

To the Editor:

On behalf of the leadership of the National Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians (NAEMSP), we deeply appreciate the sentiment and passion reflected in Mr. Schmid's Letter to the Editor, which appeared in the July-September 1993 (Vol. 8, No. 3) issue of *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*. After appropriate reflection, we eagerly respond.

Clearly, the entire house of EMS must accept the challenges facing out-of-hospital health care in the 1990s by integrating its efforts and consolidating its focus. Clearly, key constituents in this work must be the equipment manufacturers. We were honestly dismayed to learn from Mr. Schmid's letter that our past energies to meet the interests of manufacturers were not successful. We readily accept the fact that our efforts fell short, and we pledge to intensify our efforts to strengthen this link. We are especially disappointed to learn that one, or more than one, of the lecturers at one of our conferences would discount and dismiss the contributions of a conference registrant simply because of who the person was perceived to be aligned with.

We agree with you wholeheartedly that the many EMS organizations must strive for closer collaboration. When all is said and done, we all have the same goal in mind: providing the best possible patient care. Any links in the chain of out-of-hospital care that do not dedicate their work to that end eventually will weaken and separate from the rest of the chain, as the other links generate resources to replace them.

We plan two specific new approaches to incorporate the wisdom and experience of knowledgeable equipment-manufacturer representatives into the administrative processes of the Association: We will be initiating a panel of exhibitors from our conferences to give advice at regular intervals about the exhibits and other activities at our semi-annual conferences, and we will develop an advisory group of corporate sponsors that will meet

regularly with the Association leadership to discuss global and specific issues relating to national EMS. We hope these two approaches will bring the voices of the corporate component of out-of-hospital care into our deliberative processes.

Additionally, we plan a special educational offering from representatives of our corporate sponsors during our 10th Annual Meeting in Portland, Ore., in August 1994. This will be in the form of a track titled "Research and Industry in EMS," which will include the following topics: How a product reaches the marketplace; product evolution, from initial ideas to final refinement; how consumers can best impact product evolution; the steps involved in product testing; and the real story behind the Food and Drug Administration's evaluation process. The topics will be presented by physicians, researchers and manufacturers' representatives.

Mr. Schmid's letter is an important reminder to all of us that patient care requires a wide spectrum of energies and initiatives from all the health care professions. It is vital that *all* elements involved in this effort, from the manufacturers to the providers to the consumers, be allowed to participate actively and be encouraged to offer their valuable perspectives.

The challenges facing EMS for the remainder of this decade and on into the next century, require close collaboration by all involved constituencies. NAEMSP is sincerely eager to work with the manufacturing arm of EMS. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any further assistance or answer any questions.

Sincerely,

<i>Raymond Fowler, MD</i>	<i>Nicholas Benson, MD</i>	<i>Kathleen Stage-Kern</i>
<i>President</i>	<i>President-Elect</i>	<i>Executive Director</i>
<i>NAEMSP</i>	<i>NAEMSP</i>	<i>NAEMSP</i>

AWARD OF THE G. WHITAKER INTERNATIONAL BURNS PRIZE

PALERMO, ITALY FOR 1994

In the course of a meeting held 19 March 1994, at the seat of the G. Whitaker Foundation, Palermo, after examining the scientific activity in the field of research, teaching, clinical organization, prevention, and cooperation among the nations, presented by various candidates, in the light of the consideration guiding the analysis of the high level of the candidates, the Adjudicating Committee unanimously decided to award the prize for 1994 to: Prof. Rudy Hermans, former director of Burn Center of Amsterdam (Nederland). The prize is awarded for this motivation:

"For his notable commitment to the development of burns treatment, having organized the first Burns Center in his country and raised the level of burns therapy in Europe. He promoted and encouraged the European Burns Association, and was a pioneer in the use of skin micrografts in extensive burns as long ago as 1964. He has concentrated his surgical activity on the early excision of deep burns, using for coverage an association of grafts of expanded autologous skin and cadaver skin. He promoted the creation of the Euroskin Bank (European Skin Bank), of which he is still today the Chief."

The official prize-giving of the prestigious award will be held in September 1994 in Palermo at the Seat of the G. Whitaker Foundation in the presence of the Authorities and Representatives of the Academic, Scientific and Cultural world.

G. WHITAKER INTERNATIONAL BURNS PRIZE PALERMO (ITALY) under the patronage of the Authorities of the Sicilian Region for 1995

By law n°57 of 14 June 1983, the Sicilian Regional Assembly authorized the President of the Region to grant the "Giuseppe Whitaker Foundation," a nonprofit-making organization under the patronage of the *Accademia dei Lincei* with seat in Palermo, an annual contribution for the establishment of a "G. Whitaker International Burns Prize" aimed at recognizing the activity of the most qualified experts from all countries in the field of burns pathology and treatment. The amount of prize is fixed at twenty million Italian *lire*. The prize will be awarded every year by the month of June in Palermo at the seat of the G. Whitaker Foundation.

The Adjudicating Committee is composed of the President of the Foundation, the President of the Sicilian Region, the Representative of the *Accademia dei Lincei* within the G. Whitaker Foundation, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery of Palermo University, the President of the Italian Society of Plastic Surgery and three experts in the field of prevention, pathology, therapy and functional recovery of burns, and a legal expert nominated in agreement with the president of Region as a guarantee of the respect for the scientific purpose which the legislators intended to achieve when establishing the prize.

Anyone who considers him or herself to be qualified to compete for the award may send by 31 January 1995 his/her detailed curriculum vitae to: Michele Masellis, MD, Secretary-Member of the Scientific Committee G. Whitaker Foundation, Via Dante 167-90141 Palermo, Italy.