



Department of Emergency Medicine

# Weekly email

Updates for ED Physicians

Jan 07. 2020

## Operations

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### New Process for Urgent Neurology Referrals

Please note that the [Urgent Neurology Clinic will now be requiring completion of a referral form](#), just like pretty much every other clinic that we use. Please keep in mind the UNC has clear inclusion and exclusion criteria. They can be found on Sharepoint, but centre on the idea of seeing patients who have new, rapidly progressive neurological symptoms and signs that would otherwise mandate assessment in the ED. Orth noting that they do not see concussion or problems that are more appropriately referred to neurosurgery or spine.

There is also a new handout for patients who have been referred to urgent neuro which can be found on Sharepoint as well.

In the event that your referral is declined, you will likely be notified, but it would be ideal to ensure that the patient also follows up with their family MD to close the loop and make sure that they are referred at least to general neuro one way or another.

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### Hepatitis C Virus Screening Update and Publication Announcement

Thanks to all of the physicians and staff at the PLC-ER who cooperated with the ED based screening trial for HCV using rapid POC testing in 2018. Thanks to these efforts, six patients were newly diagnosed with chronic HCV infection and linked to follow up. This number may seem small, but that's six people who were given the opportunity to access new potentially curative treatment and avoid cirrhosis and its complications. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Kelsey Ragan's research project regarding this has been accepted for publication in the Canadian Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. Congratulations to Dr. Ragan for all of her hard work and upcoming publication!

-Dr. Anjali Pandya

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### Influenza Updates

Here is the influenza update for this week.

If you ever wanted to check the stats at your leisure, there is the detailed [Respiratory Virus Surveillance dashboard](#) and the “quick view” [Weekly Influenza Update dashboard](#).

- Alberta Health is predicting (with 99% probability) that the peak of this season’s influenza activity in Alberta will occur in week 52 (Dec 22 to Dec 28, 2019). Currently, new lab-confirmed influenza cases are declining in Central, Calgary, and South Zones, but there is no apparent downward trend yet for new cases in Edmonton and North Zones;
- So far this influenza season, there have been 2,610 lab-confirmed influenza cases, including 301 hospitalized cases (the latter number includes 31 ICU admissions and 6 deaths); 67% of hospitalized cases had Influenza A (predominantly H3N2);
- The number of lab-confirmed influenza cases to date, as well as the number of cases per 100,000 population, is summarized for each zone below:

Zone	Influenza Cases	Population*	Cases/100,000
North	285	487,297	58.5
Edmonton	579	1,440,572	40.2
Central	287	484,780	59.2
Calgary	1274	1,718,145	74.1
South	149	310,495	48.0

\* Population forecasted for 2019/20, from Tableau

- Of the 292 hospitalized cases for whom vaccine status was known, 201 (68.8%) were unvaccinated, 10 (3.4%) were vaccinated less than 2 weeks before symptom onset, and 81 (27.7%) were vaccinated 2 weeks or more before symptom onset;
- Of the confirmed influenza cases to date, 57.0% have been Influenza B, 15.9% have been Influenza A (H3N2), 5.2% have been Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09, and 21.9% have been Influenza A (unresolved subtype). To date, Influenza B is the predominant strain in Central, Calgary, and South Zones, while Influenza A (mostly H3N2) is predominant in North and Edmonton Zones;
- Provincially, so far this season there have been 31 confirmed influenza outbreaks across all facility types (affecting one acute care facility, one child care facility, one “Other”, four schools, ten long-term care facilities, and fourteen supportive living settings), with eleven in Edmonton Zone, nine in Calgary Zone, five in South Zone, and three each in North and Central Zones. Twenty-two of those outbreaks have been Influenza A (H3N2), six have been Influenza B, one has been Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09, and two have been Influenza A (unresolved subtype).

The above information can be shared freely.

**Stephen Tsekrekos, MD, MSc, FRCPC**  
Medical Director  
Workplace Health & Safety

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### ED Peer Support Team

We are a group of trained emergency physician colleagues who are available for support to any ED physician in a time of need. Our goal is to connect with physicians if they are *distressed for any cause* that is *disrupting* or *impairing* their ability to function in their professional or personal life. This can include, but is not limited to, distress surrounding an adverse patient event, a challenging shift or interaction, professionalism matters, or discord in their personal life.

Our ED PST was developed with the support of the Physician Support Fund and Well Doc Alberta. It is modelled after the Department of Medicine's PST which launched as a system-level approach to physician wellness.

Formal peer support training has been provided to your ED PST members who are now available to you in times of need.

**Any ED physician can use this service at any time.**

**How do you engage with the ED PST service?**

**You can personally reach out to any ED PST member directly.**

**[Confidential contact information for individual ED PST members is attached.](#)**

The ED PST is designed to be an empathetic ear. It is not designed to replace counselling services. There will be no recording or written record of interaction details. It is also not designed to evaluate the specifics of any particular situation or provide medico-legal guidance.

**The conversations you have with an ED PST member will be held in strict confidence. The boundary of this commitment would only be crossed if your PST member has immediate safety concerns for you and/or others.**

This is the first step of many in fostering a culture of wellness and safety for ourselves and our colleagues.

Sincerely,

Your Wellness Hub Leads

Drs. Eileen Kabaroff, Vanessa Potok, Huma Ali

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## Physician Participation Needed!

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**Did you know over 25% of Calgary ED physicians have participated in a performance improvement session in the last year!**

So far over 25% of ED physicians have come to these interactive ED Performance Improvement sessions. In these sessions, you will have the chance to review our current physician metrics and develop a clinical goal and action plan in a small group setting with peer coaching.

**Next session: Jan 9th at 10:45 (following rounds)**

**Location: FMC room TBD**

**You should attend if...**

- You've received your report and had questions about some of the metrics
- You've looked at your report and wanted to make changes but were unsure about how to do so
- You have an upcoming review with site chief or department head and want to understand the reports in more detail
- In need of CME- in particular Section 3 CME for those in the Mainport program (everyone in Mainport requires 15 credits per year). CCFP credits also available. Details provided at the session.
- You want to learn from what your colleagues have found to be useful strategies to increase numbers of patients seen or reducing DI usage

**Please RSVP Chris Bond, Charles Wong, or Shawn Dowling to book a spot in the session.**

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### **Pediatric Simulation at PLC - Looking for MDs!**

Come join us for some interdisciplinary sim and practical pearls

January 22nd and February 5th from 9am-12pm  
Email Dr. Hillary Ambrose to sign up

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### Gender Inequity Survey

The Department of Emergency medicine is exploring interventions to improve gender inequity among our physicians. If you have ideas for recommendations or interventions you think would be beneficial to implement, please follow the link below to share. Thank you!

[https://survey.ucalgary.ca/jfe/form/SV\\_9mjVbrL4he9ePLn](https://survey.ucalgary.ca/jfe/form/SV_9mjVbrL4he9ePLn)

- Kelsey MacLeod

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### Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Survey

The AHS Section of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology is undertaking a strategic planning process to develop its goals and objectives for the next several years.

As part of this initiative, the Calgary Clinical Pharmacology (CP) physician consult service is conducting a survey on its performance to date and plans for the future.

Regardless of whether or not you have consulted the CP service, I would appreciate it if you would take two minutes of your time to complete this short survey. Your feedback will help shape the service for years to come.

The survey is available at

<https://survey.albertahealthservices.ca/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=CPConsultService>

Thank you very much in advance. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Mark Yarema, MD FRCPC  
Section Chief  
Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology  
Alberta Health Services

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## Education. CME. Rounds

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### January 9th EM Rounds

**Date:** Thursday, January 09<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Time:** 0900 - 0945

**Host Site:** Coombs Theatre - FMC

**Title:** **Human Trafficking in the ED**

**Presenter:** Dr. Daniel Metcalf (CCFP-EM)

**Time:** 0945 - 1030

**Host Site:** Coombs Theatre - FMC

**Title:** **Erector Spinae Block**

**Presenter:** Dr. Shelly Chopra (CCFP-EM)

#### Telehealth Sites:

Alberta Children's Hospital - Rm B4-010

Rockyview General Hospital - Rm 10332

South Health Campus - Rm - 410007

Peter Lougheed Hospital - Rm 4056

Banff Mineral Springs Hospital - N/A

Canmore General Hospital - Nakoda

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## Grand Rounds Recordings

The recording of the December 19 Emergency Medicine Grand Rounds videoconference can be found at the following link:

[https://ahamms01.https.internapcdn.net/ahamms01/Content/Videos\\_Other/FMC/Emerg\\_Rounds\\_2019\\_20/EmergDec19\\_19.mp4](https://ahamms01.https.internapcdn.net/ahamms01/Content/Videos_Other/FMC/Emerg_Rounds_2019_20/EmergDec19_19.mp4)

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## January 16th EM Rounds -

**'Back Pain, Non-Traumatic'** - a chief complaint that makes even the most experienced Emergency Physicians 'lose control.' How can you effectively rule out emergent spinal pathologies? How do you ensure timely and appropriate investigations and consultation in the department? And what about all those patients you sent home? Join us, January 16<sup>th</sup> for the launch of a new 'Spinal Emergencies' pathway, a collaborative initiative by Radiology, Neurosurgery and Emergency Physicians.

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## Resident Retreat Feb 7th - 9th in Canmore...BOOK NOW!

Friday Evening reception at Elevation Gallery in Canmore (appetizers/cash bar) 1800-midnight

- Saturday morning - small group sessions with the residents
- Saturday afternoon - free time to enjoy activities in Canmore
- Saturday Dinner: 1800-2030 Group Dinner at The Malcolm Hotel
- 2100-midnight at least Group Party at The Malcolm Hotel – DJ and Costume themes TBA
- Sunday - free time

[Click here for booking details.](#)

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## Journal Club Summary

[Click here](#) to read summary from November 14th Journal Club.

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Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology Pearl of the Week: [Mechanisms of drug-drug interactions](#)

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# ED Highlights

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## Save the Date! Hodsman Lecture 2020

1. [Hodsman Lecture on Thurs, March 12, 8am-12pm](#) (FMC Auditorium) - Guest Speaker: Dr. Gregory Luke Larkin
  2. Dinner and Social Night. Date & Location TBD
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## The Apres!

To all Junior staff (first and second years), Mentors and your partners

You are invited to :

[The Apres! January 15, 2019 @ 7pm at Heather and Kip's house](#)

This not-to-miss party is catered by our own Sarah McPherson and her new sous-chef Heather Patterson. Appys, desserts, drinks and cocktail bar provided  
RSVP by Jan 7 either by texting Sarah (403-827-3053), emailing Sarah or reply via the evite link <http://evite.me/KjSuvP2eJF>

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## ED social night - Anejo (January 29, 2020)

[Please save the date for the next ED social night.](#)

**When** - 7pm - midnight, January 29, 2020.

**Where** - Anejo - <https://www.anejo.ca/>

**Why** - So we can connect with our colleagues and get to know each other a bit better. We work with some interesting and wonderful people. Let's celebrate that.

**Food** - Appetizers provided by the Physician Support Fund.

Please let us know if you can make it.

Thanks,

Stuart, Grant, Huma, Ayesha

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## ESCN Newsletter

[Click here](#) to read the December edition of Emerging NEWS/

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# Opportunities

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## 2020 deadlines for the Clinical/Adjunct promotion and process

The 2020 deadlines for the Clinical/Adjunct promotion process are below.

### February 28, 2020

1. Recommendations for promotion to Clinical/Adjunct/Research Associate or Assistant Professor due in Dean's Office.

**Please email each document to Lilian Prudencio. Each document must be in pdf format and its own file.**

#### **Naming conventions:**

**LAST NAME First Name Initial – Department Head Recommendation Letter**

**LAST NAME First Name Initial – CV**

**LAST NAME First Name Initial – Education Activities Report**

**If the conventions are not followed then the documents will be returned.**

Documents required:

- a) Updated [curriculum vitae in Faculty format](#).
- b) Department Head's letter of recommendation. **(If candidate holds a joint appointment in other Department(s), arrange for other Head(s) to forward their recommendation letters by this date.)**
- c) Education Activities Report for those being promoted to Clinical/Adjunct/Research Associate Professor - prepared by candidate in Faculty format

2. **Nominations for Clinical/Adjunct/Research awards** due in Dean's office.

Each nomination must include:

- a) Nominee's [curriculum vitae in Faculty standardized format](#).
- b) Department Head's letter of nomination including proposed award category, and basis for nomination.

### February 14, 2020

Recommendations for promotion to full **Professor (Clinical/Adjunct/Research only)** due in Dean's Office. **Please email each document to Lilian Prudencio ([Lilian.Prudencio@ahs.ca](mailto:Lilian.Prudencio@ahs.ca)).** Each document must be in pdf format and its own file.

#### **Naming conventions:**

**LAST NAME First Name Initial – Department Head Recommendation Letter**

LAST NAME First Name Initial – CV  
LAST NAME First Name Initial – List of Five Best Publications  
LAST NAME First Name Initial – Publication 1  
LAST NAME First Name Initial – Publication 2  
LAST NAME First Name Initial – Publication 3  
LAST NAME First Name Initial – Publication 4  
LAST NAME First Name Initial – Publication 5  
LAST NAME First Name Initial – Education Activities Report

**If the conventions are not followed then the documents will be returned.**

Documents required:

- a) List of names/addresses/email of 6 external referees. Identify the 3 referees nominated by candidate. Provide brief background comments about each referee, including any relationship with the candidate. As per Section C2 of the CAR Criteria, external referees must i) be external to the University, ii) hold or have held academic rank at the full Professor level and iii) have an arm's length relationship with the candidate.
- b) Updated curriculum vitae in Faculty format.
- c) Department Head's letter of recommendation. **(If candidate holds a joint appointment in other Department(s), arrange for other Head(s) to forward their recommendation letters by this date.)**
- d) 5 best publications
- e) Separate list of candidate's 5 best publications, including a brief overview of the importance of each publication and, in multi-authored publications, a definition of the role of the applicant in the work.
- f) Education Activities Report – prepared by candidate in Faculty format.

Attached are the criteria document as well as the awards [terms of reference](#) and [recipient list](#).

The CV format and Education Activities Report can be found at <https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/about/faculty-and-staff>

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### **Call for Abstracts - Emergency Medicine Research Day 2020**

The University of Calgary and Alberta Health Services Department of Emergency Medicine is looking for presenters for our annual Emergency Medicine Research Day being held on April 30th, 2020 at the Amphitheatre at Alberta Children's Hospital.

Presenters for the event should have either completed or have an ongoing research project in any of the Emergency Departments, Urgent Care Centers, Pre-hospital services or other clinical areas that would be of interest to those who work in Emergency Medicine.

Attached are the Abstract Submission Forms for either completed or work in progress projects.

Instructions for Submission:

1. Complete either the [COMPLETED](#) or [WORK IN PROGRESS](#) Abstract Submission Form.
2. Send complete abstract form back to Dr. Andrew McRae (via email by Friday January 24, 2020 at 16:00.

**Deadline for Abstract Submissions is Friday January 24, 2020 at 16:00.**

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### **World Cup Halfpipe and Slopestyle Event at Winsport**

COP February 13-16 2020 Needing MD coverage

The HP and SS, since they are two different events at the same time, may need two physicians on at all times (but I don't know this yet). So if you would like to put yourself down as a possible second MD on those dates, that would be great. I will confirm as soon as I am able...with the proviso that you may have your hours shifted some, or even CANCELLED (unlikely). I am trying my best to push the organizers to give us plenty of notice for time alterations and added times etc. This is never easy!

As always, the volunteer honorarium is a coat (usually pretty nice, although often too big for us smaller types), plus food on shift, Hot Shots, good company, and the excitement of participating in a high calibre Alpine sports event. You will be supported by a full ALS crew and protocols will be sent out to you beforehand.

Please email me if you have any questions. Pls let me know if you would like to cover any of these shifts, and please provide me with a phone number for contact:

Dr. Carrie Hiscock

February 13 08:30-17:15

February 14 08:00-14:00

SECOND MD if needed:

February 14 08:00-14:00

February 14 14:00-20:00

February 15 12:00-20:00

February 16 12:00-15:30

Thank you!

- Carrie Hiscock

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## MD Spotlight

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### Dr. Haley Cochrane

Haley is a born and raised Calgarian who is excited to return home after spending 10 years abroad. She completed medical school at the University of Sydney in New South Wales, Australia in 2013, and then moved to Boston, MA where she completed a 4-year emergency medicine residency in the Harvard Affiliated Emergency Medicine Residency (HAEMR) program at Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital. While at HAEMR she was selected as one of three Chief Residents in her final year. Haley then went on to complete her PGY 5 FR year at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. Her academic interests include point-of-care-ultrasound and ultrasound guided procedures, medical education, and medical administration.

Haley has been working at various sites the Calgary zone since the start of November after taking some time off after the birth of her first child, Blaire. She will be working at the PLC full time starting January 1<sup>st</sup>. Her other interests include running (slowly), (formerly) surfing, great coffee, painting, yoga, and cross-country skiing. Tagging along on her adventures is her husband/partner-in-crime Joshua Nesbitt who is a Professional Engineer, working in the oil and gas industry here in Alberta.

Haley is most excited to get involved teaching medical students at the University of Calgary Medical School, following in the footsteps of her grandfather, Dr. William A. Cochrane, who served as the founding Dean of Medicine.



