

Department of Emergency Medicine

Weekly email

Updates for ED Physicians

Dec 13, 2022 Edition

Notes from Neil & Eddy

December 13, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

A tipping point for access block?

After months of concerted effort and advocacy we believe that we may be at a tipping point in the access block crisis we have been living for the past several months. ED operations have risen to the top of the provincial agenda and this has played out with the following developments.

1. Establishment of a Calgary Zone Task Force to address the boarding EIP issue (chaired by Michael Suddes and Peter Jamieson)
2. Recruitment of Cheri Nijssen-Jordan, (a senior PEM MD in Calgary with extensive organizational experience) to address capacity and flow issues system-wide.
3. Ongoing work by the Calgary Integrated Operational Center (Medical lead, Dr. Brad Granberg).
4. Dr. John Cowell, Alberta's Official Administrator identifying ED wait times and EMS response intervals as top government priorities.
5. Gradually improved nursing staffing levels across Calgary Zone EDs
6. Increased funding support and sign-up for the emergency physician lead (EPL) role across the zone

December data may already be demonstrating early impact of concerted measures to keep the EIP burden to a manageable level. For example in comparison to October / November:

- EIPs as a % of funded beds are down from 66% to 57%
- Average wait time to see an MD dropping from 3.5 to 2.9 hours
- Left without being seen rates are falling or plateauing across the adult sites in the Zone.

We remain far from where we'd like to be but are encouraged by the system-wide effort to return us to a place where our EDs can effectively caring for ED patients primarily as opposed to those awaiting inpatient beds. We aim for an ED setting where our physician group can feel that they can see patients in appropriate settings and in a timely manner. It is not lost on us that you are all going above and beyond to provide the best possible care to 850 Calgarians every day across the 5 emergency sites under difficult conditions.

Respiratory virus season

Calgary and the rest of the country have been particularly hard and early by the tri-demic of respiratory viruses. All of us have seen the impact on young children in particular. Modeling and predictions are hampered by data delays and inconsistent testing but wastewater analysis, a leading indicator generally 2 weeks ahead of hospitalizations shows some promising trends however. <https://covid-tracker.chi-csm.ca/>

Season's greetings

While hopeful that our working conditions will continue to improve it is at least both heartwarming and encouraging that social gatherings are returning to near normal levels. Holiday parties are re-emerging and the energy and vibe are encouraging.

At this special time of gatherings and reconnection with cherished ones we would like to wish all of you and your loved ones a joyous restful and peaceful holiday period.

-Neil & Eddy

Operations

Update from ED Research Team

We are pleased to introduce our Research Team in Emergency Medicine. Dr. Kathryn Crowder as Research Director, our Senior Researchers Dr. Eddy Lang and Dr. Andrew McRae, Christina Cherian as our Research Coordinator and Jenny Woo as our Research Administrator.

Our departmental list of active studies are the following:

Physiotherapy care in Emergency Departments for Patients with Musculoskeletal Disorders: A Pragmatic Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial and Cost Analysis

Objective - To analyze the outcomes if a physio-led approach to minor msk injuries in the ED would improve outcomes for patients in the ED.

PI – Dr. Kathryn Crowder; Co-PI – Dr. Stephanie VandenBerg

Status – Currently recruiting for control arm at the Rockyview.

Multi-Centre Cluster-Randomized Implementation of Canadian Syncope Risk Score based Practice Recommendations for Emergency Department Syncope Management

Objective - To evaluate the effectiveness of the knowledge translation (KT) of the CSRS based practice recommendations in multiple Canadian EDs using a stepped wedge cluster randomized trial (SW-CRT) on health care efficiency and patient safety

PI – Dr. Andrew McRae; Co-PI – Dr. Stephanie Vandenberg

Status – Ethics approved and awaiting operational approval.

RACE study: Rapid, accurate and cost-effective analysis of Glial Fibrillary Acid Protein using a hand-held biosensor for patient with concussion in acute care and at home monitoring

Objective - Compare blood GFAP concentrations from the nano-biosensor to the gold-standard SIMOA in patients diagnosed with uncomplicated concussion until recovery.

PI – Dr. Chantel Debert; Co-PI – Dr. Kathryn Crowder, Dr. Amir Sanati Nezhad

Status – Ethics approved, awaiting operational approval.

RAFF4 Trial: Vernakalant vs. Procainamide for Acute Atrial Fibrillation in the Emergency Department

Objective - To compare intravenous (IV) vernakalant to IV procainamide for the ED management of acute AF patients.

PI – Dr. Andrew McRae; Co-PI – Dr. Kathryn Crowder

Status – Ethics to be submitted.

If anyone is interested in getting involved in research within the department kindly email, Kathryn Crowder - krcrowde@ucalgary.ca

Harm Reduction Kits Available in PLC ED

As outlined by the 2020, 'CAEP Position Statement: Emergency Department Management of People with Opioid Use Disorder', sterile drug consumption supplies should be provided to patients to reduce the harms and complications associated with substance use. Harm Reduction Kits, containing safe injection supplies and information about local resources, are now available in the PLC Emergency Department without any Connect Care documentation. At time of discharge, or when ordering your patient's naloxone kit, be sure to request a Harm Reduction Kit be provided by simply putting in a clinical communication to the bedside nurse.

STAFF EXAMINERS FOR CCFP-EM ORAL EXAMS : 2023

**March 9 and June 8,
2023 – In Person**

The CCFP-EM Residency Program is in need of 7 staff examiners for the oral exams on

the following dates:

March 9th and June 8th from 1000 – 1300

These exams have returned to In-Person sessions.

Please check your availability and let me know if you are able to help on any of these dates 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.

YYC ED

Procedural Skills - Chest Tube Insertion

The staff sim program is hosting a procedural skills session on percutaneous chest tube insertion on *December 14th from 9-11 AM* in lieu of our scheduled session (cancelled due to RN staff unavailability). It will be held in the ATSSL dry lab in the medical school. Please feel free to drop in for a casual review on the latest perc chest tube kits. If you think you will attend please email me at patriciazlee@gmail.com to RSVP, thanks

Survey to help inform the optimization of Home Care for patient's discharged from the ED

We have been advocating for a rapid response home care team for appropriate discharges from the ED. Home Care has recently reached out and is hoping to partner with the ED to support the reduction of acute care admissions.

We are in the initial planning stages of developing a pilot program for a rapid response home care team for the ED. This would be narrow in scope initially with a goal to expand across the zone and into the inpatient realms as soon as feasible. The main focus of this program would be patients whose only reason for admission is inability to access timely homecare. Such cases would include those patients requiring ADL support or those that require urgent equipment needs.

Home Care is hoping to hear from us regarding some case examples that would illustrate the most important services to focus on. I have created a survey and your feedback and thoughts would be very helpful to fully realize the potential of this pilot program.

[Please click here to complete a short survey.](#)

-Margaret McGillivray

CALGARY EM VEST ORDER

This year we are happy to announce that we will be opening up the resident vest order to the rest of the department! Unfortunately, Arc'teryx no longer offers corporate sales for vests, so we will be moving to similar Spyder vests (Transit LT Insulator). They will be black, and both men's and women's cuts are available.

Each vest will have the CalgaryEM logo on the chest and the option for name/personalization on the opposite side.

A men's large and a women's small are available for try-on in the FMC ED Office (Room C231B). There is a size chart attached to the Google form for all remaining sizes.

Please contact Natasha Goumeniouk PGY4 (ngoumeniouk@gmed.ca) with any questions!

Cost per vest (taxes/shipping etc included) is \$160. Completing the form confirms purchase -- payment will be collected once the order is finalized. If you are ordering multiple vests, please re-submit the form. You will be emailed a copy for your records.

Order deadline is December 15, 2022. [Complete the order form here.](#)



TRANSIT LT INSULATOR VEST

90% polyester, 10% Spandex
Pillow Tech quilted, three-layer fabric
Top Layer: lightweight, four-way stretch woven
Insulation: warmth-retaining synthetic down
Base Layer: lightweight, four-way stretch woven
Quilting is 2.25" apart
4-way stretch yoke & side panels
Debossed spyder neck tape & internal locker loop
Reverse coil center front zipper w/ dye to match rubberized branded zipper pull
1/2 inch welt side pockets w/ secure- zip closure & dye to match rubberized branded pulls
Stylized neck iline with brushed micro-denier tricot inner collar
Spyder branded label on lower front placket
Spyder bug woven loop label on left-chest pocket
Spyder wordmark rubberized screenprint on center back
Modern fit

Resident Retreat - February 24-26 in Canmore - BOOK NOW!

*****RETREAT CHILDMINDING*****

In an effort to make the Resident retreat more accessible for staff, we will be organizing some group childcare with toys, games, crafts, videos and activities for Saturday morning. If you are hoping to come to retreat, we don't want childcare to be a barrier!

(if you want childcare at other times during the weekend we can also provide contact info/details for the service).

Please let Madhavi know if you are interested (and provide details about # of children and age)!

Catherine

You are all invited to the upcoming resident retreat being held from [February 24-26, 2023 at the Malcolm Hotel in Canmore](#). We are looking forward to another fantastic weekend.

All staff are welcome (and encouraged) to attend this family-friendly weekend, but even if you can just make it to one day or part of the day, the residents would love to see you and get a chance to interact with you.

The main events include:

- **Friday Evening reception at Malcolm hotel in Canmore (cash bar) 1900-2100**
- **Saturday morning - small group sessions with the residents**
- **Saturday afternoon – Pool Party at Malcolm**
- **Saturday Dinner: 1800-2100** Group Dinner at The Malcolm Hotel
- **2100-midnight at least** Group Party at The Malcolm Hotel – DJ and Costume themes TBA
- **Sunday** - free time

You are welcome to join us in staying at the Malcolm Hotel or you can find other accommodation in Canmore if preferred.

Please see the instructions below to make a reservation.

Please [Click Here](#) to make a reservation. Full website details are:

- Enter Promotional/Booking Code: **CM0224**
- Click Apply
- Select your check in and check out dates.
- Click Check Availability – if this is not clicked, it will state no rooms are available
- Select preferred room category
- Click Book Now
- Enter all information required.

A confirmation email will be sent to the email address provided.

Any other pre-pay special or promos running at that time will also populate; but cannot be combined with any other booking code. Please note, the booking link above must be clicked, as this code does not work on our direct website.

If you will be coming to the resident retreat we will need you to **RSVP Madhavi** at Madhavi.talasila@ahs.ca **by Monday December 12th** to any events you will be joining in Canmore so that we can ensure we have the space and meals booked.

RSVP for Friday February 24th Reception: Number of people attending reception /allergies

RSVP for Saturday February 25th events and dinner: number of people attending the dinner/allergies

Cost for Saturday dinner: \$100/person (no charge for children)

Looking forward to a fun weekend with you

Catherine, Anj, Charles and all the residents

PLC Christmas Party

Tickets will be going on sale very soon!

Feel free to direct anyone to me with any questions!!

Party will start at 1900 Sunday, December 18

- @ Greta Bar
- 213 10 AVE SW
- gretabar.com

Ticket includes food, 1 drink & a gaming card to spend on the games in the bar!

Thanks again! Hope to see you there!

Dezz, Desiree.Tamano@albertahealthservices.ca

Foothills ER Christmas Party

Dec 21 starts at 1900 to 0200 at the Bank and Baron 125 8 Ave SW.

Features cocktails, turkey dinner, DJ & Dancing. [More info here.](#)

If any doctors want to donate to some door prizes for the nurses for the Xmas party, they can e-transfer Peter Furlong at the address included in the event info.

Wellness

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

Wellness Supports

1. Call your Peer Support Team. [HERE are their phone numbers \(updated Nov 2022\).](#) 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.
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Grand Rounds & Journal Club

Emergency Department Grand Rounds - Dec 15

- **Date:** Thurs, Dec 15, 2022
- **Time:** 0900 – 1000 (1.00 Education Credits)
- **Room:** Theatre 4 - HSC
- **Zoom:** <https://albertahealthservices.zoom.us/j/66383702969>
- **Short URL:** <https://cutt.ly/GCvS9mp>
- **Passcode:** 037024

- **Eval:** <https://cutt.ly/xT82kgH>

Speaker: Dr. Julia Madill

R2 Emerg Res, FRCPC

Topic: TBA

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

Opportunities

Leadership Opportunities - Physician Learning Program, Continuing medical Education and Professional Development

The world of continuing professional development in medicine is shifting to a new paradigm integrating high quality medical knowledge with quality improvement strategies like data informed reflective practice to improve patient outcomes. The medical leadership opportunities described below will join the leadership team at CME&PD and PLP to build capacity to support physicians as they become engaged in data informed peer to peer reflective practice opportunities with their healthcare teams.

- Collaborating with stakeholders and fostering positive strategic relationships with partners will be critical in advancing the future of QI-informed CPD. Stakeholders include:
 - Choosing Wisely Alberta
 - Continuing Professional Development Network
 - College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta
 - Alberta Medical Association
 - Alberta Health Services
 - Health Quality council of Alberta

Other key capacity builders in this milieu are the My Practice Improvement (MyPI) online tool to record and receive CME-credit for reflective practice activities and the Peer Coaching program.

The three medical leadership opportunities (attached) will work in concert with one another.

- [Managing Director, PLP](#)
- [Medical Director QI & Practice Improvement, PLP](#)
- [Assistant Dean, PLP](#)

To express interest in these opportunities please reply to the Associate Dean, by December 30, 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

Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary

MD Wellness Lead

The MD Wellness Lead is considered a **0.1FTE** position, compensated at the rate of **\$24,000 annually**. If you're interested in applying for this exceptional opportunity, please email me a cover letter highlighting your interest and skillset for this position, and an updated CV.

The occupational wellbeing of physicians is recognized as an important factor in professional fulfillment and growth, and directly impacts the provision of care to patients. This is especially relevant in the COVID era and applicable to emergency physicians as they report the highest rates of burnout within all physician groups:

[29 physician specialties ranked by 2021 burnout rates \(beckershospitalreview.com\)](https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/physician-specialties-ranked-by-2021-burnout-rates)

This position will focus on the importance of emergency physician health, and will ensure that there is protected and supported time to advocate for physician wellbeing on important department decisions, to innovate and incorporate change into the Emergency Department, and to strive to become a center of excellence for physician wellbeing within our province. Multiple MDs in our department have specialized training in MD wellness and have been engaged in wellness projects.

This role will work collaboratively with the members of the Department of Emergency Medicine community to foster a culture of physician wellness and lead the planning, development, implementation, evaluation and continuous monitoring of department well-being initiatives and to make physician wellbeing a department priority and address issues on system level.

See posting: [MD Wellness Lead - Doctor Jobs Careers \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/jobs/careers/doctor/MD-Wellness-Lead-Doctor-Jobs-Careers)

For further details about the role, please feel free to call or email me or Neil/Eddy or contact Sarah directly at sjmcpher@gmail.com.

Thanks!

Scott Banks

Associate Research Director

The Associate Research Director is considered a **0.2FTE** position and is paid from the University of Calgary. It is compensated at the rate of **\$41,790.50 annually** inclusive of vacation pay and there are no benefits associated with it. If you're interested in applying for this exceptional opportunity, please email me a cover letter highlighting your interest and skillset for this position, and an updated CV.

Innovation in emergency care and development of new evidence is critical to informing process and operational improvements, and in improving patient outcomes. This position is essential for the development of new evidence using local Calgary data. The Associate Research Director Scientist will also act as a scholarly mentor for graduate and postgraduate trainees, and participate in Calgary Zone ED quality improvement activities. They will also act as a collaborator with researchers from

outside of the Department of Emergency Medicine whose research will impact the care of ED patients.

Key Responsibilities:

- Primary research/evidence generation leading to operational and practice change in Calgary Zone EDs.
- Mentoring graduate, postgraduate and undergraduate medical trainees engaged in research and/or quality improvement projects.
- Coordinating with the Calgary Zone Emergency Medicine Division Chief of Research regarding research projects involving collaborators outside of the Department of Emergency Medicine.
- Attend meetings as required and the departmental annual retreat.
- The Associate Research Director scientist will be expected to compete for additional peer-reviewed salary support.
- Assisting the Division Chief of Emergency Medicine Research in organizing the annual EM Research Day.
- Supervision for our Research Coordinator.
- Co-chairing the EM Research Advisory Committee.
- Developing original research ideas and leading in the performance and publication of these research ideas.
- Assisting with other collaborative research that occurs in the department.
- Teaching EM residents and other trainees about research methodology, abstract submission, poster design and oral presentation skills.

The selected candidate will work closely with EM Research Section Chief. For further details about the role, please feel free to call or email me, Eddy or speak directly to Stephanie and Katie at katielinmd@gmail.com

Thanks,

Scott Banks

EM Effectiveness & Clinical Excellence Coordinator

The Effectiveness & Clinical Excellence Coordinator is considered a **0.2FTE** position, compensated at the rate of **\$48,000 annually**. If you're interested in applying for this great opportunity, please email me a cover letter highlighting your interest and skillset for this position, and an updated CV. The start date will be as soon as possible.

This position allows for improved resource stewardship in the Emergency Medicine Department, as well as, improvement in the quality of care we deliver and continuous work to increase physician engagement by utilizing feedback with physician performance measures.

The EM Effectiveness & Clinical Excellence Coordinator is responsible for optimizing clinical decision support and quality improvement audit and feedback activities within ConnectCare. In addition, the Coordinator reviews/changes/updates the EM Order Set for EM users. This role develops and creates reports on quality indicators of clinical effectiveness at the provider level in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Medicine Data Analyst reflecting optimal care, i.e. % of hemodynamically stable upper GI bleed patients receiving transfusion for Hgb >80, use of expensive antibiotics when less costly alternative is available.

This position is essential to continue and lead innovation & quality improvement projects/activities in the department. The Effectiveness Coordinator identifies areas of need for clinical effectiveness or quality improvement support, training and education for ED physicians.

For further details about the role, please feel free to call or email me or Neil/Eddy or contact Shawn directly at skdowling@gmail.com.

See posting: [EM Effectiveness & Clinical Excellence Coordinator - Doctor Jobs Careers \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#)

Thanks,
Scott Banks

CME & Learning

CAMSS Zone Advisory Forum & AGM, December 14, 2022

All Calgary Zone physicians are invited to attend the CAMSS Zone Advisory Forum (ZAF) on December 14, featuring the following presentation:

[CPSA: Physician Practice Improvement Program \(PIIP\)](#)

- Dr. Danielle Michaels
- Tanya Northfield, Program Manager, PPIP
- **When:** Wednesday, December 14 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Where:** Zoom
- **Registration is required:**
- <https://albertadoctors.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkdO-rpz4iGdJ1BVKimLHqriDH211PelsP>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information you will need to join the meeting.

The Zone Advisory Forum will be followed by the **CAMSS AGM**. The registration link is the same.

PEM REVIEW early bird deadline - Nov 30/22!

[Itinerary here.](#)

Jan 26-28, Banff AB

Register Here: [ANNUAL CANADIAN PEM REVIEW COURSE](#)

[39th Annual Emergency Medicine for Rural Hospitals \(EMRH\)](#)
January 20th-22nd, 2023

This course provides updates on clinical topics relevant for physicians, nurses and other health professionals who practice in rural communities. Through a combination of plenary lectures, small group interactive sessions and workshops, participants will review current best practices, guidelines, tools and techniques for investigating and managing emergent patients – from pre-hospital, to the rural emergency department.

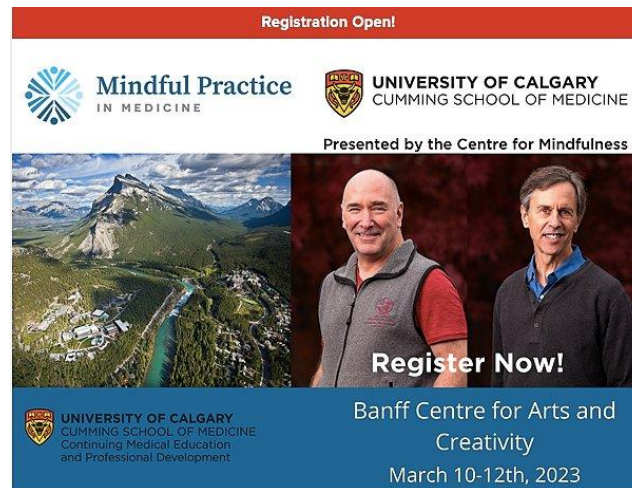
[Info and registration here.](#)

Mindful Practice in Medicine Workshop

March 10-12th, 2023

[In-Person Schedule](#) - Subject to change

[Info and Registration Here.](#)



Kudos

Kudos to Dr. Langhan and team on this [patient commendation!](#)

Congrats to the recipients of the 2022 RGH MSA Physician Recognition Awards!

- Innovation Award: Dr. Christine East
- Advocacy & Action Award: Dr. Nancy Zuzic

[Read more about all the awards and see photos from the event.](#)

Highlighting our own Heather Patterson

[Opinion: The faces of perseverance in our children's hospitals - The Globe and Mail](#)
