Research Abstracts at the Fifth Mediterranean Emergency Medicine Congress

Gary M. Gaddis, MD FAAEM
MEMC V Research Forum Chair, AAEM

The presentation of research abstracts at the Fifth Mediterranean Emergency Medicine Congress (MEMC V), held 14-17 September in Valencia, Spain, represented a sizable step forward for the research content of this international conference series. As has been mentioned elsewhere in this edition of *Common Sense*, MEMC has rapidly grown, such that by 2005 it had become the world's largest emergency medicine scientific meeting held outside the United States.

Under the leadership of Research Abstract Co-Chairs Eddy Lang (International/Canada), Marc Sabbe (European Society of Emergency Medicine/Belgium) and myself (AAEM/United States), over 1,000 English language written abstract submissions were received and judged by an international panel of abstract reviewers. In addition, another 84 Spanish language submissions were received and presented via poster at the Congress.

Drs. Lang, Sabbe and I thank all of those who reviewed the written abstracts submitted for consideration as possible oral abstract presentations by the 31 May 2009 deadline. The research abstract review process included reviews by one content expert from each of the three categories of attendees (European, International and United States).

From these reviews, three abstracts emerged with the highest scores, and these were presented at the Plenary Research Abstract Session just before the Opening Reception on 14 September. Presenters included:

- Chad Cannon, MD
- Jane Fansler, MD
- Jeffrey Cochran, MD

The winner, as judged by the three research abstract co-chairs, was Dr. Chad Cannon of the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas. The winner and the finalists were awarded plaques, along with a significant financial prize, by Stephen R. Hayden, MD, Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Emergency Medicine*, AAEM's official journal. On behalf of myself and the other co-chairs, we thank Dr. Hayden for his foresight in suggesting that such awards be given for the first time, and then for following through and arranging for awards to be presented.

Over 270 other English language abstracts were selected for oral presentation based upon the scoring of the written abstracts. Attendance at the research abstract sessions was much improved over the 2007 meeting in Sorrento, with some rooms being filled to the point of leaving standing room only. The sessions were kept on time by 94 session moderators. Richelle Cooper, MD, of the University of California at Los Angeles, again provided a supremely valuable service by screening each of the international abstracts for proper use of English.

On behalf of the chairs, I also thank everyone who asked questions of the presenters at the meeting. Such questions help the abstract authors to prepare better drafts of papers for submission. One can think of a meeting abstract presentation as an opportunity for a free "peer review."

The Sixth Mediterranean Emergency Medicine Congress (MEMC VI) will be held on the island of Kos, Greece, just off the shore of Turkey. Please consider serving as an abstract reviewer for this meeting in September 2011. You may nominate yourself for one of these positions by forwarding your name, e-mail address and four areas of greatest expertise to Gary Gaddis at ggaddis@saint-lukes.org. Please send an abbreviated one-page curriculum vitae excerpt listing your publications and presentations over the past three or four years with your self-nomination.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to mention the invaluable role of Amy Genc Moritz toward the planning and logistics of the Congress. As I have said publicly a number of times, Amy performed so well that there were occasions in which she asked me questions about the various processes and tasks performed by our committee before I realized that I would need to ask that question. Amy is the best meeting planner with whom I have ever had the pleasure to work!