

## Join In

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AAEM Board of Directors



As I write this column I have just returned from Marseille, France, and the seventh Mediterranean Emergency Medicine Congress (MEMC). This meeting occurs every other year and is cosponsored by AAEM and the European Society for Emergency Medicine (EuSEM), as well as the emergency medicine society of the host country. This is always a good meeting,

not just because it is held in great locations like Nice, Sorrento, Valencia, the Greek island of Kos, etc., but because it is so interesting to meet emergency physicians from all over the world. The differences in how emergency medicine is done around the globe are fascinating, but what constantly amazes me is how much emergency physicians have in common, no matter where we are from, and how our struggles and those of our specialty are similar everywhere. If you haven't yet been to one of the international emergency medical meetings that our Academy cosponsors, I urge you to go to the eighth MEMC in 2015, the second PEMC (Pan-Pacific Emergency Medicine Congress) in 2014, or the next Inter-American Emergency Medicine Congress (IAEMC) in 2014. AAEM dominates the U.S. end of international emergency medicine, and you should take advantage of that — if you don't already.

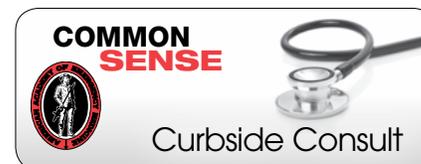
Coming up more immediately, however, is the most important meeting of the year: the Academy's 2014 Scientific Assembly at the New York Hilton Midtown, February 11-15. If you don't attend AAEM's Scientific Assembly, you are missing out on an incredible opportunity: a chance to network with the best emergency physicians in the country, see old friends, interact with emergency physicians of similar ethics, and get the best emergency medicine CME available anywhere — designed specifically for board-certified specialists in the field. In short, a chance to renew your spirit and get smarter at the same time, and all of this in New York City, home to thousands of great restaurants, Broadway, and one of my favorite museums in the whole world, the Metropolitan Museum of Art. (For those of you who don't know me, I am a hopeless museum geek. My wife and I spent a few days in Paris on our way back from Marseille, mainly so I could visit the Louvre and the Musee d'Orsay. I have now been to what I believe are the top ten museums in the world, and can die happy).

There are plenty of self-interested reasons for you to attend, but I want you to be there for another reason too, a reason that is less obviously self-interested. **AAEM needs you.** The Academy needs your active participation, which means coming to the annual business meeting. There you will hear our president's yearly update on AAEM's activities and the state of the Academy, hear from candidates for office and the board of directors, get the chance to ask them questions, and then vote people into or out of those positions. Of course you should read the written candidate statements carefully, but there is nothing like being face-to-face with the candidates and asking them questions.

Not everyone in the Academy can or should run for the board of directors or an executive office, or chair a committee, but I firmly believe that all of us should come to every Scientific Assembly and attend the annual business meeting. That's just good AAEM citizenship, like jury duty and informed voting are good U.S. citizenship. And unlike the situation in our national politics, there is no justification for adopting libertarian humorist P.J. O'Rourke's stance on voting: "Don't vote, it just encourages the bastards" (<http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/296475-1>).

I am a Founding Fellow of AAEM, and in the 20 years of my membership I have never once had to vote for a candidate who I thought was the lesser of two evils. My dilemma is almost always having to choose between excellent candidates, a painful but pleasant problem to have. And unlike some medical societies, AAEM is a direct democracy. You won't be voting for representatives to an assembly, which then votes people onto some kind of council, which then chooses the leadership from a preselected and limited slate of candidates. You will be voting directly to choose the leaders of our Academy — one member, one vote, majority rules — simple and clean. Come to NYC and be part of that. And if you see me there, whether at the SA or in the Met, let me know what you think of *Common Sense*. Join in! ■

## We're listening, send us your thoughts!



# Letters to the Editor

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A "Letters to the Editor" feature is now available on the *Common Sense* section of the AAEM website. Members must log in with their AAEM username and password to read or post letters, or to comment on letters ([www.aaem.org/publications/common-sense](http://www.aaem.org/publications/common-sense)). If necessary, you may request that we post your letter anonymously and such requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The letters that I think are interesting, entertaining, educational, provocative, or of general interest, will be printed in *Common Sense*.

I hope to hear from many of you, even if you are criticizing me. I need your feedback to make *Common Sense* an interesting read and a good use of your time. I also want it to attract new members to the Academy. If you like something you see, let me know. If I make you mad, let me know. Especially if I make you mad. I want the "Letters to the Editor" feature to become a forum for civilized but vigorous argument, and the more vigorous the better.

— The Editor

**Letter in response to the July/August "Law and Emergency Medicine" article titled, "Medical Liability and the Emergency Physician: A State by State Comparison — Part 1."**

Good Afternoon,

I have been a member for a year or two and found the article on state malpractice from Greg Roslund very interesting. I am interested in the states Nevada and Louisiana. When are the following articles coming out?

Sincerely,  
 — Charles Todd, MD FAAEM

The next installment of Dr. Roslund's series on the medical tort climate in each state, Georgia through Maine, will appear in the Jan/Feb issue. That will take care of Louisiana for you, with Nevada in the following installment. I am glad you find the series useful. Dr. Roslund put a tremendous amount of work into it. ■

— The Editor



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