

common SENSE



when minutes count

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1**
President's Message
- 2**
Editor's Letter
- 3**
View from the Podium
- 12**
Washington Watch
- 15**
Young Physicians Section
- 20**
Resident and Student Association
- 28**
Job Bank

SPECIAL
INSERT
MEMC IV
POSTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Some of What Happened in Vegas

by Tom Scaletta, MD FAAEM
AAEM President

AAEM held its 13th Annual Scientific Assembly in Las Vegas last month, and it was a huge success. About 800 emergency physicians descended on the neon city to enjoy some of the finest lecturers in the country. There was something for everyone, including a new pre-conference course, 'Resuscitation for Emergency Physicians,' as well as cutting-edge clinical lectures, a business issues track, a review of LLSA articles, many abstract presentations and a photo competition. As always, the main program remained free for AAEM members to attend.

There were several unveilings, including the completely renovated AAEM website. We announced our latest partnerships to oversee and enhance the emergency medicine content for both Medscape and PEPID. Also, AAEM Services, in partnership with EvolveMed, shared samples of PeerCharts, a complaint-driven template system merging the best practices of safety, reimbursement and user friendliness into an affordable system.

It was refreshing to walk the aisles of an exhibit hall that screens out profiteering staffing groups. In the same vein, the AAEM Foundation, our non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the rights of physicians against corporations that violate corporate practice of medicine laws, held a hilarious yet hair-raising fundraiser with Penn & Teller.

The inaugural Meeting of Emergency Medicine Stakeholders (MESH) took place onsite, the day before the Assembly commenced. This group intends to be an inclusive gathering of mainstream emergency medicine organizations that can amplify the voice of emergency medicine when it is necessary to respond to Congress, the media or a regulatory agency. AAEM's ongoing alliance with the ENA was marked by a lecture I co-presented with their President, Donna Mason, RN MS CEN, titled, 'Who's Really In Charge,' emphasizing the importance of teamwork and interpersonal relationships.

Finally, our committees were beehives of activity and included final plans for the Fourth Mediterranean Emergency Medicine Conference (MEMC IV), which we co-organize with the European Society for Emergency Medicine (EuSEM). This September, we are going to Sorrento, Italy (details at www.EMCongress.org). I hope to see you there. Ciao!