

**NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE NEWSLETTER  
(NECOEM REPORTER)**

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE EDITOR, 2008

Editor: Craig W. Curtis, MD

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The New England College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine Reporter Newsletter has again seen an annual cycle, with issues in the summer and spring of 2008, and the fall issue to be published. As Editor, I have found it both rewarding and challenging in producing this informative communication.

As previously, wonderful support has been offered by the NECOEM membership, the Board, and our Executive Director, Dianne Plantamura.

The Spring 2008 issue was distributed with interesting articles and perspectives on the NECOEM/MaAOHN 2007 Conference. Dr Philip O'Donnell wrote an insightful piece in the spring issue explaining his experience and describing the value of this conference. Accompanying his article was another perspective from a Physician Assistant, Robert Nadratowski, PA-C.

The value of this conference to varying providers of Occupational Medical care is obvious from these two articles.

In addition to those articles, I submitted an article introducing some very basic tenets on Dive Medicine and inviting all who have an interest to embark on both diving as a recreational sport and also Dive Medicine as a part of their medical practice.

Finally, the Spring Issue concluded with a summary from our various chapters, including the Massachusetts contingent, a Vermont summary, as well as a Rhode Island treatise for all to review and update themselves on local happenings.

The Summer 2008 issue introduced the first Occupational and Environmental Medicine podcast, with significant energy, work and effort by Dr Scott Mirani. The podcast is certainly a leading edge technology, and with Scott's commitment to its institution and ongoing maintenance, it will certainly be a tool that is recognized throughout New England, and most likely internationally as well. Scott relates in his article the significant interest the podcast had already attracted in its infancy, and we are certain to see that continue.

In addition to Dr Mirani's unique and interesting introduction of our podcast service, Dr Neil Haas presented an overview of the Spring 2008 House of Delegates Proceedings and Resolutions. A summary article written by Dr Ron Blum reviewed medical causation in litigation settings, which was the main topic of a very animated NECOEM Maine dinner meeting in May of 2008. The dinner was well attended, and the attorneys David Leen and Michael Friedman gave a very interesting perspective to medical causation, particularly in the setting of clinicians who make causation decisions on a daily basis.

Finally, the Summer Issue also introduced the William Bradford Patterson Memorial Lecture topic, Excellence in Occupational and Environmental Medicine, with a page dedicated to his leadership and an explanation of the dedication of the annual conference this year in December.

Our Fall Issue will feature several articles and is currently in press. We will likely review the Old Sturbridge Village Fall Meeting on September 27 on "How to Decrease Cardiovascular Mortality in Your Fire Department." Other columns will also be updated regionally.

As our membership continues to flourish, and our organization continues to grow and be impactful in the New England area, I am sure our readership will expand, our podcasts will become more popular, and we will continue to serve the needs of our respective customers.

Thank you for an excellent year in 2008.

Craig W. Curtis, MD  
NECOEM Newsletter Editor