



VIEW FROM THE PODIUM

AAEM Education Update

by *Kevin Rodgers, MD FAAEM*

I often marvel at the energy, dedication and time that my fellow AAEM members devote to their organization and its educational endeavors. Certainly within the Education Committee, the spirit of volunteerism is alive and well. Over the summer we've spent numerous hours and conference calls preparing for a myriad of upcoming educational presentations, all aimed at enhancing the care of our patients. There are no salaries, no special benefits, no perks other than the occasional non-pharmaceutical sponsored dinner. I believe it is sheer altruism and a desire to provide our patients and our communities with the best care possible that drives our members' commitment to excellence. For everyone's contributions.....Thank You!

In teaching others we teach ourselves.

As I pen this entry, the final touches to MEMC IV are being put into place. Over 1300 EM practitioners will be converging on Sorrento to share ideas and camaraderie on the beautiful Italian seacoast. An excellent slate of speakers from around the world, including many AAEM members, will present 15 pre-conference courses and over 180 hours of educational programming during the three day conference. AAEM members Philip Anderson, Antoine Kazzi, Joe Lex, Amal Mattu, Ghazala ShariEFF, Indrani Sheridan and Gary Gaddis spearheaded this tremendous effort from the American side in developing this conference. Over 1000 abstracts were submitted with the best 210 being presented as oral papers and the remainder presented as posters.

A professor is one who talks in someone else's sleep.

At the end of September, AAEM will once again present its four day Written Board Review Course directed by Richard Shih and Jim Colletti that provides over 60 hours of CME. This is followed in October by the award-winning Oral Board Review Course directed by Mitch Goldman. Despite adding Dallas as its fifth semi-annual site, this course is consistently sold out (over 60 people on the waiting list for the October course). The Education Committee is now considering adding an additional midweek course in Las Vegas this spring. The primary road block to course expansion as always is the availability of qualified examiners. Please contact Tom Derenne, tderenne@aaem.org, or fill out the application form on the website under

Oral Boards if you are interested in contributing your time and expertise to this incredibly valuable experience.

If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of 100 years, teach the people.

Also in October, AAEM will undergo their re-accreditation review by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). As you may or may not know, AAEM is accredited by ACCME as an independent CME provider. This allows AAEM to not only provide CME for its own educational venues but also for other organizations as well. This requires that AAEM's ACCME subcommittee, chaired by Indrani Sheridan, review each application for CME to insure compliance with a relatively rigid set of guidelines which focus on providing independently developed, bias free, goal-directed and peer-reviewed education. In order to maintain our certification, the AAEM staff has spent untold hours preparing the documentation for this review. Many thanks to Janet Wilson, Tom Derenne, Kate Filipiak, and Kay Whalen for their tremendous efforts in this area.

He who dares to teach must never cease to learn.

Of course the crowning achievement of this year's educational calendar will be the Scientific Assembly on Amelia Island from February 7-9 with pre-conference courses held on the 5th and 6th. This year's Resuscitation for Emergency Physicians course will be expanded to cover two pre-conference days. We've invited back the top 10 speakers from last year's Scientific Assembly plus a new cadre of talented educators. Point-counterpoint debates, simulation lab and several evening courses including LLSA Review are also planned. We're setting up inexpensive, easy-to-use transportation to and from the airport to the conference hotel and have several social outings planned. Be sure to "save the date" and attend the best EM conference in the US!

The man who can make hard things easy is the educator.

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