This past November, I had the pleasure of attending EMCON 2004 in Mumbai (Bombay), India. The program, endorsed by AAEM, was extremely well organized and hosted by the Leela Kempinski, an elegant and highly accommodating five-star hotel. Emergency physicians from India shared their successes and challenges in developing pre-hospital and hospital-based emergency medicine. Their dedication and efforts are vastly improving healthcare for all Indian citizens.

The journey was one of intense cultural exploration and appreciation. I walked through thousand-year-old architectural wonders, was welcomed into mosques, and learned a great deal about Hindu, Muslim and Sikh worship. I witnessed an endless procession of sugarcane farmers slowly transporting their harvest in over laden ox carts to the factory. I became even more appreciative of human diversity and developed a stronger connection with my Indian colleagues, neighbors, and patients.

I strongly recommend that you keep your eyes on EMCON 2006, taking place in Delhi, likely in early November. Delhi is the ideal base for an initial tour through India, as it is one of the points of the Golden Triangle, which includes Agra, home of the Taj Mahal, and Jaipur, where you can take an elephant ride up to an ancient fort. You can also travel north from Delhi to the foothills of the Himalayas and the origin of the Ganges River, a beautiful and sacred area.