

useful for junior faculty to access ELAM's website to review their selection criteria to help with their own individual development plan. The analogy here is an amorphism that is frequently used with young investigators: if you have never read a funded R01, you are probably never going to get one.

Much attention has been paid recently in an attempt to understand those issues that deter women from choosing surgery as a career. Although lifestyle issues have largely been touted as a major reason, a recent study by Gargiulo showed that women are not more likely to be deterred by lifestyle, workload or even the lack of role models.<sup>16</sup>

## SUMMARY

Although women have achieved parity in the number admitted to medical school, they continue to be underrepresented at all levels of academic surgery. If diversity is important, and all evidence suggests that this is a desirable goal, then every effort must be made to correct these inequities. Although all of the factors and issues necessary to do this have not yet been identified, whatever these recommendations are will likely compound some of the existing problems at academic health centers with regards to women such as recruitment, retention, equal pay and promotion while creating an entirely new set of problems related to gender equity. Meanwhile, it is incumbent upon all presidents, deans, chairs and section chiefs to continue to investigate the barriers to women

entering surgery, explore new approaches to enhancing the leadership skills of women surgeons, and to create a culture of understanding among their male counterparts to avoid incurring their wrath and accusations of a "double-standard" in what would amount to a veritable "affirmative action" program for women in surgery.

## REFERENCES

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## C A L E N D A R

Submit your events and announcements no later than four months before the event to the calendar editor, Theresa Reed, MD, MPH; [shaynes@nmanet.org](mailto:shaynes@nmanet.org). Include the following information: date, name of event, location; sponsoring group(s); topics to be presented; CME credit hours (if applicable); fees; event's web address (online brochure); and name, telephone number and e-mail of a contact person.

### SEPTEMBER

**National Sickle Cell Month.** [www.SickleCellDisease.org](http://www.SickleCellDisease.org)

**National Cholesterol Education Month.**

[nhlbiinfo@nhlbi.nih.gov](mailto:nhlbiinfo@nhlbi.nih.gov)

**Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.** [www.pcacoalition.org](http://www.pcacoalition.org)

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**Take A Loved One for a Check-Up Day.**

[www.healthgap.omhrc.gov](http://www.healthgap.omhrc.gov)

**Sept. 27-Oct. 1**

**American Academy of Family Physicians.** Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC. [www.AAFP.org](http://www.AAFP.org), 913-906-6000

### OCTOBER

**Halloween Safety Month.** [www.preventblindness.org](http://www.preventblindness.org)

**Healthy Lung Month.** [www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org)

**National Physical Therapy Month.** [www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org)

**SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) Awareness Month.** [www.firstcandle.org](http://www.firstcandle.org)

**Eye Injury Prevention Month.** [www.aao.org](http://www.aao.org)

**2006 African Diaspora Educational Assembly.** Sponsored by NMA. Johannesburg, South Africa. William Matory, MD, [wmatory@nmanet.org](mailto:wmatory@nmanet.org)

**8-14**

**Fire Prevention Week.** [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org)

**19-21**

**2006 Cardiometabolic Health Congress. "From Metabolic Syndrome to Cardiometabolic Risk."**

Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA. [www.cardiometabolicealth.org](http://www.cardiometabolicealth.org), 877-571-4700.

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**National Mammography Day.** [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

**Oct. 22-Nov. 3**

The Maryland State Affiliate of NMA sponsors a delegation of medical professionals to meet in China. "**People to People Ambassador Program.**" Departs from Los Angeles, CA, going to Beijing, Xi'an, and Shanghai with an optional excursion to Hong Kong. CME 22.5 hrs. Category I. Estimated cost: \$4,995/person. [info@ambassadorprograms.org](mailto:info@ambassadorprograms.org), 877-787-2000; Trudy R. Hall, MD, president, Maryland State NMA: [trudoc@erols.com](mailto:trudoc@erols.com), 410-471-1293

### NOVEMBER

**American Diabetes Month.** [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org)

