

My name is Gregory Raines. I currently serve as a director at large on the board of SEMPA. With my term concluding this March, I hope to continue serving on the board as President-Elect. If elected, this would be my first time in this position.

I am a graduate of the Yale Physician Associate program, class of 2008, and hold two Masters degrees in the basic and medical sciences. I currently work in central Massachusetts at UMASS-Memorial Healthcare, a large urban, academic medical center that is also the level one trauma center for central New England. I also continue to work in rural Vermont in a PA-only staffed critical access ER. Prior to becoming a PA, I worked as a paramedic for 15 years in the greater Boston area. Additionally, I currently serve as a visiting lecturer for the Franklin Pierce PA program and teach the microbiology and pharmacology components of the didactic curriculum.

I have extensive experience managing large organizations as I served as the Operations Manager and Chief Operations Officer for a multi-million dollar, 150-employee ambulance service. I focused on systems management and improvement of customer relations with area businesses, multiple municipalities and area hospitals. During my tenure, the company increased revenues by 50%, expanded its municipal EMS service footprint, and acquired multiple hospital transport contracts.

As the reality of the healthcare changes continue to evolve, economic necessity will dictate that utilization of non-physician provider(s) increase so as to provide a cost savings measure to the healthcare system. However, the other reality that is shaping our field is the growing influx of younger, less-experienced PAs seeking careers as emergency medicine providers. SEMPA is positioned to address this evolution and has already started to do so by co-sponsoring the CRASH course with AAPA and ACEP. But I believe this is only the beginning of what will be the long-term evolution of our field. EM residencies and standardization of post-graduate education will evolve over time and if implemented properly, will help cement us as the only acceptable non-physician provider in the emergency medicine setting. Now is the time to lay the groundwork for this evolution that is undoubtedly coming.

Additionally, I believe there is a much larger role for us to play as emergency medicine providers in the world of pre-hospital medicine. Whether it is as a field provider or in a supervisory/medical control capacity, PAs are a unique solution to the burgeoning problem of ER misuse for the provision of primary care services in the urgent care setting. We need to explore what roles we should play in these settings and whether or not it is feasible to even consider doing so. If it is, we as an organization should champion our use in the pre-hospital arena and help to create opportunities at a national level to effect some of these changes.

Finally, It is imperative for SEMPA to continue and further develop its outstanding relationship with ACEP, establish and develop a strong relationship with the Emergency Medicine Residents Association (EMRA), and consider establishing liaison relations with the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA). As we continue to evolve, it is in our own best interest to have these other groups “at the table” helping us shape our future so as to

help alleviate any animus while giving us guidance so as to not “reinvent the wheel.” We all are part of the same team yet they have all been down many of these roads before... we can learn from it while building these very important relationships.

These three aspects of our future are what I will seek to address if elected to the presidency of SEMPA. As an agenda it is ambitious but the one thing I have learned working with the board for the last two years is this: this is a highly dedicated group of individuals committed to seeing SEMPA succeed. With the boards help, input and help from the membership, and guidance by our advisory board, I believe we can achieve these goals. As we move towards these goals, PAs will continue to evolve and be uniquely qualified to fill the gap as emergency medicine providers as the shortage of Emergency Medicine Physicians continues to grow. We must position ourselves accordingly while working with our other constituent organizations to further advance our cause: to provide the best care possible to our patients.

If you have any questions about my candidacy, please feel free to contact me at: gpraines@gmail.com