

**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS**  
**Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Section**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**October 26, 2021**

**MINUTES**

**Participants:** J. Richard Walker III, MD, MS, FACEP. Chair; Anthony Medak, MD, FACEP; Stephan Hendriksen MD; Samantha Lee, DO; Drue Orwig, DO; Christopher M. Allen, MD; Bruce J. Derrick, MD, FACEP; Harry Sibold, MD, FACEP; and Aisha Terry, MD, FACEP, Board liaison.

Others participating included: Mary Smith, Staff Liaison.

**AGENDA:**

Section Numbers

Board Representative Update

Councilor Report

Secretary Update

Promotion of fellowship training/Fellows

EMRA Rep report

ACEP Clinical Policy: *Acute Carbon Monoxide Poisoning*

Questions and concerns from section members

Officer Elections

**Major Points Discussed**

- Ms. Smith reported there are 167 section members as of September 30, 2021.
- Dr. Walker reported on the council resolution regarding training of speakers whose course topic is undersea and hyperbaric medicine. The section agreed that speakers should be published and/or have completed a fellowship in undersea and hyperbaric medicine (preferably both). It was also agreed that the section be asked for recommendations for speakers on these topics. There has been interest expressed by other sections in having this level of academic fidelity as well. It was agreed that ACEP should prioritize actual expertise over the ability to “give an entertaining talk”.
- Dr. Hendriksen gave a report on ACEP’s overall strategic plan. The focus will be on physicians and making their lives better.
- The status of the Carbon Monoxide Treatment Clinical Policy: Critical Issues in the Evaluation and Management of Adult Patients Presenting to the Emergency Department with Acute Carbon Monoxide Poisoning review was discussed. The section leadership views this policy as potentially life threatening due to not being based on the best evidence and in need of immediate review and change. It was agreed that it would be best to have the section review any such policies to avoid this in the future. The policy is based in part on literature that has been effectively debunked or questioned in other studies and in expert review of the research.  
The college should include subject matter experts from the section in any policy where treatment of the disease process is fundamentally only performed by members of the section.  
**Action Item:** Ms. Smith will check on the status and next steps.
- Promotion of fellowship training/Fellows was discussed. The section recounted some of the challenges and determined ways to promote the subspecialty of undersea and hyperbaric medicine was to:
  - Keep EMRA up-to-date on fellowship programs via EMRA Match
  - Encourage fellowship to use the section for support
  - Have a GME committee person at each institution

It was agreed that funding is important and that having a combined fellowship is a good option.

- Dr. Terry stated that this is a good time to promote hyperbaric medicine, especially with the current workforce issues that have caused a higher demand for this type of medicine. She suggested getting an article in *ACEP Now* and working with the Academic Affairs Committee to increase awareness.
- The current Section Website was discussed in detail. Ms. Smith reported that there will be a new look and feel to the web site and referenced the Emergency Medicine Workforce Section site as an example of how the new UHMS site will look. There were several ideas to beef up the site:
  - Incorporate residency rotation/fellowship opportunities
  - Add dive related cases and animations
  - Links to videos and case studies on decompression sickness from the Air Force team.
  - Rare cases
  - Research Corner
  - Link to the EMR Fellowship Guide
  - Show away rotation opportunities
  - Link to EMRA Clerkship Match [emra.org/students/clerkships/](http://emra.org/students/clerkships/)

**Action Item:**

Ms. Smith will look into getting a Facebook and twitter account created for the section.  
Section leadership will start to gather content for the Website and forward to Ms. Smith.

- It was resolved that the following slate of officers were elected to serve for the 2021-2023 term:
  - Chair Elect: Stephan Hendriksen MD
  - Alternate Councillor: Drue Orwig, DO
  - Secretary/Newsletter Editor: Samantha Lee, DO

The meeting was adjourned.