

Women in Emergency Medicine Committee

FIX Celebrates Its First Annual Conference

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AAEM Women in Emergency Medicine Committee



FIX, the acronym for **FemInEM Idea EXchange**, was held this October 4-6, 2017, in New York, New York. FemInEM, is an open access community that was founded by Dara Kass, MD (@darakass) in September 2015. The community is committed to **FEMales working IN Emergency Medicine** and aims to address and correct gender disparities in a way that empowers both women and men physicians.

The sold-out conference consisted of two days of speakers followed by a day of workshops, along with networking, dinners, and storytelling. Participants were mostly women, mostly physicians, mostly working in emergency medicine, and mostly Americans, but also included paramedics, nurses, medical students, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners. Participants also traveled from five other countries, and included at least three medical specialties.

Resa Lewis, MD (@ultrasoundREL), FemInEM advisory board member, explained that the conference helps to create a “more equal and easier path for the future and affect change in the present.” The conference called for collective action to recognize and improve the biases and challenges that women and minorities face in medicine, elevating and amplifying that objective, and advocating for patients in the community and beyond. Speakers discussed tools for resiliency, efficiency, inspiration, mentorship, and leadership.

Mindy Naliboff, DO (@TorpedoinToledo), a second year emergency medicine resident, explained why she attended. “I wanted to see female physicians in positions of power and learn from their examples and their resilience. The attendings and residents at my program are

predominately male, and we (females) learn, treat, and see things differently.” The conference served that purpose. Speakers told of successful endeavors in areas of advocacy, business, and leadership in the emergency department and beyond. For example, Marina Del Rios, MD (@DraCoquiMD) discussed how her efforts with community engagement have increased neurologically intact survival of out of hospital cardiac arrest in Illinois. Mizuho Spangler, DO (@mizspangler) discussed starting her own business, Three Mommy Doctors, with two friends from residency. Esther Choo, MD MPH (@choo_ek) coordinated conference-goers with the #ENOUGH campaign which aims to end the gun violence epidemic in the United States.

Workshops on the third day continued the theme for the conference in a smaller group setting and focused on strengthening speaking, writing, and leadership skills.

AAEM/RSA sponsored two resident attendees to FIX2017. The scholarship application called on the residents to write about a personal situation or important issue surrounding women in emergency medicine. The scholarships were awarded to Trisha Morshed, MD and Kimberly Brown, MD, their essays were published on the AAEM/RSA blog: <http://aaemrsa.blogspot.com/>.

The vibe of the conference was positive and empowering. Dara Kass, MD (@darakass) commented that it was “everything I wanted to hear in a conference.” Participants overwhelmingly agreed, writing that it was an “inspirational, meaningful conference” (@UBemSono), “paradigm changing” (@amyfaithho), and a “transformative experience” (@KariSampsel).

If you missed FIX or want to find out more, please search #FIX17 on twitter, view feminem.org, and plan to come to FIX18 next fall in New York! ●

Delaware Valley Chapter Division (DVAAEM) Residents' Day and Meeting

Thursday, March 8, 2018

7:30am-4:00pm

4th Floor Auditorium

Student Faculty Center (SFC) at Temple University

3340 North Broad Street (Broad and Ontario) in Philadelphia, PA 19140

Free registration for DVAAEM members

www.aaem.org/membership/chapter-divisions/dv-residents-day

