

## Scientific Assembly Update

Joseph Lex, Jr., MD MAAEM FAAEM  
AAEM Education Committee



I lived in Texas for seven years. From 1979 to 1982, I was a Certified Emergency Nurse at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas. Then, from 1982 to 1986, I went to medical school at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. Just up the road 80 miles was Austin, a rather odd place in the center of the state that seemed different from the rest of Texas. I attended fund-

raisers for the publication *Texas Observer* and met authors Studs Terkel and James Michener, and civil rights activist Virginia Foster Durr. In the many clubs on 6<sup>th</sup> Street, I saw up-and-coming music acts like Nanci Griffith, Lyle Lovett, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and Rickie Lee Jones, and old favorites like Bruce “U. Utah” Phillips and Willie Nelson.

I revisited Austin in late August to give rounds at the new Emergency Medicine Residency Training Program (<http://www.austingme.com/residency-programs/emergency-medicine>) and to do a site visit for the 2015 Scientific Assembly, which will be at the Hilton Austin from February 28<sup>th</sup> to March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015. I was stunned to find that Austin is now the eleventh largest city in the United States, with a population pushing 900,000 people; that Brackenridge Hospital is now University Medical Center-Brackenridge, which has been completely rebuilt in the last few years; and that their EM residency program will graduate its initial class a few months after we meet there.

Austin is definitely the “Live Music Capital of the United States” — there are more music venues per capita than any other U.S. city.

Austin is also home to the Texas Memorial Museum, the Blanton Museum of Art, the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, the Austin Museum

of Art (AMOA), the Elisabet Ney Museum, and the galleries at the Harry Ransom Center. The Texas State Capitol itself is worth a visit. You can also visit the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum, which houses documents and artifacts related to the Johnson administration, including LBJ’s limousine and a re-creation of the Oval Office. And then you can visit the O. Henry House Museum, which served as his residence from 1893 to 1895. Plan to take a selfie with the statues of Stevie Ray Vaughan, Willie Nelson, the Mangia dinosaur, and the Taco Maria lady at Taco Xpress in South Austin. It may be too early in the year for a visit to the Congress Avenue Bridge, which houses the world’s largest urban population of Mexican Free-Tailed bats; after the hibernation season ends, up to 1.5 million bats emerge every evening around sunset in search of insects.

And if, like me, you love historical cemeteries, the Texas State Cemetery just a few blocks from the capitol building is absolutely steeped in history. Visit the final resting places of everyone from confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston to Governor Ann Richards, from Senator Ralph Yarborough to Representative Barbara Jordan, and from the Father of Texas Stephen Austin to multimillion selling author James Michener.

About the Scientific Assembly: you’re going to love it. Starting with several preconference courses — both familiar and new — and continuing through three full days of didactic sessions, you will find plenty of useful information to help you take better care of your patients, or to advance your own career wellness.

A couple of preconference sessions bear special mention. When Brackenridge Hospital built new intensive care units, the old ones were converted to simulation laboratories. We are negotiating with the people

Continued on next page



**21ST ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY**  
**HILTON AUSTIN ★ AUSTIN, TX**

**REGISTRATION**  
**NOW OPEN**

[www.aaem.org/AAEM15/Registration](http://www.aaem.org/AAEM15/Registration)

**FREE**  
**Registration**  
**For All AAEM**  
**Members!\***

\*Refundable deposit  
required



## See you in **AUSTIN!**

AAEM's Annual Scientific Assembly — perpetually advancing emergency medicine for the clinician and proudly the premier clinical conference in emergency medicine.

### Scientific Assembly Highlights

- FREE registration for members, with refundable deposit
- Convenient mobile app featuring the program, exhibitors, and important updates. Build your own schedule & take notes in app!
- “Passport to Prizes” in the exhibit hall
- Open Mic Sessions
- Expanded *pecha kucha* sessions (six minute and 40 second presentations)

### Invite a Friend

If you're a veteran of Scientific Assembly, or if you're planning on attending for the first time in 2015, consider inviting a friend or colleague to join you. Encourage residents and medical students interested in emergency medicine to attend as well. CME will be available; presented by the top clinician educators in emergency medicine.

### Travel to Austin, TX

In addition to attending the premier clinical conference in emergency medicine, take advantage of all the city has to offer. Austin features legendary live music, burgeoning restaurant scene, world-class museums, one-of-a-kind shopping, beautiful outdoor spaces, and a unique culture.

If you're visiting Austin, TX, from outside the United States, you may need a visa to enter the country. Visa requirements for entering the United States can be found at: [www.aaem.org/AAEM15/travel](http://www.aaem.org/AAEM15/travel).

### Register Today!

Registration for the 21st Annual Scientific Assembly is now open at [www.aaem.org/AAEM15/registration](http://www.aaem.org/AAEM15/registration). For up-to-the-minute information about registration and Scientific Assembly — follow AAEM on social media. Visit AAEM Connect, our interactive dashboard, to view updates from Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, the AAEM blog, and podcasts [www.aaem.org/connect](http://www.aaem.org/connect). Look for hashtag #AAEM15.

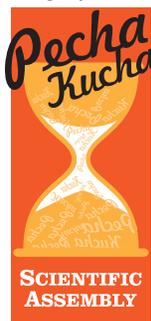


who run them to do the ultrasound courses and a special pediatric/obstetric simulation course at their facilities on Saturday and Sunday morning before the Scientific Assembly opens. The hospital is just a ten-minute walk from the host hotel in what should prove to be perfect walking weather. There will also be preconference workshops on pain management, EKG interpretation, and administrative dilemmas; as well as a 1.5 day Resuscitation Course and half-day LLSA Review.

The program itself is coming together nicely. View the preliminary program online at [www.aaem.org/AAEM15/attendees](http://www.aaem.org/AAEM15/attendees). There will be the usual tracks on Best of the Best Literature Updates, Critical Care Updates, practical day-to-day information, prehospital, and pediatrics; as well as new Point-Counterpoint debates and some surprises. Our keynote speaker is Simon Carley, MB ChB PGCTLP MPhI, Professor of Emergency Medicine and Consultant in Emergency Medicine at Manchester Metropolitan University, co-founder of BestBets and the St. Emlyn's website.

I am particularly excited about the Pecha Kucha sessions — 20 slides, 20 seconds each, and done. In 2014 it was a new concept and we cautiously programmed only a half day. Because of its overwhelming success,

American Academy of  
Emergency Medicine



we are expanding the PKs to two full days in 2015. We offered members and junior faculty at training programs the opportunity to present a PK, and the response was more than we could have wished — all 59 speaking slots rapidly filled. There is a special PK subcommittee planning an unforgettable experience for those who speak or attend. They even developed their own logo and will have a special hourglass time-keeper to keep speakers on schedule. This is unlike anything you will see at any other national medical society meeting.

So consider this a teaser and an invitation. You obviously need to be there to see for yourself what we have planned. It is a meeting to keep the American Academy of Emergency Medicine at the forefront in emergency medicine education. Register now at [www.aaem.org/AAEM15/registration](http://www.aaem.org/AAEM15/registration).

Easily spot information about Pecha Kucha sessions — look for the AAEM PK logo. ■