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President's Message: What's Happening at CAL/AAEM?

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Francine Vogler, MD**

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CAL/AAEM?**

CAL/AAEM's board has been busy restructuring and re-inventing itself. We've been drafting and re-drafting our mission and vision statements in an effort to define who we are. As others tried to redefine us and assimilate us, we found ourselves facing the remarkable position of being in an identity crisis. We embarked on the task of characterizing who we are.

CAL/AAEM's mission is to establish the standard of care in Emergency Medicine by, among other things, assuring that physicians (on the front-line of emergency medicine) are protected from predatory corporate practices which threaten to undermine the quality of treatment patients have a right to expect.

CAL/AAEM is committed to taking those steps necessary to assure management treats emergency medicine physicians with respect and dignity and consistently evaluates individuals based on the quality of their work, creating an environment free of age, gender, racial, sexual, or other forms of bias.

CAL/AAEM is determined that California should come to represent the highest example of emergency medicine in the nation, as it does in so many other areas, where patients can feel comfortable going to any emergency room with the knowledge that well-trained, caring emergency medicine physicians will be not only focus on the quality of their care, but also on the responsibility to communicate information about a patient's condition and treatment options, in a responsible fashion.

CAL/AAEM is dedicated to protecting the rights of front-line emergency physicians and ensuring that all emergency physicians have the right to due process in the event of unfair corporate or management practices in emergency medicine.

CAL/AAEM envisions a California where all emergency rooms are staffed by Board-certified emergency medicine physicians.

### **WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING AND WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED?**

February 2005 – Joanne Williams, MD, FAAEM, CAL/AAEM Board member, pioneers a highly successful End-of-Life course at the AAEM Scientific Assembly. The End-of-Life course is a California state required course for ALL physicians and must be completed by year end 2006. If you missed this great course, watch for it - On-Line - or catch us next year at the next AAEM Scientific Assembly, San Antonio, Texas, in February 2006.

March 2005 – [www.calaaem.org](http://www.calaaem.org) – CAL/AAEM creates its own dedicated website! Also, CAL/AAEM co-sponsors the LLC (the Legislative Leadership Conference) along with CAL/ACEP and CAL/ENA. The LLC, held every year in Sacramento, is designed to address legislators on key issues important for emergency medicine and on our stand as emergency physicians on current political bills and agendas within the State of California. Dr. Steven Gabaeff and Dr. Mike Buchele represented CAL/AAEM at the LLC.

May 2005 – CAL/AAEM sponsors the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Southern California Emergency Medicine Student Workshop Symposium. The event exposed students at the medical student level to a hands-on experience of emergency medicine through simulations as well as workshop presentations. This year's focus was on disaster management and disaster simulations. The event was a huge success! The students and the event were featured in the May 15<sup>th</sup> issue of the Orange County Register. The article can be found at the So Cal Symposium weblink at [www.socalsymposium.com](http://www.socalsymposium.com).

July 2005 – CAL/AAEM considered a proposal to join forces with CAL/ACEP in a political alliance for the purpose of legislative and political activities.

### **WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT FROM CAL/AAEM?**

#### **Educational Activities**

Watch for educational developments! CAL/AAEM is committed to bringing high quality,

university-level educational events to our members for free or for nominal cost. Watch for:

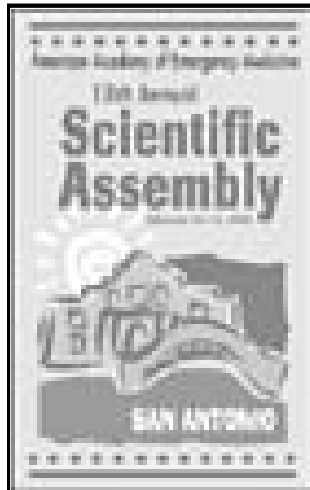
**LLSA On-Line** – Our educational committee plans to bring the LLSA articles - On-Line - for you so that the articles can be easily retrieved from the CAL/AAEM website. Watch for bullets and abstracts of each article on-line. This will be a “members only” benefit! So send in your CAL/AAEM dues right now!

**End-of-Life Course** – The next End-of-Life course will take place at the next Scientific Assembly in February, 2006.

**Trauma for the Community ER Doc** – Dr. Joanne Williams spearheads another groundbreaking educational session for the working ER physician. Watch for announcements for this one-day conference to be held at next year’s Scientific Assembly in February, 2006.

**AAEM 12th Annual Scientific Assembly** – February 16-18, 2006, San Antonio, Texas.

*D O N ’ T  
FORGET THE AAEM  
S C I E N T I F I C  
A S S E M B L Y I S F R E E !!!*



### Political Activities

CAL/AAEM has been approached by CAL/ACEP to join forces on those political and legislative activities which serve to benefit all emergency physicians and the emergency care given to our patients.

Emergency physicians need to place themselves at the forefront of efforts to prevent the implosion of emergency care as we know it today. CAL/AAEM and CAL/ACEP can work together to help heal our ailing health care system.

CAL/AAEM is currently considering this proposal.

### THE EMS COMMUNITY MUST WORK TOGETHER TO FIND SOLUTIONS

We must work diligently with one another to help to identify the issues and the causative factors, and propose workable solutions. We will have to look at financial issues and costs and make a commitment to support those costs. We will have to become actively involved with politicians and legislative lobbyists to assure our interests and those of our patients are being adequately represented.

CAL/AAEM has already begun this task by having representatives at the annual LLC and participating in monthly conference calls regarding legislative alerts and activities.

CAL/AAEM is ready to be involved on your behalf. We need to hear from you and learn of your ideas and concerns. Please contact any one of the Board members at their listed email addresses or [calaaem@aaem.org](mailto:calaaem@aaem.org) if you have issues you would like to discuss. Let us know if you would like to post an agenda item for discussion or participate at our monthly board meetings.

On behalf of the 2005/2006 CAL/AAEM Board, we thank you for your confidence in us.

**VISIT YOUR WEBSITE AT  
WWW.CALAAEM.ORG**

Our website, located at [www.calaaem.org](http://www.calaaem.org), features issues, political information, and educational sessions of importance to the California emergency medicine physician. Soon, you will also be able to renew your membership on-line. Visit the website and let us know if you have any suggestions for its improvement or if you would like us to consider your posting for the website. We want to hear from you.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP! A CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP!

CAL/AAEM needs to reach and recruit more members. We need to raise funds for our future legislative activities.

If you are a member of National AAEM, please consider supporting your state chapter, CAL/AAEM. Membership is available at nominal cost. Please send in your membership fee now. I thank you in advance for your support.

For information about membership, please contact the CAL/AAEM office at (800) 884-2236.