



## EDITOR'S LETTER

### Time for a Change

David D. Vega, MD FAAEM

I began my role as editor of *Common Sense* in 2009. I am ending this role in 2012. Serving in this capacity has been a great experience, and I thank everyone who was involved in helping me get established in this position and who provided assistance with the publication over the past few years. In particular, I would like to thank Dr. David Kramer, previous editor of *Common Sense*, who was key in helping me get involved with AAEM, starting from the days we formed the Young Physicians Section (YPS) and leading to my assumption of the role of editor of *Common Sense*. I also extend special gratitude to AAEM Past President Larry Weiss, MD JD FAAEM, for his assistance and support over the years I served as editor. Jody Bath, our managing editor, deserves much credit for her patience and persistence in producing this publication as well. I also thank all of the various members of the board of directors over the years who have been supportive and helpful in keeping this publication going strong.

It has truly been a privilege to serve as editor of *Common Sense* for the past several years. I look forward to staying very active in AAEM as I transition to new roles in the organization. I thank all of you, my colleagues, for electing me to the board of directors at Scientific Assembly in San Diego. I am fully dedicated to continuing my service to AAEM, the organization that best represents the hard-working, board certified emergency physician. This organization has truly advanced our specialty in ways that many do not even realize.

I am happy to say that Andy Walker, MD FAAEM, will now be taking over the reins of this publication. Andy is a dedicated and experienced member of AAEM's board of directors and a fervent supporter of AAEM's principles. He is a talented author and is a perfect choice to guide this publication into the future. Mark Doran, DO FAAEM, will also continue as assistant editor. I have no doubt that these two will do great things for AAEM through their work with *Common Sense*.



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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)

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

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