindset in policy making, and building an even stronger network for GSACEP to thrive on.

**What do you think the biggest challenge facing GSACEP members is today? How would you tackle that challenge?**

I believe the biggest challenge facing GSACEP members today is juggling the ever-growing expectations of staying operationally ready in our skills and practice while also dealing with heightened administrative burdens and stressors due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All of our departments have undergone sweeping change and tests over the last 10 months with the expectation to continue business as always. To best tackle this, protective policy must be implemented to guard our time to accomplish these new tasks. Opportunities must be granted to ensure our skills attainment and maintenance can be retained. A strong backbone community must be maintained to offer support not only in work but in our mental health as well. Lastly, additional support must be provided to our departments to handle these new and ever-changing rigors.