

**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS**  
**Section of Medical Humanities**  
**Operational Guidelines**

The Section of Medical Humanities is chartered by the Board of Directors (“the Board”) of the American College of Emergency Physicians (College) to provide a forum in which members of the College with special interests in the fine arts, literature, humanities research, and the humanistic social sciences can develop a knowledge base, share information, receive and give counsel, and serve as a resource to others interested in the application of these areas to emergency medicine.

Because sections are considered a subcategory of College membership, sections will not have separate bylaws or formal incorporation documents, and their existence and operations shall be subject to the terms and conditions stated in the Policy on Sections of Membership, as adopted and/or amended by the Board.

These operational guidelines have been drawn up to facilitate operation of the section. They shall conform to the Bylaws of the College, and the activities of the section to the decisions of the Board. Projects in the areas of education, internal governance, legislation, or public relations shall be undertaken only with the advice and consent of the Board. The activities of the section shall be intimately coordinated with those of the College.

**1 Name**

The name of this section shall be the Section of Medical Humanities.

**2 Purpose**

This section provides a forum for members of the College to share their special interests in the fine arts, literature, humanities research, and the humanistic social sciences.

**3 Objectives**

In addition to the general objectives of the College as set forth in the Bylaws, the objectives of this section shall be:

- 3.1 To promote the development of the specialty of emergency medicine across the world and in medical humanities.
- 3.2 To promote collegiality and cooperation among the physicians who practice emergency medicine.
- 3.3 To provide an opportunity for physicians interested in emergency medicine to meet, interact, and network.
- 3.4 To develop and present educational programs on the many facets of emergency medicine.
- 3.5 To prepare and distribute an interesting, educational, and informative newsletter for members of the section.
- 3.6 To serve as a resource to the College president, Board of Directors, College committees, and ACEP members on issues relating to emergency medicine.
- 3.7 To coordinate activities with other organizations involved in emergency medicine at the invitation of the President and/or Board of Directors.

- 3.8 To advance and publicize legislative issues related to emergency medicine.
- 3.9 To provide a pathway for professional leadership development within the organization.
- 3.10 To promote the utilization of literature, arts, and the humanities in the instruction of emergency physicians.
- 3.11 To promote the medical humanities as a source and means of lifelong learning for emergency physicians.
- 3.12 To promote the application of humanities theories and methods, derived from philosophy, English, literary theory, the social sciences, the arts, rhetoric and ethics to investigate the social and cultural dynamics of emergency medicine.
- 3.13 To enhance opportunities for ACEP members to increase their literary or artistic output.
- 3.14 To create collegial alliances and research opportunities for humanities and social science scholars in emergency medicine, and to promote the publication of medical humanities research.
- 3.15 To create avenues for showcasing the artistic and literary achievements of emergency physicians.

#### **4 Membership**

- 4.1 The membership of the Section of Medical Humanities shall consist of physicians who have a special interest or expertise in medical humanities, who are interested in contributing toward the objectives of the section, and who fulfill membership requirements as defined in the ACEP Bylaws. Section members may vote on section matters and be officers of the section.

#### **5 Nominating Committee**

- 5.1 The make-up of the Nominating Committee will be determined by the section leadership. See Section 9.1, Standing and Special Committees.

#### **6 Section Executive Committee**

- 6.1 The governing body of the section shall be composed of not less than four officers of the section: chair, chair-elect, immediate past chair, and secretary. The officers of the Section of Medical Humanities are the chair, chair-elect, immediate past chair, and secretary/newsletter editor.
- 6.2 Nominees for officers shall be members of the section presented by the section's Nominating Committee to the section membership through its newsletter or through the section e-list at least 30 days prior to the section's annual meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the College's annual *Scientific Assembly*. If elections are held during the annual meeting, nominations from the floor will also be accepted at the time of the section annual meeting. If elections are held via e-mail or U.S. mail, write-in candidates will be accepted.
- 6.3 The election cycle of the section's officers will be every two years, and will coincide with the dates of the *Scientific Assembly*.

- 6.4 Unless otherwise scheduled via e-mail or U.S. mail ballot, the election of officers shall be by a majority vote of the section members present and voting at the annual meeting. The section will elect a chair-elect and a secretary. If the current chair-elect cannot serve as chair, the section will also elect a chair.

## **7 Officers**

The officers of the section shall be at a minimum the chair, the chair-elect, the immediate past chair, secretary, councillor, and alternate councillor. The officers shall be members of the section and serve for a term of two years. Following the chair's term of two years, there will be an additional two-year term designated as immediate past chair. Officers may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

### **7.1 Duties of the chair of the section:**

- 7.1.1 May be appointed by the College president to serve as a voting member of a related College committee, if one exists.
- 7.1.2 May attend ACEP Board of Directors meetings at his/her own expense. Will receive minutes of meetings of the College Board, Council, Steering Committee, etc.
- 7.1.3 Shall keep the Board of Directors and executive director informed of section activities via copies of correspondence, agendas, minutes of meetings, etc.
- 7.1.4 Shall submit an annual report to the College president and executive director, which consists of a list of achievements and activities of the past year and goals and objectives for the coming year.
- 7.1.5 Shall submit to the Board of Directors for approval all section plans, goals, objectives, budgets, and meetings before they are implemented by the section.
- 7.1.6 Shall preside at the annual meeting of the section and at any other meetings of the section. If absent, the chair-elect will assume the functions of the chair.
- 7.1.7 Shall appoint chairperson and members to any standing and special committees of the section to carry out section activities.
- 7.1.8 Shall have the privilege of recommending to the President the appointment of section members to committees of the College or section members representing the interests of the College with external organizations.
- 7.1.9 Shall be an ex officio member of all standing and special committees of the section.
- 7.1.10 From time to time, section leaders may be asked by the President to attend the Board meetings of other entities. In this case, their expenses will be paid by the College.
- 7.1.11 Shall review all section grant proposals developed by their section members. Those developed section grant proposals that are determined to be appropriate for

submission are then signed and submitted to the appropriate committee or task force assigned to manage the Section Grant Program.

7.2 Duties of the chair-elect:

7.2.1 Shall serve as an officer of the section.

7.2.2 Shall assist the chair in section duties as designated by the chair.

7.2.3 Shall serve as chair in the absence, resignation, or death of the chair.

7.3 Duties of the immediate past chair:

7.3.1 Shall serve as an officer of the section.

7.3.2 Shall serve as chair of the Section Nominating Committee.

7.3.3 Shall assist the chair in the duties for the section as designated by the chair.

7.4 Duties of the secretary:

7.4.1 Shall take the minutes of the annual meeting of the section and submit to the appropriate section communication vehicle.

7.4.2 Shall provide the Board of Directors the names of the elected section officers.

7.4.3 Shall assist the section chair in the preparation of an annual meeting and the chair of other committees of the section, as requested.

7.4.4 Shall distribute to the membership via the section newsletter or other communication vehicle:

5.4.4.1 The minutes of the annual meeting of the section.

5.4.4.2 Such information as shall from time to time be of interest to members of the section.

7.4.5 Shall notify members regarding their appointment to any committees of the section and shall send copies of such notification to the executive director of the College.

7.4.6 Shall give due notice of all meetings of the section and the Section Executive Committee to the membership of the section and the Board of Directors of the College.

7.4.7 Shall serve as editor of the section newsletter.

7.4.8 Shall carry out such other duties as are assigned by the chair of the section and the Board of Directors of the College.

## **8 Councillor**

8.1 The section shall elect a councillor and an alternate councillor to represent the section to the Council of the College (Council). Term of office is two years, with the alternate councillor becoming the councillor at the end of his/her two-year term. If he/she cannot serve as councillor, the section shall elect a member to fill both positions and resume normal progression from alternate councillor to councillor.

8.2 Duties of the councillor and alternate councillor:

8.2.1 Shall represent the section at the Council meeting.

8.2.2 Shall have duties, obligations, and privileges as designated by the Bylaws and procedures adopted by the Council.

8.2.3 Shall keep the section informed of all Council activities before, during, and between sessions and report to the section, in its newsletter and/or other communication vehicles, all important matters considered.

8.2.4 Shall bring any resolutions that are developed to the Council from the section.

## **9 Standing and Special Committees**

9.1 The chair shall appoint a Nominating Committee as a standing committee and designate the immediate past chair to serve as chair. In addition to the immediate past chair, the Nominating Committee shall consist of three members appointed for a term of two years.

9.2 The section chair shall appoint special committees when indicated.

## **10 Meetings**

The annual meeting of the section will be held during the annual *Scientific Assembly* of the College and will consist of two portions:

10.1 A professional program open to all members of the College, professionals, paraprofessionals, and guests invited by the section.

10.2 A business meeting open to all members of the College with voting limited to section members.

10.3 At their own expense, sections may hold special meetings at other ACEP functions.

10.4 Sections may seek outside funding support for their meeting as long as it is not in conflict with the College's fund raising activities associated with *Scientific Assembly*.

## **11 Dues**

The dues for the section are established by the Board of Directors of the College.

## **12 Additional Funding for Activities**

12.1 To increase its funds, the section may apply for: 1) An allocation of 15% of its total dues collected during the previous year; or 2) A one-time per project voluntary special assessment.

- 12.2 The section may raise funds from outside entities such as corporations. All such fundraising must be approved in advance by the College and meet the criteria established by the College.
- 12.3 The section may apply for a section grant. Projects can be funded which benefit individual sections as well as advance emergency medicine and educate the public.

### **13 Parliamentary Authority**

The parliamentary authority for all proceedings of the section shall be the parliamentary authority approved for use for proceedings of the College. However, should conflicts or inconsistencies arise between the parliamentary authority and this instrument, this instrument shall govern.

### **14 Voting**

- 14.1 Voting on any issue, except amendments to these Operational Guidelines, may be accomplished either during the annual meeting, or via a mail ballot. Mail ballots can be electronic and/or U. S. mail. The Chair shall determine which method is appropriate for each item coming before the Section.
- 14.2 For e-mail and U.S. mail ballots, the voting membership will be defined as the section membership on the date the ballot is sent. The majority of dues paying section members (based on the number of dues paying members on the day the ballot is sent) must approve any item in order for the item to be approved.

For e-mail and U.S. mail ballots, write-in candidates will be accepted.

#### 14.2.1 Voting by E-mail

Snap Survey software will be used to e-mail the ballots and to tally the results.

Two e-mail notices will be sent, seven days apart, to all section members regarding the upcoming ballot.

Seven days after the second notification email, the ballot will be e-mailed once to all section members with a due date for return by e-mail in 10 days.

#### 14.2.2 Voting by U.S. Mail

Mail ballots shall be distributed to members through the section newsletter or the section e-list a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the voting deadline. The ballot will also be sent once via U.S. mail to all section members with a due date for return in 10 days. Executed mail ballots will be forwarded to by e-mail or U.S. mail to the section staff liaison.

### **15 Amendments**

Any member of the section membership may originate a proposed change in these section operational guidelines. Proposed amendments to the operational guidelines must be submitted in writing (by the approved communication vehicles) to the chair in care of the section's staff liaison at the College at least ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled annual meeting.

Proposed amendments will be published in the section newsletter immediately preceding the annual meeting of the section, and will be placed on the agenda of the section annual meeting.

Any proposed amendment must be approved by two-thirds of the members present and voting during the annual meeting or the section will follow the procedures for electronic voting.

The Section Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the College will review adopted amendments. Amendments approved by the Board of Directors of the College will be published in the section newsletter preceding the next annual meeting of the section.

Approved ACEP Board of Directors  
February 2009