

# AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

## American Association of Women Emergency Physicians Section

### 2014-15 AAWEP Annual Report

#### Elected Officers for 2014-15

**Chair:** Kathleen Clem, MD, FACEP

**Chair-Elect:** Mary Westergaard, MD, FACEP

**Councilor:** Parveen Parmar, MD

**Alternate Councilor:** Nicole Berwald, MD

**Secretary:** Robyn Hoelle, MD, FACEP

**Senior Resident Representative:** Stacey Marlow, MD

**Junior Resident Representative:** Jamie Santistevan, MD

**Newsletter Editor:** Jennifer Beck-Esmay, MD

**ACEP Board Liaison:** Rebecca Parker, MD, FACEP

**ACEP Staff Liaison:** Rachel Donihoo

#### Section Accomplishments:

**OBJECTIVE 1. To promote the professional advancement and leadership skills of female emergency physicians.**

AAWEP received three prestigious section honors at ACEP15, including awards for “Outstanding Section Newsletter,” “Service to Section,” and “Promoting Section Membership.”

AAWEP has enjoyed impressive growth with a 30% increase in membership and renewals – more than doubling the previous year’s 10% rise in new members.

The Section revamped its website, which has received rave reviews from members for its relevant content and responsive design. This initiative was bolstered by the Section’s new social media presence, which has become one of AAWEP’s most powerful tools for member engagement. The Section established unique Facebook and Twitter pages in early 2015, which have been used successfully to promote AAWEP and ACEP activities, share news and ideas, and request feedback.

Also in keeping with this objective, the Section continues to pursue other avenues for promoting the many opportunities for involvement that are available to members – all of which are beneficial for networking, mentoring, CV building, and leadership growth.

AAWEP was awarded an ACEP section grant for a novel study on generational communication differences between women physicians in the ED. Spearheaded by Lea

Walters, MD, “Working in Fours,” aims to reveal communication shortcomings among the four groups of Americans in the workplace: Veterans, Baby Boomers, Generation X, and Millennials. After examining the results of an extensive survey that is being developed with the help of AAWEP members, Dr. Walters and her colleagues hope to use the data to develop a toolkit to facilitate communication in the clinical setting.

**OBJECTIVE 2. To promote mentoring opportunities and mutual support for female emergency physicians, including providing positive role models for medical students.**

The Section co-sponsored a networking mixer with AWAEM and EMRA at the SAEM annual meeting in May. The event consisted of several speakers and was a time for networking to promote the role of women in emergency medicine. This has become an annual event between AWAEM and AAWEP.

During the year, the section worked to honor four physicians with awards designed to further support women within the specialty. Recipients were:

**Resident Rocks It Award** – Antonia Helbling, MD

**Outstanding Mentor Award** – Tracy Sanson, MD, FACEP

**ED Director of the Year** – Richard Zane, MD, FACEP

**Rising Star Award** – Stacy Trent, MD

**OBJECTIVE 3. Provide an opportunity for female emergency physicians to meet, interact, and network with each other and with supportive male members.**

AAWEP’s annual meeting at ACEP15 provided an opportunity for women emergency physicians and supportive male members to connect with each other and discuss issues at the forefront of our specialty. Lunch was provided to more than 60 meeting attendees, who networked and took part in an interactive afternoon program about graceful self-promotion. Attendees also listened to a talk by former ACEP board liaison, Dr. Jay Kaplan, who lauded the value of women within both their professions and their families; and newly appointed ACEP president-elect, Dr. Becky Parker, who spoke about the value of the Section in mentoring women leaders.

Further supporting this objective, the section continues to grow; membership is now at 606 members and AAWEP ranks number 8 out of the College’s 33 sections.

**OBJECTIVE 4. To develop and present educational programs that may be of particular importance or pertinence to female emergency physicians.**

The AAWEP Didactics Committee, headed by Dr. Sneha Shah, MD, submitted four course proposals for ACEP15 – all of which were presented at the conference. **They were:**

1. **Chaos Survival Toolkit** (Jeannette Wolfe, MD)
2. **What!! Meant What??** (Jeannette Wolfe, MD)
3. **Leveling the Playing Field: Negotiation Tools and Strategies for Women** (Sneha Shah, MD)
4. **Overcome the Gender Trap: Leadership Lessons for Men and Women** (Linda Lawrence, MD)

The Committee also submitted three course proposals for ACEP16:

1. **Work-Life Balance: Fostering Resilience and Avoiding Burnout** (Michelle Lall, MD)
2. **Sex and the ED: Top 10 Things You Should Know About Sex and Gender Medicine to Improve Your Bedside Care** (Marna Greenberg, DO, MPH)
3. **Building Mentoring Relationships for Women** (Julie Welch, MD)

In addition, the Didactics Committee developed and facilitated a discussion among attendees at AAWEP's Annual Meeting in Boston titled "Graceful Self-Promotion." Participants in the program had small-group discussions about strategies for capitalizing on and promoting your own strengths, while avoiding the common pitfall of self-deprecation. Attendees also were given tips for creating an "elevator speech," and fostering collaboration through praise and networking.

**OBJECTIVE 5. Prepare and distribute an interesting, educational, and informative newsletter for members of the section at a minimum of every six months.**

The Section produced three newsletters this year, and earned ACEP's "Outstanding Section Newsletter" Award.

**OBJECTIVE 8. To provide a pathway for professional leadership and development within the organization.**

The Section continues to support its members in pursuing ACEP leadership roles, a focus that will become a major initiative in the coming years. Notably, the prestigious 2015 John G. Wiegenstein Award – the College's highest honor – was presented to Angela Gardner, MD, FACEP. AAWEP recognized Dr. Gardner for this achievement at its Annual Meeting in Boston. In addition, AAWEP's former section liaison, Becky Parker, MD, FACEP, was named ACEP's president-elect.