



President's Message

News from the 2013 Scientific Assembly

William T. Durkin, Jr., MD MBA FAAEM

Scientific Assembly 2013 was a huge success. The new longer format was well received, the mobile app made it easier for attendees to keep track of any schedule changes, and the preconference courses were all well subscribed. Dr. Jim Keaney gave a fine keynote, telling the story around the founding of the Academy as only he can. Co-founder Scott Plantz gave an excellent summation of the first few years and recognized those who were on the first board and helped get the Academy up and moving. Dr. Stephen Bergman, aka Samuel Shem, gave the 1st annual Joe Lex Keynote address. Our new lobbyists, Williams & Jensen, addressed the assembly and met with a couple of the state chapter groups as well. Kudos to Dr. Mike Epter, the Scientific Assembly and Education Committees for another fine job!

There is some news that came out of the meeting that I would like to share with those who were unable to make it:

Pain Management Policy

The board of directors passed the *American Academy of Emergency Medicine Model ED Pain Treatment Guidelines*. In an effort to be more proactive we thought it best to get this out in the public view before any more politicians take it upon themselves to tell us how to practice our specialty. It is a broad guideline meant to give a useful basis for each department to draw up their own guidelines. Seems that ever since pain measurement became the fifth vital sign, prescription narcotic abuse has been on the upswing. Deaths from these medications have now become a major concern nationwide. Many emergency physicians find themselves in the uncomfortable position of dealing with drug seeking while trying not to be graded downwards on satisfaction surveys. We understand that, clearly, something needs to be done. This was the tool we put out there to assist our members in taking the lead on this issue. Available on the AAEM website at: <http://www.aaem.org/em-resources/position-statements>.

Alliance with ACPE

One of the needs that has been identified by our members is a need for some leadership training. Others with whom I have spoken over the course of the year admit that they do not have any business knowledge and want a chance to learn the basics.

Rather than try to come up with these offerings in house, I thought it would be a better idea to partner with the best organization in the business for these kinds of offerings, the American College of Physician Executives (ACPE) (<http://www.acpe.org/>). We have reached an agreement whereby our members will get the ACPE member rate on any of their course offerings. The Physician in Management course (PIM) is an excellent basic course in management and business principles. They also offer several highly rated courses in leadership training.

I have received two calls in the past year from members whose groups were being sold as the "exit strategy" by the contract holder. Unfortunately, in both cases the contracts went to large national CMGs. In one instance, only four of the group of 30 physicians had any interest in trying to buy the group themselves. The main reason was that the remainder knew nothing about business or management and did not feel comfortable taking the group over. This is very unfortunate and it is my hope that members will avail themselves of this new opportunity, so that more can feel comfortable with the business side of the practice. As a group, emergency physicians are naturals for leadership positions within their hospitals. We interact with all specialties daily, we know the strengths and weaknesses of the facility, and we interact with the administration, nursing, and ancillary services as well. I urge all of you to take a look at the ACPE course offerings and take advantage of this new liaison.

We will continue to find new ways to add value to AAEM membership, improve the educational offerings that we already have, and assist our members in taking control of their careers. We remain the only organization to do this. I am always open to hearing other suggestions from you, our members! ■

Contact the President: president@aaem.org