



## President's Message

# Looking to the Future

Mark Reiter, MD MBA FAAEM

I am excited and honored to begin my two year term as president of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine. As president, I promise to do everything I can to promote the Academy's mission. Our Academy is on firm footing, with soaring membership, expanded advocacy efforts, continued improvements to our excellent educational meetings and courses, a prominent international presence, and solid financial footing. I write this president's message two days after the conclusion of our 20<sup>th</sup> AAEM Scientific Assembly, an exceptional meeting (and still free to members!) that again broke prior attendance records. I'd like to recognize the great work of the outgoing board, under the leadership of past president Dr. Bill Durkin, who has been instrumental in the Academy's recent successes. I would also like to welcome new members to the AAEM board: Dr. Joel Schofer (Secretary-Treasurer), Dr. Andy Mayer (At-Large Member), and Dr. Michael Ybarra (Young Physician Section Director). I've worked with Joel, Andy, and Michael on AAEM projects extensively over the years — they are tireless advocates for the Academy and they will make AAEM's leadership stronger.

During my term, AAEM will continue to take a strong stand on advocacy issues important to our members, such as advocating for emergency physician practice rights and defending the value of board certification. AAEM has recently significantly increased our presence in Washington, D.C., with the help of our new lobbying firm and through the hard work of the AAEM board and many interested AAEM and RSA members. In addition to creating a dialogue with many key congressional members about our issues, we have had good communications with leaders within key federal agencies, such as the Department of Health and Human Services. The AAEM board and many of our AAEM State Chapters have also been advocating successfully for our members on the state level. These efforts will continue to be a major focus for the Academy. You can help in a variety of ways, such as contributing to the AAEM Foundation, participating in our Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C., participating in AAEM committees, and keeping AAEM informed as new issues of importance to our members arise.

Another core area of focus over the next two years will be to provide expanded support services to help private emergency physician groups better compete in the marketplace. In recent years, there has been a trend towards consolidation at the hospital and physician group level. AAEM will play a more prominent role in providing education, support, advice, and services to our members. We have just launched the AAEM

Insurance Program to provide tailored professional liability insurance to our members and their groups. If there is demand from our members, we can expand this program to offer other related services such as health insurance, disability insurance, etc. Later in the year, we will unveil a comprehensive guidebook on forming and managing a democratic emergency physician group. We are in the process of launching the Practice Fairness Toolkit™, offering resources to help our members evaluate different physician group practice environments. We are considering developing a spectrum of practice management services geared towards private democratic groups. You can help us by volunteering for one of the several AAEM committees involved in these initiatives and by providing feedback on our new services and on how the Academy can best help you or your group.

Keeping our members informed will continue to be a top priority. We have made many recent changes to our website at [www.aaem.org](http://www.aaem.org). We now have thousands of members communicating with AAEM via social media. Our new podcast program has been very successful (and we are always looking for new ideas and new speakers). In addition, Dr. Andy Walker has done an exceptional job of further developing *Common Sense* into a top-notch platform for the Academy in the past year.

Keep your eyes open for information about new appointments to AAEM committees. This is a great way to support AAEM, get involved, learn something, and meet new colleagues. Also, let us know if you have an idea for a project that you would like to work on with AAEM. I want to make sure we can involve as many interested members as possible. I love to hear feedback from our members — feel free to email me at [mark.reiter@yahoo.com](mailto:mark.reiter@yahoo.com). ■

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### AAEM Antitrust Compliance Plan:

As part of AAEM's antitrust compliance plan, we invite all readers of *Common Sense* to report any AAEM publication or activity which may restrain trade or limit competition. You may confidentially file a report at [info@aaem.org](mailto:info@aaem.org) or by calling 800-884-AAEM.