



## AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS



### Wilderness Medicine Section Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 27

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Boston Convention and Exhibition Center

Room 211

### MINUTES

#### Participants

Section members in attendance included Marion McDevitt, DO, FACEP, Chair; Lori Weichenthal, MD, FACEP, Chair-Elect; Emily B. Sagalyn, MD, FACEP Secretary; Michael J. Caudell, MD, FACEP, Immediate Past Chair; Susanne Spano, MD, FACEP, Councillor; Isabel M. Algaze-Gonzalez, MD; Paul S. Auerbach, MD, MS, FACEP; Nicole J. Battaglioli, MD; Tara Kathleen Byrne, MD; Anthony Chahal, MD; Matthew Camara; Geoffrey Blair Comp, DO; Devlyn Lee Corrigan, DO, FACEP; David Alan Della-Giustina, MD, FACEP; Julio M. De Pena Batista, MD, FACEP; Jonathan Drew, MD; Robert Greenblatt, MD; Sarah Flaherty, MD, FACEP; Kristopher Filak, MD; Tara Taylor-Jean Haston, DO; Bruce E. Harvey, MD, FACEP; Carlton E. Heine, MD, PhD, FACEP; Hillary R. Irons, MD, PhD; Gregory A. Juhl, MD, FACEP; Carrie Jurkiewicz, MD; Lillian J. Lockwood, MD; Christopher M. McStay, MD, FACEP; Jennifer Miller; Joshua M. Mularella, DO; Maria Nemethy, MD, FACEP; Lika Nesuashvili, MD; Greg Richardson, MD; Marc S. Rosenthal, DO, FACEP; Renee N. Salas, MD; Walter Schrading, MD, FACEP; Michael J. Stoner MD, FACEP; Cecily Swinburne; Ian S. Wedmore, MD, FACEP; Anne Zink, MD, FACEP

Others participating in the meeting included: Holly A. Bartimus, MD; Jaron Coombs, DO; Robert Gorski, MD; Sanjay Gupta, MD, FACEP; Nathaniel T. Hibbs, DO, FACEP; Tyson Hickie, MD; Pranav Koirala; Charles M. Little, DO, FACEP; Raymond R. Oldham, MD; Thomas Speake, MD; Alycia Moria Valente, MD; Ashley Kochanez Weisman, MD; Chelsea H. Wilson; Jon Mark Hirshon, MD, MPH, PhD, FACEP; Maude S. Hancock, ACEP Staff Liaison

#### Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions -2:00pm
2. Review and Approval of 2014 minutes -2:05pm
3. Board Liaison and Councillor Reports – 2:05pm

October 26-29, 2015 / Boston, Massachusetts



4. Wilderness Medicine Photo Contest Results -2:15pm
5. All things Wilderness Medicine  
Presentation by Paul Auerbach, MD, FACEP, with Q&A – 2:20pm
6. Committee Chair Reports – 3:00pm
7. Elections for Committee Chairs – 3:20pm
8. Elections for Website Editor – New Position: 3:30 pm
9. Opportunities and Direction – 3:40pm  
Marion McDevitt, DO, FACEP
10. Section Goals / Activities for 2015-16 – 3:45pm  
(Refer to the 2014 minutes for the list of committees and objectives)

### **Major Items Discussed**

1. Section Chair Marion McDevitt, DO, FACEP welcomed everyone to the meeting. Section officers introduced themselves. Chair: Marion McDevitt, DO, FACEP; Chair-Elect: Lori Weichenthal, MD, FACEP; and Secretary: Emily Sagalyn, MD. She also invited those in attendance who are information scouting to start a fellowship in wilderness medicine to consult the [Core Content for WM Fellowship Training](#) document that Dr. Weichenthal among others was instrumental in putting together.
2. 2014 meeting minutes were approved.
3. Dr. Hirshon, Board liaison, had a conflict and was not able to attend the first part of the meeting. Dr. Spano, Section Councillor, reported on the council meeting. No resolutions pertained to wilderness medicine.
4. Dr. Heine gave a brief overview of the annual photo contest and announced the winners. There was a tie amongst the judges this year and exceptionally, two photos were selected. The winners were: Linda Sanders, MD, for her piece “Everest Memorial Flags, Sagarmatha National Park, Nepal” and “The Milky Way is seen on a clear night over the campgrounds of Cherry Springs State Park in Coudersport, PA” by Matthew Dolan, MD. Due to high audio-visual costs in Boston, instead of renting a monitor and run the photos on a loop at the convention center, the photos were posted on the wilderness medicine website: <http://www.acep.org/Wilderness-Section-Microsite/2015-Wilderness-Medicine-Section-Photo-Contest/>
5. **Discussion led by Paul Auerbach, MD, FACEP:**

Dr. Auerbach led a discussion on the state of wilderness medicine as a specialty. Dr. Auerbach posed many thought provoking questions and asked the attendees to think about and voice their ideas on what the ACEP Wilderness Medicine section and its members can do to advance wilderness medicine.

Topics discussed included:

- Collaboration with other ACEP Sections (Disaster, EMS, International, Research, Rural, Tactical):

- Disaster medicine is gravitating towards wilderness medicine. The section needs a section liaison to that section. Lillian Lockwood, MD, volunteered for that position. She recently organized a successful disaster drill in Kansas.
- The Rural EM section started a peer reviewed journal and section members are invited to submit journal articles in rural or wilderness medicine to [Dr. Darrell Carter](#), immediate past chair of the Rural EM section
- Collaboration among section members (How can the section help achieve their goals and ideas?):
  - Dr. Weichenthal mentioned that most people in this room are probably involved in educational activities with their own program and that as a group, we need to share what we are doing. **A website where people can post their activities was suggested.**
  - Dr. Sagalyn mentioned that the Section Newsletter was also a great vehicle to share what you and/or your program is doing. It can be just a few sentences or one page.
- Advancing research and education in wilderness medicine:
  - Where does evidence based medicine stand in relation to WM?
  - Where can the section play a role with regards to academics?
  - Wilderness medicine is not currently recognized as a Research Forum topic/category. **Ms. Hancock** will reach out to the ACEP Academic Affairs Staff that manage Research Forum to have the category added in 2016.
  - There were only 3 wilderness medicine related lectures at ACEP15. Dr. McDevitt encouraged section members to submit course proposals. They are usually due in September for the next year's conference.
  - It was mentioned that the Red Cross has weak to non-existent evidence in the wilderness setting and section members were encouraged to get involved and submit posters.
- Fellowship in WM:
  - Where have the fellows gone?
  - What happens after fellowship?
  - In what roles are they serving?
    - The fellowship directors discussed surveying the programs and/or past fellows and collect data on the above questions.
- Actively promoting our expertise in WM, first response and layperson education:
  - What should our relationship with the public look like?
- Legal cases for which expert opinion in wilderness medicine is sought – there should be a standard.
- Resident Training Education:
  - Host a MedWar as pre-conference. EMRA started the process and is looking for a letter of recommendation from the ACEP Wilderness Medicine section. **Ms. Hancock** will work with the section officers on drafting this letter.
  - Dr. McDevitt mentioned that the section had submitted its course proposal to repeat the Wilderness Simulation at ACEP16 and is waiting to hear back from the ACEP Education Subcommittee. It will hopefully be part of the official ACEP program as it has been difficult to secure enough funding to hold the event as a section activity.



- Membership growth: How do we expand our membership? Through education, opportunities, etc.?
- Product evaluations: Should we become advisors to those companies that are addressing problems?

#### **Discussion:**

- Dr. Auerbach reiterated that it was up to us, experts in wilderness medicine to step up and be represented. How do we take it to the next level? Tightening and promoting research, expanding education, engaging residents and medical students, etc.
- Dr. Renee Salas advocated for our participation in efforts to combat climate change. Wilderness medicine is well suited to advance research on the environmental effects of climate change on human health and its impact on the wilderness. It was mentioned that there were \$35,000 in grants from the Wilderness Medical Society. The WMS is hosting its 7<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Telluride, CO, July 30 – August 4, 2016.
- Dr. Heine added that ACEP offers tools and resources to help sections meet their members' needs such as section grants. Individual research projects are not eligible under this program though. Ms. Hancock shares the information with the section when it comes out every year. The attendees were encouraged to submit a grant proposal and/or to contact the section chair if they have an idea for collaboration.
- ACEP Past President: Dr. Frederick Blum and Board Liaison Dr. Hirshon voiced their support of ACEP for the section. They echoed Dr. Auerbach's words that it is up to the members to generate ideas and convert them to realities. ACEP, via the section staff liaison, will assist in any way it can.

The discussion ended with Dr. Mc Devitt thanking Dr. Auerbach for leading this important conversation and posing some great questions. To get a sense of who the section members in attendance were and to further promote collaboration among them, she asked everyone in the room introduce themselves.

## **6. 2014-15 Committee Chair Reports**

### **a. Education Committee**

#### **Simulation Subcommittee**

Chair: Nicholas Kanaan, MD  
Members: Scott McIntosh, MD and Justine MacNeil, MD  
Objective: Plan and implement the Wilderness Medicine Simulation ACEP15 in Boston.

**Report:**

Dr. Kanaan was unable to attend and Dr. McDevitt reported on his behalf. The section was not allocated conference time at ACEP15 to run a large scale educational wilderness medicine simulation, however the subcommittee has applied for 2016 and will attempt to do so then. In the meantime, the subcommittee will be planning smaller scale simulation courses at other local wilderness medicine events. It has amassed a significant number of simulation scenarios that can be shared with interested parties to enact on a more local level. Always eager for more folks interested in simulation to collaborate and explore this growing field. Please contact [Dr. Kanaan](#) for further information.

**Residency Curriculum Subcommittee**

Co-Chairs: Jonathan Drew, MD and Walter Schrading, MD, FACEP

Members: Nicole Battaglioli, MD

Objective: Develop a curriculum with the milestones approach.

**Report:**

The subcommittee complete a draft of [Core Content for Wilderness Medicine Training: Development of a Wilderness Medicine Track within an Emergency Medicine Residency](#). Drs. Drew, Schrading and Battaglioli presented their work at the section meeting and asked for feedback from the group. Any member of the section is welcomed to send their comments to [Dr. Schrading](#). The subcommittee plans to submit this work for publication after feedback from the section.

**b. Residency Committee**

(Chaired by EMRA Wilderness Division Chair. Officers are elected at SAEM)

Chair (2014-15): Mark Ryan Brownson, MD

Chair (2015-16): Brent Levy, MD

Vice-Chair (2015-16): Carrie Jurkiewicz, MD

Objective: To provide seamless access to wilderness medicine research opportunities, educational materials, mentorship, and wilderness elective experiences.

**Report:**

The EMRA Wilderness Medicine Division met earlier on Tuesday, 10/27 and have the following goals for the coming year:

- Improve [website](#) with FAQs and links to other relevant wilderness medicine related websites
- Promote the Mentorship Program
- Host a MedWar as a pre-conference activity at ACEP16 in Vegas. The Division requested a letter of support from ACEP's Wilderness Medicine section.



**c. Fellowship Committee**

Chair: Julio M. De Pena Batista, MD, FACEP

Objective: Complete the **Test Bank**. Questions from the test bank will be used for fellowships or medical student electives exit exams.

Report:

Dr. De Pena Batista reported on the progress of the test bank and invited anyone interested to contribute questions to contact [Jennifer Dow, MD, FACEP](#).

**d. Liaison Committee**

Chair: Henderson D. McGinnis, MD, FACEP

Objective: Work with other sections and committees with similar goals, where there is crossover, such as International, Disaster, etc.

Report:

Dr. McGinnis was unable to attend and Dr. McDevitt reported on his behalf. The Committee just found out about a project that Public Health is leading looking at the testing or analysis equipment with representatives from the EMS and Air Medical Transport Sections. Dr. McGinnis has reached out to find out more about the project and how we can have some input or comment in this arena.

**e. Workshop Committee**

Chair: Joshua Poles, MD

Objective: Secure a speaker for section meeting at ACEP15

Report:

Dr. Poles was unable to attend and Dr. McDevitt reported on his behalf. Dr. McDevitt recruited Dr. Auerbach to lead a discussion on “all things wilderness medicine” during the section’s annual meeting at ACEP15.

**f. Activities Committee**

Chair: Hillary Irons, MD, PhD

Members: Lori Weichenthal, MD, FACEP

Objective: To plan an outdoor activity for the section in Boston during ACEP15.

Report:

Dr. Irons reported that the Rock Climbing and High Angle Rescue Techniques Workshop pre-conference activity held on Sunday, 10/25 in Quincy Quarries was a success!! 20 section members participated in the activity including Dr. Irons and her instructors who kindly provided all the climbing gear.





**7. Elections for Committee Chairs (2015-16):**

**a. Education Committee**

**Simulation Subcommittee**

Chair: Nicholas Kanaan, MD  
Members: Nicole Battaglioli, MD  
Objective: Plan and implement the Wilderness Medicine Simulation at ACEP16 in Vegas and start planning for ACP17 in Washington, DC.

**Residency Curriculum Subcommittee**

Co-Chairs: Jonathan Drew, MD and Walter Schrading, MD, FACEP  
Members: Nicole Battaglioli, MD  
Objective: Finalize the Core Content Curriculum and seek publication. approach.

**b. Residency Committee**

(Chaired by EMRA Wilderness Division Chair. Officers are elected at SAEM)

Chair (2014-15): Mark Ryan Brownson, MD  
Chair (2015-16): Brent Levy, MD  
Vice-Chair (2015-16): Carrie Jurkiewicz, MD  
Objective: To provide seamless access to wilderness medicine research opportunities, educational materials, mentorship, and wilderness elective experiences.

**c. Fellowship Committee**

Chair: Julio M. De Pena Batista, MD, FACEP  
Objective: Complete the **Test Bank**. Questions from the test bank will be used for fellowships or medical student electives exit exams.

**Fellowship Directors Committee:**

Chair: Michael J. Caudell, MD, FACEP  
Objective: Represent and serve as a resource to the directors of the fellowship programs in wilderness medicine.

**d. Liaison Committee**

Chair: Henderson D. McGinnis, MD, FACEP  
Members: Lillian J. Lockwood, MD, Disaster Section Member  
Objective: Work with other sections and committees with similar goals, where there is crossover, such as International, Disaster, etc.

**e. Workshop Committee**

Chair: Joshua Poles, MD  
Objective: Secure a speaker for section meeting at ACEP16



**f. Activities Committee**

Chair: Hillary Irons, MD, PhD  
Members: Vicki Mazzorana, MD, FACEP  
Objective: Support EMRA and their planning efforts to host a MedWar pre-conference at ACEP16 in Vegas.

**8. Election for a Website Editor:**

Dr. McDevitt mentioned that the section website was in need of a facelift and announced that a new position for a Website Editor was up for election. The position will help clean up and update content and will work with the section officers, Ms. Hancock and ACEP's web design team to come up with a design and site map.

Robert Gorski, MD volunteered for the position and was elected by acclamation.

It was mentioned that we should consider adding a discussion forum to the site. Ms. Hancock told the group that ACEP's content management system did have a discussion forum, but that it was outdated and not the most user friendly. Instead she suggested a Facebook page.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4pm.