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## FOCUS ON ACCREDITATION

### UHMS MEMBERSHIP: QUALITY EDUCATION, STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

DERALL W. GARRETT, CHT • E: [derall@uhms.org](mailto:derall@uhms.org) • T: +210-404-1553

The other day I received a call from a tech who was interested in becoming a surveyor. As I explained the process and described who and what the UHMS surveyor program ~ and the broader Hyperbaric Facility Accreditation program – was all about, I pointed out that one of the requirements for a surveyor is that each team member has to be a UHMS member first.

Then the question came: *What do I get for my dues?*

I went to the web to remind myself of the perks we receive when we become members of the UHMS.

Here are the benefits listed on the UHMS website:

#### UHMS Benefits

- A free subscription to PDFs of the *Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine* Journal;
- A free subscription to the UHMS newsletter *Pressure*;
- Access to industry updates on legislative and regulatory affairs;
- Discounts to UHMS CME/MOC/CEU accredited educational courses as well as other opportunities;
- Discounts for article searches from the Duke University Medical Center Library and Archives;
- Access to MEDFAQs, the UHMS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) system.

#### UHMS Activities

- Monitoring regulatory changes for reimbursement of hyperbaric oxygen therapy services (in both U.S. and international arenas);
- Development of clinical practice guidelines in hyperbaric medicine;
- Development of credentialing criteria for physician practice;
- Accreditation of hyperbaric chamber facilities;
- Development of operational guidelines for hyperbaric chambers;
- Increasing availability of online educational opportunities;
- Live educational opportunities, such as the Annual Scientific Meeting, Chapter meetings and a variety of courses;
- Advocacy of high professional standards of practice;
- Collaborating with professional stakeholders on a global basis;

- Representation to federal, state and local agencies on matters related to efficacy, standards of care, and reimbursement;
- Development of evidence-based indications;
- Development of hyperbaric and wound care facility accreditation standards.

#### What's in it for me?

Of all the membership benefits listed, I asked:

*How much have they benefited me?*

A great deal. But it took me a while to realize it.

When I became a member back in 2002, I began examining everything associated with the Society to ensure I was getting my money's worth. Yes, I would read *Pressure* now and then. Is this a value worth my dues? Not by itself.

I could get the member discount when I attended a meeting for continuing education units/CEUs: This could be a wash of my dues. But, I asked myself: Am I really saving any money if it is simply a wash? With the potential knowledge I would gain, I began to relent a bit with my worrying.

On the other hand, there were other matters to consider. ➔

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UHMS surveyor training • Sept. 6-7 • Dallas  
more to come . . .

Even as little as \$75, the Associate annual dues I pay, can be a financial burden. For me, with a family of five, any additional expense can be a challenge to the household budget. I want my money's worth – or more, if possible.

### So I kept looking . . .

I realized there was a good deal more benefit, both practical and intangible, to my membership than I was seeing at first. As I recognized how being an Associate Member has benefited me I began to see my dues in a more favorable light.

First, I saw the member discount for CEUs as more than a wash of my membership fee: I was getting the credits I needed in a high-quality setting. Plus I was learning, which aids my personal and professional growth.

The educational opportunities and ready information offered by UHMS constitute another plus. As a hyperbaric tech I have had questions answered through the many resources that are available through the UHMS.

MEDFAQs has been a big help. The ability to ask a question and get an expert answer has helped me and many others approach our day-to-day decisions with facts. I have learned things that not only make it safer for my patients but for myself as well. The committees that answer these questions – all volunteers – perform an invaluable service.

Then there's personal growth through involvement. The UHMS hosts many different committees, which offer all of us the chance to be a part of supporting and defending hyperbaric medicine. These committees have made the hyperbaric world stronger by hard work that has directly affected our industry.

Next is job security: All the UHMS does to protect and fight for our industry is enormous: This is one voice that speaks on our behalf to support us in what we do daily. Plus, I don't have to do a thing to receive this benefit other than paying my dues.

Ultimately, you don't have to be a member to receive some benefits from the UHMS. The Society works toward the growth of our profession, so there's incentive to join.

When become a member, think of all the power you have behind you every day. For me, this is now how I look at my position as a UHMS Associate member. In many ways, it is a gift that can be multiplied into power that I would never be able to achieve alone.

There's strength in numbers, as the adage goes. Share your experiences with your colleagues who haven't yet joined. Share an issue of the Journal with someone. Give a co-worker the link to *Pressure*. It's open access, so anyone can read it. Sharing means growth, and growth means strength.

*Join the movement.*



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## IMPORTANT UPDATE:

### Surveyor training September 6-7 in Dallas

This year we are hosting the surveyor training at the Gulf Coast Chapter meeting September 6 -7 in Dallas, Texas. Plans are for the training to be on September 8. Details will come later.

**There will be no surveyor training at the ASM this year.**

If you are interested in becoming a surveyor, refer to the website for more information:

[www.uhms.org/about/accreditation/surveyor-information.html](http://www.uhms.org/about/accreditation/surveyor-information.html)



## Questions?

Ask the  
THE HFA HOME TEAM:

**Derall Garrett, CHT**  
877-533-8467 ext 106  
[derall@uhms.org](mailto:derall@uhms.org)

**Beth Hands**  
+210-404-1553 ext. 105  
[beth@uhms.org](mailto:beth@uhms.org)