

Board Certification: Oh Hell No!

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Fair Disclosure

(providing everyone with deniability)

The opinions expressed in this presentation are solely those of a raving lunatic Medical Director with 30 years of service in a EMS-Based Fire service. They do not necessarily represent those of the University of Arizona, its College of Medicine, its department of Emergency Medicine, or the City of Tucson

The Purpose of EMS Subspecialty Certification

Standardize physician training and qualifications for EMS practice

Improve patient safety

Enhance the quality of emergency medical care provided to patients in the prehospital environment

Facilitate further integration of prehospital patient treatment into the continuum of patient care."

Why Do Young MDs Seek EMS Specialty Board Certification?

- The Mission
- Desire for a codified body of knowledge
- Hope for a credential leading to gainful employment

The Mission

The original EMS medical directors were individuals fascinated by extending sophisticated care to the patient at the scene. Equally intriguing was the opportunity to provide this advanced care through individuals operating under the broad-based concept of "extension" of the physician. The eclectic attributes of medical practice in this complex arena captivated them.

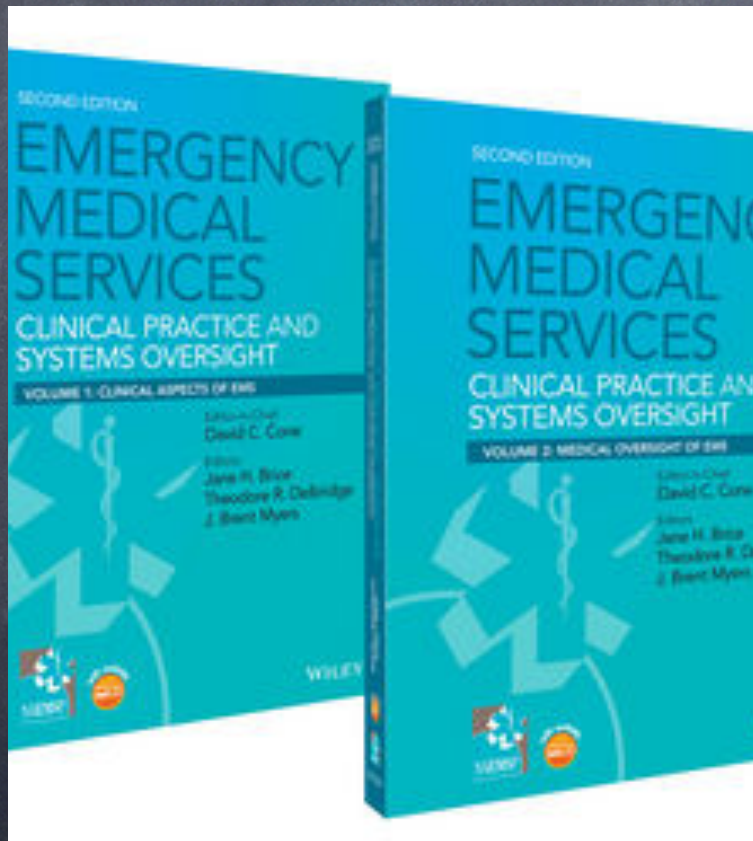
Loosely based on Dinerman N Chapter 14 *Emergency Medical Services 2nd edition*

The Charlatans of Gen 2



- There was free labor to be had
- There were free research assistants available
- A career could be built
- First...

The Word Was Needed



The Word Begat The Subspecialty Examination



AMERICAN BOARD OF
EMERGENCY MEDICINE

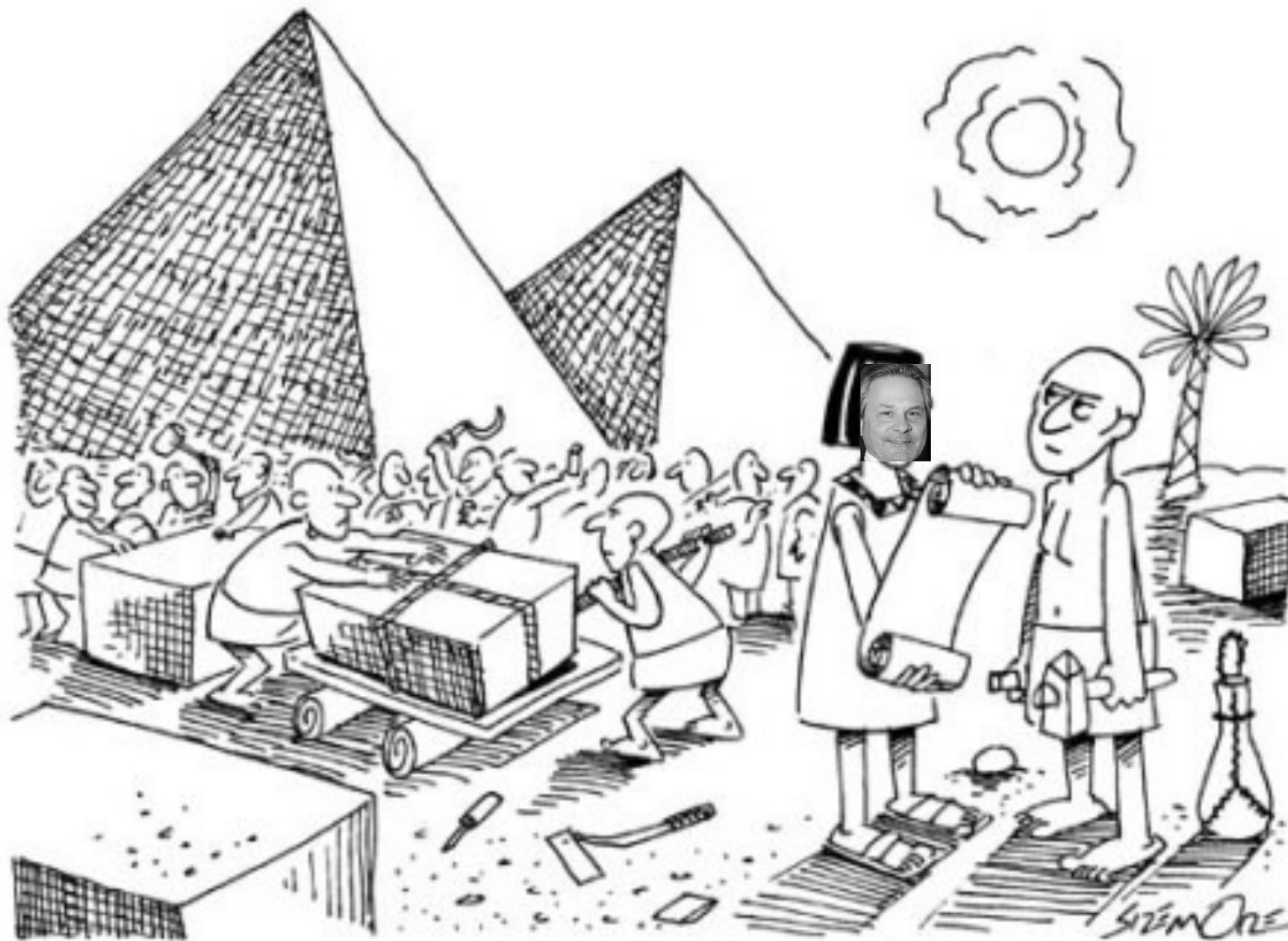
Update on EMS Board Certification

David C. Cone, MD
Professor and EMS Section Chief
Yale University School of Medicine
Chair, Council of EMS Fellowship Directors



The Subspecialty Begat the EMS Fellow

- Prolonged medical service at low wages
- Grist for the paper mill
- Here today gone tomorrow



"You do as you're told, we pay as we please. You work like a slave, we punish at random. That, in a nutshell, is our corporate culture."

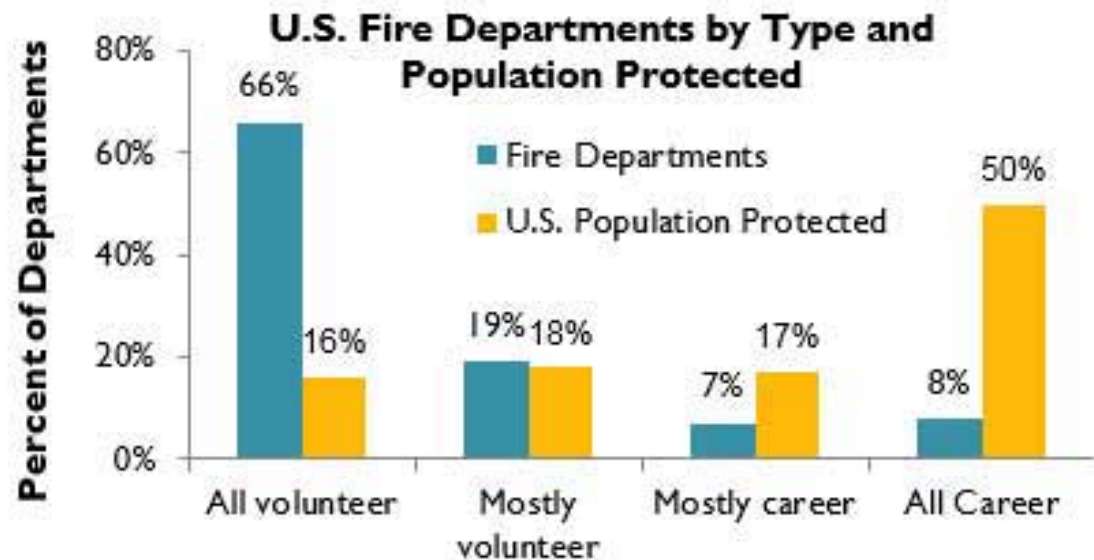
EMS Fellows

Query: What will the legions of EMS boarded physicians do?

EMS Fellows

30,052 fire departments protected the United States in 2013

- All career 2,477
- Mostly career 1,971
- Mostly volunteer 5,797
- All volunteer 19,807



Only half provide EMS

U.S. Metropolitan Municipalities EMS Medical Directors Consortium

- Approximately 50 individuals who serve as Medical Directors to EMS agencies primarily in the United States.
- Just thirty seven medically direct EMS agencies serving 47 million people in the US.
- They are long serving; mostly from 10 to 25 years

Count the Gray Hairs



Where's the Budget for EMS Medical Directors?

The push-pull over firefighters' salaries points toward a larger struggle that's taking place all over the country, as cities look for ways to save money by paying their civil servants less or employing fewer of them—even when this leads to a drop in the quality of life for residents.

(Pick your city, county, or region)

Realizing Value in the Private Sector



Ed Racht



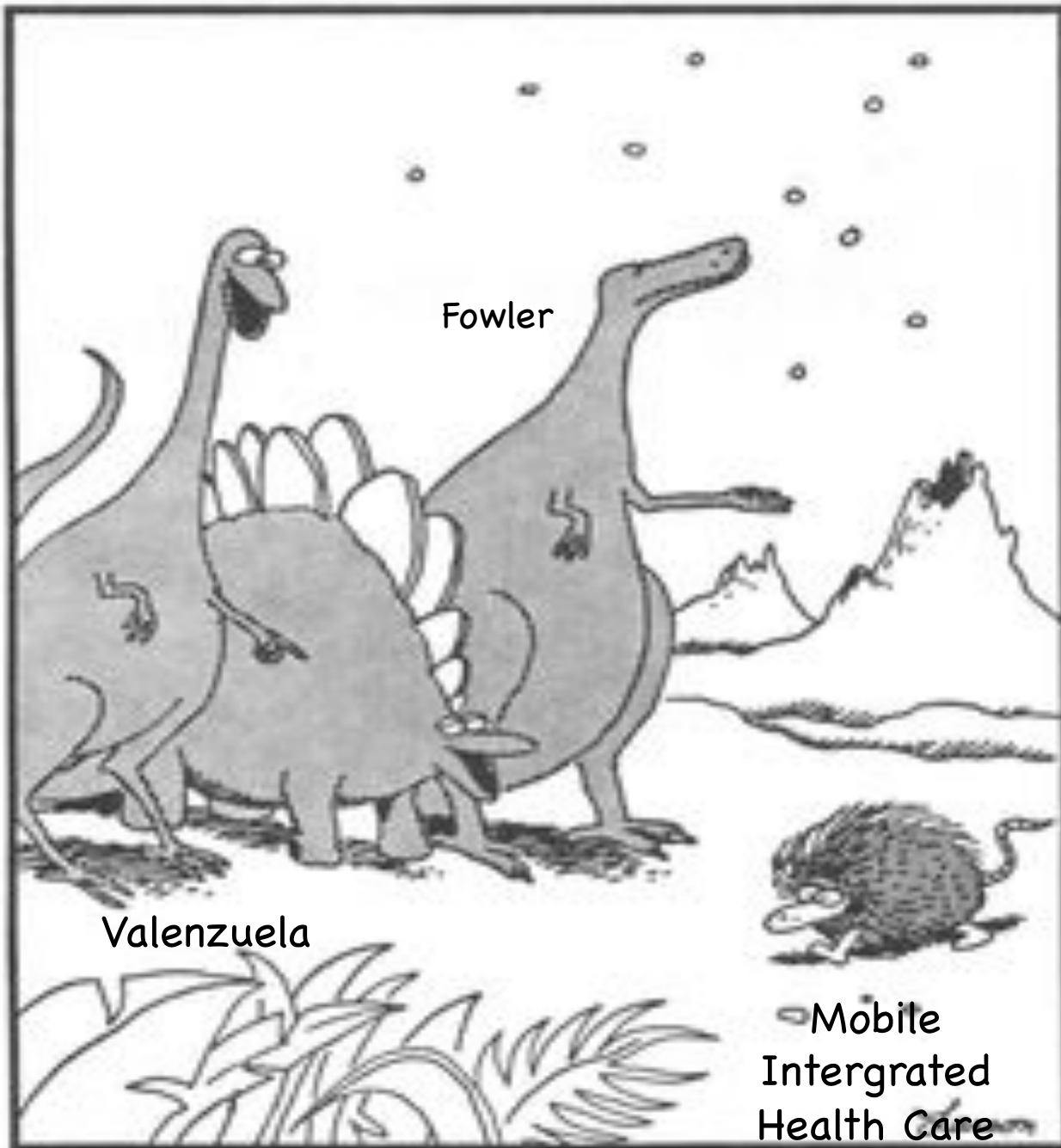
Brent
Myers



Jeff Beeson

Paul Hinchey





Fowler

Valenzuela

Mobile
Intergrated
Health Care

Get an “E-Ticket” for the World of Tomorrow



Vincent DeVita on Innovation vs. Diffusion

"Over a few beers one night, DeVita and Moxley sketched out a protocol a protocol for Hodgkins Lymphoma"

"He is wary of too many scripts and guidelines"

"What made the extraordinary progress against cancer at the N.C.I. during the nineteen-sixties and seventies possible, in his view, was the absence of rules."

Doctors need the freedom to try unorthodox things—and he worries that we have lost sight of that fact

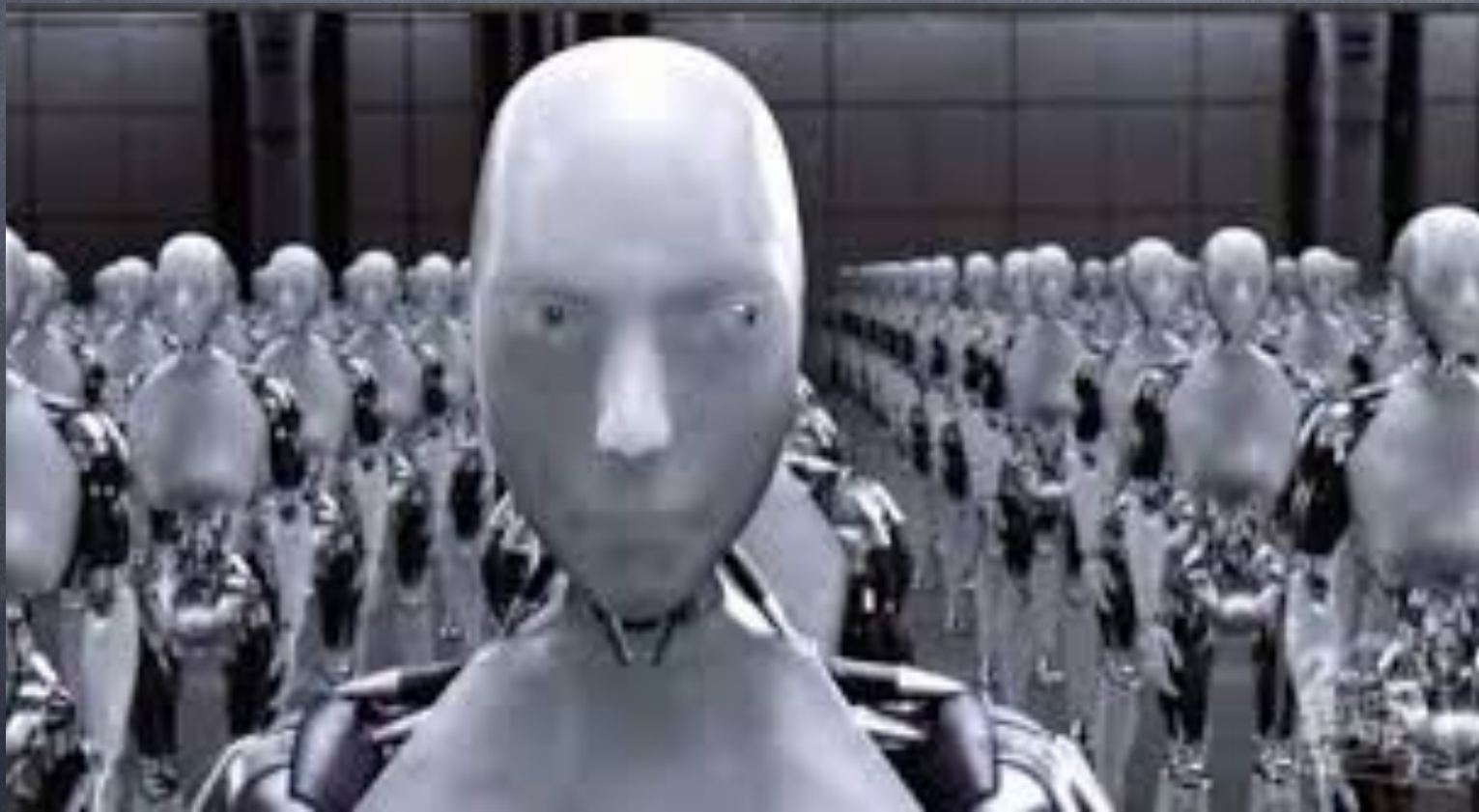
Background

- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is a medical subspecialty that involves prehospital emergency patient care, including initial patient stabilization, treatment, and transport to hospitals in specially equipped ambulances or helicopters. **The purpose of EMS subspecialty certification is to standardize physician training and qualifications for EMS practice**, improve patient safety and enhance the quality of emergency medical care provided to patients in the prehospital environment, and facilitate further integration of prehospital patient treatment into the continuum of patient care.

As the sole sponsoring and administrative board for the subspecialty, ABEM is responsible for examination development, administration, scoring and analysis as well as credentialing candidates and notifying them of their examination results and developing and maintaining the EMS Maintenance of Certification Program.

<https://www.abem.org/public/subspecialty-certification/emergency-medical-services/ems-overview>

Future of EMS Medical Directors?



Wisconsin couple were treated for minor injuries at the local hospital emergency. After their Smart Car hit a squirrel on highway 8. The squirrel refused treatment and left the scene!

