

AAEMi: Introduction of the New India Chapter Division of AAEM

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Greetings from the new India Chapter Division of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEMi)! I am excited about our new home here at AAEM and hope to keep our membership informed on issues related to emergency medicine specialty development in India. To quote our bylaws, the

chapter “has been created and is organized for the purpose of promoting and protecting excellence and integrity in the practice and management of emergency medicine in all clinical and administrative settings within India.” I want to take this opportunity to introduce you to AAEMi and update you on some issues regarding EM development in India in 2019.

India has a fairly complicated system for overseeing post-graduate medical training. There are basically two bodies which oversee post-graduate training: The Medical Council of India (MCI) which oversees medical colleges and approves “MD” programs in medical specialties, and the National Board of Examinations (NBE) which oversees training programs at private institutions and approves Diplomate of National Board (DNB) programs in medical specialties. The MCI recognized emergency medicine as a specialty in 2009, and the NBE approved DNB emergency medicine in 2013. Mission Accomplished! Right?! Well, not exactly. Recognition of the specialty did not lead to the widespread growth of training programs like many hoped and predicted. The development of the specialty of emergency medicine has been slow and even controversial. Currently, there are around 200 graduates of MD and DNB emergency medicine programs annually, which is not nearly enough to support the country’s emergency medicine needs. The article “The Making of a New Medical Specialty: A Policy Analysis of the Development of Emergency Medicine in India” outlines many of the complex reasons why specialty growth has been slow and erratic. If you’re interested in this topic, I strongly suggest you have a look at this and 2 other articles published in 2018 by the same author, Veena Sriram, on the topic.^{1,2,3} Ms. Sriram was our guest at our annual meeting in March and helped the group to understand the complexities and challenges facing specialty development.

Today, there is clearly still a need to support quality emergency medicine training and specialty growth in India. The specialty is in its infancy in India, and health policy decisions made in the very near future can have a tremendous impact on how the specialty will develop. AAEMi remains dedicated to supporting policy decisions that will encourage quality emergency medicine training program expansion and ultimately increase access to emergency care throughout India. If you share this vision, I encourage you to renew your membership or join AAEMi, and encourage a friend or colleague to join as well. Membership is very affordable, and membership in AAEM is not required. More information on joining the section can be found at: <https://www.aaem.org/aaemi>. We will continue to work with our partners in the Society for Emergency Medicine India (SEMI) and advocate for quality emergency medicine training throughout the country, whether they come from the MCI, DNB, or other pathways.

If you have any thoughts on how the new AAEMi can be an advocate for emergency medicine in India, please feel free to reach out and make your voice heard. I want this organization to represent you, our members, as best as possible, and the only way to do that is to hear from you.

Finally, our friends in India are sponsoring the Asian Congress for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) 2019 in New Delhi, India from November 10-14. More information can be found at <http://www.acem2019delhi.com/>. Many AAEMi members will be participating, and it would be a great way to get more involved in emergency medicine in southeast Asia. ●

References:

1. Sriram V, Hyder AA, Bennett S. The making of a new medical specialty: a policy analysis of the development of emergency medicine in India. *Int J Health Policy Manag.* 2018; 7(11): 993-1006.
2. Sriram V et al. Socialization, legitimation, and the transfer of biomedical knowledge to low- and middle-income countries: analyzing the case of emergency medicine in India. *International Journal for Equity in Health* 2018 17:142.
3. Sriram V, Baru R, Bennett S. Regulating recognition and training for new medical specialties in India: the care of emergency medicine. *Health Policy and Planning.* 2018; 33: 840-852.

NEW AAEM Member Benefit:

AAEM Member Networking Facebook Group

- Internally network with fellow AAEM Members
- Share ideas or concerns that connect back to AAEM’s Mission
- Patient access to care, board certification, physician wellness and work environment, fair and equitable practice environments, medical education/residency programs, CME, supporting international EM

This is a closed Facebook Group, which only AAEM members can access. Please join and share the AAEM Member Networking Facebook Group with other colleagues!

