



Department of Emergency Medicine

Weekly email

Updates for ED Physicians

April 5, 2022 Edition

Notes from Neil & Eddy

April 5, 2022

Dear colleagues

Dr. Yiu's Departure

This edition of notes from Neil and Eddy comes at a very challenging time for Alberta Health Services on the heels of the untimely departure of Dr. Verna Yiu. While we are privileged in our roles to serve a large group of hardworking dedicated and talented physicians who have been through an incredibly difficult two years, one additional important perk is to see our health care leaders in action and to learn from them. From that vantage point, it is particularly disappointing to see Dr. Yiu leaving her role after six years of service and one year shy of the end of her contract. It may not be immediately evident, but many of the positive changes that AHS has seen over the last six years, in terms of culture and progress and navigating the pandemic storm, is due to Dr. Yiu's influence and we are grateful for that. She exemplifies authentic leadership and I doubt we will ever forget her steadfast compassion and concern when speaking to media around the time of the 4th wave crunch and the impending implementation of critical care triage. We are not privy to all the details of what has transpired beyond what is almost certainly a political motivation to the move by the government. While these developments come as a shock to AHS leadership, the Calgary Zone health leaders group is more committed than ever to continue to work collaboratively to get us through whatever additional challenges may come our way.

The 6th wave

While there is no doubt that the 6th wave is upon us, the extent and duration of this surge driven by the BA2 variant is unclear. What is certain is that we are seeing additional strains on our staffing with many colleagues falling ill but fortunately, to our knowledge, none requiring hospitalization. Wastewater analysis and test positivity rates suggest we are in the early phases and that more is yet to come over the following weeks. COVID hospitalizations, approximately 50% of

which are directly attributed to COVID impacts, have plateaued at 250 for the past 3 weeks. This is compared to a wave 5 high of 500 and reflects that there is ongoing admissions with COVID despite discharges. Fortunately, ICU occupancy for COVID continues to fall, down 15% in the last week, and it appears that the BA2 wave has reached its peak in most European countries which, due to multiple similarities, reflects our destiny in one to two months.

Acute Care Coverage

A number of factors are leading to intermittent service gaps among our specialty colleagues and their coverage as ED consultants. These are most pronounced in orthopedics and general surgery and affect multiple sites. Most of these involve the loss of resident or extender coverage and see the attending taking overnight and weekend call alone at times. Fortunately, an Acute Care Coverage committee chaired by Yael and Laurie-Ann, with input from Colin and Elizabeth MacKay, our Associate Zone Medical Director, and both Neil and I, are examining creative solutions based on existing models that have served other departments e.g. Nocturnist coverage of MTU. You may receive notice of a particular service being less available during off-hours, with EMS and RAAPID knowing to redirect transfers while solutions are being sought for this Zone-wide problem.

Sincerely,
Neil & Eddy

Operations

Sudden Increase in Influenza Cases and Outbreaks Reported in Alberta

While there were no reported influenza cases in Alberta in all of the 2020-21 season, and there have been only sporadic cases of influenza reported in the province since December 2021, we have seen a sudden spike in the past two weeks. [See Memo here.](#)

YYC ED Specific

EMBER FMC ED Physician Recruitment

FMC Emergency Department has agreed to participate in the EMBER Study (Exploring Mental health Barriers in Emergency Rooms). As staff of FMC ER, we play an important role in the care of patients with mental illness. We also bring in our own experiences with mental health.

The EMBER study is looking to recruit FMC ER psychiatric physicians & nurses, ER physicians & nurses, and protective services staff as research participants because your experiences and your voice are important.

The research team is exploring mental illness-related stigma and the barriers to accessing care in the FMC ER. The aim of the study is to mitigate the negative experiences and consequences of mental illness-related stigma for patients, their families, healthcare providers, and protective services staff in the FMC ER, and beyond.

If you are interested in participating in the EMBER study, please visit the following link and complete the [online consent to be contacted form.](#)

If you would like to speak to a member of the research team for more information about the study or what your involvement would look like, you can reach them by email at: EMBER.Study@ucalgary.ca or by phone at 403-441-3520.

ED Staff POCUS Hands-On Session!

We're proud to provide Calgary ED staff physicians with another hands-on ultrasound training session supported by the PSF. Due to popular demand, we will again focus on advanced cardiac applications for this session but we're always happy to practice anything the participants want. This is your time to learn and practice POCUS techniques with local experts.

The session will be April 14th from 1100-1300 at the ATSSL. The session will accommodate 20 participants. Please RSVP to myself (dannypeterson36@gmail.com) to sign up for the session.

The sessions are supported by the PSF and thus PSF members will have priority sign up. If you attended the last session, please don't sign up for this one as well so we can give everyone a chance to attend. An application has been submitted to the PSF for ongoing support so hopefully we can continue these sessions on a regular basis.

EMERGENCY MEDICINE RESEARCH DAY

When: May 5, 2022 08:00 AM Mountain Time

[Register in advance for this meeting here.](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The CCFP-EM Residency Program needs 3 more staff examiners for the oral exams on June 9

June 9th from 1030 – 1300

These exams will be virtual by Zoom.

Please check your availability and let me know if you can help and please send the responses to TriSurendra.Malasani@albertahealthservices.ca. Your help and assistance is very much appreciated!! Once confirmed I will send Calendar invites.

2022 Hodsman Lecture - April 21

Featuring Dr. Anton Helman & more. [See promo poster.](#)

CSM Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Curriculum Needs Assessment Survey

The Cumming School of Medicine has been taking steps to build on and address the gaps in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policies and programs in the past year. Part of this process is focused on improving the integration of EDI topics in our curriculum. Given the breadth of the programs offered at

the faculty, we do not currently have a clear understanding of what, how and when EDI topics are being addressed in each program.

We are currently undertaking a needs assessment of EDI curriculum at CSM and would like to invite your participation in this study as a course leader, program director or key stakeholder in curriculum development and/or instruction within your academic program.

Participation in this study would involve completing a 15-20 minute survey. This survey will include questions on the focus, format, depth, and time spent of EDI topics in your course or program.

[You can access the survey here.](#)

Your participation is completely voluntary, and you may choose with withdraw at any time. If you decide to participate, please be assured that your data and information will be kept confidential.

This study has been reviewed by and received ethics approval from the University of Calgary Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board (REB21-0342).

If you have any question or concerns about this study, please contact the research coordinator for this project, Benn Antepim at bantepim@ucalgary.ca.

Opportunity to participate in research on the role of gender in the practice of Emergency Medicine in Canada

A team at Queen's is looking at the role of gender on the clinical practice of Emergency Medicine in Canada. We will be conducting a voluntary qualitative survey that will take 30-60 minutes. We are hoping to have a broad range of participants and perspectives that represent the diversity of clinicians in our country.

Please see attached [letter of information](#) for further details and [survey link](#) to distribute amongst your department to collect participation interest.

- Catherine Patocka

AEBM Students

Students are currently looking for preceptors willing to take them on for the Applied Evidence Based Medicine course (formerly med440) at the medical school. These are students at the beginning of second year who are interested in emergency medicine. They are looking for 24h of clinical exposure between May 5 and August 18, 2022 which works out to a total of 3 shifts over 4 months.

If you are willing to take on a student for this, email Judy cgyemergelectives@albertahealthservices.ca and we will match you up.

You get paid a stipend directly from the medical school.

We have already had several student requests!

Meira Louis
calgaryERelectives@gmail.com

Wellness

Parenting & working as a physician during COVID - [resources from CSM](#)

Wellness Supports

1. Call your Peer Support Team. [HERE are their phone numbers \(updated October 2021\)](#). The Peer Support Team member can provide an empathetic ear, screen for safety and guide you to resources that exist in our community (i.e PFSP).
2. Call Physician and Family Services (PFSP) – 1877SOS4MDS. THIS LINE IS AVAILABLE 24/7. You have free hours of counselling for yourself and for your family members.

Grand Rounds & Journal Club

Emergency Grand Rounds - Thurs April 7, 2022

- Time: 0900 – 1000 (**1.0 Education Credits**)
- Room: **Theatre 1 - HSC**
- Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98848048571>
- Eval: <https://cutt.ly/xT82kgH>

Speaker: [Dr. Haley Cochrane](#), MBBS, FRCPC, ABEM, Emergency Medicine Physician – Calgary Zone

Topic: Ditching the Poulitice and Snake Oil: “Evidence Based Minor Treatment”

Description: *We will be covering some evidence based treatments and practice pearls for your next minor treatment shift.*

Please don't share zoom links online.

Recording Link: Archived Rounds Recordings can be found [on our website](#).

Opportunities

Rocky Mountain Emergency Services (RMES) Board Positions Available

The RMES directors are soliciting nominations for two elected positions on the board of the Rocky Mountain Emergency Services (RMES). We encourage both self-nominations and nominations of others. Any physician working at SHC/PLC/FMC, that uses RMES services, is eligible to apply.

For those that don't know, RMES is responsible for managing relationships with our billing providers, paying for many of our shared services and keeping track of all of our billing support. RMES is a key component in keeping all of our independent businesses moving in the right direction.

The new directors will play an important role in shaping the future of the organization. We can choose to scale larger and provide more services to our members or shrink the services and costs to members.

The roles are currently compensated at a rate of \$2,500/month plus \$150/hour for every hour above 10 hours you work in the position.

Nominees will be offered the opportunity to meet with the existing directors to ask any questions they may have and elections (or confirmations of nominations) will occur at our AGM which will be scheduled in the not too distant future.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Please don't hesitate to contact Eileen Kabaroff or Steve Clark for further information.

Older Adult Case Collaborative seeking Calgary ER doctor

The NW Older Adult Case Collaborative is looking for a Calgary ER doctor, preferably based out of FMC, who would be available to join our team for monthly meetings to provide the very important acute care perspective. We are a group of community care providers including family medicine, social work, home care, geriatric mental health, Calgary Police Services, CFPCN team members and more who meet every month to brainstorm complex older adult cases together. If you are interested in contributing to care collaboration in our community, please reach out to Dr. Agnes Thompson agnesjthompson@gmail.com, who is the NW Collaborative Physician Champion.

Note from Christine East: These case conferences are a very interesting and rewarding way to contribute to care of older persons, and they they have the added bonus of being billable to AH!"

Expressions of Interest Welcome - Physician Learning program Medical Director(s)

The [Physician Learning Program](#) (PLP) is an initiative funded by Alberta Health (AH) and administered between AH and the University of Calgary Office of Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development.

Recognizing that participation in cycles of Physician Practice Improvement (PPI) will be required of all Alberta physicians within the next few years, there are opportunities for physicians to join the PLP team to advance our work across the spectrum of care. Our [2022-23 Work Plan](#) gives you a sense of our engagements across Alberta.

Supported by a project management team of 12 full time highly energetic colleagues, PLP Medical Directors serve as project co-leaders responsible for determining best evidence, indices development, facilitation, and other peer to peer knowledge translation activities. Successful candidate(s) for this role will have experience in quality improvement and evidence-based practice implementation strategies. Candidates will have opportunities to build their skills in peer facilitation and CAFF methods. We are results driven.

PLP Medical Directors will assist in:

- Building capacity for physician engagement in practice improvement (PPI)

- Guide development of scientific and educational requirements associated with PLP projects
- Co-lead PLP initiatives with physicians in the field supported by project manager(s), data analysts and human centered design resources
- Participate in the creation and dissemination of scholarship around best practices in CPD, quality improvement, knowledge translation and implementation science

To express interest in these opportunities please respond via email by May 31, 2022:

Thomas J Raedler, MD

tjraedle@ucalgary.ca

Associate Dean, CME & PD, Co-Lead, Physician Learning Program (PLP)
Office of Continuing Medical Education & Professional Development

CME

EMBER

Exploring Mental
health Barriers in
Emergency Rooms

The EMBER Study presents:

***Understanding & Addressing
Mental Illness Stigma Holistically***

Join us for a presentation & panel
discussion exploring mental health
barriers and mental illness stigma in
emergency rooms

Save the Date!
Friday, May 6
12-1:30 pm

In partnership with:



Please join us online for a mental health & stigma symposium brought to you by the Mathison Centre, the Calgary Health Foundation, and the EMBER Study Team on May 6, 2022 from 12:00-1:30pm. Invite with Zoom details to follow. Contact EMBER.Study@ucalgary.ca for more info.

Bystander to Upstander : Intervention Training

For CSM community members interested in developing skills to intervene in challenging situations.

[REGISTER: Bystander to Upstander: Intervention Training Tickets, Fri, 8 Apr 2022 at 9:00 AM](#)

CSMTEP - Teaching Excellence Program

Calling all teaching faculty! The Office of Faculty Development and Performance is now accepting applications for: [CSMTEP 2022-2023](#)

CSMTEP is designed to help faculty solidify fundamental teaching skills, learn relevant educational theory, and explore more advanced topics related to special areas of interest in medical education. Applicants should be involved in teaching at the graduate, postgraduate, and/ or undergraduate level and ideally planning on pursuing medical education as a major component of their career. Click the link above for more information.

Want more? Please keep an eye on our [event calendar](#) for future offerings. [Browse programs and workshops.](#)

The Alberta SimPosium - Hold the Date Oct 25-26

We are incredibly excited to announce that [The Alberta SimPosium](#) is going ahead in both an in-person and virtual format this Fall.

More details to come, but please mark your calendars so you can join other simulation practitioners from around Alberta on October 25th and 26th 2022.

This change in format brings some exciting new possibilities to engage with our Alberta simulation community. Our conference committee is working diligently to bring together both an in-person program in Calgary and Edmonton and a virtual experience .

Thank you for your dedication to AHS and the field of simulation.

Hold the Dates **October 25th and 26th 2022** and see you in the Fall!

Kudos Corner

Congrats to Jason Elzinga, Zoe Polsky , Eddy Lang, and Catherine Patocka on recent publication: [Realist inquiry: a new way to think about overcrowding interventions - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)



Retirement Highlights: Carrie Hiscock

“Emergency Medicine is a field of medicine in which you get a quick window into people’s lives, in their most vulnerable moments, and get to care for them using your technical skills, knowledge, compassion, and art. You become a fixer, listener, coordinator, sleuth, skeptic, and softie, all wrapped up in one person. “

Carrie served in the Calgary Emergency Department from 1996-2021. She was a committed clinician, educator, mentor and business manager. [Read more about](#) Carrie’s remarkable career and what she is up to now.

*Thanks to Jen Puddy for her contribution
collating the highlight of Carrie.*