

The Fifth Inter-American Emergency Medicine Congress

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I had the pleasure of representing the American Academy of Emergency Medicine as the Scientific Co-Chair of the Fifth Inter-American Emergency Medicine Congress, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on May 14-16, 2014. The meeting was held at the Palais Rouge, a conference center in the fashionable Palermo area of Buenos Aires. AAEM has worked in conjunction with the *Sociedad Argentina de Emergencias* (SAE) to create and grow this Congress, which will continue to be presented biennially by AAEM and SAE.

Attendees had the opportunity to obtain up to 24 hours of *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* delivered by over 20 English-speaking lecturers, most of whom were AAEM members, while enjoying the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of Buenos Aires. In addition, Terry Mulligan organized an excellent pre-Congress seminar in emergency department administration, which was held the day before the Congress began. A number of top-notch speakers delivered excellent talks. Simultaneous translation of English talks into Spanish made the English-language content readily available to the predominantly Spanish-speaking audience. The main themes of the sessions were airway emergencies, cardiovascular emergencies, pediatric emergencies, trauma, shock, and ultrasound.

Americans were not as numerous among the attendees as in prior Inter-American Congresses. This was probably partly due to the conflict between the Congress and the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine's Annual Meeting in Dallas at the same time. The Argentines have promised not to schedule the Congress in conflict with the SAEM meeting in the future.

In regard to growing the Congress and enhancing the collaboration between AAEM and SAE, the Argentines have expressed interest in developing two new projects. They would like more bilingual Americans to attend the next Congress and provide commentary in their consensus-building sessions, called "Mesas," and contribute an American perspective in Spanish. If you are a content expert who speaks Spanish and could contribute to these consensus sessions, the Argentines would value your participation in 2016 tremendously. If you would like to be involved in serving in this capacity, please drop me an email at ggaddis@saint-lukes.org stating your interest and areas of expertise.

The Argentines would also like a group of Americans to work with them toward the creation of practice guidelines designed for use in low or moderate-resource areas. A plurality of Argentine emergency physicians work within 50km of Buenos Aires, in hospitals that are fully equipped in a modern fashion, and Argentine emergency medicine specialists who work in other populous areas such as Mendoza and Cordoba also work in modern facilities. However, Argentina is a very large and predominantly rural nation, and the Argentines believe that guidelines are needed for practitioners in these lower-resource areas — not only for the good of patients, but also to help the Argentines grow their specialty society via sharing this resource. AAEM member Kristen Kent, MD FAAEM, has agreed to organize this effort. If you are interested in developing guidelines adapted for use in low to moderate-resource areas, contact her at kristenjkent@yahoo.com.

I hope that you make a mental note to reserve time in May of 2016 to attend the Sixth Inter-American Emergency Medicine Congress. It is a great way to meet our foreign colleagues, and to enjoy a beautiful city with many interesting cultural and historic sites and some of the best food imaginable! ■

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