

**American College of Emergency Physicians
Section of Medical Humanities**

October 18, 2016
Las Vegas, NV

MINUTES

Participating in all or part of the meeting were: Jay M. Baruch, MD, FACEP; Cindy C. Bitter, MD, FACEP; Mollie Chesis; MedStu; Arlene Chung, MD; Arthur Derse, MD, JD, FACEP; William Ernoehazy, MD, FACEP; Seth C. Hawkins, MD, FACEP; Nadine (Dina) Himelfarb, FACEP; MD; Hans R. House, MD, FACEP; Vijay Kannan, MD; Diann Krywko, DO; Edwin Leap, MD; Walter Limehouse, MD, FACEP; Laura Miller, DO; Anwar D. Osborne, MD, FACEP; Peter J. Paganussi, MD, FACEP; Rais B. Vohra, MD, FACEP; Charlotte P. Wills, MD.

Others participating: Tracy Napper, ACEP staff liaison.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Current Activities
 - A. "Open discussion" Mic
 - B. Newsletter
 - C. Writing Award for 2016
 - D. Visual Arts Award for 2016
 - E. Section Grant Update
 - F. Podcast Update
 - G. Growing Section Membership/Collaboration With Other Sections
 - H. Producing Scholarship (Articles, Etc.)
3. Adjourn

Major Points Discussed

1. The meeting was called to order by section chair Jay M. Baruch, MD, FACEP. He welcomed everyone and asked everyone present to introduce themselves.
2. New Business
 - A. "Open Mic" – Ms. Napper organized the performers again this year. We again secured a sponsor, Hagan Barron Intermediaries. However, they could only give \$2500 this year, which paid for the piano and bar. Unfortunately, because the

hotel required us to pay for use of the piano, there was no food. Attendance and the number of performers was again much lighter this year than in the past. This is partly due to location, competing activities, difficulty getting members to commit to participate, and lack of advertising for the event. It was decided that after 11 years, Open Mic had had a good run but it is time to retire the event and try something new. The “story slam” aspect did not happen this year; however, there is interest from other groups and sections in participating in such an event. Dr. Chung will help organize this event for next year; we hope to bring in the wellness and wilderness sections and the CORD resilience committee. We may try for an early morning, shorter (1.5 hour) event instead, such as a hosted breakfast. We could choose a theme, perhaps “wellness,” “burnout,” “climbing,” “high altitude,” etc. We can also use the Facebook page as a way to have a year-long story slam. Everyone who is interested in helping with the story slam should contact Dr. Chung, Dr. Himelfarb or Dr. Baruch.

- B. Dr. Paganussi gave an update on the newsletter; his greatest challenge is getting people to contribute pieces. Being able to use the pieces from the Writing and Visual Arts Awards is helpful. All members are encouraged to email articles, poems, photos, and other items to him. Since the newsletter is online only, we can also include video and audio clips. Dr. Hawkins said that we may be able to use his “Words Matter” column from EM News. We can also put calls out on Facebook and Twitter. Dr. Himelfarb said that the AAWEP section uses a theme when they put out their calls, which is helpful.
- C. Dr. Himelfarb gave an update on the progress of the section grant project, “Medical Humanities at the Bedside.” The four themes of this medical humanities curriculum have been decided: Endings, Humor, Connections, and Boundaries. The work groups have been set up but if anyone else is interested in participating, please contact Dr. Himelfarb or Dr. Baruch. The timeline and framework have been set up, and Dr. Himelfarb has emailed the participants. The goal is to “go live” on the section Web site in July 2017, and present it at ACEP17. The “Endings” mock template is done so that others can get an idea of how to proceed. We will need to decide how best to communicate with the groups and collect the materials, ie, via GoogleDocs, SLACK, or Dropbox. Suggestions are welcome.
- D. The Writing Award for 2016 was given to Dr. Lia Losonczy for her piece, “Breast.” Dr. Wills accepted the award on her behalf. The Visual Arts Award for 2016 was given to Dr. Vijay Kannan for his work, “Deadvlei.”
- E. Dr. Baruch did a brief podcast with Ryan Stanton, MD, FACEP, for ACEP Frontline. Ms. Napper is checking to see if it will be available on iTunes or elsewhere.
- F. Dr. Baruch said the section is always interested in expanding our membership. Having more “tactile” projects, such as the section grant, should help with recruitment. He urged members to invite their residents and colleagues to join the section.
- G. Dr. Baruch also encouraged members to collaborate with each other on producing scholarly articles to submit to journals such as *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, or elsewhere. This can also raise the profile of our section. Dr. Leap said that he is pursuing the idea of a documentary about practicing in rural critical care

hospitals; he is interested in perhaps collaborating with our section or other sections.

- H. Dr. Hawkins gave a report of the ACEP Council meeting. He was very pleased by the numerous medical humanities-related mentions, including singing, poetry, and ACEP President Dr. Parker's desire for more diversity, which she defines as "people and their stories." Other important mentions of "stories" included Dr. House's president-candidate speech that began with a poignant patient story, and Dr. Sklar's point of patient story as patient advocacy. The ACEP history taskforce is also collecting stories for the 50th anniversary in 2018.

The meeting was adjourned.