American College of Emergency Physicians
Section of Medical Humanities

October 28, 2015
Boston, MA

MINUTES

Participating in all or part of the meeting were: Tawfeeq Altherwi, MD; Jay M. Baruch, MD, FACEP; Judith Dattaro, MD, FACEP; Arthur Derse, MD, JD, FACEP; William Ernoehazy, MD. FACEP; Paul Fraley, MD, FACEP; Gregory L. Henry, MD, FACEP; Nadine (Dina) Himelfarb, FACEP; MD; Jay. A. Kaplan, MD, FACEP; Walter Limehouse, MD, FACEP; Laura Miller, DO; Michael Sherman, MD; David P. Sklar, MD, FACEP; Elisa Wing, MD candidate

Others participating: Tracy Napper, ACEP staff liaison.

Agenda
1. Call to Order

2. Current Activities
   A. “Open Mic” discussion
   B. Newsletter
   C. Facebook Page
   D. Writing Award for 2015
   E. Visual Arts Award for 2015
   F. ACEP16 Course Proposal Update

3. New Activities
   A. Parameters for Future Writing Awards
   B. ACEP Section Grant application/Working Group for Humanities Curriculum

4. Adjourn

Major Points Discussed

1. The meeting was called to order by section chair Jay M. Baruch, MD, FACEP. He welcomed everyone and said that as section chair he wishes to foster a spirit of motivation, engage members, and encourage their contributions to the section.

2. New Business
   A. “Open Mic” – Ms. Napper organized the performers again this year. We again secured a sponsor, Hagan Barron Intermediaries, who have agreed to sponsor the event again in 2016 in Las Vegas. The $3500 sponsorship usually pays for the piano, a/v technology, food, and cash bar. Unfortunately, because the hotel required us to pay for use of the piano, there was no food. Attendance and the
number of performers was lighter this year than in the past. This is partly due to location (difficult-to-find room), competing activities, and lack of advertising for the event. It was suggested that next year we try to be closer to the lobby, to catch overflow traffic. Dr. Baruch suggested reframing the event into more of a “story slam” but still including musicians. Ms. Napper said that she worked with EMRA to advertise the event to residents but we should work with them more next year.

B. Dr. Paganussi was not present to give an update on the newsletter; however, he has sent several emails via the elist requesting pieces. All members are encouraged to email articles, poems, photos, and other items to him.

C. Ms. Napper gave an update on the Facebook page. For the week of October 16-22, there were 197 total page “likes” with a total reach of 129. Members are encouraged to “like” and share the page, and to contribute information to it, including notices of upcoming performances, published articles, photos, video and audio clips, etc. Contact Ms. Napper for more information. Dr. Baruch said we should increase our social media presence. Ms. Wing has agreed to create a Twitter account for our section. Ms. Napper will also add her as an editor to the Facebook page so she can coordinate posts.

D. The Writing Award for 2015 was given to Dr. Paul Dhillon for his piece, “The Viral Hospital.” Dr. Dhillon was not able to accept in person. The Visual Arts Award for 2015 was given to Dr. Lindsay Ball for her work, “STEMI Boats.” Dr. Ball was not able to accept in person.

E. Dr. Baruch gave an update on the ACEP16 course proposal. It has been submitted to the ACEP Education Committee but there is no word yet. Dr. Baruch promises to let the section know of the results.

F. Dr. Baruch suggested reframing the parameters of the writing award. It was decided that research papers (or anything requiring citations) would not be considered, but instead we would focus on creative works. They should be limited to 2500 words. Also, Ms. Napper will do a call for judges from the section elist so we can expand the judging panel. Dr. Henry suggested mentioning to our members that they submit their articles to publications such as EM News, ACEP Now, and EP Monthly, so as to broaden the awareness of our section and give members more venues for publishing.

G. Dr. Baruch has gathered a working group to submit a section grant in 2016. Drs. Baruch, Derse, Himelfarb, Dr. Seth Hawkins, and Dr. Andrew Ketterer have joined the group but more people are welcome. The purpose of the grant is to create a medical humanities curriculum. Dr. Baruch hopes such a "curriculum" would expand preconceived notions regarding what the humanities brings to clinicians working in emergency medicine--the importance of narrative expertise, creativity, flexibility, comfort with ambiguity, respect for different opinions and facility in cross-disciplinary conversations. They are useful and low cost tools that can impact those areas of great concern to emergency physicians--improving quality and patient satisfaction, managing risk, fostering communication and teamwork, and improving provider and patient well-being. Dr. Baruch will keep the section apprised of progress.

The meeting was adjourned.