

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Section Meeting

October 31, 2017

Washington DC

MINUTES

PARTICIPANTS:

Section members present: Bruce Derrick, MD, FACEP, chair: Luther Kristian Arnold, MD, FACEP;; Stephen Hendriksen, MD, Secretary/Newsletter Editor; Jawad Kassem, MD; Anthony Lagina, MD, FACEP; Tracy L. LeGros, MD, PhD, FACEP; Heather Murphy Lavoie, MD, FACEP; Robert Sanders, MD, FACEP, Alternate Councilor; Davut Savaser, MD, FACEP; Chris Tomaszewski, MD, and J. Richard Walker III, MD, MS, Councilor.

Others participating included: Stephen Anderson, MD, FACEP; and Margaret Montgomery, RN, MSN, Staff Liaison.

AGENDA:

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Business meeting
3. Educational presentation
4. Elections

Major Points Discussed

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Dr. Bruce Derrick called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. Attendees introduced themselves and were thanked for their participation.

2. Business meeting

Dr. Derrick shared that the section currently has 152 members. In June the section had 169 members. It was noted that there are approximately 10 to 16 physicians board certified in UHM per year with 5 to 6 being emergency medicine trained. There are currently 157 UHM board certified through ABEM.

Enoch Huang, MD, President of UHMS joined the meeting through web conferencing. It was reported UHMS has 2600 members of which 1200 are physicians. It was noted that voting members must be physicians.

Counsellor report: Dr. Walker and Dr. Derrick noted that the ACEP council resolution from last year in support of the availability of 24/7 hyperbaric services was adopted. This year a resolution in support of the College advocating to CMS a requirement for hyperbaric facilities to be accredited to receive federal payment. The recommendation from the reference committee was to not adopt the

resolution. The resolution was pulled from the consent agenda and it was recommended that the resolution be referred to the ACEP Board. The recommendation to refer was adopted. Section members present discussed the merits of tying reimbursement to accreditation.

Section newsletter- It was recommended that the newsletter continue to highlight the fellows in UHM annually. Highlighting the section meeting at UHMS, a journal watch and research corner articles were also suggested for inclusion in the section newsletter. Clinical case questions, and section leadership bios were suggested for inclusion on the section website. It was also suggested that job openings to be shared on the section e-list.

New fellowships: Activities to support organizations looking to start a fellowship program were reviewed. A skills course supported by the UHMS Section is being developed. Dr. Murphy-Lavoie shared that they have conducted an internal sim lab that allowed participants to conduct all skills within the chamber. It was noted that sim labs can be very expensive to conduct.

Section Grant: Dr. Savaser shared that half of the videos have been filmed for the section grant. A portion of one of the case studies was shared with those present.

Dr. Anderson awarded Dr. Derrick a certificate of appreciation for his service as section chair for the last two years.

3. Discussion Agenda

This section of the meeting focused on the current state of UHM services and quality improvement initiatives.

The focus of discussion was on the limited number of 24/7 facilities available to treat patients. Currently 43 have been identified and more are closing with only 12 to 20 having critical care capability. Hawaii and Alaska do not have chambers. The Hawaii facility closed in the last week. It was noted that the Navy does not treat civilians. Section members reviewed cases where care was affected due to the lack of available services.

It was estimated that the cost of an on-call program is \$260,000.00 per year including equipment and staff. Training, comfort level with procedures, costs and liability were noted as rationales for not establishing or discontinuing services. The overutilization concerns related to hyperbaric and sleep medicine were reviewed.

A number of solutions to address concerns were mentioned: increased fellowship opportunities, alternate pathways, regionalization of cost agreements, phased in accreditation process, use revenue from accreditation to support fellowships, and investment in research.

4. Elections

Section elections were held.

The following officers were elected by acclamation:

J. Richard Walker, MD- chair elect

Jawad Kassem, MD - Secretary/Newsletter editor:
Stephen Hendrikson, MD – alternate councillor

With no further business at this time the meeting was adjourned.