



Stuff Happens

EDITOR'S LETTER

David Kramer, MD FAAEM

I see it every year in our residency program: weddings, divorces, births, illnesses, deaths. Their occurrence is almost as predictable as hospital overcrowding. The issue isn't "if something will happen," but "when it will happen." Both happy and sad events often have similar impact. There are coverage issues intertwined with professional issues. It's easy to say one should "check it at the door," but it is hard to do so. I talk about these issues every year during orientation of my new residents. I make it clear that if it doesn't happen to them during their residency training, it will likely happen during their careers. I make it clear that the teamwork they show when others need help will be the teamwork they receive when they are in need. I'm lucky to work with a great group of residents in which virtually every one is willing to step up to the plate to help when needed. Rarely have I needed to force professional behavior upon them. Each one knows that next time s/he might be the one asking for help.

I am fortunate to also work with faculty who understand these principles. We have had our fair share of "stuff happen" to our colleagues. Each individual has helped out when needed. For those of you currently exploring the job market, I encourage you to look into the personality and professionalism of the group you are considering joining. Talk with those you did not interview with. Find out how difficult issues are handled. This can definitely impact your overall wellness and happiness with your career and life. Remember that there is a lot more to consider than just the contract you will sign. Stuff **will** happen. What matters is how it is dealt with.

Finally, keep in mind that AAEM's 15th Annual Scientific Assembly is fast approaching. March will be here before you know it. Secure the dates now so you can attend what promises to be a great meeting. I hope to see you all in Phoenix.



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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.
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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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