

ACEP International Section Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2024

Las Vegas, Nevada

Members in Attendance:

Sean Kivlehan, MD, FACEP; Andres M Patino, MD, FACEP; Anna Yaffee, MD, MPH; Mollie Pillman, MS, MBA, CAE; Aisha Terry, MD, MPH, FACEP; Alexandra Asrow, MD, FACEP; Ashley Pickering, MD, MPH; Rolando Valenzuela, MD, FACEP; Austin Lee, MD, MPH; Janae Fry, DO; Halley Alberts, MD; Lupe Coronel, MD; Jim Connolly, MD; Brandon Friedman, MD; Katie Wells, MD, MPH; Patryk Konieczka, MD, PhD; Davi Kaur; Steve Dunlop, MD, FACEP; Diana Cimpoesu, MD, Phd, FESEM; Elizabeth L DeVos, MD, FACEP; Gayle Galletta, MD, FACEP; Ariel Quesada, MD; Omar Abbas; Ahmed Malik, MD; Marco Antonio Heras Garate, MD; Sara Kalout; Fernanda Pacheco, MD; Will Davis, MD; Joshua Ledesma, MD; Evan Miller; Georgios Notas, MD, PhD; Peter Mabula, MD; Asad Mian, MD, PhD; Nehal Naik, MD; Anthony Rodigin, MD; Pascual Piñera Salmeron, MD, PhD; Pablo Aguilera, MD; Dimitrios Tsiftsis, MD; Shada Rouhani, MD; Michael Euwema, MD; Kyle Martin, MD; Dana Naamani, MD; Chinwe Ogedegbe, MD; Michael Zimmerman, MD; Lyolya Hovhannisyan, MD; Haywood Hall, MD; Elancheliyan Ambalavanar, MD; Alex Chiu, MD; Francisco Javier Pinto Espinosa, MD; Kamoga Dickson, MD; Gabriela Hernandez; Pablo Domínguez Aguilar, MD; and Yuri Campos Mendoza, MD.

Agenda:

Welcome and Introductions
Review of 2023-2024 Accomplishments
Council Report Update
Ambassador Program Update
Review of International Summit and Global Village
Section Awards
Gems LP
Education Committee Nominations
Communication Committee Nominations
ACEP25 International Summit
Looking Ahead – 2024-2025 Priorities

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 4:35pm PT. Approximately 55 individuals were in attendance and briefly went around to give introductions. Section leaders in attendance included:

- Ashley Pickering, Section Chair
- Rolando Valenzuela, Section Chair-Elect
- Janae Fry, ACEP24 Planning Chair
- Halley Alberts, GEMS-LP and Global Village Chair
- Lexie Asrow, Ambassador Program Chair
- Sean Kivlehan, Councilor

- Andrés Patiño, Alternate Councilor

Dr. Pickering welcomed everyone and went around the room for introductions.

Council Update – Sean Kivlehan

ACEP's Council is the decision-making body of ACEP, with representation from every state, every section and other key emergency medicine organizations. This group drives ACEP's policies and action which have implications in the US and abroad.

This year there were nearly 70 resolutions debated which covered a wide spectrum of issues related to emergency care. 15 of these were honorary/memorial or commendations. Other resolutions pertained to boarding, reproductive care, workplace violence, human trafficking, and other methods of impacting the quality of care.

The Cruise Ship Medicine Section, with the International Section's support, passed a resolution which now allows ACEP International members to formally serve as Section officers and as voting members on ACEP committees. This expanded the ability of international members to serve in leadership roles with the College. Both the Councilor and Alternate Councilor positions, along with ACEP Committee chairs, remain restricted to US members.

Ambassador Program Update

The Ambassador program has been working this year to fill out gaps in representation from countries around the world – both in the US ambassadors, in-country liaisons, and trainee representation. A mid-year virtual conference was held to highlight country updates and create time for discussion and connection, which we hope to continue in 2025. This has allowed for time spent together to be focused on more curated topics with time for discussion.

ACEP International Summit and Global Village

Yesterday, the section held its International Summit which had approximately 75 people in attendance (with around 100 registered). The breakout sessions were very well received, as well as the networking lunch which created time for connection and sharing of challenges and opportunities.

The global village has a full schedule this year of presenters and has about a dozen international societies participating with a table. Speakers rotate every 30 minutes.

Section Awards

The winners of the International Section's awards were recognized and presented with plaques.

- **Ambassador Leadership Award:** J. Austin Lee

- **Citizenship Award:** Andrés Patiño
- **Individual Achievement Award:** Thomas Fleischmann
- **Liaison Award:** Lupe Coronel & Peter Mabula
- **Trainee Award:** Brandon Friedman

GEMS-LP

GEMS-LP ended its year in May and spent the summer recruiting its new class, receiving a total of 60 applications (up from 34 the year before). Class size was decreased to 15 based on feedback from previous cohorts around difficulty scheduling larger groups and to ensure that the experience is positive and manageable. The program also had two new mentors this year. One of the biggest challenges is to find mentors who can assign and steward a global health project, so volunteers are always welcome. Please let Dr. Alberts know if you are interested in participating.

The first journal club is October 28th and is a great education and networking opportunity. The goal of the program is to get more medical students interested and involved in Global EM. They are looking for more individuals to serve on the GEMS-LP leadership team.

Section Election Results

The results of the section elections were announced:

- Incoming Chair: Sean Kivlehan
- Councillor: Andres Patino
- Alternate Councillor: J. Austin Lee

International Section committees are a great way to get involved and the section is moving to designating both a Chair and a Vice Chair (which progresses to chair) to help spread the load and ensure continuity. The section is very active and wants to be as productive and inclusive as possible. A call for volunteers was made for each committee.

Education Committee (webinars and educational content)

- Chair: Anna Yaffee
- Vice Chair: To be determined
- Members:
 - Andres Patino
 - Lupe Coronel
 - Iason Vovolis
 - Pramila Bhusal
 - Yasemin Al-Shanableh

Communication Committee

- Chair: Carol McCammon
- Vice Chair: To be determined
- Members:
 - Fernanda Pacheco
 - Additional members to be determined

Ambassador Program

- Chair: Lexie Asrow
- Vice Chair: To be determined
- Members:
 - Patrick Konieczka
 - Brandon Freeman
 - Dimitrios Tsiftsis
 - Diana Cimpoesu
 - Yasemin AL-Shanableh
 - Ross Tannebaum

Mid-Year Virtual Conference

- Chair:
- Vice Chair:
- Members:
 - Abdu Alsayed

ACEP25 International Summit

- Chair: Janae Fry
- Vice Chair: Mike Euwema
- Committee Members:
 - Sean Kivlehan
 - Lupe Coronel
 - Yasemin AL-Shanableh

ACEP25 Global Village

- Chair: Halley Alberts
- Vice Chair: George Notas (Greece)
- Committee Members:
 - Additional to be determined

GEMS-LP Leadership

- Brandon Freeman
- To be determined

Fundraising

- Alex?
- To be determined

Priorities for next year

Rolando Valenzuela opened discussion by encouraging better communication within the section, with other sections, and within regions/countries or even local institutions. Tackling this head on can help with better collaboration and open up new opportunities worldwide. He also discussed wanting to support non-European led research and mentorship opportunities, and prepare for meetings so that they can be as effective as possible. Members coming from other countries also have cited cost as a barrier.

There is also appetite to use the Ambassador Program to expand and catalog available observational rotations for medical students and residents both within and outside the US, and to curate lists of conferences and other opportunities. It was brought up that this might be a partnership opportunity with EMRA, possibly through their already existing Match site. Either way, programs may need to be vetted to see what types and the quality of opportunities provided. Noting who the faculty are is also very helpful, especially for continuity of maintaining those relationships.

The section discussed possibly holding a pre-conference workshop to help coordinate research opportunities and showcase projects underway or provide mentorship and collaboration.

Meeting times and international time zones were discussed, with the suggestion to stagger times to accommodate as many schedules as possible.

American doctors visiting the global village have been asking questions about how they can live and work abroad, particularly in Europe. A drop-in/zoom session could be planned to invite speakers who live in different areas and can speak to the opportunities and process. That question could also be added to the country reports or featured as part of the mid-year conference in panel format.

[Hippocratic Adventures](#) has a repository regarding how to get licensed in other countries worldwide.

Monthly or ongoing meetings could be organized that are open to all section members and can include a call to get more involved and draw people in at the end. Free discussion opportunities that are not recorded but can bring people together to workshop ideas would also be valuable. The section has created a WhatsApp group to stay in touch and discuss things year-round.

Dr. Valenzuela presented Dr. Pickering with an award in thanks for her excellent leadership of the section this year. Dr. Pickering expressed that the Summit was such a great experience with so many international attendees in Las Vegas and encouraged everyone to get involved throughout the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm PT.