



You Simply Never Know

EDITOR'S LETTER

by David Kramer, MD FAAEM

When I was a resident in the early '80s, it was called "networking" and "making connections." Those of us involved in resident education understand that we are part and parcel of "systems-based practice," "interpersonal and communication skills" and "professionalism." There is a very good reason why these are three of the ACGME's Core Competencies. They are the bread and butter of becoming a successful practitioner in any specialty. As I complete my 20th year as a residency program director, I am forever thankful to my former program director and mentor, Judy Tintinalli, MD FAAEM, for teaching me these skills long before anyone had heard of core competencies. The networking I have done and the connections I have made have opened many doors and enabled me to participate in our specialty in ways I had only dreamed of as a resident.

This, of course, brings me to our rapidly approaching AAEM Scientific Assembly. Sure, the speakers will be great. Certainly the venue will be excellent. But I'd like you to think about the great networking opportunities that will present themselves in Phoenix. This will be a wonderful chance for you to expand your horizons, get involved, make connections and schmooze with leaders. In many ways, our national meetings are the golf courses of emergency medicine. For the younger members, this is the stuff that careers are made of. So put in your schedule requests early and get out to our 15th Annual Scientific Assembly on March 2-4, 2009. Your career just might take a giant step. A terrific opportunity might present itself. You simply never know.

I look forward to seeing all of you there.



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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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*Associate membership is limited to graduates of an ACGME or AOA approved Emergency Medicine Program.

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