THE VIEW FROM THE PODIUM

Third Mediterranean Emergency Medicine Conference

by Joe Lex, MD FAAEM

I think it safe to say that the upcoming Third Mediterranean Emergency Medicine Conference (MEMC3) in Nice, France, over Labor Day weekend will be the educational experience of a lifetime. Cosponsored by the European Society of Emergency Medicine (EuSEM), and the American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM), this three-day conference with two days of preconferences may be the most astonishing gathering of famous names and faces of emergency medicine ever assembled in one place.

I shouldn’t play favorites, but how can you go wrong attending a conference that features Peter Rosen, Judith Tintinalli, and Lewis Goldfrank, authors of three of the seminal texts in emergency medicine?

Do you subscribe to Emergency Medical Abstracts – also known as the Rick and Jerry show? MEMC3 has a morning with Rick Bukata and Jerry Hoffman, and Diane Birnbaumer and Billy Mallon on the same stage discussing the best articles of the last year or two.

Do you want the latest in Emergency Cardiac Care? Listen to the track organized by Amal Mattu that features Ian Stiell, Bill Brady, Wyatt Decker, Rich Harrigan, and Rob Rogers, along with numerous international speakers.

Is Infectious Disease your interest? Dave Talan has assembled international speakers who will give their first-hand experience with the SARS epidemic, avian influenza, diseases following the tsunami disaster, and the world-wide MRSA epidemic.

Are you a Critical Care buff who wants to know the latest on treating shock? Nate Shapiro has put together a Shock track with talks from experts Alan Jones, Richard Wolfe, and Jeff Kline.

Do you want to learn more about pain management in the emergency department? Who better than Knox Todd to moderate this track? Medical Imaging Updates? Chris Fox fills the bill here. Neurologic Emergencies? Our collaborators from FERNE have an amazing line-up of speakers and topics. Airway controversies? How about a panel with Ron Walls and Richard Levitan.

Residency training education will be covered by representatives of the Council of Residency Directors for Emergency Medicine (CORD-EM) in a preconference workshop, and a half-day track during the congress. Other preconference courses include Ultrasound, Noninvasive Ventilation, Advanced EKG Interpretation, Hospital Disaster Preparedness, Advanced Wound Care Procedures, Advanced Casting and Splinting Techniques, Pediatric Procedures, Dealing with Car Crashes On Scene, Airway Management Updates, and Basics of Research.

Andy Jagoda, Shelly Jacobson, Felix Ankel, Michelle Biros, Gabor Kelen, Dan Danzl, Ghazala Sharieff, Larry Weiss, Gloria Kuhn, Richard Shih, ABMS President Harvey Meislin, ex-AAEM presidents Bob McNamara and Joe Wood, Diku Mandavia, Mary Jo Wagner, Stu Swadron, Ray Johnson, Steve Davidson, Vince Markovchick… sometimes I look at the list of people who have promised to attend and speak, and I shake my head in amazement, especially since the majority are paying their own way for the joy of teaching to an international audience.

And I’ve only mentioned some of the American speakers. France, Turkey, Italy, Romania, Greece, Ireland, Israel, and dozens of other countries will also be represented by English-speaking presenters—the biggest names in emergency medicine from around the world.

We’ll have 12 tracks running simultaneously, two of them in French. We expect to break the records set at MEMC2 in Sitges during 2003, when more than 1300 delegates from more than 70 countries attended, submitting more than 800 abstracts for Oral and Poster presentations.

Plan now – don’t wait another day or your partners will beat you to it. This is the chance of a lifetime to see a spectacular line-up of speakers in a breathtaking city, Nice, France, the crown jewel of the Cote d’Azur, where Marc Chagall (www.musee-chagall.fr/) and Henri Matisse (www.musee-matisse-nice.fr/) both lived because of the magnificent sunlight; both have museums dedicated to their works within walking distance of the conference.

There will be plenty for family members to do, with planned day trips to Antibes and Cannes, and an evening in Monaco and Monte Carlo. It will take you several days just to explore the incredible beauty of our host city, Nice (www.nicetourism.com/GB/som.html).

MEMC3 runs from Saturday, September 3 through Monday, September 5, with preconference courses on September 1 and 2. Go now to www.emcongress.org to register for MEMC3 and make a hotel reservation, then use your favorite travel site to arrange transportation. You cannot miss this extraordinary opportunity to visit one of the most beautiful cities in the world and hear some of the best speakers in emergency medicine.