



THE VIEW FROM THE PODIUM

by Kevin Rodgers, MD FAAEM

Congrats on a Fantastic Job!

By the time you read this installment, another successful Scientific Assembly (SCIASS) in San Antonio will have passed. Despite the lack of a crystal ball, I know this to be true because of two names, Joe Lex and Ghazala Sharieff. Their superb leadership over the last five years has not only yielded the premier clinical meeting for board-certified emergency medicine physicians, but has helped develop a wide variety of educational resources as well. Every year I listen to my own residents and faculty rave about the quality of the speakers and their presentations at SCIASS. I read the reviews from those attending our board review courses (oral, written and JAM) saying they're the best in the US. I examine the CME offerings endorsed by AAEM's own ACCME committee and know I am getting a quality production. I think back on innovative ideas, such as linking with EMedHome and EMRAP, the "open-mic" sessions, the Speakers' Bureau and on-line pediatric quizzes, all of which have come to fruition. Of course, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the three incredibly successful Mediterranean Emergency Medicine Congresses held in Stresa, Sitges and Nice. It is clear that all of these excellent educational offerings have played a significant role in the growth of our organization as well.

This is not to say that Joe and Ghazala did it alone. The Education Committee has always been one of AAEM's most productive and talented. You've heard all the names repeatedly, too many to mention individually! But as they said in *Remember the Titans*, "Attitude reflects leadership!" Ghazala and Joe have given us their very best attitude, ideas, hard work and leadership, year in and year out. They have established a "track record" that Sam and I can only hope to match in the coming years. I'm sure all AAEM members would agree that we cannot thank Joe and Ghazala (and their families) enough.
Joe and Ghazala – Thanks for Everything!

Medscape Partnership

AAEM and Medscape, LLC (www.medscape.com) are in the process of formalizing a collaboration to launch an emergency medicine website. Medscape, LLC, the professional editorial and educational subsidiary of WebMD Health, is an ACCME accredited CME provider, and currently offers more than 30 specialty sites. According to a report issued by the AMA/Forrester Research Consortium in 2005, nearly 71 percent of US physicians actively use Medscape as a key source for online, up-to-date medical information.

Currently, about 17,000 emergency physicians use Medscape as a source for medical information; however, they do not have their own dedicated website. The site to be launched will provide a home to emergency physicians as well as other practitioners who seek cutting edge information in emergency medicine.

Robert Glatter, MD FAAEM, is head of the subcommittee to launch the site. Dr. Glatter will serve as Chair of the Editorial

Board. Dr. Joe Lex will also serve on the Board; the remainder of the Editorial Board is currently being organized. Members of the Education Committee and others are actively being recruited to provide content and support for the project.

The site will feature a "National EM Journal Club," as well as a section entitled "AAEM's Review of the Literature." Additional plans include a section for PowerPoint type presentations, as well as a repository of MP3 EM lectures downloadable to podcast or CD for on-the-go listening for busy physicians. "Resource Centers" for relevant EM topics, CME articles on cutting edge topics and an EM discussion board will further add to the breadth of variety available on the site.

In addition to the co-branded specialty site produced in collaboration with AAEM, the *Journal of Emergency Medicine* will be featured in a "Publishers Circle" on the website, posting selected full text articles to promote the Journal to non subscribers. Conference coverage for AAEM's Scientific Assembly, as well as other sponsored meetings, will promote AAEM educational activities to practicing physicians. Overall, the co-branded EM site will serve as a showcase for AAEM materials, guidelines and messages distributed across a broad audience.

The Future

There is an incredible amount of talent within AAEM and specifically on the Education Committee itself. Sam and I can only hope to be as productive and successful as our aforementioned predecessors. To do so, we will need the ingenuity, expertise and productivity of ALL Education Committee members. I say ALL, because the committee is large (more than 55 members) and sometimes unwieldy one. The number of sub-committees has doubled in the last three years. SCIASS has grown with new educational venues being added every year. The Oral Board Review course has doubled in size. Future ideas for educational offerings include poster and photographic presentations at SCIASS, an on-line bookstore as well as on-line CME presentations such as the JAM session. To be successful we will need the active involvement of every member.

As Sam and I start a new régime, we first want to thank all of the Education Committee members who have been productive throughout the years. We cannot thank you enough; the members cannot thank you enough! Secondly, we ask you to renew your commitment to the hard work necessary to provide educational innovations and excellence for our members. For those of you reading this who are not on the Education Committee, when you see an EDCOMM member, take a moment to say "Thank You!"

Kevin Rodgers, Co-Chair, Education Committee
Sam Mossallam, Co-Chair, Education Committee