EDITOR’S LETTER

Supporting the Next Generation

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Once again, we are at that time of year when a fresh batch of residency-trained physicians have been added to the roles of attending emergency physicians. I offer my congratulations to those who have entered this next phase in their careers. Those of us who have already gone through the transition from a relatively protected position as a resident in training to an independently-practicing physician can remember how one’s self-confidence, built up through rigorous residency training, is tempered with a healthy fear of not having an attending physician “watching your back.” It can be a great feeling to finally be free of this supervised status while at the same time there is at least a little anxiety about what those first few shifts “alone” will bring.

As AAEM moves forward with its mission and goals, we especially need to focus on the younger generation of physicians that represent the future of our specialty. They bring with them enthusiasm and hope for the future, along with new and fresh perspectives that can help drive progress. However, the early years of practice often bring struggles such as job changes and moves, changes in career tracks, new financial situations, and difficulties finding the right balance in life. This can be a significant impediment to young physicians having the ability or desire to participate with organizations like AAEM. The unfortunate reality is that we prepare residents well for the rigors of clinical medicine, but leave them much less prepared for the political, administrative and other non-clinical concerns that face them when their training is done.

Every one of us must continue to look for ways to reach out to successive generations of physicians and educate them about the issues for which AAEM fights. We should offer mentorship and guidance in achieving personal and career goals. Whenever possible, this should start at the level of residents, and even medical students. We should encourage membership and active involvement with AAEM. The Young Physicians Section (YPS) is a great

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Upcoming AAEM–Sponsored and Recommended Conferences for 2011

AAEM is featuring the following upcoming sponsored and recommended conferences and activities for your consideration. For a complete listing of upcoming endorsed conferences and other meetings, please log onto http://www.aaem.org/education/conferences.php

AAEM–Sponsored Conferences

August 24-25, 2011
AAEM Oral Board Review Course
Las Vegas, NV
www.aaem.org

August 25-28, 2011
AAEM Written Board Review Course
Newark, NJ
www.aaem.org

August 26-28, 2011
Florida Chapter of AAEM (FLAAEM)
Scientific Assembly
Miami Beach, FL
http://www.flaaem.org/

September 10-14, 2011
The Sixth Mediterranean Emergency Medicine Congress (MEMC VI)
Kos, Greece
http://www.emcongress.org/2011/

September 17-18, 2011
AAEM Oral Board Review Course
Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Orlando, Philadelphia
www.aaem.org

Do you have an upcoming educational conference or activity you would like listed in Common Sense and on the AAEM website? Please contact Marcia Blackman to learn more about the AAEM endorsement approval process: mblackman@aaem.org.

All sponsored and recommended conferences and activities must be approved by AAEM’s ACCME Subcommittee.

AAEM–Recommended Conferences

September 8-9, 2011
Practical Emergency Airway Management
Baltimore, MD
http://jeffline.jefferson.edu/jeffcme/airway/

September 23-25, 2011
The Difficult Airway Course-Emergency™
Seattle, WA
www.theairwaysite.com

September 26-28, 2011
2 Up To Date Emergency Medicine Practice Conference
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
www.kfmced.com/uemp

October 6-7, 2011
Practical Emergency Airway Management
Baltimore, MD
http://jeffline.jefferson.edu/jeffcme/airway/

October 28-30, 2011
The Difficult Airway Course-Emergency™
Atlanta, GA
www.theairwaysite.com

November 3-4, 2011
Practical Emergency Airway Management
Baltimore, MD
http://jeffline.jefferson.edu/jeffcme/airway/

November 5-10, 2011
Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Course in Israel
Israel
www.apfmed.org

November 13-16, 2011
Heart Course: Cardiac Emergency and Resuscitation
Las Vegas, NV
www.theheartcourse.com

November 18-20, 2011
The Difficult Airway Course-Emergency™
Las Vegas, NV
www.theairwaysite.com

December 1-2, 2011
2nd Annual National Update on Behavioral Emergencies
Las Vegas, NV
www.behavioralemergencies.com

December 2-4, 2011
Critical Points in emergency Medicine
Las Vegas, NV
www.criticalpoints.net

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place to encourage younger member involvement. Perhaps you, your group or your department can sponsor part of the already low cost of AAEM membership (and YPS membership is just $25 more). Early involvement with AAEM and education from you can help counter some of the flood of messages and misinformation that come from corporate management groups and other organizations that do not have the interests of board certified emergency physicians and their patients in mind. Early involvement with AAEM can also engender loyalty to the organization and our specialty that will pay continuing dividends for many years.

We all owe a great debt to those who have founded and led the Academy to where it is today. AAEM also enjoys dedicated ranks of members and leaders who give tirelessly to the organization and who deserve the thanks of everyone in our specialty. But every one of us must continue to look to the future and cultivate growth of the organization by supporting each new generation of physicians through education, inspiration, mentoring and encouragement.