

**American College of Emergency Physicians  
Section of Medical Humanities**

October 12, 2021  
Via MS Teams

**MINUTES**

Participating in all or part of the meeting were: Kamna Balhara, MD, FACEP; Seth C. Hawkins, MD, FACEP; Gabor Kelen, MD, FACEP; Rachel Kowalsky, MD; Zayir Malik, MD; Lydia Mansour, DO; Joshua Michael, MD, FACEP; Anna Wright, MD.

Others participating: Tracy Napper, ACEP staff liaison.

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order
  
- 2.. Current Activities
  - A. Newsletter update
  - B. Writing Awards for 2021
  - C. Visual Arts Award for 2021
  - D. *JACEP Open* plug
  
3. Adjourn

**Major Points Discussed**

1. The meeting was called to order by section chair Seth C. Hawkins, MD, FACEP. He welcomed everyone and asked everyone present to introduce themselves.
  
2. Current Activities
  - A. Ms. Napper gave an update on the newsletter. The next newsletter will be compiled after ACEP21 and will contain the writing award winners and the visual arts submissions. All pieces, with owners' permission, will also be submitted to the ACEP "HeART of EM" gallery. Submissions can be cited on CVs as "Accepted to the ACEP HeART of EM Gallery, October 2021." Anyone with pieces to submit for the newsletter can send them to Dr. Paganussi at [peterpags@aol.com](mailto:peterpags@aol.com).

Section members discussed whether the newsletter is available to all ACEP members. Currently, it is available to all ACEP members. Members also discussed ways to give it more visibility to the College and encourage submissions from more members, such as via social media channels and all-member emails. Dr. Hawkins reminded members of the section's Twitter handle, @acep\_mhs, and to tag #acepmedhum #medtwitter, #medhumisclinical in tweets.

- B. Ms. Napper announced that the 2021 Writing Award, prose division, went to Joshua Michael, MD, for “Probabilities.” Dr. Michael spoke about the origins of his piece. The 2021 Writing Award, poetry division, was awarded to Sophia Gorgens, MD, for “They Will Say That We Were Savages.”
- C. Shar Kennett, MD, received the 2021 Visual Arts Award for her artwork, “Returning Home From My Shift.” All 3 winning pieces will be published in the next newsletter, as well as the HeART of EM gallery, and the artwork was posted on the section Facebook page. Dr. Hawkins also reminded members that the section grant project, “Emergency Medicine Narratives,” a collection of the first 12 years of award winners, is available at the ACEP bookstore:  
[bookstore.acep.org/books](http://bookstore.acep.org/books)  
Members are also encouraged to use the section’s other grant project, a medical humanities curriculum, “Humanities at the Bedside,” available for free at [www.acep.org/education/humanities-at-the-bedside/](http://www.acep.org/education/humanities-at-the-bedside/)
- D. Dr. Hawkins suggested holding a virtual talk, perhaps during the first quarter of 2022, that is not tied to a conference. It could be a lecture/webinar with a Q&A session that is open to all ACEP members. He also suggested choosing one lecture at each ACEP conference to be tagged as an honorific lecture of specific interest for medical humanities.
- E. Dr. Malik will report on the proceedings of the ACEP Council meeting after ACEP21. Dr. Kelen says this is an important group, and members are encouraged to give feedback on language issues. Other concerns can be brought to Dr. Malik to create resolutions. Members are reminded of the advocacy angle of medical humanities, that is, we can open conversations on controversial topics. Members discussed the importance of how “words matter,” for example, in Open Notes in patient charts. Patients have always had access to their own records but electronic access makes this easier, so clinicians should be mindful of how they phrase their documentation. Members discussed a potential article for *ACEP Now* or the News & Perspective section of *Annals of Emergency Medicine*.
- F. The section has held several “MedHum Monday” sessions via Zoom/MS Teams. These informal discussions have yielded useful dialogue, so we will continue to have them. The next one is scheduled for Monday, November 1 at 4 pm CT.
- G. Ms. Napper reminded members of ACEP’s now 2-year-old open access journal, *JACEP Open*, and described the benefits of submitting to the journal. The website can be found at [jacepopen.com](http://jacepopen.com).

The meeting was adjourned.