



## RESIDENT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Andrew T. Pickens, IV, MD JD MBA  
President, AAEM/RSA

So far, it has been an outstanding year for the American Academy of Emergency Medicine Resident and Student Association. I wanted to use this month's article to bring everyone up to date on some of what has been going on and what to expect in the future. Each board member will be writing articles for this year's issues of *Common Sense* and will keep you updated on current events. In each of my columns, I will specifically discuss the activities of a couple of our committees. This month it is Membership and Education.

On October 27, the AAEM/RSA board met in Chicago for a leadership retreat. During the retreat, each position developed a short-term (one year) and long-term plan for their committee. The meeting lasted all day. Many new, good ideas were offered and developed into part of our overall plan to reach more residents and students with our educational opportunities and to move forward with the mission of the organization.

One of my primary goals as president has been to increase membership. With more members at both the student and resident levels, we are better able to educate future emergency physicians about many of the pertinent issues. As of now, the Resident and Student Association has already passed previous membership levels and is currently at the highest level it has ever been in almost every category. We expect this growth to continue as more and more individuals and programs recognize the vital role AAEM/RSA plays in helping to inform and educate future EPs. Dr. Cyrus Shahpar has taken the lead as the Chair of the Membership Committee and developed a very forward looking, intelligent plan. We expect great things.

With regard to education, the beginning of November marked the first Midwest Medical Student Symposium (MMSS) in Chicago. Dr. Michael Pulia, Chair of the

Education Committee, organized this new event. Numerous medical students from the Midwest attended. Many leaders in the emergency medicine community volunteered their time to become involved and speak to these very interested future emergency medicine residents. The event was a resounding success and will serve as a template for future regional medical student symposiums. Great job Mike! Mike is also busy planning the resident track for the AAEM Scientific Assembly which will be held February 7-9, 2008, in Amelia Island, Florida.

Mike Ybarra, President of the Medical Student Council, has put together a comprehensive plan to reach all medical students interested in emergency medicine. Dr. Keith Allen is working on updating the website to help make it a much more effective tool for communication and education, Dr. Kalpana Narayan is developing the Advocacy Committee into a formidable organization, and Dr. Adrienne McFadden is the editor for the RSA section of *Common Sense*. Dr. Sarah Todd is organizing the Vice President's Council to ultimately include members from every residency program - if interested, please contact her through the RSA website.

The above are just a few of the happenings in AAEM/RSA. It is a very exciting time to be a part of this organization. Our board is extremely motivated, membership is at an all time high and our long-term plan is well defined. Our goal is to reach as many students and residents as possible with information about the issues that directly affect all current and future EPs. If you want to get involved, email me or Dr. Shahpar through the website or [info@aaemrsa.org](mailto:info@aaemrsa.org), and we will be sure to direct your inquires to the appropriate people.

CHANGE OF  
E-MAIL ADDRESS

If you have changed your e-mail address or are planning to change it, please contact the AAEM office at (800) 884-2236 or [info@aaem.org](mailto:info@aaem.org) to update your information.