

## Emergency Physician Advocacy Award Presented at Emergency Medicine Forum to Ryan Squier, MD, FACEP

Columbus, OH—On May 3, at the Emergency Medicine Forum, the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (Ohio ACEP) was pleased to present the 2017 *Emergency Physician Advocacy Award* to a remarkable physician advocate, **Ryan Squier, MD, FACEP**.

Ohio ACEP established the Emergency Physician Advocacy Award to celebrate leadership in advocacy efforts on behalf of emergency medicine. Recipients of the award advocate for their specialty, their communities, and their patients.

Dr. Ryan Squier—an attending physician for Mid-Ohio Emergency Services practicing at Riverside Hospital, Grant Medical Center, and other Central Ohio hospitals—perfectly embodies these criteria. Through his hard work and passion for fighting opioid abuse, Dr. Squier has demonstrated the power of a dedicated physician advocate.

Deeply concerned by the near-constant stream of overdose patients on the brink of death arriving at his emergency department, Dr. Squier resolved to turn his despair into action. As the physicians who see the devastation of the opioid epidemic every day, emergency physicians are uniquely qualified to talk to the public about the science of addiction, opioid abuse, and overdose. With that in mind, Dr. Squier conceived of a unique program to deliver a physician-led education program for high school students and their parents. With the backing of the Ohio ACEP Board, Dr. Squier applied for and received an ACEP Chapter grant to develop the program which would become “NIX Opiates.”

Dr. Squier’s passion for the campaign was clear from the start. He spearheaded the creation of the program materials and helped develop a powerful short film as well as a faculty kit to allow other emergency physicians to bring NIX Opiates into their school districts. To date, thousands of high school students, parents, and teachers have seen the presentation. Dr. Squier has been interviewed by a number of local news affiliates about NIX Opiates, and the program has garnered considerable positive media coverage. Since the launch, Dr. Squier has worked with state legislators, and his expertise has been sought out by his hospital system, the Ohio Attorney General’s office, and the Ohio State Bar Association. He has been invited by ACEP to speak about the campaign at their annual Leadership & Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC, and the NIX Opiates program was recently included in a statewide report from the Ohio Attorney General on effective drug abuse prevention education.

At a time when overdoses have surpassed motor vehicle collisions as the nation’s number one cause of accidental death, Dr. Squier’s efforts have the potential to save lives. Ohio ACEP looks forward to our continued work with Dr. Squier and NIX Opiates. Congratulations to Dr. Ryan Squier on his well-deserved award!

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Ohio ACEP is a state medical specialty society representing emergency medicine physicians with more than 1,500 members. For 45 years, Ohio ACEP has served the state’s emergency physicians through tireless advocacy, nationally-recognized continuing medical education, and physician leadership development.

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**Ryan Squier, MD,  
FACEP**

Recipient of the 2017  
Emergency Physician  
Advocacy Award