



ASSISTANT EDITOR'S LETTER

Do You Like What You do for a Job?

Mark Patrick Doran, DO FAAEM

Just recently, I walked into another ER shift, took sign-out from a colleague ready to hand over duty, and proceeded to take on the brunt of patients waiting to be seen. The ER that night was its usual hectic pace. Seated in a hallway bed just across from my workplace area was an innocent looking elderly gentleman who wasn't on my list of 'follow-ups' or patients 'to-be-seen.' He was quietly minding his time, waiting for an ambulance to return him to his residence.

As I walked past him, I noticed a military patch on the breast of his jacket. Being the grandson of a 1st Division U.S. Marine, World War II Pacific Theater – Guadalcanal, I immediately recognized the blue background, red trim and stars to be that of the Southern Cross and similar wartime locale. After squaring away a few orders and surveying the department, I took a moment to walk over and inquire about the patch. He proceeded to tell me about his experiences as a staff assistant to a U.S. Army colonel while stationed in the Philippines during World War II, a "tough old dog that demanded our best but always treated us well." His voice broke a bit as he lamented the loss of "so many good young guys from my high school class." The story of one of his close childhood friends stationed with the U.S. Army Air Force in the European Theater behind the controls of a P-51 Mustang, out of ammunition, and outmaneuvering three German Messerschmitts put a spark in his voice and smile on his face. He told me how he had gone to college on the GI Bill, became a microbiologist, worked at a U.S. Army research facility, and later in the pharmaceutical profession. Then he looked at me and asked, "Do you like what you do for a job?" Somehow, it caught me off guard as I had not expected such a question. I replied, "Yes, I enjoy my profession because you never know who you'll meet or how you'll be a part of that moment along the course of someone's life." I was trying to be as honest as I could to a man that had answered my inquiries without hesitation. He smiled and nodded, thanked me

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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.
8. The Academy supports the establishment and recognition of emergency medicine internationally as an independent specialty and is committed to its role in the advancement of emergency medicine worldwide.

Membership Information

Fellow and Full Voting Member: \$365 (Must be ABEM or AOBEM certified in EM or Pediatric EM)

Associate Member: \$250 (Limited to graduates of an ACGME or AOA approved Emergency Medicine Program)

*NEW: Fellows-in-Training Member: \$75 (Must be graduates of an ACGME or AOA approved EM Program and be enrolled in a fellowship)

Emeritus Member: \$250 (Must be 65 years old and a full voting member in good standing for 3 years)

Affiliate Member: \$365 (Non-voting status; must have been, but are no longer ABEM or AOBEM certified in EM)

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Resident Member: \$50 (voting in AAEM/RSA elections only)

Transitional Member: \$50 (voting in AAEM/RSA elections only)

Student Member: \$20 or \$50 (voting in AAEM/RSA elections only)

*Fellows-in-Training membership includes Young Physicians Section (YPS) membership.

Pay dues online at www.aaem.org or send check or money order to: AAEM, 555 East Wells Street, Suite 1100, Milwaukee, WI 53202

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for the conversation, and asked if I could find him a cup of coffee while he waited for that ride.

I thought to share this story as part of my first assistant editor's letter as it struck a personal cord in my career as an emergency medicine physician. Amidst all of the debate about best practice, implementation of EMR's, talk about changes to insurance reimbursement, and government directed takeover of the medical establishment...the elderly gentleman reminded me of why many of us got into medicine - the people, the individuals, what makes them who they are and not just another diagnosis or disposition. It's the one and only concept that will never change in our professional practice...a concept full of rewards that we need to keep in focus throughout our career.

As the gentleman was being escorted out of the ED by the ambulance crew, he looked over and we exchanged salutes. He probably did not know that I was saluting him for more than his service to country. He essentially was the answer to the question "Do you like your job?" At this time, I salute the members of AAEM and what you do every time you step into the role of an emergency medicine physician. I look forward to serving in my new position as assistant editor for AAEM's *Common Sense* publication. Dr. David Vega, chief editor, and the many contributors continue to put forth a valuable resource for the members of AAEM and the emergency medicine community. I sincerely look forward to connecting with you amongst the pages of *Common Sense* and within the mission of AAEM.

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state law privilege when state law provides the rule of decision, the court determined that plaintiffs were entitled to production of the peer review records limited to Gabrielle Etter and other patients presenting at the emergency department with similar symptoms and conditions. After reviewing *in camera* (i.e., a private examination with the judge of confidential or sensitive information) the tendered peer review documents, the court determined that only certain pages of the hospital peer review records were relevant to plaintiffs' claim of EMTALA violations and thus were discoverable. Accordingly, the court ordered that the Etters' "Motion to Compel Documents" from DCMH was properly produced to Plaintiffs, but in all other respects, plaintiffs' motion was denied.

To read the full text of the decision, go to http://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district_courts/colorado/codce/1:2010cv00557/118195/75.

EMTALA case synopses prepared by Terri L. Nally, Principal, KAR Associates, Inc.

AAEM Antitrust Compliance Plan:

As part of AAEM's antitrust compliance plan, we invite all readers of *Common Sense* to report any AAEM publication or activity which may restrain trade or limit competition. You may confidentially file a report at info@aaem.org or by calling 800-884-AAEM.

2011 100% ED Groups

We would like to recognize and thank the following ED groups for participating in our 2011 100% ED Group Membership. We sincerely appreciate the enthusiastic and continuous support of these physicians and their groups.

- Bay Care Clinic LLP – WI
- Campbell County Memorial Hospital – WY
- Cascade Emergency Associates – WA
- Chesapeake Regional Medical Center – VA
- Drexel University – PA
- Eastern Carolina Emergency Physicians (ECEP) – NC
- Edward Hospital – IL
- Emergency Specialists of Oregon (ESO) – OR
- Fort Atkinson Emergency Physicians (FAEP) – WI
- Fredericksburg Emergency Medical Alliance, Inc – VA
- Memorial Medical Center – IL
- Northeast Emergency Associates – MA
- OSF Saint Anthony – IL
- Physicians Now, LLC – VA
- Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital – CA
- Santa Cruz Emergency Physicians (SCEP) – CA
- Southern Colorado Emergency Medical Assoc (SCEMA) – CO
- Space Coast Emergency Physicians – FL
- Temple University Hospital – PA
- University of Louisville – KY
- West Jefferson Emergency Physician Group – LA

AAEM ED Group Membership **NEW AND IMPROVED!**

AAEM instituted group memberships to allow hospitals/groups to pay for the memberships of all their EM board certified & board eligible physicians. Each hospital/group that participates in the group program will now have the option of two ED Group Memberships.

- 100% ED Group Membership - receives a 10% discount on membership dues. All board certified and board eligible physicians at your hospital/group must be members.
- ED Group Membership - receives a 5% discount on membership dues. 2/3 of all board certified and board eligible physicians at your hospital/group must be members.

For these group memberships, we will invoice the group directly. If you are interested in learning more about the benefits of belonging to an AAEM ED group, please visit us at www.aaem.org or contact our membership manager at info@aaem.org or (800) 884-2236.

2012 Membership Applications Now Being Accepted!

Plan ahead for your future. Secure your AAEM membership at the price of \$365 per year. Full voting multi-year memberships now available for up to 10 years.

Have You Set Up Your Member's Login Account?

- Check your membership status or payment history
- Update your contact information
- Pay your membership dues
- Register for upcoming events

To set up your initial login account,

please visit <http://aaem.execinc.com/edibo/LoginHelp>.

Please contact info@aaem.org or 800-884-2236 with any questions.