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President's Message

After several years on the Board, it is a great pleasure to serve this year as president of Cal/AAEM. I want to take this opportunity to thank our past presidents Drs. Rob Rodriguez, Steve Gabaaef, Fran Vogler, Shahram Loftipour, and our founding president Dr. Antoine Kazzi, for having the vision to form a strong state chapter with its own agenda and presence in the greater emergency medicine community.

Although we are still very young, we are an organization on the move – bringing the values and objectives of our national parent organization closer to home for California's emergency physicians. This year, we will aim to increase both our visibility within the emergency medicine community and our services to members across the state.

The Cal/AAEM Board and membership constitutes a diverse group of emergency physicians from every corner of our specialty. Among us are community practitioners, academic physicians, clinical service chiefs, prehospital care directors, health care policy experts, residents and students from all regions of our vast state. Although we are particularly well represented in the academic community, none of us has lost sight of our primary constituency. These are the venerable “pit docs” on the front lines of our specialty that look to their professional organizations to give them a strong voice and vigorously represent their interests and those of their patients in an age of increasing demands and decreasing resources.

Below are some of Cal/AAEMs current initiatives and services to our members:

Workplace Fairness/Legal Consultation Service

AAEM was founded to advocate for the interests of individual emergency physicians. In many cases, AAEM has assisted individual members navigate their way through disputes related to fairness at their workplace. Because many such cases involve regional and state specific issues, Cal/AAEM now provides members with the opportunity to receive an initial consultation with legal counsel in California to help determine a possible resolution of their concern. In some cases, after consultation with counsel, it may be that a case is suitable for referral to the Cal/AAEM or National AAEM Boards for further action or support of a legal action.

WestJEM

The Western Journal of Emergency Medicine (formerly the California Journal of Emergency Medicine) is the fastest growing journal in our specialty. We are incredibly proud to be joint sponsors the journal together with our partners in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of California, Irvine.

In the past year, under the direction of Drs. Mark Langdorf (Editor-in-Chief), Sean Henderson (Senior Associate Editor) and Shahram Loftipour (Managing Editor), the journal has made great strides and is on the fast track for indexing in the major research databases. Hundreds of articles have been submitted for review from across the nation and abroad, an extensive network of expert reviewers has been recruited, and the journal has an appealing new format that makes it hard to put down. Although the journal is open access on-line, paid members of Cal/AAEM receive the paper version of the Journal as well.

Continuing Medical Education

Cal/AAEM is proud to be the sponsor of the pediatric emergency medicine pre-conference “Children are not little adults” at next years AAEM National Scientific Assembly on March 1, 2009. The course director is Joanne Williams of the Cal/AAEM Board. The nationally renowned speakers include Drs. Ghazala Sharieff, Maureen McCollough, and Joe Lex.

Student and Resident Outreach

Membership to Cal/AAEM is free for students and residents. Many students and residents are already active members. We have a rich tradition of student and resident involvement and a longstanding commitment to academic and educational programs. Over the next year, we plan to introduce members of the Board to the new residents at several of the 14 training programs in California. We hope that this year’s outreach will help secure Cal/AAEM’s future.

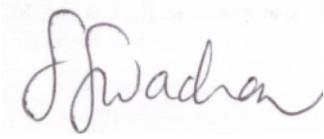
Collaboration with Cal/ACEP

Cal/AAEM is excited to partner with Cal/ACEP on a variety of legislative and advocacy issues this year. Although we do not have the financial means of Cal/ACEP, we are able to lend support in the form of policy statements, press releases, and by educating our membership about the major issues facing the specialty at the state level. Dr. Steve Gabaaef, a veteran member of the Cal/AAEM Board, sits as Cal/AAEM’s observer on the Cal/ACEP Board, where he is a regular contributor.

Dr. Billy Mallon and I (Billy is this year’s president of Cal/ACEP) have already met to discuss possible areas of collaboration between our two organizations. We both share a common vision of a strong AAEM and a strong ACEP – two organizations that are both

complementary and necessary to protect both the interests of individual emergency physicians and the specialty as a whole.

If you have feedback or concerns that you would like addressed by the Cal/AAEM Board, please feel free to contact us.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S Swadron". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

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