

# A Lot to Learn from Our Colleagues from AAEM

Nino Butskhrikidze, MD



I am writing this article as a representative of the Georgian Emergency Medicine Physician Association (GEMPA), an organization I co-founded in 2010. I have had the pleasure of coordinating international relationships since then.

The development of emergency medicine in Georgia started in 2005. In 2013, emergency medicine was announced as an independent specialty with a three-year residency program. One year later, the scope of practice for emergency medicine physicians was set. It was the first time since the Soviet period that a new medical specialty was adopted in our country.

The development of emergency medicine in Georgia was initiated by the collaboration of Kipshidze Central University Hospital, Emory University School of Medicine, and the Ministry of Health of Georgia with support from USAID and donors.

Step-by-step, emergency medicine departments became more of a reality not only for acute care hospitals, but also for freestanding emergency facilities in the high mountain regions. It clearly shows advantages in terms of patient flow and acute patients' care. The philosophy of emergency medicine shows clear advantages in terms of the management patient flow and the care of acute patients.

Despite the short history of emergency medicine in Georgia, we strive to keep abreast of international trends and innovations in this field of medicine. This is evidenced by our active participation in international conferences and workshops, establishing close contacts with international organizations including AAEM, IFEM, MEMC, EuSEM, and the Polish Society of Emergency Medicine as well as other regional societies.

**“Step-by-step, emergency medicine departments became more of a reality not only for acute care hospitals, but also for freestanding emergency facilities in the high mountain regions.”**

Special emphasis is placed on effective cooperation with AAEM, one of the leading organizations in emergency medicine. Representatives of this organization are actively involved in the events held in Georgia. With their active support, we have organized several summer workshops dedicated to different clinical topics. In 2016, the first international conference in emergency medicine in Georgia was conducted.

AAEM assists our association by providing new and comprehensive information. This organization also allows us to participate in international conferences, to share our experiences with our colleagues from other countries, and to discuss the current challenges.

**“AAEM assists our association by providing new and comprehensive information.”**

To further intensive collaboration with AAEM, I was awarded the AAEM International Scholarship in 2018 to attend the Annual Scientific Assembly in Las Vegas. It was my first experience attending such a large and exciting conference in the U.S. Attendance at this conference was important for several reasons:

- I acquired newly updated, comprehensive clinical information (especially in the management of septic patients or suspected sepsis cases, new treatment guidelines, and the role of ED in improving patient outcomes).
- I saw approaches in the management of emergency departments as an entire system and how to better coordinate activities with other departments.
- I learned how to effectively conduct the large conferences and make them clinically fascinating for attendees.
- I was able to expand relationships with our American colleagues from AAEM and draft new projects.



Shortly after the conference, a new workshop was proposed, and topics were selected. However, the plan could not be implemented because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, we are working on organizing an extended regional conference in the summer of 2021 in Tbilisi. We hope to conduct joint scientific projects as well, including research and training.

A lot is already done, but it is not enough. There is always something to improve and collaboration with organizations such as AAEM, who always gives the right direction for further improvement. ●