

Council of EMS Fellowship Directors Created at Annual Meeting

by

David C. Cone, MD – Chair

Francis Mencl, MD – Vice Chair

Karl A. Sporer, MD – Vice Chair

On the day before the 2011 NAEMSP Annual Meeting, a group of about 35 EMS fellowship directors met to discuss the future of EMS fellowship programs. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) has begun work on program requirements, and in about two to three years, fellowship programs will be able to apply for ACGME accreditation. There is much work to do in the meantime, and toward the end of the meeting, NAEMSP president Dr. Ted Delbridge formally created the Council of EMS Fellowship Directors as an ad hoc committee of NAEMSP to bring this work. The Council has been tasked with a number of projects:

- a. Create an inventory of fellowship program resources that may allow for sharing of fellow training opportunities. For example, a program that does not have any tactical EMS or air medical opportunities for its fellows may find a program elsewhere in its state that does; that program may need some curriculum opportunity that it cannot provide, but the other program can.
- b. Create a CEMSFD page on the NAEMSP SharePoint system, primarily for storing documents such as current curricula submitted by existing EMS fellowship program, sample Program Information Form (PIF) pages submitted by programs as they prepare their applications, etc.
- c. Contact EMS fellowship directors who did not attend meeting, including those who are not NAEMSP members, to ensure the broadest representation in the group and ensure that all parties who may need the information being collected and generated by the group have access to it and have an opportunity to comment during the public comment period (see e. below). Any current fellowship director who was unable to attend the meeting should e-mail the chair at david.cone@yale.edu to be added to the Council roster and listserver. All Council members are also asked to reach out to other fellowship directors who may not be NAEMSP members, and encourage them to join NAEMSP and the Council.
- d. Discuss with the NAEMSP Program Committee and Education Committee possibilities for providing content at the NAEMSP meeting that will allow fellows to complete some of the training requirements that may be difficult for most programs to provide locally (such as cruise ship medicine).
- e. Immediately upon release of the draft ACGME program requirements for public comment (likely in the next few months), work to generate a “group response” of comments and questions. Note that the public comment period is only 45 days long, so we will need to work

quickly to provide meaningful input to ACGME as they finalize the requirements for EMS fellowship requirements. This is likely to be the most important activity for the Council in the immediate future. Each Council member should take this time to develop working relationships with the emergency medicine residency director and the Designated Institutional Official (DIO) at the member's institution, since notification of the opening of the public comment period will be made to these individuals, and their assistance will be invaluable as we each navigate the ACGME accreditation process for our respective fellowship programs. (Note that every fellowship will need to be associated with an ACGME-accredited residency program in emergency medicine, and programs that do not currently have such an association should begin working on forming such a relationship.)

The CEMSFG will meet by conference call quarterly, and in person at each annual meeting. The first conference call will be held in early March; scheduling information will be provided through the Council's listserver in late February.