

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS
Social Emergency Medicine Section
Operational Guidelines

Approved February 2018 by the ACEP Board of Directors; Revised January 2019 and approved by the ACEP Board of Directors

The **Social Emergency Medicine Section (SEMS)** is chartered by the Board of Directors (“the Board”) of the American College of Emergency Physicians (College) to provide a forum in which members of the College with special interests in **social emergency medicine** can develop a knowledge base, share information, receive and give counsel, and serve as a resource to others interested in this area of emergency medicine.

Because sections are considered a subcategory of College membership, sections will not have separate bylaws or formal incorporation documents, and their existence and operations shall be subject to the terms and conditions stated in the Policy on Sections of Membership, as adopted and/or amended by the Board.

These operational guidelines have been drawn up to facilitate operation of the section. They shall conform to the Bylaws of the College, and the activities of the section to the decisions of the Board. Projects in the areas of education, internal governance, legislation, or public relations shall be undertaken only with the advice and consent of the Board. The activities of the section shall be intimately coordinated with those of the College.

1 Name

The name of this section shall be the Social Emergency Medicine Section.

2 Purpose

The ACEP Social Emergency Medicine Section is a forum for discussion, education, and advocacy to improve the delivery of emergency care to vulnerable populations and support population health by taking into consideration patients’ social context and social determinants of health in the delivery of emergency care.

Social Emergency Medicine (SEM) works to incorporate social determinants of health and the social context of patient lives into patient care in the ED. This approach to Emergency Medicine leads to a focus on improving care for marginalized and vulnerable populations using the ED. SEM not only considers the social determinants underlying health and illness, but also aims to develop systematic interventions, measure their effects, collaborate with others, and advocate for national, state and local policies that will improve the health of our patients.

3 Objectives

In addition to the general objectives of the College as set forth in the Bylaws, the objectives of this section shall be:

3.1 To promote the development of the specialty of emergency medicine across the world and:

3.1.1 Promote the incorporation of patients’ social context into routine emergency care.

3.1.2 Translate research into best practices for addressing social determinants of health

- at the bedside.
- 3.1.3 Disseminate emergency department (ED) interventions that improve population health through community emergency medicine, with a focus on EDs in underserved areas.
 - 3.1.4 Propose, evaluate, and critique policies that affect the social determinants of health of our communities, especially as they pertain to marginalized and vulnerable populations.
- 3.2 To promote collegiality and cooperation and serve as a central organizing point for emergency providers interested in the interplay of the emergency care system and social forces affecting both patients and communities.
 - 3.3 To provide an opportunity for physicians interested in social emergency medicine to meet, interact, and network.
 - 3.4 To develop and present educational programs on the many facets of social emergency medicine.
 - 3.5 To prepare and distribute an interesting, educational, and informative newsletter for members of the section.
 - 3.6 To serve as a resource to the College president, Board of Directors, College committees, and ACEP members on issues relating to social emergency medicine.
 - 3.7 To coordinate activities with other organizations involved in social emergency medicine at the invitation of the President and/or Board of Directors.
 - 3.8 To advance and publicize legislative issues related to social emergency medicine.
 - 3.9 To provide a pathway for professional leadership development within the organization.

4 Membership

- 4.1 The membership of the Social Emergency Medicine Section shall consist of ACEP members who are interested in intersection of the emergency department, patients, and the social determinants of health, who are interested in contributing toward the objectives of the section, and who fulfill membership requirements as defined in the ACEP Bylaws. Section members may vote on section matters and be officers of the section.

5 Nominating Committee

- 5.1 The makeup of the Nominating Committee will be determined by the section leadership. See Section 9.1, Standing and Special Committees.

6 Section Executive Committee

- 6.1 The governing body of the section shall be composed of not less than four officers of the section. Positions on the SEM Section Executive Committee (EC) include a chair, chair-elect, immediate past chair, secretary/treasurer, newsletter editor/webmaster, Councillor, alternate Councillor, Resident representative, and Medical Student representative. Chairs of subcommittees will also have representation on the Executive Committee.

- 6.2 Nominees for officers shall be members of the section presented by the section's Nominating Committee to the section membership through its newsletter or through the section e-list at least 30 days prior to the section's annual meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the College's annual *Scientific Assembly*. If elections are held during the annual meeting, nominations from the floor will also be accepted at the time of the section annual meeting. If elections are held via e-mail or U.S. mail, write-in candidates will be accepted.
- 6.3 The election cycle of the section's officers will be every two years, and will coincide with the dates of the *Scientific Assembly*.
- 6.4 Unless otherwise scheduled via e-mail or U.S. mail ballot, the election of officers shall be by a majority vote of the Section members present and voting at the annual meeting. The election of officers shall be by a majority vote of the section members present and voting at the annual meeting. The section will elect a chair-elect, secretary/treasurer, councillor, alternate councillor, and newsletter editor/webmaster. The resident and medical student representatives will be nominated by the Emergency Medicine Resident's Association (EMRA). If the current chair-elect cannot serve as chair, the section will also elect a chair.

7 Officers

1. The officers of the section shall be at a minimum the chair, the chair-elect, the immediate past-chair, secretary/treasurer, councillor, alternate councillor, newsletter editor/webmaster, and resident representative, and student representative. The officers shall be members of the section and serve for a term of two years. Following the chair's term of two years, there will be an additional two-year term designated as immediate past-chair. Officers may not serve more than two consecutive terms. For all positions other than the resident and medical student representative, candidates must have completed residency at the time of nomination.

7.1 Duties of the chair of the section:

- 7.1.1 May be appointed by the College president to serve as a voting member of a related College committee if one exists.
- 7.1.2 May attend ACEP Board of Directors meetings at his/her own expense.
- 7.1.3 From time-to-time, section leaders may be asked by the President to attend the Board meetings of other entities. In this case, their expenses will be paid by the College.
- 7.1.4 Shall keep the Board of Directors and executive director informed of section activities via copies of correspondence, agenda, minutes of meetings, etc.
- 7.1.5 Shall submit an annual report to the College president and executive director, which consists of a list of achievements and activities of the past year and goals and objectives for the coming year.
- 7.1.6 Shall submit to the Board of Directors an informational summary of all section

plans, goals, objectives, budgets, and meetings.

- 7.1.7 Shall preside at the annual meeting of the section and at any other meetings of the section. If absent, the chair-elect will assume the functions of the chair.
 - 7.1.8 Shall appoint chairperson and members to any standing and special committees of the section to carry out section activities.
 - 7.1.9 Shall have the privilege of recommending to the President the appointment of section members to committees of the College or section members representing the interests of the College with external organizations.
 - 7.1.10 Shall be an ex officio member of all standing and special committees of the section.
 - 7.1.11 Shall review all Section Grant proposals developed by their section members. Those developed section grant proposals that are determined to be appropriate for submission are then signed and submitted to the appropriate committee or task force assigned to manage the Section Grant Program.
 - 7.1.12 For any position that remains unfilled after the election, the new chair of the section can appoint a section member to the office.
- 7.2 Duties of the chair-elect:
- 7.2.1 Shall serve as an officer of the section.
 - 7.2.2 Shall assist the chair in section duties as designated by the chair.
 - 7.2.3 Shall serve as chair in the absence, resignation, or death of the chair.
- 7.3 Duties of the immediate past-chair:
- 7.3.1 Shall serve as an officer of the section.
 - 7.3.2 Shall serve as chair of the Section Nominating Committee.
 - 7.3.3 Shall assist the chair in their duties for the section as designated by the chair.
- 7.4 Duties of the secretary/treasurer:
- 7.4.1 Shall take the minutes of the annual meeting of the section and submit to the appropriate section communication vehicle.
 - 7.4.2 Shall provide the Board of Directors the names of the elected section officers.
 - 7.4.3 Shall assist the section chair in the preparation of an annual meeting and the chair of other committees of the section, as requested.

- 7.4.4 Shall distribute to the membership via the section newsletter or other communications vehicle.
 - 7.4.4.1 The minutes of the annual meeting of the section.
 - 7.4.4.2 Such information as shall from time to time be of interest to members of the section.
- 7.4.5 Shall notify members regarding their appointment to any committees of the section and shall send copies of such notification to the executive director of the College.
- 7.4.6 Shall give due notice of all meetings of the section and the Section Executive Committee to the membership of the section and the Board of Directors of the College.
- 7.4.7 Shall maintain the Section budget, at times when the Section is in possession of and/or acting as a fiduciary for project funds.
- 7.4.8 Shall carry out such other duties as are assigned by the chair of the section and the Board of Directors of the College.

7.5 Duties of Other Identified Officers

- 7.5.1 Resident and Medical student representatives will be appointed by the EMRA SEM committee. Each term will be one year. The term will be September-September. The resident and medical student positions will not be elected by the general membership.
- 7.5.3 Newsletter Editor/webmaster shall serve as editor of the section newsletter and webmaster.
- 7.5.4 Sub-Committee Chairs. Chairs of section sub-committees shall serve as a liaison between sub-committee and the EC. They are responsible for organizing and meeting objectives undertaken by the sub-committee, provide updates about sub-committee work to chair and EC, and assist the chair with fulfilling goals and initiatives of section. Sub-committee chairs are appointed by the Chair and serve two year terms.

8 Councillor

- 8.1 The section shall elect a councillor and an alternate councillor(s) to represent the section to the Council of the College (Council). Term of office is two years, with the alternate councillor(s) becoming the councillor at the end of his/her two-year term. If he/she cannot serve as councillor, the section shall elect a member to fill both positions and resume normal progression from alternate councillor(s) to councillor.
- 8.2 Duties of the councillor and alternate councillor(s):
 - 8.2.1 Shall represent the section at the Council meeting.

- 8.2.2 Shall have duties, obligations, and privileges as designated by the Bylaws and procedures adopted by the Council.
- 8.2.3 Shall keep the section informed of all Council activities before, during, and between sessions and report to the section, in its newsletter and/or other communication vehicles, all important matters considered.
- 8.2.4 Shall bring any resolutions that are developed to the Council from the section.

9 Standing and Special Committees

- 9.1 The chair shall appoint a Nominating Committee as a standing committee and designate the immediate past-chair to serve as chair. In addition to the immediate past-chair, the Nominating Committee shall consist of at least three members.
- 9.2 The section chair shall appoint special committees when indicated.

10 Meetings

The annual meeting of the section will be held during the annual *Scientific Assembly* of the College and may consist of two portions:

- 10.1 A professional program open to all members of the College, professionals, paraprofessionals, and guests invited by the section.
- 10.2 A business meeting open to all members of the College with voting limited to section members.
- 10.3 At their own expense, sections may hold special meetings at other ACEP functions.
- 10.4 Sections may seek outside funding support for their meeting as long as it is not in conflict with the College's fund raising activities associated with Scientific Assembly.

11 Dues

The dues for the Section are established by the Board of Directors of the College.

12 Additional Funding for Activities

- 12.1 To increase its funds, the Section may apply for: 1) An allocation of 15% of its total dues collected during the previous year; or 2) A one-time per project voluntary special assessment.
- 12.2 The Section may raise funds from outside entities. All such fundraising must be approved in advance by the College and meet the criteria established by the College.
- 12.3 The Section may apply for a Section Grant. Projects can be funded which benefit individual sections as well as advance emergency medicine and educate the public.

13 Parliamentary Authority

The parliamentary authority for all proceedings of the section shall be the parliamentary authority approved for use for proceedings of the College. However, should conflicts or inconsistencies arise between the parliamentary authority and this instrument, this instrument shall govern.

14 Voting

14.1 Voting on any issue, except amendments to these Operational Guidelines, the rules for which are set forth in Section 15.2, may be accomplished either during the annual meeting, or via a mail ballot. Mail ballots can be electronic and/or U. S. mail. The Chair shall determine which method is appropriate for each item coming before the Section.

14.2 For e-mail and U.S. mail ballots, the voting membership will be defined as the section membership on the date the ballot is sent. Through discussion, we will strive for group consensus to make section decisions, but final decisions will be made by majority vote. The majority of dues paying section members (based on the number of dues paying members on the day the ballot is sent) must approve any item in order for the item to be approved.

For e-mail and U.S. mail ballots, write-in candidates will be accepted.

14.2.1 Voting by E-mail

Survey software selected by ACEP will be used to e-mail the ballots and to tally the results.

Two e-mail notices will be sent, seven days apart, to all section members regarding the upcoming ballot.

Seven days after the second notification email, the ballot will be e-mailed once to all section members with a due date for return by e-mail in 10 days.

14.2.2 Voting by U.S. Mail

Mail ballots shall be distributed to members through the section newsletter or the section e-list a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the voting deadline. The ballot will also be sent once via U.S. mail to all section members with a due date for return in 10 days. Executed mail ballots will be forwarded to by e-mail or U.S. mail to the section staff liaison.

15 Amendments

Any member of the section membership may originate a proposed change in these section operational guidelines. Proposed amendments to the operational guidelines must be submitted in writing [by the approved communication vehicle] to the chair in care of the section's staff liaison at the College at least ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled annual meeting.

Proposed amendments will be published in the section newsletter or e-mailed via the section e-list immediately preceding the annual meeting of the section, and will be placed on the agenda of the section annual meeting. Any proposed amendment must be approved by two-thirds of the members present and voting during the annual meeting.

The Section Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the College will review adopted amendments. Amendments approved by the Board of Directors of the College will be published in the section newsletter preceding the next annual meeting of the section.

