



EDITOR'S LETTER

Common Sense

by David Kramer, MD FAAEM

Like many of you, I have recently read the latest (May/June 2006) issue of *Common Sense*. I was particularly intrigued with Dr. Blumstein's introduction of me as the new editor of the newsletter. Let me give you a few keys to the semantic interpretation of the written word. When someone as erudite as Howard writes, "I am sure that his leadership and ideas will overshadow my tenure in this position," he is actually challenging me to a duel. He is slapping me on the face with his glove (feel free to choose your own hackneyed phrase). All of us recognize what a great job he has done as editor. We have read his work and remain impressed with every issue. His are big shoes to fill. I feel challenged and only hope that I am up to the task. Thank you, Howard, for setting the bar so high. Only time and hindsight will tell if I can continue the high standard that has been set. Rest assured; I will not mess with success.

I start off at a distinct disadvantage. My residency's senior program coordinator told me that she finds it quite ironic that *Common Sense* will now be edited by a man with so little of it. While I know (hope?) that it was said in jest, my goal is to prove her wrong by ensuring that future editions of the newsletter contain both practical and informative columns and articles. Here is where I ask for your help. As one who has never been accused of being shy, I am very excited to have this forum in my hands. Nevertheless, it is clearly owned by you, the members of AAEM. I encourage all of you to be active participants. Read each issue, to be sure. But do more: share your ideas, insights and instructions. In other words, *contribute* to the existing body of *Common Sense*. This is your newsletter. My aim is to make it invaluable to you. In order to make contributing

your share of common sense to *Common Sense* easy, we are initiating a new feature: TalkBack to Dave. E-mail your opinions, ideas for articles and any other common sense to me at CSeditor@aaem.org.

It's funny how sometimes the seemingly insignificant can become significant. During the candidate Q&A at the last Scientific Assembly I was asked skeptically, since I am so involved with the academic world of emergency medicine, how I could possibly understand the interests of the typical AAEM member. I responded that as a program director who graduates eleven young emergency physicians each year and sends them out into the job market, "Your interests are my interests." Afterwards, a few of you told me that you really appreciated the validity of that response. Those few words really do speak volumes. All of us in AAEM (academic and non-academic) are truly aligned in our interests for a fair workplace where emergency physicians are all treated in a highly professional and ethical manner. AAEM is, and should be, many things to many emergency physicians (take a look at all the committees and task forces). The members of the organization represent many different practices, both academic and non-academic. Nevertheless, the guiding principles remain the same. When it comes to these principles, we speak with one voice.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your vote of confidence in electing me to the AAEM Board of Directors. I am honored, humbled and privileged to be given this opportunity. I promise to make the most of it and to serve you well. One of my most important lessons has been to learn from those that I work for. For many years I have worked for my residents. Now, I also work for all of you. +



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 patient.
7. The Academy is committed to providing affordable high quality continuing medical education in emergency medicine for its members.

Membership Information

Fellow and Full Voting Member: \$345 (Must be ABEM or AOBEM certified in EM or Pediatric EM)
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