

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

October 9, 2023
Philadelphia Convention Center
Philadelphia, PA

MINUTES

Participating in all or part of the meeting were: Kamna Balhara, MD, MA, FACEP; Diane Birnbaumer, MD, FACEP; Seth C. Hawkins, MD, FACEP; Jay A. Kaplan, MD; Gabor Kelen, MD, FACEP; Rachel Kowalsky, MD; David Sklar, MD, FACEP; James Thompson, MD, FACEP.

Others participating: Tracy Napper, ACEP staff liaison; Dana Lewis, Component Services Manager, ACEP.

Agenda

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| I. Call to Order | Dr. Hawkins |
| II. Current Activities | |
| A. New Officers | Dr. Hawkins |
| B. Writing and Visual Arts Awards for 2023 | Dr. Hawkins |
| C. Council Update | Dr. Kowalsky |
| III. Reading by Dr. Kowalsky | |
| IV. Discussion of Future Directions and Activities | |

Adjourn

Major Points Discussed

Current Activities

- A. Dr. Hawkins called the meeting to order. He expressed his appreciation for everything the section accomplished during his tenure. His goal is that medical humanities is recognized for what it does while recognizing its clinical impact and that words matter. Dr. Hawkins was thanked for his work as section chair for the last 4 years and was given a plaque in appreciation.
- B. Dr. Hawkins made a pitch for newsletter pieces as it is an effective way for other members to familiarize themselves with the section.

- C. Ms. Napper announced that the 2023 Writing Award, prose division, went to Diane Birnbaumer, MD, for “The Eye of the Storm.” Nate Gentry, MD, won the poetry division for “Carcinoma.” He was not able to receive his award in person. Kelley Hails, MD, received the 2023 Visual Arts Award for her artwork, “Grieving Our Loss/Covid Self Portrait.” She was unable to receive the award in person. The winning pieces will be published in the next newsletter. All writing and visual arts award submissions will be published in future newsletters as well.
- D. Dr. Kowalsky reported on the proceedings of the ACEP Council meeting. Firearm violence, excited delirium and advanced practice providers were major topics of discussion. Dr. Sklar said that the use of language means that our section could have a role with reviewing the council resolutions. Dr. Birnbaumer suggested weighing in on resolutions during the asynchronous commentary period. Dr. Hawkins suggested analyzing the resolutions from the humanities perspective. We could look at what passed and what the ramifications were. Dr. Kaplan said this section allows us to connect to our hearts and helps others do so as well. Dr. Balhara said it is a lens for critical evaluation and language to understand the current moment. Dr. Kowalsky resolves to speak more at next year’s Council meeting. Dr. Sklar suggested starting the Council meeting with a poem next year; Dr. Kaplan did that one year. Dr. Kaplan noted that ACEP membership has declined. Our membership is comparable to our country: progressive vs right; we want to be inclusive and represent all of the College.
- E. Dr. Kowalsky asked for feedback on her story, “The Delivery Boy” published in literary magazine “Booth.” The story is told in 3 voices, by 3 characters with 3 different languages. She appreciates that this section gives good feedback. The story can be found here: <https://booth.butler.edu/2023/09/01/the-delivery-boy/>
- F. Dr. Kaplan said that he had submitted a proposal for a medical humanities course for ACEP23 but had not received a reply. Dr. Balhara said SAEM often accepts medical humanities course proposals. This has been an ongoing topic for the section. It is hoped section members will apply again for ACEP24 and be accepted. Dr. Balhara said that her vision is that medical humanities will be recognized as a core part of emergency medicine education, similar to ultrasound. How can we leverage this and draw in new converts? Ideas could include writing white papers and approaching the ACEP and/or ABEM boards about having medical humanities be part of the core curriculum.

The meeting was adjourned.