



President's Message

A Good Year

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What an exciting year this has been! A very busy and challenging one, but a great time. I am really looking forward to 2013.

During the past year, I have traveled over 100,000 miles promoting the Academy. While attending the IFEM meeting in Dublin, I had the honor of meeting Dr. Arafat and giving him our International Award. Meeting an emergency physician who stood up to the leader of his country and won was a rare experience. Giving a keynote address and teaching at the inaugural Pan Pacific Emergency Medicine Congress (PEMC) in Seoul, South Korea, after working on that meeting for two years, was a real honor. The success of the meeting was the result of a lot of work and planning by many of us, and it really paid off.

Residency visits have become one of my favorite duties. I met some excellent people and always learn something at each visit. It is my hope that the residents learned more about the outside working environment and understand why being a part of the Academy is so important to their career development. Many thanks to those of you kind enough to have invited me, and I look forward to meeting those of you that I didn't get to in 2012.

State chapters are continuing to grow. I had a chance to meet with members of the new Missouri chapter and discuss with them ways to grow their new chapter. The Virginia chapter has begun to tackle some of the political concerns in that state. They are actually taking the lead in Virginia on the Medicaid issue. A great start for a new chapter. The Florida chapter of AAEM (FLAAEM) recently concluded their 2nd Scientific Assembly. It was a great meeting and I would urge many of you to consider attending next year. Florida in January is a lovely place! Florida is one of the states with very high CMG penetration, which presents some frustrations but also some opportunities. I talked to one new grad who had already experienced first hand how tenuous a job can be when working for a CMG. This individual was aware of the problems from the start but felt she had no other option. We can do better in preparing our residents and young physicians for what they need to be aware of when working for these entities, and what other options may be out there for them.

One of my goals this past year was to establish liaisons with organizations that represent the people with whom we work daily. Nurses, physician extenders, and administrators are just a few of these. We had mixed results but will continue working on that in the coming year. Some of these groups have been invited to send representatives to this year's Scientific Assembly. I look forward to hearing their impressions.

We are doing other new things as well. By now, most of you realize that the Scientific Assembly is bigger by a half-day and an additional evening. The Practice Management Committee is more active, as is the Operations Management Committee. This will be of great value to those in the community managing their own practices. We have started a monthly legal podcast. Our former presidents, Drs. Weiss and Wood, will be doing the first in this ongoing series. We also hope to have a critical care podcast up and running before the Scientific Assembly. These will be available on our website as member benefits.

After Dr. Mike Ybarra and I interviewed lobbyists this past fall, the board of directors agreed to hire Williams and Jennings as our new lobbyists. This is a quantum leap in our political endeavors and should help us be out in front of political issues as they come up. They were responsible for facilitating the meeting I recently had with Senator John Barrasso (R-WY). John is an orthopedic surgeon and fellow Georgetown alumnus. We had a fruitful discussion and he has agreed to help us going forward.

One of my biggest frustrations of the past year was to learn that, after 20 years, we are still not widely known within and without the medical community. As the organization that was founded to promote the fair treatment of EPs, democratic groups, and ownership of our own practices, we still have some distance to go. It is imperative that those of you in training programs foster the notion of responsible hospital and community citizenship, as well as the importance of having a basic knowledge of the business side of medicine. There are opportunities out there for all of us. The Academy will continue to support its members and provide the tools necessary for them to attain and keep control of their practices. We need our members to promote the Academy to peers and colleagues as the organization that is best for emergency physicians, our specialty, and ultimately our patients. This message is in my talks for 2013. ■

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