



## EDITOR'S LETTER

by David Kramer, MD FAAEM

By now I am sure that you have heard and read many reports on the recent AAEM Scientific Assembly. Attendance records were broken. The educational sessions were top-notch. The Foundation event was funny, mysterious and, above all, "different." If you haven't had the opportunity to see Penn and Teller live, I highly recommend you do so. The Young Physician's Section (YPS) and the Resident and Student Association (AAEM/RSA) reception was well-attended and great fun. Basically, a great time was had by all. Needless to say, plans are already underway for next year's meeting at Amelia Island, Florida, February 7-9, 2008. I suggest you mark your calendars now and place your schedule requests as soon as possible.

But, I'm not here to talk about what you have already heard. I want to talk about what I perceived as the most interested, excited and participatory groups at the Scientific Assembly. I'm referring to the residents. There were 152 residents in Las Vegas. They asked insightful questions, actively networked with their AAEM colleagues and cheered loudly for the winners at the award ceremony. The enthusiasm with which they participated was infectious and I heard more than one member of the Board of Directors (BOD) comment on this.

I bring this up because these residents are our future leaders. It is easy to forget the enthusiasm that we all had before

we became a little long in the tooth. One of the best things about going to these meetings is what I call the "rejuvenation factor." My enthusiasm is rekindled, and I return home a better teacher, administrator and physician. So, I wanted to be sure to thank the residents who attended this year's Scientific Assembly. They make me want to do a better job for my residents back home. They also reminded me of one of the challenges for our organization. We work very hard at growing our membership. We must not forget to work equally as hard at keeping them, especially as they transition from resident to attending. I have spent time talking with both Brian Potts (AAEM/RSA President) and David Vega (YPS President) specifically about this issue. We talked extensively about ensuring that the "bang for the buck" is there for all categories of membership. I think that all of you will see strong evidence of continued efforts to retain members as they transition in their careers. Above all, we need to remind our residents that there are great opportunities for both passive and active involvement in our organization. Young physicians can have an impact and make a difference. If you are a program director and have not signed up all your residents as AAEM members, please consider doing so. You will be providing your residents with tremendous opportunities while furthering their educations. Rest assured that your BOD intends to maintain these opportunities, even as the membership continues to grow.



when minutes count

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### AAEM Mission Statement

The American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM) is the specialty society of emergency medicine. AAEM is a democratic organization committed to the following principles:

1. Every individual should have unencumbered access to quality emergency care provided by a specialist in emergency medicine.
2. The practice of emergency medicine is best conducted by a specialist in emergency medicine.
3. A specialist in emergency medicine is a physician who has achieved, through personal dedication and sacrifice, certification by either the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) or the American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine (AOBEM).
4. The personal and professional welfare of the individual specialist in emergency medicine is a primary concern to the AAEM.
5. The Academy supports fair and equitable practice environments necessary to allow the specialist in emergency medicine to deliver the highest quality of patient care. Such an environment includes provisions for due process and the absence of restrictive covenants.
6. The Academy supports residency programs and graduate medical education, which are essential to the continued enrichment of emergency medicine, and to ensure a high quality of care for the patients.
7. The Academy is committed to providing affordable high quality continuing medical education in emergency medicine for its members.

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