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Forum

July/August 2022 Forum



AMPA

CCTMC Highlights

Many of us have recently returned from a very successful and enjoyable CCTMC 2022 along the (somewhat) warm Gulf Coast of Orange Beach, Alabama. Due to travel restrictions, this was the first big conference many had been able to attend since COVID hit, and it came at just the right time at the end of a long winter. For AMPA, this year's conference marked a switch by having both the **Medical Director Core Curriculum (Part III)** and the **Air Medical Physician Symposium (AMPS)** at this spring conference, which is a new change and marks AMPA's commitment to CCTMC and our partner organizations that host the conference.

On the Saturday before CCTMC officially started, Part III of the latest installment of the **Medical Director Core Curriculum** was offered. Attendees ranged from potential future medical directors to those who are well established in their careers and many in between. It was also a mixed group of in-person and virtual attendees on Zoom. While we had done both virtual and in-person sessions for Part I and Part II this year, CCTMC was the first time we had offered both options simultaneously. It did present some technical challenges, but as one might expect with a group such as ours, everyone was adaptable, and it all worked out.

The broad breadth of experience in the room also led to some robust discussion, especially during a new Q&A session in the curriculum. We added this into the mix to allow some organic discussion to take place on whatever hot topics that might be of concern, in the spirit of the discussion that has been fostered during the AMPS conference. For example, a very robust discussion about "What is the state of field activation of STE-MIs with your program?" This simple question resulted in a broad array of answers from those in attendance from all over the

country, with much of the discussion revolving around whether local interventional cardiologists will activate a cath lab and take a patient straight to the lab without seeing the EKG themselves and trusting the interpretation in the field. Other interesting discussions took place around the expected and observed wastage of blood products in HEMS programs, as well as thoughts on the recording of VL intubations and the general use of body cams that has been trialed among EMS and HEMS programs around the world.

The next day, we had the latest installment of the **Air Medical Physician Symposium**, capably and efficiently run by Dr. Doug Floccare from the Maryland State Police and Dr. Ben Lawner from the University of Maryland. As one might expect after the past 2 years, much of the discussion focused on lessons learned from the COVID pandemic, ranging from a talk on "Rescue Therapies for Severe/Refractory ARDS in COVID" by Dr. Steven Bott from the University of Utah to "Mechanical Circulatory Therapies in the Air Medical Environment" by Dr. Asa Margolis from Johns Hopkins University. Each session during the day involved several speakers giving presentations, followed by a panel Q&A where questions could be asked, which again made for a robust and interesting discussion for all involved.

One talk that was particularly relevant to our experience at my home institution was that by Dr. Kate Connelly, a resident physician at the University of Cincinnati (and the new physician in training representative on the AMPA Board), who appropriately spoke on "Resident Physician Involvement in Air Medical Transport." This generated quite a bit of discussion regarding the utility and mechanics of incorporating resident physicians into a HEMS program. It also mirrors an effort by our AMPA Flight Physician Committee to catalog those emergency medicine residency programs that offer a flight

experience and how it is structured. More to come on that later.

One unexpected but entirely deserving recognition that occurred during CCTMC this year was bestowing **Dr. Charles (Chuck) Sheppard** as the namesake of the Dr. Charles Sheppard Excellence in Education Award and Scholarship, which will award a deserving recipient who has excelled in educational endeavors with a scholarship to attend CCTMC. Dr. Sheppard is a 2006 recipient of the AMPA Medical Director of the Year award, a long-standing distinguished member of the AMPA board of directors, and medical director of the Mercy Life Line program in Missouri. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Sheppard for this well-deserved recognition of his years of service as an educator.

Finally, and at the other end of the career spectrum, was the opportunity to speak with medical students from the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine and their ACOEP (American College of Osteopathic Emergency Medicine) Student Chapter about a career in HEMS and as an air medical physician. It was a fun and invigorating experience for me and reminded me that, despite all that we've collectively gone through over the last few years, there is a reason we do what we do, and that there is a generation following in our footsteps that we need to nurture and train. If any other organizations or medical students need more information on what life in the world of HEMS is all about, please feel free to contact us through the info@ampa.org email address.

Ryan Wubben, President

ASTNA**Summer Updates**

Summer is in full swing, and I hope everyone is taking their time to relax while enjoying family and friends. The long-awaited Core was released this past spring

after a few delays, and we so appreciate those who were patiently waiting on it. While not all delays were controllable, some were because ASTNA wanted to make sure a quality product was released. I want to personally thank those who made the revised Core publication the amazing final piece it is—many hours of love and labor from our awesome volunteers went into it.

In addition to the Core being released, many other revisions and publications continue in the works or have just been completed. The TPATC revision has just been completed and our new course, Critical Care Advanced Transport Course (CCATC) and the Principles and Practices revision are in progress. We look forward to getting those finished products out to our membership.

Other things on the horizon are the ASTNA summer board meeting, in which we will complete our annual strategic planning in August. Make sure to contact your ASTNA board members if you want the board to discuss any specific new projects and initiatives. We are here for you, our members, and your needs!

This past spring saw the annual CCTMC Conference close out with the biggest attendance on record since its inception. This joint effort conference between the partner associations of AMPA, ASTNA, and ICAPP had great networking of all disciplines and incredible educational clinical offerings. We have already started to receive great clinical content for next year's conference in Denver and hope to see you all there.

This was also the inaugural year for the ASTNA's Fellowship recognition for those nurses in our industry that have given so much over their career. It was incredible to start this new chapter for ASTNA and honor those currently in transport nursing still giving to the industry, as well as those before us, as we recognized 4 honorary fellows and 3 posthumous recognitions in addition to the 7 fellows who were a part of the inaugural class. As fall comes around, we are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Elevate transport conference in Tampa. It is sure to have great clinical content and networking.

As we continue through these summer days, remember to be safe and vigilant. Enjoy the summer and take care of yourself so you can continue to take care of those you transport. Be kind and be well.

Kelley Holdren, President

ICAPP

Change & Shift

Previously I wrote of change. Recently, change came about for the IAFCCP. At CCTMC in Orange Beach, Alabama, we announced a name change from the International Association of Flight & Critical Care

Paramedics (IAFCCP) to the International College of Advanced Practice Paramedics (ICAPP). The change came about after years of discussion and the development of our strategic plan.

The paramedic profession continues to expand, with advanced certifications beyond the education introduced at the entry-level credentialing process. The knowledge to obtain these disciplines is often autonomous by the individual who has a desire to better their practice and benefit our citizens. Our name change better reflects those that make up our membership. Our members are diverse in their practice, the type of system in which they operate, and the country in which they live. An advanced practice paramedic has an education beyond the requirements of an entry-level paramedic and possesses or is in pursuit of advanced certification.

Aside from the name change and a few logistical components, the association will maintain its mission, vision, and values statements. We look forward to the future of advocacy, leadership, and education for all advanced practice paramedics.

As I write this, we are 3 weeks out of CCTMC. It was such a fantastic conference again this year. This year a mental health track was added. During the opening general session, I was fortunate to co-speak with Sharon Purdom of ASTNA. The title was "Trauma, Haunting, Healing;" the talk was about well-being, resiliency, and critical stress/PTSD. When the presentation was finished, the crowd stood. I was floored. I was exhausted. I was grateful. It was one of the themes Sharon conveyed and that audience gave me gratitude. I knew the transport industry was embracing the shift toward an attitude of taking care of one another. I appreciate this beyond words. So many people have talked about this, effected change in some of their programs, and stepped out to help others. With leadership from various programs across the country, to see this crowd support this effort speaks volumes. We are gaining ground, but we must do more to protect our staff, colleagues, and friends. It is the right thing to do.

Embrace the shift, be the change.

Change and shifts in life are around us every day. How you address them says something. It is visible to the people around you, and the decisions you make affect those around you, even when you think they do not.

Phil Ward, President

NEMSPA

Aviation Academics in High Schools

At the height of the aviation industry, it was considered luxurious to travel via the

skies to your destinations. Over the years a decline of qualified aviators has caused the need to fill many commercial airline pilot seats. With Vietnam veterans reaching retirement age and the advent of Next Generation aircraft tracking system, the demand for qualified aviators will be at its highest. This project will examine the effect of incorporating aviation academics into the curriculums of US high schools, including human aerospace scheduling constraints, environmental, political, social and technological factors, operating environment, and relevant human factors. The examination will include a statistical analysis of data gathered from selected Aviation Academies. The number of qualified aviators that these high school academies will produce will be evaluated in detail. The vocational education classes that most high schools currently have in their curriculum have provided well trained and motivated young people to strengthen certain industries, including architecture, health services, carpentry, and automotive services, to name just a few. The aviation industry can capitalize on a program such as this in order to maintain a constant flow of newly trained individuals interested in and knowledgeable of a variety of aviation careers.

Within the next few years, the number of commercial aircraft flying within US airspace at one time is projected to increase 5% per airport (FAA, 2014). The increase in traffic is a result of the increase in air travel demands. The need for qualified aviators will continue to be a necessity and result in the expansion of the commercial space industry. Many new companies have begun to take advantage of the defunding of the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA). This new industry will require highly trained and motivated pilots to fill these new job openings. This project will examine the effect of implementing aviation academics in high schools to produce the trained and qualified individuals to fill the aviation and aerospace industries. This concept has been implemented in a small number of private schools in our country. The successes and failures of these curricula may hold an idea of the possible effects this will have for the public school system and the aviation industry.

Denbigh High School's Aviation Academy is a special type of magnet school that uses the foundation of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) to encourage students to pursue a career in engineering, aviation, electronics, and technology with an emphasis on aerospace, piloting, and mechanics. The Aviation Academy in Newport News, Virginia, is an intricate part of the community located on the

campus. The Academy regularly provides students access to the air transport industry by way of tours. These tours have visited many commercial airlines, as well as NASA (Aviation Academy, 2015).

Students who possess the motivation and aptitude to graduate will be better prepared for a broad spectrum of opportunities. The skills learned while attending the Aviation academy will prepare graduates for the challenges of college and equip them with the necessary skills needed in the aviation

industry. “The problem-solving skills acquired and the work ethic developed place Aviation Academy graduates among the strongest achievers” (Aviation Academy, 2015).

For over 2 years a group of students from the Aviation Academy has been working on a project to build an RV-12 airplane. This project has successfully integrated the skills needed to operate in the aviation industry. These students at times work on their project for 6 to 8 hours. The group building the

RV-12 went through over 10,000 rivets within a year. They expect to complete the fuselage within the next few months, when they can then attach the completed wings and tail section.

In order for our community to continue to have skilled qualified and interested pilots to filled future helicopter air ambulance positions, we need to start education early.

John M. Alderete (Fez), President