

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE
Critical Care Medicine Section
Operational Guidelines

The Critical Care Medicine Section is chartered by the Board of Directors (Board) of the American College of Emergency Physicians (College) to provide a forum in which members of the College with special interests in critical care medicine can develop a knowledge base, share information, receive and give counsel, and serve as a resource to others interested in this area of 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 Critical Care Medicine Section.

2 Objectives

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

- 2.1 To serve as a means for communication among physicians who may be interested in enhancing their critical care skills in conjunction with emergency department practice;
- 2.2 To explore mechanisms for recognizing emergency physicians with extraordinary skills and/or training in critical care medicine;
- 2.3 To encourage research specifically directed towards diagnosis and treatment of critically ill patients in the prehospital, emergency department, or in critical care settings;
- 2.4 To serve as a resource to ACEP's President, Board of Directors, College committees, and ACEP members on issues related to critical care medicine;
- 2.5 To promote critical care education for medical students, residents, fellows and emergency medicine practitioners.
- 2.6 To increase public awareness of issues involving the critically ill patient in the emergency department.

3 Membership

- 3.1 The membership of the Section of Critical Care Medicine shall consist of physicians who have a special interest or expertise in critical care medicine, who are interested in critical care medicine, want to contribute 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.

4 Section Executive Committee

- 4.1 The governing body of the section shall be composed of five officers of the section: chair, chair-elect, immediate past chair, secretary/newsletter editor, and website editor.

- 4.2 Nominees for officers shall be members of the section presented 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.
- 4.3 The election cycle of the section's officers will be every two years, and will coincide with the dates of the Scientific Assembly.
- 4.4 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 voting at the annual meeting. The section will elect a chair-elect, a secretary, and a website editor. If the current chair-elect cannot serve as chair, the section will also elect a chair.

5 Officers

The officers of the section shall be at a minimum the chair, the chair-elect, the immediate past-chair, secretary/newsletter editor, councillor, alternate councillor and website editor. 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. In the event that an officer is no longer able to serve in their role, the Chair will appoint a replacement until the next election.

5.1 Duties of the chair of the section:

- 5.1.1 May be appointed by the College President to serve as a voting member of a related College Committee if one exists.
- 5.1.2 May attend ACEP Board of Directors meetings at his own expense; and he will receive minutes of meetings of the Board, Council, Steering Committee, etc., of the College.

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.
- 5.1.3 Shall keep the Board of Directors and Executive Director informed of section activities via copies of correspondence, agendas, minutes of meetings, etc.
- 5.1.4 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.
- 5.1.5 Shall submit to the Board of Directors an informational summary of all section plans, goals and objectives, budgets and meetings..
- 5.1.6 Shall preside at the annual meeting of the section and at any other meetings of the section. In the Chair's absence, the Chair shall assign this function to the chair-elect.

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.

- 5.1.7 Shall appoint chairperson and members to any standing and special committees of the section to carry out section activities.
- 5.1.8 Shall be an ex officio member of all standing and special committees of the section.

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.

5.2 Duties of the Chair-elect:

- 5.2.1 Shall serve as an officer of the section.
- 5.2.2 Shall assist the chair in the duties for the section as designated by the chair.
- 5.2.3 Shall serve as chair in the absence, resignation, or death of the chair.

5.3 Duties of the Immediate Past Chair:

- 5.3.1 Shall serve as an officer of the section.
- 5.3.2 Shall serve as Councillor of the section.
- 5.3.3 He shall assist the chair in the duties for the section as designated by the chair.

5.4 Duties of the Secretary/Newsletter Editor:

- 5.4.1 Shall take the minutes of the annual meeting of the section and submit to the appropriate section communication vehicle.
- 5.4.2 Shall provide the Board the names of the elected section officers.
- 5.4.3 Shall assist the section chair in the preparation of an annual meeting and the chairs of other committees of the section, as requested.
- 5.4.4 Shall serve as the editor of the section newsletter
- 5.4.5 Shall distribute to the membership via the section newsletter or other communication vehicle:
 - 5.4.5.1 The minutes of the annual meeting of the section.
 - 5.4.5.2 Such information as shall from time to time be of interest to members of the section.
- 5.4.6 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.
- 5.4.7 Shall give due notice of all meetings of the section and the Executive Committee of the section to the membership of the section and the Board of Directors of the College.

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

5.5 Duties of the Website Editor:

5.5.1 Shall serve as an officer of the section.

5.5.2 Shall be in charge of the content of the section website as well as timely updates.

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

5.6 Duties of the Staff Liaison:

5.5.1 The staff liaison shall assist the officers of the section in the execution of their duties.

5.5.2 The staff liaison shall assure that copies of all section meeting agenda, minutes, operating guidelines and other correspondence are appropriately disseminated to the Executive Director of the College, to the Director of Member Services of the College ("Section Coordinator"), and to the Board.

5.5.3 The staff liaison shall coordinate all activities of the section with the section officers, with the Director of Member Services and with any relevant College committees, including setting up section meetings and preparation of the section newsletter.

5.5.4 The staff liaison shall carry out or arrange to be carried out such other section duties as are assigned by the chair of the section, the Executive Director, or the Board in order to facilitate approved section operations.

6 Councillor

6.1 The immediate past chair will serve as Councillor of the section to represent the section to the Council of the College ("the Council"). If the immediate past chair cannot serve as councillor, the chair will serve as councillor or appoint a section member to this position. The chair will appoint a section member as the alternate councillor.

6.2 Duties of the Councillor and Alternate Councillor:

6.2.1 Shall represent the section at the Council meeting.

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

6.2.3 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.

6.2.4 Shall bring resolutions to the Council from the section, if any are developed.

7 Standing and Special Committees

7.1 The Section chair shall appoint special committees when indicated.

8 Meetings

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

- 8.1 A professional program open to all members of the College, professionals, paraprofessionals and guests invited by the section.
- 8.2 A business meeting open to all members of the College with voting limited to section members.
- 8.3 At their own expense, sections may hold special meetings at other ACEP functions.
- 8.4 Sections may seek outside funding support for their meeting as long as it is not in conflict the College's fund raising activities associated with *Scientific Assembly*.

9 Dues

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

10 Additional Funding for Activities

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 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.
- 10.3 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.

11 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.

12 Voting

- 12.1 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 US mail. The Chair shall determine which method is appropriate for each item coming before the section.
- 12.2 For e-mail and US 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.

12.2.1 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.

12.2.2 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 by e-mail or U.S. mail to the section staff liaison.

13 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 approved communication vehicle] 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 or e-mailed via the section e-list 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 section members present and voting during the annual meeting or the section will follow the procedures for electronic voting.

Adopted amendments will be reviewed by the Section Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the College. 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
September 2009