

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

**Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Section Meeting**

October 18, 2016

Las Vegas, NV

**MINUTES**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Section members present:, Bruce Derrick, MD, FACEP, Chair; Luther Kristian Arnold, MD, FACEP; Derek Cooney, MD, NREMT-P, FACEP, Immediate Past Chair; Leisa Deutsch, MD, MPH, FACEP; Stephen Hendriksen, MD, Secretary/Newsletter Editor; Tracy L. LeGros, MD, PhD, FACEP; Heather Murphy Lavoie, MD, FACEP; Angie Mattke, MD, FACEP; Robert Sanders, MD, FACEP, Alternate Councilor; Davut Savaser, MD, FACEP; J. Richard Walker III, MD, MS, Councilor; and Michael Woods, MD, FACEP.

Others participating included: Stephen Anderson, MD, FACEP; Judith Borger, DO; Robert Leitch, MD; Dag Shapshak, MD; and Margaret Montgomery, RN, MSN, Staff Liaison.

**AGENDA:**

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Educational presentation
3. Business meeting

**Major Points Discussed**

**1. Welcome and Introductions:**

Dr. Bruce Derrick called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. Attendees introduced themselves and were thanked for their participation.

**2. Educational Presentation:**

J. Richard Walker III, MD, FACEP provided the education portion of the meeting: Advances in Technical Diving and the Human/life Support System Interface. The presentation was well received and participants asked Dr. Walker to share his informative slides.

**3. Business meeting**

Dr. Derrick began the business segment of the meeting and reported that the section now has 155 members. Last year the section had 149 members at this time. Dr. Derrick then thanked section members that met during the UHMS meeting in June where the data on 24 hour availability of hyperbaric chambers was presented. This information was used as background for the ACEP Council Resolution submitted in July. Dr. Walker provided a Council report and informed the section members that the resolution was adopted by the Council on the consent agenda.

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Members of the section that attended the EMRA Job Fair reported that it was successful. Two candidates came to the booth and contacts were made. A handout was developed for the EMRA Job

Fair on UHM fellowships including a list of programs. Unfortunately the booth was not listed on the map of booths. It was suggested that contact be made with CORD to discuss UHM fellowships.

The section members then discussed how to work with the Divers Alert Network (DAN) and UHMS to advocate for 24 hour access to hyperbaric chambers for emergency care. It was agreed that 24 hour availability can be expensive, and the number of chambers providing 24/7 coverage is decreasing. Lack of 24/7 chamber availability has reached the point where patient care is being impacted. DAN maintains a list of available centers and their capabilities. One approach suggested was to tie reimbursement to 24/7 availability and/or participation in regional networks/call schedule and/or facility accreditation. It was noted that UHMS accredits hyperbaric facilities, and that there are 4 levels of services designated. Changing the codes for reimbursement was mentioned but it was agreed that this is not an easy process. All agreed that advocacy to address this issue is increasing awareness about emergency indications and the facts about closures. It was suggested that an article in ACEP Now could help educate ACEP members about these indications and the closures.

Dr. Savaser was congratulated on receiving a section grant to produce video modules for training fellows. The second part will be to educate emergency physicians. It is anticipated that 8 cases will be developed. The grant ends in December of 2017. It was suggested that the fellows could assist with the development of the cases. CME opportunities were discussed. It was suggested that UHMS or Duke may be a good resource for obtaining CME.

A revised list of residency programs was compiled. The Section website will be updated to reflect the current list including contact information and links when available. The EMRA website will also need to be updated.

The Clinical Policy on Carbon Monoxide Poisoning was reviewed and approved by the Board last week. The approved policy will be shared with section members as soon as it is available.

With no further business to be discussed Dr. Derrick adjourned the meeting.