



CRUISE SHIP MEDICINE SECTION

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

Cruise Ship Medicine Section
Annual Meeting
Monday, Oct. 9, 2023
11 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Philadelphia, PA

MINUTES

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE SECTION CHAIR AND ARE PENDING APPROVAL BY THE CRUISE SHIP MEDICINE SECTION AT THE ACEP24 SECTION MEETING.
ANY CHANGES WILL APPEAR IN THE MINUTES OF THAT MEETING.**

Participants: Joe Scott, MD, FACEP, Chair; Ruben Parejo, MD, Chair-Elect; Brenda K. Barnetson, MbChb, MMed(EM), FCEM, Councilor; L. Anthony Cirillo, MD, FACEP, Board Liaison.
Others participating included: James Bryant, Staff Liaison; Ryan McBride, ACEP Congressional Affairs Director.

Agenda:

- Introductions
- Sponsor Messages
- Councilor Update
- Section Chair Updates and Future Section Objectives
- Health Operations and Shoreside Considerations
- Quality Improvement & Patient Safety on Board
- Legislative Conversations

Major Points Discussed:

Dr. Barnetson shared results of the ACEP Board of Director elections and discussed resolutions from the ACEP Council meeting most relevant to the Cruise Ship Medicine section. These resolutions included: Addressing the Growing Epidemic of Pediatric Cannabis Exposure (Adopted); Compassionate Access to Medical Cannabis (Not Adopted); Decriminalization of All Illicit Drugs (Not Adopted); Patients Leaving the ED Prior to Completion of Care Against Medical Advice (Adopted with Amendments); Treating Physician Determines Patient Suitability (for transfer) (Adopted with Amendments).

Dr. Barnetson highlighted the future of health care automation (AI) including ACEP's EM Data Institute.

Dr. Scott shared recent updates to the Cruise Ship Medicine Section Health Care Guidelines, specifically relating to usage of ultrasound onboard cruise ships.

Action Item: Dr. Scott is forming a sub-committee to further review and update the Cruise Ship Medicine Section Health Care Guidelines. The expectation is for sub-committee members to present revision recommendations by January 31, 2024.

Dr. Scott led a discussion centering around the challenges of providing adequate care to cruise ship passengers as more vessels are docking at small remote ports with limited medical resources. Dr. Scott then shared how Carnival Corporation & plc is working in conjunction with remote landside medical facilities to create action plans for patient and crew care.

Dr. Barnetson brought forth a discussion about quality patient safety onboard vessels. Topics centered around the following:

- Addressing patient safety
- Employee education
- Key Performance Indicators
- Clinical audit
- Patient satisfaction
- Healthcare accreditation

Dr. Parejo discussed current legislation that could impact the Cruise Ship Medicine Section. These included:

- Proposed changed to USC Title 46
- Cruise Ship Passenger Act
- DEA Survey from earlier this year

The meeting was adjourned.