



View from the Podium

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Co-Chair Education Committee

Education Committee Update

It's been a busy several months since my last installment. I just returned from a very successful AAEM Oral Board Review Course in Orlando. As always, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all the course directors and examiners in Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles and Orlando who freely give up a weekend of their valuable time to sit in a hotel room for two days and teach our young EM colleagues the fine art of "playing the OB game." The reputation of the course is unsurpassed. This is demonstrated by the fact that all of our sites were fully enrolled, and there were still more than 60 people on the waiting list. This course not only assists many future AAEM members attain board certification but is also an important source of revenue that supports many of AAEM's missions. Hence my plea to consider becoming an examiner. The number of slots we can offer is only limited by the number of members willing to volunteer a weekend of their time. In return for your efforts, AAEM promises a free hotel room and travel reimbursement, a fantastic Saturday night meal, eight hours of CME and an opportunity to visit a far away, exotic city (OK, it's not Paris). First time examiners also receive a one-time \$250 AAEM voucher that can be used on AAEM membership, meetings, courses or merchandise. Sounds incredibly appealing, doesn't it? In reality, our volunteer examiners are much more altruistic in their motives; they demonstrate one of the

primary tenants that have helped make AAEM such an incredibly effective organization – members serving members! We are already looking for examiners for our next course on April 14-15, 2007. Please review the AAEM website for further information under the education section and contact Tom Derenne at tderenne@aaem.org if you are interested in becoming an examiner.

In other news, I am very happy to announce that the Education Committee was invited to assist the *Journal of Emergency Medicine* in selecting two new associate editors. A task force reviewed the applications and submitted its recommendations to Dr. Steve Hayden, who was recently named Editor-in-Chief. It is my pleasure to congratulate Michael D. Witting, MD MS, from the University of Maryland and Robert Rodriguez, MD, from the University of California San Francisco as the newest Associate Editors of *JEM!*

Finally, the Education Committee is in high gear preparing for the next Scientific Assembly to be held in Las Vegas on March 12-14 with preconferences on the 10th and 11th. An excellent slate of nationally renowned speakers has been developed, as well as a diverse selection of preconference courses including the first iteration of the new AAEM Resuscitation Course. Other courses include the world acclaimed Advanced Emergency

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Elections

Board Nomination Period Begins

Nomination Deadline: December 11, 2006

Three At-Large positions on the AAEM Board of Directors are open, as well as the Associate Member Director Position. All current full voting and associate members of AAEM are eligible to run. Self-nominations are allowed and encouraged. You must be an associate member to be eligible to run for the Associate Member Position.

Elections for these positions will be held at AAEM's 13th Annual Scientific Assembly, March 12-14, 2007, at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, NV. Although balloting arrangements will be made for those unable to attend the Assembly, all members will be encouraged to hold their votes until the time of the meeting.

The Scientific Assembly will feature a Candidate's Forum, in which members will be able to directly question the candidates before casting their ballots. Winners will be announced during the conference, and those elected will begin their terms at the conclusion of the Assembly.

In order to nominate yourself or a full voting/associate member for a Board position, please send the following information to the AAEM office before December 11, 2006:

1. Name of nominee. Each nominee may have only three individuals as nominators/endorsers.
2. Name of nominee's medical school and year graduated.
3. Board certification status of nominee, including Board and year completed.
4. Number of ED clinical hours worked each week by the nominee.
5. A candidate statement (written by the nominee, 500 word max.) listing recent AAEM contributions, accomplishments, activities or any other information detailing why the nominee should be elected to the Board.
6. Any emergency medicine related business activity in which the nominee has a financial interest.

The candidate statements from all those running for the Board will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Common Sense* and will be sent to each full voting member with their membership renewal packets.

These nomination and election procedures are what set AAEM apart from other professional medical associations. We believe the democratic principles that guide them are one of AAEM's greatest strengths and are an integral part of what makes us *the* organization of specialists in Emergency Medicine. In AAEM, any individual, a full voting or an associate member, can be nominated and elected to the Board of Directors. Any associate member can be nominated and elected to the Associate Member Director Position.

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Electrocardiography course, the Uniformed Services Chapter military specific track, as well as courses focusing on wound repair, airway management, LLSA review and the business of emergency medicine. I am hopeful that this impressive educational lineup will guarantee participant attendance even in Las Vegas!

Playing by the Rules

It is important for members to understand the degree of scrutiny that medical education events have come under in recent years. This is especially true for AAEM, since we act as a CME certifying organization accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). The primary purpose of this organization is to ensure the quality, from start to finish, of any CME offering. Although it may seem like a simple task; the AAEM staff and the ACCME Subcommittee, chaired by Dr. Indrani Sheridan, will tell you it's not! As a certifying organization, the AAEM's ACCME Subcommittee reviews a multitude of CME offerings from other organizations to ensure compliance with ACCME's regulations. As an organization who also offers a significant amount of our own CME, AAEM must ensure that each individual event, as well as each individual presenter, is in compliance. Each event must have a clear set of learning outcomes (objectives), a needs assessment that supports those objectives, documentation of the appropriate methodology and an assessment tool which evaluates and demonstrates successful attainment of the desired result, primarily the improvement of physician performance and patient health. This also includes guaranteeing that the financial and logistical support exists to ensure a successful outcome. As you can see, this is no small task.

On a personal level, the certifying body must ensure that each individual lecturer presents a commercially unbiased presentation. This includes complete disclosure to the audience at the time of their presentation of any medical financial relationships. At our recent

meetings you may have noticed disclosures are in written form in the syllabus and given verbally at the start of each presentation. ACCME takes this even one step further. If there is potential for a direct conflict of interest between the presenter's commercial relationships and the content of their presentation, the AAEM ACCME subcommittee must review the actual presentation ahead of time to ensure it is unbiased. Ensuring compliance of both the meeting itself and each of the presenters is thus a formidable, time consuming task. As we prepare for our next ACCME review in the coming year, I'd like to thank all of our presenters for their compliance with ACCME regulations and paperwork. We also owe an incredible debt of gratitude for the diligence of the AAEM Staff (Helen-who unfortunately recently departed for a new job, Janet, Kate, Tom and Kay) and Dr. Sheridan and her ACCME subcommittee for helping us in this enormous task!

Unfortunately "playing by the rules" also includes Copyright compliance. A number of national organizations have recently been sued for copyright infringement based on content presented at "live events" or as part of "enduring educational materials – webcasts, CD-ROMs, newsletters" available through their organization. Based on this potential liability, the AAEM board of directors recently passed a new policy on the "use of copyrighted materials by faculty in materials developed for educational activities sponsored by AAEM". Although these materials will be sent to each individual invited to present at an AAEM sponsored event, please take the time to review the policy's explanation and application available on our website. I would strongly encourage all faculty to apply these regulations to all of their educational presentations regardless of the venue. 🇺🇸

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