



Department of Emergency Medicine

# Weekly **email**

Updates for ED Physicians

**Oct 25, 2022 Edition**

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## Notes from Neil & Eddy

Dear colleagues,

### Bed Block Crisis

This month's Zone Medical Advisory Committee meeting, attended by all medical, nursing and operational leaders in Calgary, led off with a discussion the current state of emergency care in our Zone. The situation was presented in no uncertain terms as being "untenable and unsafe" and driven largely by unprecedented levels of boarded patients - especially at SHC and FMC. At times, over the past few weeks, 80% of the entire ED bed map across the four adult sites was occupied by Emergency Inpatients or EIPs.

The harms this creates were laid out in the sharing of [this CTV Calgary report highlighting the human toll of the current situation](#). Bed block has been a chronic issue and is now a global phenomenon but now there is a clear and disheartening casualty list.

The inpatient capacity strains contributing to this problem are significant and include high numbers of patients awaiting long-term care, and the Alberta Surgical Initiative, which intends to bring in scheduled surgery patients on waitlists impacted by the pandemic.

This past week, most of the Zone Department of Emergency Medicine committee, also multidisciplinary and attended by all managers, site chiefs, assistant site chiefs, as well as hospital Senior Operating Officers (SOOs) held a special 7am meeting to share our concerns with Dr. Mark Anselmo and Lori Anderson - the medical and operational dyad leads for the zone.

A number of initiatives to address the capacity crisis were laid out, including nursing recruitment initiatives. It was also made clear that catching up on surgery is a top government priority and will not be scaled back for the time being to address the severe access block we are living. They have

committed to revisit our currently failing surge strategies to ensure that critical levels of boarding are the exception and not the rule.

Your leadership team is advocating for solutions as best we can, but we want you to feel free to advocate as emergency MDs in whatever way you think is appropriate including RLS submissions and engaging patients and families to share their concerns with AHS and their MLAs.

### **Wellness Survey**

Sincere thanks to all those who completed the Wellness Survey – we achieved the response threshold that was required to make the project valid. Stay tuned for information on the 2023 retreat date where the results will be presented and actions developed.

### **Industry sponsored CME in the Newsletter**

Your Physician Executive Committee voted unanimously to ban the sharing of information related to industry-sponsored CME events in our newsletter. Such items will no longer be accepted for inclusion. If you want to place something in the newsletter that may or may not be compliant with that policy please feel free to reach out to your leadership team.

Despite the challenging times, we remain grateful to all our ED MDs for providing the best care possible in a very challenging environment. Calgary remains one of the most attractive places in Canada and beyond to work as emergency physicians and while the storm clouds may not have cleared yet, our ability to overcome adversity will see us through this time.

Neil & Eddy

## **Operations**

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### **Ebola Virus Disease Update**

[Read Oct 21 Memo re: Ebola Virus Disease Update for EMS, ED and Urgent Care staff](#)

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### **Geri-EM additions to the myEDapp**

#### **1. [Guide: ER Agitation Treatment in Older Adults:](#)**

This guide was built collaboratively with many iterations. The team included our Geri-EM physician site leads, a Geriatric pharmacist, Geriatric NPs and Geriatricians.

This is meant as a guide to assist you to manage scenarios when older adults present with agitation or develop agitation during their ED stay.

This initiative has been shared with our ED pharmacist's and nursing colleagues. Copies have been posted in Med rooms.

Main points:

- Invite familiar caregivers to the bedside
- Provide at home medications, particularly any antipsychotics if appropriate

- Treat painful conditions: Pain first strategy
- Review the [ABCDs of Agitation](#)
- Attempt non-pharmacologic de-escalation techniques: utilize team members including SUPER volunteers when available.

**TADA** approach:

- Tolerate behavior
- Anticipate care needs
- Don't
- Agitate

If contemplating a pharmacologic approach:

- Low doses
- Start with oral when appropriate
- Avoid dose stacking
- Do not combine antipsychotics
- Avoid Benzos unless Parkinson's or ETOH related agitation.

## 2. Exercises for Older ED patients:

- [These posters were adapted from Geriatric Emergency Department Collaborative](#) resources by our GEM NP, ED physiotherapist and the GEM working group.
- The goal of these exercises is to minimize functional decline during our patient's stay in the ED. With longer wait times and longer EDLOS for admitted patients utilizing these exercises will significantly benefit to our patients.
- They can be laminated and distributed to patients as multi-use cards or given as single use versions.
- The SUPER volunteers will be trained to assist patients with these exercises.
- Each sites Geriatric EM physician lead will be working with their ED teams to determine the best way to implement this initiative at your site.
- Have been uploaded to the myEDapp and can be airdropped to family members for their use at the patient's bedside.

-Margaret McGillivray, Margaret.McGillivray@albertahealthservices.ca

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### Medical Staff Info: Announcement - Indigenous Wellness Core Medical Director

[Appointment – Dr. Elizabeth \(Liz\) Erasmus, Medical Director, Indigenous Wellness Core \(IWC\)](#)

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### Mark your Calendars - Upcoming MetricAid Scheduling Information Session

**Thursday, November 03 from 1000 to 1100 in the Clara Christie Theatre – HSC.**

The schedulers (Amanda Schreiner, Tash Wright and Nick Pompa) plan to host an hour-long grand rounds in conjunction with MetricAid to discuss scheduling in the Calgary Zone Emergency Departments. Please plan to attend in person, if at all possible. We will review the following in more detail:

1. Current and future expectations for FTE, weekend coverage, and non-summer/christmas vacation time
2. Step 1, 2 and 3 preference entry with examples
3. Plans for Summer 2023
4. Guidelines and approval process for FTE reduction requests and line change requests

The schedulers and MetricAid will host a question and answer period following the presentation and hope to address as many questions as possible.\*\*Please note that this will be a staff only discussion - residents and physicians outside of the Calgary zone schedule will not be invited to attend. **A unique zoom link will be provided closer to the date.**

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## **FMC Connect Care Pre-Launch Meeting**

**Topic: FMC Connect Care Pre-Launch Meeting**

**Time: Nov 4, 2022 09:00 Edmonton**

**[Join Zoom Meeting](#)**

Meeting ID: 624 5209 0880 Passcode: 596332

One tap mobile +15873281099,,62452090880# Canada

Dial in for audio only +1 587 328 1099 Canada Meeting ID: 624 5209 0880  
-Drs Lendrum & Andruchow

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## **YYC ED Specific**

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### **ACLS/PALS - Jan 31, Feb 1**

That time of year again....We will be doing an ACLS/PALS course with BLS for those that need it.

**Details:**

- ACLS: January 31 0900-1530
- PALS: February 1 0900-1630
- BLS: Offered both mornings at 0745 (only need to attend 1 day)

All courses will be provider level.

**Cost:**

- ACLS: \$275
- PALS: \$325

- BLS: \$0

Please contact Dawn McKeivitt at [dawn.mckevitt@me.com](mailto:dawn.mckevitt@me.com) if you are interested.

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## ED Simulation Facilitation Opportunities

The Calgary Emerg Sim Hub would like to introduce themselves and let you know about opportunities to become involved within simulation facilitation.

- Staff SIM (Gord McNeil, [gordandlori@shaw.ca](mailto:gordandlori@shaw.ca))
- Junior Resident SIM (Patty Lee, [patriciazlee@gmail.com](mailto:patriciazlee@gmail.com))
- Senior Resident SIM (Lorissa Mews, [lorissa.mews@ucalgary.ca](mailto:lorissa.mews@ucalgary.ca))
- EM resident SIM (Margriet Greidanus, [mgreidanus@me.com](mailto:mgreidanus@me.com))
- UME SIM (Ryan Wilkie, [rdwilkie@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rdwilkie@ucalgary.ca))

If you are interested in facilitating UME or Resident sim please [add your name to the spreadsheet](#).  
If you are interested in facilitating staff simulation, please email Gord directly.

Adding your name just lets us know that you are interested - it doesn't commit you or tie you to a particular sim group. We will send out emails with further information and session sign-up.

Each SIM group may have slightly different requirements for facilitators. Facilitation and debriefing training is recommended but don't let this be a deterrent. If you are interested, please sign up/reach out! Two debriefing courses we recommend are ASSET (<https://www.kidsim.ca/faculty-development>) and WISE (currently undergoing a revamp and should be available soon).

Simulation facilitating is remunerated at the PGME teaching rate.

Feel free to scan the QR code and join the WhatsApp SIM hub group for sim collaboration, news and conferences. Please let an of us know if you have questions.



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### Preceptors Needed!

We are recruiting preceptors for the next quarter of the academic year. As a preceptor for Academic Day Rounds, your job is to guide the resident assigned to the topic as they generate their presentation and to then be present during the session to help answer questions and guide discussion. We have returned to in-person Academic Day sessions. You will be remunerated at the standard PGME hourly-teaching rate.

We know how busy everyone is, and truly appreciate all of the support you all show to the residency program! If you are able to preceptor any of the following sessions, please email Anjali directly at [anjali.pandya@gmail.com](mailto:anjali.pandya@gmail.com).

Thank you for your consideration!

Catherine, Charles & Anjali

- **January 5 - 14:00-15:00 - Peds Cardiac Disorders**
- **March 23 -13:00-14:00 - Pain Management in the ED**

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**STAFF EXAMINERS FOR CCFP-EM ORAL EXAMS : 2022**

## December 08 – In Person

The CCFP-EM Residency Program is in need of 2 staff examiners for the oral exams on the following dates:

**December 8<sup>th</sup> from 1030 – 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](mailto:TriSurendra.Malasani@albertahealthservices.ca)

Your help and assistance is very much appreciated!! Once confirmed I will send Calendar invites.

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## DAM workshop Instructor Recruitment - Can you help?

The Difficult Airway Management Workshop is back again! The workshop is planned for Dec 1. We are in need of attending physician instructors for the day. We would be very thankful if you are able to support the workshop by lending your airway management expertise. For those of you who have not yet taught the workshop, the day runs from 9:00 until 15:00 at the ATSSL with faculty instructors from various disciplines.

Participants, including a large group of EM residents this iteration, are guided by experienced faculty as they rotate in small groups to practice key airway management skills. As instructors you are compensated PGME hours for teaching and lunch, coffee and snacks are provided. Most importantly, it's a fun day to be involved with and a good opportunity to foster linkages with other Departments and trainees. All appropriate COVID protocols will be followed. We are REALLY in need of your support. Please consider helping out if you're able. Please notify Stephon ([stephon.anderson@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:stephon.anderson@albertahealthservices.ca)) as soon as possible if you can assist. We will share instructor details with you prior to the workshop.

Thank you in advance, sincerely,  
Jonathan Gaudet

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## ED – Trauma Sims Sign Up

[EM Physician Participants: Level 1 Trauma Process Sims \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

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## ED Staff Simulations

**Please sign up for ED Staff Simulations.**

[EM Physician Participants: 2022 ED Staff Simulation \(Sept- Dec 2022\) \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

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## 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.

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## Grand Rounds & Journal Club

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### Toxicology Rounds Topics Survey

One of our local toxicology experts Dr. Scott Lucyk will be giving a Grand Rounds talk on Dec 8th, 2022 and was hoping to poll the group on what topics you would like him to discuss.

[Please fill out the one question on this survey.](#)

thanks, Fareen.

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### ACH City Wide Rounds

- **Date:** Thurs, Oct 27, 2022
- **Time:** 0900 – 1000
- **Zoom:** <https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/98658207603?pwd=R0VSaThnTmsxWCswbUJSQkJwUHc4dz09>
- **Meeting ID:** 986 5820 7603 **Passcode:** 802051

**Speaker:** Dr. Stephen Freedman

**Topic:** Shiga Toxin Producing E.coli infection

**Attendance & Eval Link:** [https://survey.ucalgary.ca/jfe/form/SV\\_6E8lcupgjobWddl](https://survey.ucalgary.ca/jfe/form/SV_6E8lcupgjobWddl)

**\*\* Recording Link:** [Archived recordings can be found on our website.](#)

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**Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology Pearls of the Week:** [Phenytoin Part 2](#)

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## Opportunities

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### Scream Festival Medical Support - Edmonton Oct 29

Odyssey Medical is looking for Physician support for an upcoming EDM event in Edmonton on October 29th from 1900 - 0300. There is a stipend of \$1600 for the shift. You would be working with an amazing multi disciplinary team. Accommodations can be provided if needed. If you are interested



please reach out to Elora Martin for more information at [crew-ab@odysseymedical.ca](mailto:crew-ab@odysseymedical.ca) or 778-823-4114.

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### Medical Leader, MAiD

[Medical Leader, Medical Assistance in Dying \(MAiD\) - Doctor Jobs Careers \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#)

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### Nakiska Ski Patrol

**As the Medical Director at Nakiska Ski Hill, I'm developing a Volunteer Physician Program to assist the ski patrol. We are looking for more ED physicians to fill out the roster through the season.**

The role is a volunteer position, and requires you to carry a ski patrol radio and be available to assist the patrol with the more difficult/critical cases that arise. It comes with the perk of free skiing that day for you and a guest.

Most issues are handled by ski patrol, and they simply hope to have physician backup for only the most serious injuries or medical issues.

If you are interested in discussing this, please contact me (Dr. Lois Torfason) by email at [<lrabuck@telus.net>](mailto:lrabuck@telus.net) . Thanks for your interest!

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### MD Wellness Lead

Dr. Sarah McPherson will be departing on a sabbatical starting September 1, 2022, and as a result the MD Wellness Lead role is available for a term period of time from September 1, 2022, to December 31, 2023. We would like to thank Sarah for her ground-breaking work & contributions to the role this past year.

#### About the Position:

The MD Wellness Lead is considered a **0.1FTE** position, compensated at the rate of **\$23,199 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 \(beckershospitalreview.com\)](#)

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 job posting.](#)

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](mailto:sjmcpher@gmail.com).

Thanks!

**Scott Banks**

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### **Associate Research Director**

After serving for two successful years as the Associate Research Director, Katie Lin has decided to step down and focus on other things effective September 30, 2022. Katie has done an exceptional job in this role, and has helped to make the research area very successful. We would like to thank her for the many contributions to research within the Calgary Zone Emergency Department. We are now in the process of recruiting a new Associate Research Director.

**About the Position:** 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](mailto:katielinmd@gmail.com)

**-Scott Banks**

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## **EM Effectiveness & Clinical Excellence Coordinator**

### **ED Physicians**

After seven and one half years as the ED Effectiveness Coordinator, Shawn decided to step down from this role. We would like to thank him for his work and many contributions in this role, while he simultaneously collaborated on various research projects for the improvement of our department. We are now in the process of recruiting a new Effectiveness & Clinical Excellence Coordinator.

### **About the Position**

The Effectiveness & Clinical Excellence Coordinator is considered a **0.2FTE** position, compensated at the rate of **\$46,398 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](mailto:skdowling@gmail.com).

[EM Effectiveness & Clinical Excellence Coordinator - Doctor Jobs Careers \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](https://albertahealthservices.ca/doctor-jobs-careers)

**Applicants are to submit curriculum vitae & cover letter (in pdf format) to Scott Banks at [ScottH.Banks@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:ScottH.Banks@albertahealthservices.ca)**

-Scott Banks

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## CME & Learning

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### **SkiBEEM 2023 Jan 29-21**

Presented by an international faculty of emergency physicians, the BEEM Course is an interactive update of emergency medicine practice approved for 12 hours of CME and up to 36 Mainpro+ credits.

[See flyer.](#)

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### **NEW from OFDP - Sexual Violence Education**

We are pleased to present two new, and very important, workshops being offered by our own Dr. Kiara Mikita. Dr. Kiara Mikita has been appointed as Sexual Violence Educator in the Office of Faculty Development and Performance (OFDP) as of August 15, 2022.

The Sexual Violence Educator role, split between CSM and AHS, works with faculty, staff, students, and AHS professionals to grow and build awareness about sexualized violence in healthcare settings and educational environments.

This specialized role is the first of its kind, and the OFDP is proud to pave the way and create space for Dr. Mikita to lead faculty development in this important area.

**Tue, 22 November 2022, 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM MST**

[Register here.](#)

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### **NEW from OFDP - What to do when you don't know what to do**

When someone is saying or doing something that is not okay

[Wed, 16 November 2022, 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM MST](#)

[Wed, 30 November 2022, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM MST](#)

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