

# Passing the Baton: The Next Generation of AAEM/RSA

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**A**ll good things must come to an end, but in this case I'm reflecting on the ellipses in front of AAEM/RSA as we continue to fight the good fight of putting our emergency medicine physicians-in-training

at the forefront of our advocacy. It's a broken record cliché now, 2020 was an unprecedented year. Emergency physicians have never seen this level of uncertainty in not only our daily lives as we battle COVID surges, but also in the prospect of potentially not finding jobs after we graduate residency.

My focus over the last two years of my presidency has been to show who and what AAEM/RSA is and does for emergency medicine residents and students through advocacy. I hope that I have done that, and can say that I am most proud of my colleagues on the Board of Directors, the Medical Student Council, and all of our members for listening and participating in our cries for protections, fairness, equity, and due process for EM physician trainees. Together, we campaigned to educate fellow physicians and our patients about so many different advocacy issues, from NPP scope of practice battles to the over expansion of residency programs by corporate interests. Here are just a few of the position statements and advocacy efforts we led over the last two years:

AAEM/RSA is poised to continue this marathon of advocating for residents and students in emergency medicine, and educating them on their practice rights and the business of EM. I'm excited to pass the baton to Lauren Lamparter, MD, our current Medical Student Council President, as she steps into her intern year *and* the AAEM/RSA President role.

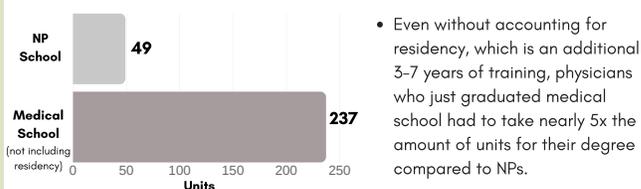
I am proud of the diversity of people and opinions of our organization, our strong values, and our commitment to fighting the good fight. I can't wait to see what AAEM/RSA does next as I continue as Immediate Past President.

Welcome to the 2021-2022 AAEM/RSA Board of Directors! ●

## WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE A DOCTOR

The Educational Differences between Medical Doctors and Nurse Practitioners

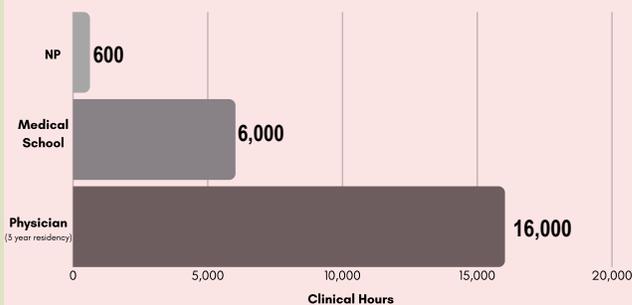
### CERTIFICATION BY UNIT REQUIREMENT<sup>1,2</sup>



- Even without accounting for residency, which is an additional 3-7 years of training, physicians who just graduated medical school had to take nearly 5x the amount of units for their degree compared to NPs.

\*Example programs are listed that state their specific unit requirements for graduation. These sources closely resemble other programs of their same degree.

### CLINICAL HOURS REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATION



- While some nurse practitioner degrees can be completed 100% online in as little as 5 years including college, physicians must complete at least 11 years and more than 16,000 hours of hands-on training before treating patients independently.<sup>3</sup>
- An NP has less than 4% of the clinical hour training of an MD/DO (with the minimum 3 years residency training).<sup>4</sup>
- **A medical student, who is not allowed to treat a patient independently, would have undergone nearly 5x the amount of unit requirements and 10x the amount of clinical training that a fully licensed NP has.**



With the vast amount of education, training, and clinical hours required to produce a single physician (the most of any healthcare team member), physicians can rely on a much larger breadth of knowledge in each of the medical decisions they make. This is why we at AAEM/RSA believe that all healthcare team members, including nurse practitioners, should be under the supervision of a physician in order to ensure the safety and proper health care of our patients.

**#ASKTOSEEOURPHYSICIAN**



1. <https://www.asnursingjournal.com/nursing/curriculum>  
2. <http://med.stanford.edu/medschool/education/4-curriculum-overview.html>  
3. <https://afp.org/media/default/downloads/advocacy/scope-education.pdf>  
4. <https://www.tafp.org/Media/Default/Downloads/advocacy/scope-rnms.pdf>

### **AAEM/RSA Position Statement on COMLEX Level 2-PE**

“AAEM/RSA supports the equality and safety of all medical students, and we believe that accredited medical schools should be given the final authority in evaluating the clinical skills of their future physician graduates.”

### **AAEM/RSA Statement of Concern for Graduating EM Residents and the Current Job Market**

“AAEM/RSA is fearful that this dramatic decline in job opportunities will result in increased medical student caution and avoidance in choosing emergency medicine as a specialty and will ultimately result in under-filling of residency spots in the 2022 Match. We advise all senior residents to vocalize their concerns to their specialty societies and advise their programs to do the same.”

### **AAEM/RSA Position Statement on Occupational English Test**

“Taking these facts into account, AAEM/RSA does not support the mistreatment of IMG candidates who have already proved their English-proficiency through a US undergraduate degree, a medical school curriculum taught in English, or through their performance of two years of clinical rotations in US hospitals. While we are aware that the current state of affairs may prevent any significant changes to this portion of the ECFMG accreditation process for the current application cycle, we believe that changes to the OET requirement should be addressed for the following Match if the Step 2CS exam continues to be suspended.”

### **AAEM/RSA Position Statement on Medical Student Education and Residency Applications during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

“AAEM/RSA exists to support all emergency medicine residents and medical students. We understand the severity of this pandemic and the major impact it has on medical student education. We will continue to advocate for a dynamic response to emergency medicine education during this time and encourage flexibility from program directors during this unprecedented residency application season.”

### **AAEM/RSA Position Statement on the Protection of Residents and Medical Students during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

“AAEM/RSA exists to support all emergency medicine residents and medical students. We understand the severity of this pandemic and will continue to fight relentlessly to represent the safety and protection of our members both on The Hill and in the hospital.”

### **AAEM and AAEM/RSA Position Statement on Emergency Medicine Training Programs for Physician Assistants (PAs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs)**

“The American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM) and the AAEM Resident and Student Association (AAEM/RSA) are aware that academic and other emergency departments sponsor additional training for non-physician practitioners (NPP), including physician assistants (PA) and nurse practitioners (NP). We believe the following is in the best interest of the patient and our specialty.”

### **Position Statement on the Independent Practice of Non-Physicians and Trainee Oversight**

“AAEM/RSA supports the AAEM updated position statement on Advanced Practice Providers. AAEM/RSA believes that the only appropriate preparation and qualification for the independent practice of emergency medicine is through completion of an ACGME or AOA accredited residency training program with subsequent board certification by the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) or American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine (AOBEM).”