

October 15, 2003

Valerie Kaufman
Chair, AAIM CME Committee

Re: Advanced Mortality Methodology Course, Oct 10, 2003

The following students registered for this year's course:

Yasushi Iwasa, M.D.
Crdit Suisse Life

Marta Kushnir, M.D.
ERC Life

Jan Von Overbeck, M.D.
Swiss Re

Yong-Eun Kim, M.D.
Samsung Life

Yoichi Mitsubishi, M.D.
Toa Re

The course was ably co-directed by Brian Ivanovic, D.O. One registrant (Dr. Von Overbeck) did not attend the classroom session. Despite the obvious challenge of having 3 students who were EASL's, the classroom sessions went well. In my opinion, the ideal class size is about 4 to 6 students, so four was a satisfactory number.

The CME evaluations will be forwarded to your attention but here is a summary:

No student perceived a commercial bias.

Three students felt that their educational needs and the course objectives were completely met while one indicated "more than 50%" for both.

One student asked for more examples, another asked for "more clarification in advance" and another asked for more extensive handouts.

One student suggested that differences in mortality rates among various races be considered as a topic for future classes!

In my opinion, the advanced course has always been an opportunity for individualized mentoring in the process of preparing an abstract for publication. With this year's class it really struck me that the required language in the announcement, the CME focus on lecture hours and the resulting expectations of the students have forced this class to become more of a typical didactic session. While I understand the need to adhere to guidelines laid out by the AMA, I am sorry to see this change.

David Wesley, M.D.
Former Co-Director, Advanced Mortality Methodology Course