Ken Kizer: recipient of 2013 Major Jonathan Letterman Medical Excellence Award

This past October, Kenneth W. Kizer, an internationally recognized health-care thought leader, change agent, quality improvement and patient-safety advocate, and co-founder of the Wilderness Medical Society, received the 2013 Major Jonathan Letterman Medical Excellence Award from the National Museum of Civil War Medicine for advancing medical processes and improving patient outcomes and quality of life. He accepted the award in Bethesda, MD, on October 24, 2013.

The Major Jonathan Letterman Award is presented in honor of Major Jonathan Letterman, who served as medical director of the Army of the Potomac and is known as the "Father of Battlefield Medicine." In 1862, he assumed leadership of the medical department under Gen. George McClellan and quickly realized that the department needed a complete overhaul. During the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, he fine-tuned what is now known as the Letterman Plan, which not only saved the lives of countless Civil War soldiers, but also lives on today saving lives in Afghanistan and wherever emergency medical help is needed.

Kizer, MD, MPH, FACEP, FACPM, FACOEM, FACMT, FFACT, FRSPH, FRSM, FACPE, CPE, FAAMA, FNAPA, is currently a Distinguished Professor at the University of California, Davis, and is the founding Director of the Institute for Population Health Improvement, where he leads a number of initiatives aimed at improving the quality of health care in California. He is board certified in six medical specialties and/or sub-specialties. He has the rare distinction of being elected to both the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Public Administration.

The WMS is proud to congratulate Kizer on this amazing achievement and his impeccable career.

New Guide Explores the Treasures of Appalachian Hiking

R. Bryan Simon, RN, FAWM, DIMM, a Wilderness Medical Society (WMS) member and climbing medicine columnist for Wilderness Medicine, recently completed his first book entitled "Hiking and Biking in the New River Gorge: A
Paul Auerbach Updates Popular Field Guide to Wilderness Medicine

Paul Auerbach, MD, one of the world’s leading authorities on wilderness medicine and co-founder of the Wilderness Medical Society (WMS), has teamed up with Benjamin Constance, MD and Luanne Freer, MD to release a new edition of the Field Guide to Wilderness Medicine (4th ed, Elsevier 2013). Based on Auerbach’s critically acclaimed text Wilderness Medicine (6th ed, Elsevier 2012), the Field Guide provides fast-access solutions and practical advice for medical situations that can occur in non-traditional settings. A portable paperback, the Field Guide is written for the medical community but is understandable to many lay readers.

Among the new chapters in this fourth edition is one about global humanitarian relief and disaster medicine. The chapter discusses the challenges of clinical practice and safety in these situations, offering guidance on how to approach a terrorist attack, natural disasters and hostage situations.

Readers will also find a new chapter on sustainable practices to follow when in the wilderness. As an avid outdoorsman, whose recent activities include an expedition in Nepal to visit the Everest ER medical clinic at base camp created by Dr. Freer, Dr. Auerbach is committed to maintaining the wilderness regions of the world. In this chapter, he reviews “Leave No Trace” principles and advises the best ways to safely and sustainably enjoy the outdoors.

“I hope that you take the time to better understand the challenges imposed by humans upon our planet,” he writes in the preface. “To preserve the wilderness, we each must fulfill our responsibilities to understand global environmental science and be proactive in preserving the landscape.”

Other chapters cover topics such as high-altitude medicine, foot problems, and survival kit suggestions for various settings and patient populations. Complete with line drawings and color plates, this invaluable compact guide can be tucked away in a kayak or backpack, or accessed on a mobile device, ready to be consulted in the event of a wilderness medical emergency.

Dr. Auerbach is the Redlich Family Professor of Surgery in the Division of Emergency Medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine. He is also author of Medicine for the Outdoors (5th ed, Elsevier, 2009) and editor of the seminal textbook Wilderness Medicine (6th ed, Elsevier, 2012).
"Either write something worth reading or do things worth writing." - Ben Franklin