New Member Spotlight: Southwestern Michigan Emergency Services, PC

Southwestern Michigan Emergency Services, PC (SWMES, PC) is the oldest emergency medicine group in the state of Michigan. Over the past 50 years, SWMES has grown to include over 40 Board-certified emergency medicine physicians and over 20 Advanced Practice Providers. SWMES provides emergency services to four hospitals in the southwestern part of Michigan, including one hospital providing Trauma Level 1 services. For more information on Southwestern Michigan Emergency Services, PC please click here.

Excerpts from a conversation with James S. De Moss, D.O., President

Dr. James De Moss is a Board-certified emergency medicine practicing physician. He has been President and CEO of SWMES for 12 years. SWMES places the highest priority on serving the community with the highest-quality patient care, staying up-to-date on emergency medicine practices, and maintaining a superior working environment. All of the board-certified physicians are part of the clinical teaching staff at Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (WMed). Since the mid-1970's, SWMES, through the Bronson Trauma and Emergency Center, has helped develop and support the Kalamazoo County EMS System, culminating in the development of the Kalamazoo County Advanced Life Support Corporation, which is responsible for overseeing the ALS system for Kalamazoo County.

Dr. De Moss heard about EDPMA through a member in the Michigan emergency medicine community. He was intrigued and did some of his own investigation. Jim quickly saw the value in joining EDPMA and in attending the 2019 Solutions Summit. Dr. De Moss brought three SWMES, PC colleagues, Recruiter, Alison S. Smith, Clinical Operations Coordinator, Kaitlin Craven and Systems ED Medical Director, Scott C. Gibson, MD to the Summit and commented that the conference "was very worthwhile, good connections, great networking and the topics were spot on." Dr. De Moss and his team particularly focused on the reimbursement and APM tracks.

Dr. De Moss said he sees many of the challenges and opportunities confronting emergency medicine with private payers changing the rules that have been understood previously and changes in fee for service vs. fee for value. Dr. De Moss is pleased that EDPMA included the alternate payment models (APM) as part of the Summit's agenda. In particular, Jim mentioned that the hospitals his teams serve have a large Medicaid population. And, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was a positive force for their group. Before the ACA, the self-pay population was 18%-20% of their patients, now it has dropped to about 5%. Dr. De Moss also sees surprise billing as a key issue for emergency medicine. In general, Dr. De Moss is seeing the narrowing
of networks by insurers and increases in self pay and higher deductibles. All of this is contributing to the current state of emergency medicine today.

Dr. De Moss is pleased to be a part of EDPMA, as it focuses on many of the issues that concern SWMES, PC at the both the state and Federal levels. Jim expects some members of his team will join one or two committees later this year. He knows that joining EDPMA Committees is a great way to get to know many of the experts in emergency medicine and to contribute to the discussion and planning.