

2020-2021: A One Year Summary of the Critical Care Medicine Section

Skyler Lentz, MD FAAEM, 2021-22 Chair and Andrew W. Phillips, MD MEd FAAEM, 2021-22 Immediate Past Chair



Who, What, When, Where—Why?

As your incoming chair and immediate past chair of the Critical Care Medicine Section (CCMS), we are happy to see AAEM members' continued interest and expanding practice in critical care medicine. The pathway to critical care training for emergency physicians has become clearer. There are over 389 emergency physicians boarded in critical care subspecialties (259 ABIM; 93 Anesthesiology Critical Care; 37 Surgical Critical Care) and many others certified in and practicing neurocritical care.¹ The majority of dual trained physicians practice both emergency medicine and critical care. Finding a balanced job and gaining acceptance into the subspecialty practice of critical care medicine remains a challenge for emergency physicians after fellowship training.² The pandemic has shown the value of all emergency physicians taking care of critically ill patients beyond the initial presentation.

We understand the challenges of practicing emergency medicine and critical care both in the ICU and in the ED. Our aim is to support members practicing critical care, support those with an interest in critical care, provide quality critical care education to practicing physicians, and mentor trainees pursuing emergency medicine and critical care.

Where We Have Been This Year and Where We Are Headed

In between realizing that an SpO₂ of 82% is not necessarily an indication for intubation and re-litigating vitamin C and steroids as the cure for everything, the section pushed forward on huge initiatives this year.

Mentorship Program

If you are not a mentor or mentee yet, you are missing out! Whether you are a student, resident, fellow, or even a junior attending, everyone benefits from third party perspectives in their careers. This group of mentors is focused on you without any skin in the game other than your success. This year marked the first year of matching mentors and mentees, and so far it is a success.

We continue to expand this program and offer the opportunity to author a Common Sense article or deliver a lecture at our annual meeting or at a virtual meeting. Our mentors can help you prepare!

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Speakers Exchange

If only there were a place where conference planners could find critical care expert speakers and their areas of expertise, for free, to promote speakers and high-quality critical care education. Well, now there is! Attendings and fellows are invited to post their CV and areas of expertise. Find a favorite clip of yourself speaking and add it to your profile. This year we will expand our speakers and offer the exchange as a resource to local AAEM chapter divisions seeking critical care expertise.

Regular Meetings

The section meetings were always open, but the date and time varied, so it was difficult to keep up. The meetings are now **every first Thursday of the month at 8:00pm ET**. Since the change, member involvement has increased, the section is growing and feels like a community—an important goal. The meetings are a combination of formal and informal

portions with members exchanging ideas and planning the future growth of the section. At a virtual meeting in January 2021, “Breviloquent 2021: Briefly educated, eloquently delivered” we had four members deliver excellent lectures on sedation during non-invasive ventilation, ARDS ventilator management, pCO₂ gap use during resuscitation, and the use of ultrasound in evaluation for venous congestion. Contact CCMS@aaem.org for the link and password to the monthly meetings.

Salon: The Anti-Journal Club

Most of us do not practice in huge centers with on-call palliative care and in-house fellows for every specialty to consult at all hours of the day, yet, that is the setting of most studies upon which our practices are based. Rather than dissecting a single article and arguing p-values vs 95% CI, we started the quarterly CCMS Salon. The Salon takes on a single, intentionally controversial and difficult topic, stirring the pot with various studies while acknowledging the limitations of being a pit doc. The goal is real solutions to real challenges. The first salon was on fluid resuscitation and the second was on palliative care in the age of COVID. This has been a fantastic way to provide education that is important and relevant to our members. Tell us what you want to discuss next!

Future Fellows

A poorly kept secret is that navigating the four critical care fellowship application options for emergency physicians—a wonderful challenge to have now, compared to the challenges of achieving critical care board certification in prior years—is a significant hurdle. So, CCMS-AAEM has dedicated itself to helping future fellows navigate the choices and timelines. We have members from all the different training pathways. The nuances change on an annual basis, and we change with it.



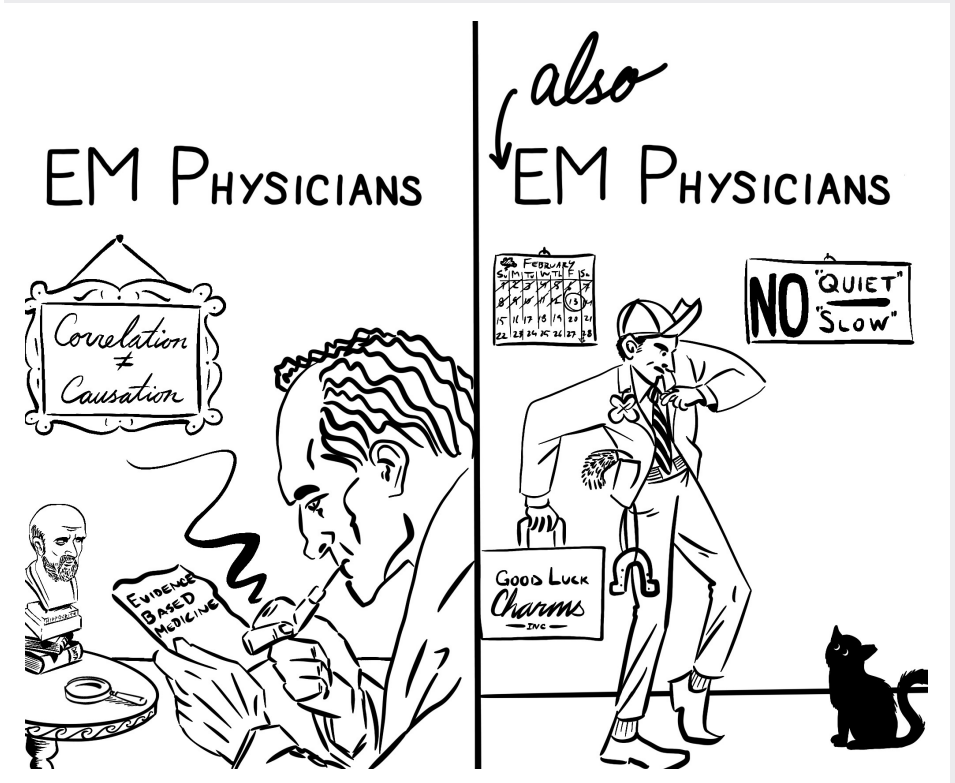
Newsletters and Novelties

CCMS published its first three editions of our newsletter this year! The newsletter keeps our members engaged and up to date. More than just updates and insights, it is a community and outlet for a little levity. The pandemic forced us to reconcile with the challenging experiences from the last year; the tears, the laughter, or both, and with that sentiment, we added a comic section to remind ourselves of the value of laughter as medicine.

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Continued Growth

As we expand on last year’s successes, we hope that you will join our section. Add your name to our speakers exchange, sign up as a mentor or mentee, submit an article to *Common Sense*, deliver a lecture at one of our events, join us at our monthly meetings, share ideas and gain knowledge at our next Salon, and look out for our members delivering critical care education at the next scientific assembly. ●



References:

1. ABEM. Examination and Certification Statistics. Available at <https://www.abem.org/public/resources/exam-certification-statistics>. Accessed Feb 20, 2021
2. Strickler SS, Choi DJ, Singer DJ, Oropello JM. Emergency physicians in critical care: where are we now?. *J Am Coll Emerg Physicians Open*. 2020;1(5):1062-1070. Published 2020 Jun 2. doi:10.1002/emp2.12105

CCMS Resources

Join the Critical Care Medicine Section of AAEM and benefit from the below resources.



Critical Care Speakers Exchange

This member benefit is a resource for conference organizers to recruit top-quality speakers in critical care medicine. All speakers must be members of the Critical Care Medicine Section of AAEM. Join today!

Mentoring Program

In addition to the traditional mentor-mentee relationship, CCMS offers several opportunities for mentors and mentees to create something together. Apply today to become a mentor or mentee!

Critical Care Hacks

This video library provides quick resources for different critical care medicine topics. Watch today!

COVID-19 Resources

The CCMS Council has created and gathered resources specific to helping members during the COVID-19 pandemic. Join our listerv to connect.

Learn more: www.aem.org/get-involved/sections/ccms/resources