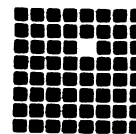


AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS



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E. JACKSON ALLISON, JR., M.D., F.A.C.E.P., PRESIDENT

December 20, 1991

Dear ACEP Leader:

Cheers and all the best for the Holiday Season!

Overcrowding discussed on *Nightline*

Last week ACEP's message about overcrowding had one of the widest audiences we have had in reaching the public about this issue. Board member Dr. Charlotte Yeh and I were invited, along with Dr. Robert Derlett, the ED Director from UC-Davis, to appear on NBC's *Nightline* December 16.

The *Nightline* producers had been talking with our public relations department for some months about doing a show on overcrowding and obviously thought the time was right when the December 15 *Los Angeles Times* ran a story with the headline, "Care Rationed at Overcrowded County USC." The opening sentence for this article read, "Doctors at LAC/USC Medical Center are pleading for relief from overcrowding in the hospital's ER, a situation which has resulted in several patient deaths."

Although the specific problems at the Los Angeles hospital weren't raised during the TV show, the broad issues of access to health care and how to deal with limited resources were discussed.

The College has actively worked on the issue of ED overcrowding for more than three years. As I told Forrest Sawyer, who hosted that night's show, it was very gratifying to me that *Nightline* helped us get out our message that overcrowded EDs are not just a problem related to gang wars and drug abuse, but that overcrowding is a very serious issue of health care access, and one that affects all Americans.

Make a year-end donation to EMF

As a leader of ACEP, you recently received a challenge from Dr. John Johnson, chairman of the EMF Board, to donate an amount to the Foundation equal to a minimum of two hours' wages. As leaders in emergency medicine, we are the ones who should set the pace in giving to the Foundation--the ones who understand better than anyone the tremendous opportunities for advancement of the specialty through research and education. There is still time to make a year-end donation to EMF, and I encourage you to do so. Please use the enclosed envelope for your gift.