



- EMS is Our Specialty:  
How We Got  
Recognized in the  
House of Medicine
- Debra Perina, MD, FACEP,  
FAEMS

# How it all began

- 1984 - Group of dedicated EMS physicians met in Hilton Head, SC creating NAEMSP to serve as resource and advocate for EMS physicians and professionals
- Original charter - seek recognition of unique physician practice and Board certification
  - 1986      Ron D. Stewart
  - 1987, 1988, 1989      Paul Pepe

# Where have we come from?

- Physicians in EMS practice had no formal training and acquired expertise with direct field experience
- Built specialty underpinnings through professional association, research, and care standards development
- 1990- First unaccredited fellowship programs

# First EMS Task Force

## September 1992- ABEM Exploration

- Harvey Meslin- ABEM
- John Krohmer-  
NAEMSP
- John C. Johnson-  
ACEP
- Peter Pons- ACEP
- Debra Perina- CORD
- Max Koeningsberg-  
SAEM
- Robert Swor- SAEM
- Paula Willoughby-  
EMRA
- Louis Ling RRC-EM (Ex-  
Officio)

# Subspecialty Criteria

- Primary clinical specialty
- Unique body of knowledge
- Scientific body of literature as underpinning of subspecialty (dedicated journals, textbooks)
- Presence of a significant number of physicians practicing in the specialty
- Presence of a sufficient number of training programs to ensure training of subspecialists
- Evidence of benefits to patients and society

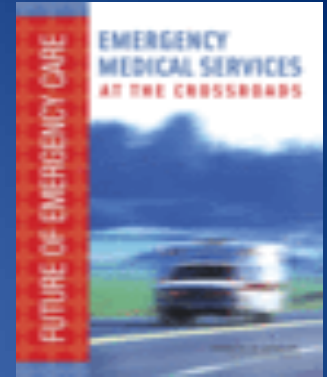
- First EMS core content created in 1994
- Task force continued to meet through 1994
  - Attempts at question writing
  - ABEM makes decision not to go forward with application
- 1995- NAEMSP, together with ACEP EMS committee, work towards completion of application



# The Road Ahead



# IOM EMS Report Emergency Medical Services at the Crossroads



- The committee believes physicians who provide medical direction for EMS systems should meet standardized minimum requirements for training and certification that are reflective of their responsibilities...”
- “... The specialty of emergency medicine currently offers 1- and 2-year fellowships in EMS to residency-trained emergency physicians, but there is no recognized subspecialty of EMS. Therefore, the committee recommends that **the American Board of Emergency Medicine create a subspecialty certification in EMS.**”



# Think Outside the Box



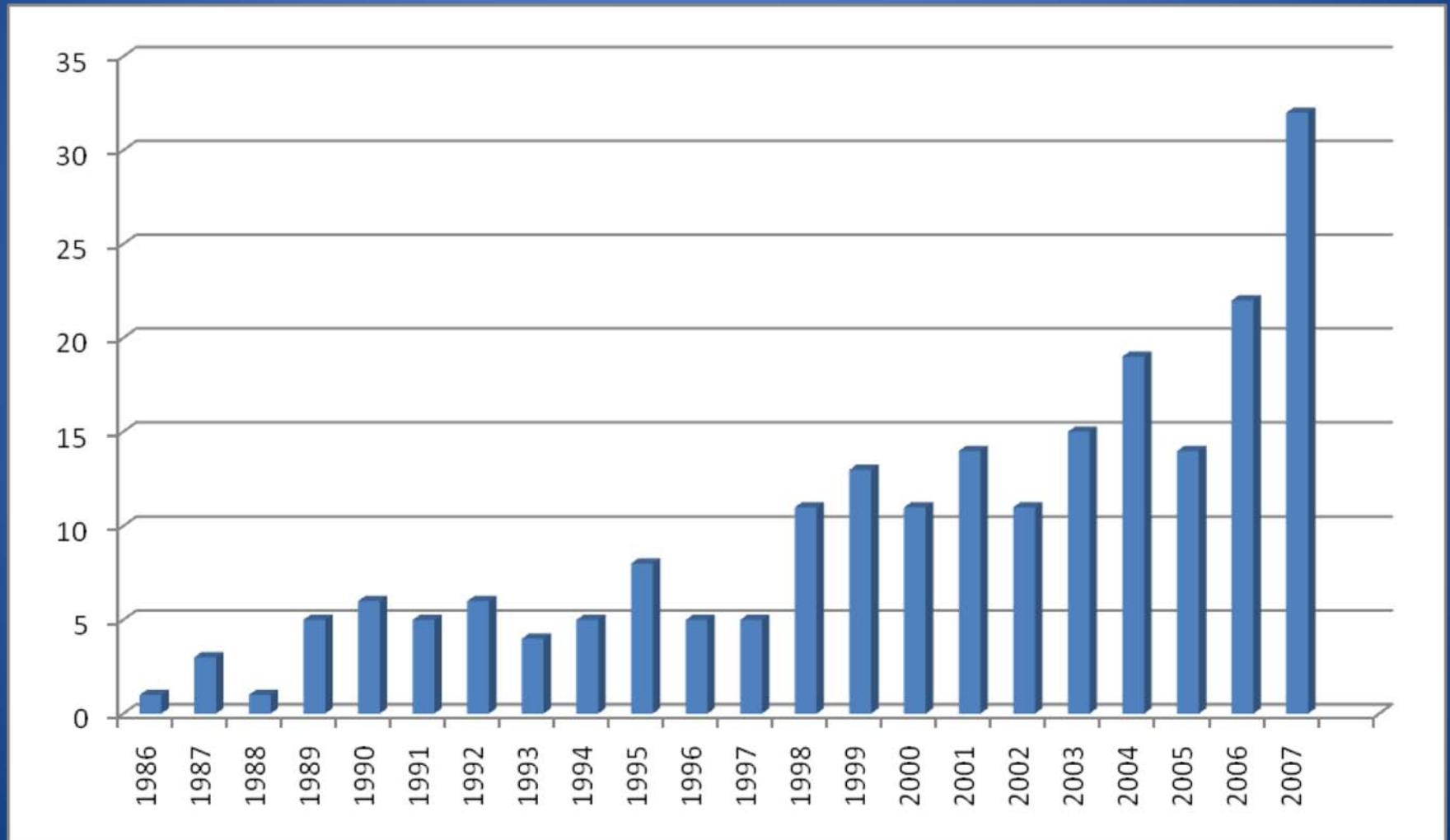
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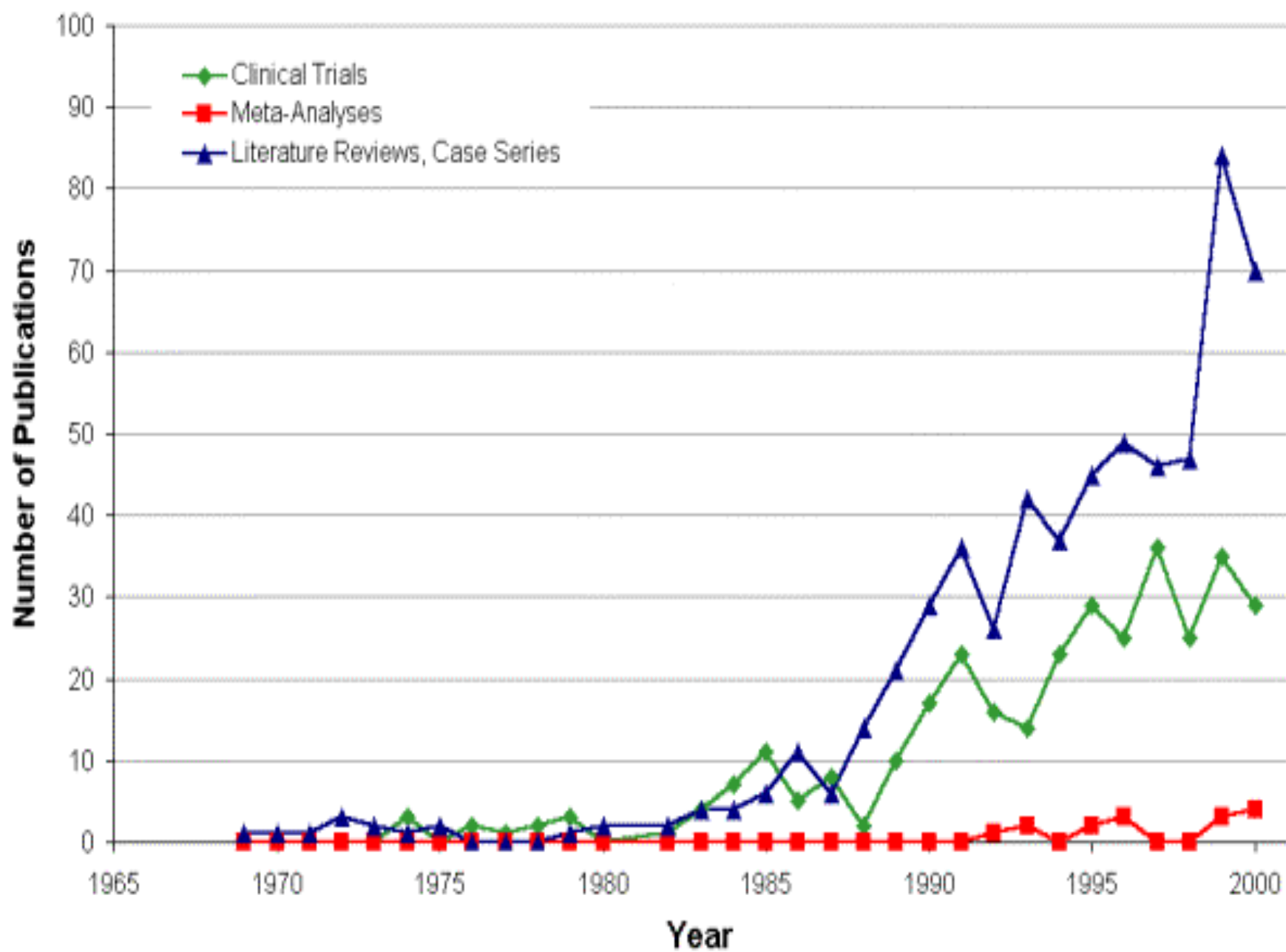
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# Subspecialty Growth

- NAEMSP grew to current 827 members
- AMPA started with current 342 members
- 14 textbooks and 7 journals dedicated solely to EMS practice
- EMS sections/committee ACEP and AAEM
- SAEM sponsored EMS research fellowship
- Growing research base

# 268 fellowship-trained EMS physicians practicing in 41 states







# Unique clinical elements of EMS medical practice

- position early in the continuum of emergency patient care
- physical location outside of fixed medical facilities
- the relatively higher acuity of patient population compared with the full spectrum of emergency medicine

# Timing is everything

Needed Board Attrition

Pieces existed but no one owner to complete it

Window of opportunity occurred

\* *NAEMSP meeting 2009*

NAEMSP submitted to ABEM May 2009

ABEM sends letter of intent to ABMS Sept 2009

ABMS approves subspecialty September 2010

# Where have we come from?

- **2010** - Emergency medical services (EMS) became American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) approved subspecialty
  - The subspecialty of EMS is intended to improve patient safety and enhance the quality of emergency medical care provided to patients in the prehospital environment, to facilitate integration of prehospital patient treatment into the continuum of patient care, and to standardize physician training and qualifications for EMS practice.

# Where we are

- **2011** ABEM formed EMS Examination Task Force
  - **2011** Job analysis performed
  - **2012** Core Content of EMS Medicine
    - Define the practice of EMS medicine
- **2013** First EMS Subspecialty Board Exam
  - Assess knowledge required to practice EMS

# ABEM Initial Exam Committee

- Debra Perina- Chair and Exam Editor
- Peter Pons- Co-Editor
- Ted Delbridge
- Kathy Rinnert
- Ritu Sahni
- Carol Cunningham
- Jane Brice
- Tom Blackwell
- Bill Gerard
- Ron Pirrallo
- Vince Mosesso
- Marianne Gausche-Hil



First EMS Certification Exam –  
October 23-25, 2013

High demand: second exam  
March 20-22, 2014

625 EMS Board certified specialists-  
ABEM's largest

# The Road Ahead

