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President's Message - Passing the Baton

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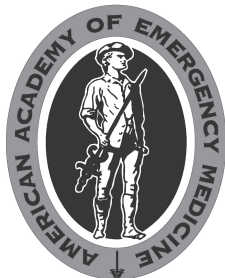
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Passing the Baton

In my last message as president of CAL/AAEM, I wish to thank all of our members and the Board for the privilege of serving this year. And I'm not just saying that – I really mean it.

In the recently published ABEM Longitudinal Study of Emergency Physicians (EPs),¹ there was a positive association between job satisfaction and involvement in advocacy and leadership roles in professional life. In fact, leadership roles were significantly associated with decreased perceptions of burnout. Another interesting finding of the study was that among those reporting burnout, many cited their *colleagues* as a factor. This is interesting to me – I'll bet that these respondents weren't active in organized medicine. One of the best things about organizations like CAL/AAEM is their focus on collegial cooperation for the greater good. Emergency physicians from different groups and practice environments are able to support one another in an environment that transcends the local politics that at times divides us. In other words, our involvement adds a major positive counterbalance to some of the daily stresses of our job.

We've had a great year in CAL/AAEM. We are currently the biggest state chapter in the nation. We have a strong presence on the national scene and ready access to some of the amazing people and resources of our parent organization. Last month, we hosted

a successful educational conference in pediatric emergency medicine with nationally renowned faculty. The CAL/AAEM News Service, a longstanding, reliable, and no-nonsense vehicle for news most pertinent to EPs in California, just had a fancy graphical makeover. *WestJEM*, the first peer-reviewed journal founded by a state chapter in our specialty, is approaching its first decade in print, and is on the fast track for full Medline indexing.

We are also breaking new ground in our collaboration with CAL/ACEP. For many years now, we have enjoyed a spirit of cooperation between our two organizations, recognizing that our different focuses need not divide us, and that common goals can strengthen our effectiveness. Most recently, the CAL/ACEP Board has approved a motion to join with CAL/AAEM and the University of California at Irvine as principal sponsors of *WestJEM* – a historic move that we hope will serve as an example for other states across the nation.

By the time of press, I will have passed the presidential baton (it's actually a tonopen) to Dr. Ingrid Lim. Ingrid is based in the Bay Area at Kaiser-San Francisco and is involved in both community and



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academic practice. She is a gifted teacher and administrator and already has a track record of success in organized medicine. We will also be welcoming several new board members, further increasing our diversity and scope throughout the state.

CAL/AAEM is not an ivory tower organization – it is you and me – emergency physicians who want to reach out to other individuals just like them, and give them a voice about the everyday issues that affect us. If you are not a member, or if you are a member but are looking for ways to become involved in this fantastic organization – please don't hesitate. You will find a group of down-to-earth EPs just like you that welcome your perspectives and participation. And, as the literature suggests, you might just find that your job satisfaction improves.



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