

Board Candidates Ballot 2016



Pat Agdamag, MD FACEP
Tarpon Springs, FL

Chair, Leadership Academy

ByLaws Committee
Membership Committee
FSED Committee
EMRAF committee

What is the most significant issue facing Emergency Medicine this coming year?

The most significant issue that will be facing emergency medicine this coming year is reimbursement and fair payment for the care we provide. Large insurance companies once again have found ways to escape new mandates unscathed. They have deftly increase deductibles and premiums for paying patients and families; yet at the same time choked reimbursements and limit amounts paid on claims. They do so by coercion, narrow networks, claims denial, and monumental lobbying efforts.

We need to join this fight together in order to be successful and stand up for patients and fair payment. It will take an effort on all fronts.

There is a growing number of emergency physicians who are new to our state, and several new residency training programs across Florida. Many of which are unaware of these issues, particular in Florida.

I look forward to continuing this fight with a focus on increasing awareness in members and those newest to the issues of emergency medicine in Florida.

I appreciate your support and am hopeful for the opportunity to serve a second term on our Board of Directors.



Gary Lai, DO, FACOEP
Coral Springs, FL

Broward Health Coral
Springs ER Medical Director
FCEP Leadership Academy
2015-2016

What is the most significant issue facing Emergency Medicine this coming year?

I believe the biggest challenge that will be facing Emergency Medicine around the country this year has already begun. The unfortunate and devastating tragedy at the Orlando nightclub has been an event that we all had feared but hoped that another terrorist attack would not take place in our home land. The threat is real and the threat will always be there and we all have to be prepared for a mass casualty/active shooter event.

While there are no ways to truly be ready for what happened in Orlando, continued preparation and training for scenarios is key. Having plenty of tourniquets, hemostatic agents, and needles for rapid decompression of pneumothorax are key.

All of our EDs need to have tighter security and I believe hospitals should be mandated to provide armed security or detail officers in order for our Emergency staff to be able to care for patients and also feel a little bit safer in case a threat presents to our front doors.



**Kristin McCabe-Kline, MD,
FACEP
Palm Coast, FL**

**Chief of Staff, Florida
Hospital Flagler
EMS Medical Director,
Flagler County/City of Palm
Coast/City of Flagler Beach**

**Government Affairs
Committee
EMS Committee**

What is the most significant issue facing Emergency Medicine this coming year?

I believe the changing landscape of the Health Care Industry in the United States is the most significant issue facing Emergency Medicine physicians. We are on the cusp of fundamental changes to the way care is accessed, delivered, and reimbursed. As capitated costs and shared risk become a reality, it is essential that Emergency Medicine physicians have a collective voice. We must continue to educate policy makers, insurers, and hospital administrators about the value of the care we provide and its true cost (<2% of US Health Care dollars). Further, Emergency Medicine physicians will need strong advocates as we negotiate fair reimbursement in the setting of bundled payments and rigid networks. Lastly, we will be challenged to reduce practice variation with scrutiny of resource utilization requiring our expertise to ensure an ongoing focus on quality and safety.



**Sanjay Pattani, MD, MHSA,
FACEP
Windemere, FL**

**Florida Emergency
Physicians
Chairman, Emergency
Department
Florida Hospital Waterman**

**Government Affairs
Committee**

What is the most significant issue facing Emergency Medicine this coming year?

Emergency Medicine is one of the youngest but most dynamic specialties within the House of Medicine. Our challenges revolve around how we cope with change within the continuously changing dimensions of financial risk, clinical quality, and multispecialty team work centered around patient management. Next year a recurrent hot topic will be PIP insurance reform. Local market share and competition for patients is changing with the growth of urgent care, freestanding emergency departments, retail clinics, and virtual care. However, we have opportunities for specialty expansion with an aging population, the shortage of healthcare providers, and our demonstrated “value added” for acute care within the “system”. We will ultimately succeed by carving out a well-defined and integrated role that creates needed value, demonstrating our strong leadership, and advocating for decisions that benefit our patients. I look forward to representing FCEP for a second term on the Board.



Russell D. Radtke, MD
Tampa, FL

**Pediatric Emergency
Medicine Attending at St
Joseph's Children's Hospital,
Tampa FL**

**Partner at Emergency
Medical Associates of
Tampa Bay**

What is the most significant issue facing Emergency Medicine this coming year?

The most significant challenge facing Emergency Medicine this coming year will be maintaining a strong voice in the discussion regarding the CMS rule making process, concerning the transition from the SGR model to MACRA. As the language is developed to transition from fee-for-service models to quality-of-care models for Medicare patients, it will be crucial that we are not only at the table, but that we are ready to provide meaningful contribution to the discussion. If we are not at the table when the rules are made, we will be on the menu when they are implemented.