



EDITOR'S LETTER

Investing in the Future

by David Kramer, MD FAAEM

While thinking about my column for this issue of *Common Sense*, I was struck by the diverse meaning that the phrase "invest in the future" can have. This is especially relevant to us as physicians and members of this organization. As physicians, I am certain that all of you have thought about this and its application to your retirement planning. But I wonder how many of us have thought about how this idea applies to our careers (including continuing education) and our specialty (including organizations within it).

Dr. Vega talks about "giving back" in his YPS president's column. This is an important concept that I highly endorse. One of the ways you can do this is by increasing your participation in your specialty societies (like AAEM). This is one way to help ensure the quality and future of emergency medicine for us and for those who come after us. I'm not limiting this discussion to financial aspects (although supporting the AAEM Foundation is certainly an important

mechanism for investing in the future of our specialty). So yes, dollars count and we certainly couldn't do our work without them.

But there are a myriad of other ways to invest in the future. One is to attend the AAEM Scientific Assembly in Amelia Island this coming February. This investment in your career will pay dividends for both you and your patients. While you are there, consider joining and participating in an AAEM committee, or even running for office. Your voice is important. So, fund that 401k or 403b and 529 to the max. Then do the same for your career and specialty. The dividends these investments pay may be bigger than you imagine. I hope to see all of you in Amelia Island. It's a great location for winter "investing" and having fun.



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.

Membership Information

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

*Associate Member: \$250 (Associate-voting status)

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*Associate membership is limited to graduates of an ACGME or AOA approved Emergency Medicine Program or AOBEM certified in EM

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