

Department of Emergency Medicine

Weekly **email**

Updates for ED Physicians

Sep 05, 2023 Edition

Newsletter Updates

We're introducing some minor changes to make the newsletter a more effective communication tool!

- Submissions will run for a period of one week unless specified.
- Body copy will be edited at the discretion of the editor to optimize communication.
- Deadline is Tuesday at noon.

Thank you for your cooperation:) If there are any concerns, please email me at: natalie.sun@ahs.ca

Operations

Notes from Eddy

September 5, 2023

Dear colleagues

I hope you were all able to experience lots of rejuvenating and joyful time off over the summer. It's certainly been extremely busy from a patient volume perspective with our departments serving as the safety net once again for a strained healthcare system. Patients seeking emergency health services know that they will receive excellent care and that is thanks to your dedication and hard work over the summer months and into the fall.

A few updates to speak to.

Peter Lougheed Renovation Phase 1

Congratulations to the awesome site leads Drs. Meira Louis and Hailey Cochrane as well as the PLC manager Suzanne Wickware for leading the PLC through phase its recent cutting-edge renovation. Minister Adrianna Lagrange was present at the well-covered tour and media event and was extremely impressed with the space and the innovations and is keenly aware and concerned about the status of emergency care especially as it relates to addiction related mental healthcare in the Calgary Zone and in the province.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9912179/peter-lougheed-centre-er-renovations-first-phase-complete/>

This is the first substantive improvement in the PLC ED since it opened in 1988 and was long overdue. It is worth recalling that we have come to this point thanks to the advocacy of many including pleas from Neil over the years.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/1930729/doctors-demand-answers-over-unfinished-renovations-at-calgary-hospital/>

Welcoming Dr. Jessalyn Holodinsky PhD Data Scientist and new faculty member

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Jessalyn Holodinsky, the newest addition to our faculty. Jessalyn is a PhD data scientist that we have been able to recruit into a highly coveted GFT position. See below for more details about Dr. Holodinsky and what she promises to bring to the department in cutting edge operational and artificial intelligence / machine learning research. She will be moving her already prolific research career to our department and will be supporting resident research through the annual research course.

In Jessalyn's own words: "I am joining you from the Department of Clinical Neurosciences after >10 years of training in Data Science, Epidemiology, and Health Services Research. I am eager to build a research program in Emergency Medicine and meet members of the Emergency Medicine community and learn your perspectives on what could be improved in emergency care. I profoundly believe that Data Saves Lives." Jessalyn is excited to put her skillset to use in the Emergency Department. Learn more about Dr. Jessalyn Holodinsky:

[https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency Medicine/September 2023/Holodinsky_bio_EM.pdf?id=57sg3lg?f_type=file&f_name=Holodinsky_bio_EM.pdf](https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency%20Medicine/September%2023/Holodinsky_bio_EM.pdf?id=57sg3lg?f_type=file&f_name=Holodinsky_bio_EM.pdf)

Congratulations and Farewell to Karen Foudy

One of the great privileges I have experienced in my role as the department head has been the opportunity to work with my dyad counterpart in ED operations, Karen Foudy, Executive Director overseeing Emergency in the Calgary Zone and one of the ZDEM co-chairs. Karen moved on to a very prestigious role as Senior Operating Officer in Central Zone. Karen has been a tireless advocate for timely and high-quality emergency care during her tenure, and I am extremely grateful to have co-led ZDEM with her as well as Neil and Mr. Michael Suddes. Her leadership has been exemplary and her contributions numerous. She will be greatly missed.

Physician leadership changes

Welcome to Dr. Andrea Boone who is replacing David Lendrum as the site chief at FMC; Andrea works at both the FMC and ACH and we are excited to have her join the Physician Executive Committee and Physician Resource Committee when she starts her term on October 1st. We thank David for his years of exemplary service and thoughtful leadership in his role as FMC site chief. His many contributions to the Emergency MD and Zonal leadership teams have always been thoughtful and wise and we wish him much success in any future leadership roles he might consider.

Interviews for the the next Deputy Department Head are underway this month and an announcement should be forthcoming in the next weeks.

Administrative staff changes

Several changes are occurring among our administrative support staff. A huge thank you to Scott Banks, the Department's Manager and Lilian Prudencio our administrative team lead for the many hours of work including coordinating recruitment ads and interviews. After 30 years of service to Alberta Health Services, we congratulate Judy McKay who has announced her retirement. Judy has served in a number of administrative roles in our department and as supported our educational programs in a myriad of ways over the years. We are also saddened to see Ms. Jenny Woo leave the Emergency Research Division and is being promoted to a higher role within the department of Critical Care Medicine. We are pleased to announce however that Jill Vanderbrand who has previously worked in that role will be returning in that capacity.

Update on ED operational metrics

Since the launch of the Healthcare Action plan late last year by Alberta Health we continue to see what appears to be important although still somewhat modest improvements in bed block and impressive changes in EMS response times and returning EMS to the community. There remains much work still and we cannot relinquish the gains that have been made. You can see the impacts of the Action Plan over the past eight months at both the FOCUS website and in the attached update prepared by Mr. Michael Suddes a co-chair of the Zone Department and Executive Director of the Foothills Medical Center and Emergency Department. Action Plan link below:

[https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency Medicine/September 2023/Context-measures-EIPTaskforce-performance-meas.pdf?id=xoo3ac8?f_type=file&f_name=Context-measures-EIPTaskforce-performance-meas.pdf](https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency%20Medicine/September%202023/Context-measures-EIPTaskforce-performance-meas.pdf?id=xoo3ac8?f_type=file&f_name=Context-measures-EIPTaskforce-performance-meas.pdf)

<https://focus.hqca.ca/emergencydepartments/>

The ED crowding and access block situation remains serious in Alberta and across a number of Canadian and international jurisdictions.

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/toronto-patient-waiting-for-hospital-bed-watched-for-48-hours-as-er-staff-dealt-with-flood-of-sick-patients-1.6544687>

Please note that I am always available and happy to meet and discuss any matters that are of interest and or concern to you as members of this department.

Eddy 403-606-0590

Shiga Toxin E.coli Daycare Outbreak

We're dealing with an outbreak of STEC (shiga-toxin positive e.coli) in Calgary daycares with multiple kids presenting to ACH with bloody diarrhea this weekend. The source seems to be Fueling Brains Academy Daycares- this is a daycare with multiple sites in the city and it's possible the food contamination came from their central kitchen and involves more than one site.

More information can be found in the link below:

[https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency Medicine/September 2023/Shing-toxin-ecoli-daycare.pdf?id=h8yrj7n?f_type=file&f_name=Shing-toxin-ecoli-daycare.pdf](https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency%20Medicine/September%202023/Shing-toxin-ecoli-daycare.pdf?id=h8yrj7n?f_type=file&f_name=Shing-toxin-ecoli-daycare.pdf)

PADIS Healthcare Professional Priority Queue

Starting at 0900 hours on **Wednesday, September 6th**, there will be a new Healthcare Professional Priority Queue menu option for the Poison and Drug Information Service (PADIS) callers that will prioritize urgent cases and eliminate delays in treating critical patients who are experiencing a drug or toxic exposure.

When healthcare providers call PADIS, they will be provided with an option to enter a priority queue.

Once in this priority queue, if a patient or situation meets any of the criteria, they can then press "one" and the call will be placed at the top of the queue to be answered by the next available Poison Information Specialist. Calls not placed in the priority queue will be answered in the order they are received.

This priority queue is intended for health care professionals needing advice for emergent patients who have had a drug or toxin exposure PLUS one of the following:

- **Critically ill or unstable, such as:**

1. pre-arrest
2. have arrested
3. seizing continuously
4. hypotensive

- Chemical burns greater than 25% body surface area
- Potentially require immediate, unusual antidote treatment for a highly toxic substance as their clinical condition is or could become unstable
- Mass casualty situation OR where there are multiple patients with the same exposure overwhelming your hospital capacity.

This information will also eventually be available on the PADIS AHS website. NOTE: You need to be logged into AHS to view the link below:

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page11976.aspx>

Please feel free to contact Drs. Yarema or Lucyk with any comments or feedback about this line.

Grand Rounds and Journal Club

Grand Rounds

Event: Emergency Medicine Grand Rounds
Date: Thurs, September 7, 2023
Time: 0900 – 1000 (1.00 Education Credits)
Room: Clara Christie Theatre - HSC

Zoom Link:

<https://albertahealthservices.zoom.us/j/61358145309?pwd=cnJTVWN1Z3c5WjFWZEZ4ekdYNVo4Zz09>
Passcode: 668897

Evaluation Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfE89aef_BC5V_zgP6JjXVrkJ3GP0fgyMezgAXKCKvwrQRog/viewform

Session #1 (0900 – 1000)

Speaker: Dr. Allen Vorobeichik
Topic: Early Pregnancy Loss: A practical ED approach.

Session #2 (1000 – 1015)

Speakers: Dr. Jessica Moe MD, FRCPC, DABEM, MA, MSc Clinical Epidemiology Assistant Professor | UBC Department of Emergency Medicine
Topic: Evaluating Microdosing in the Emergency Department: A randomized controlled trial of buprenorphine/naloxone microdosing vs. standard dosing (EMED study)

Pearl of the Week

Please read the pdf below for this week's Pearl of the Week - Benzodiazepine Tapering: Concepts & Strategies.

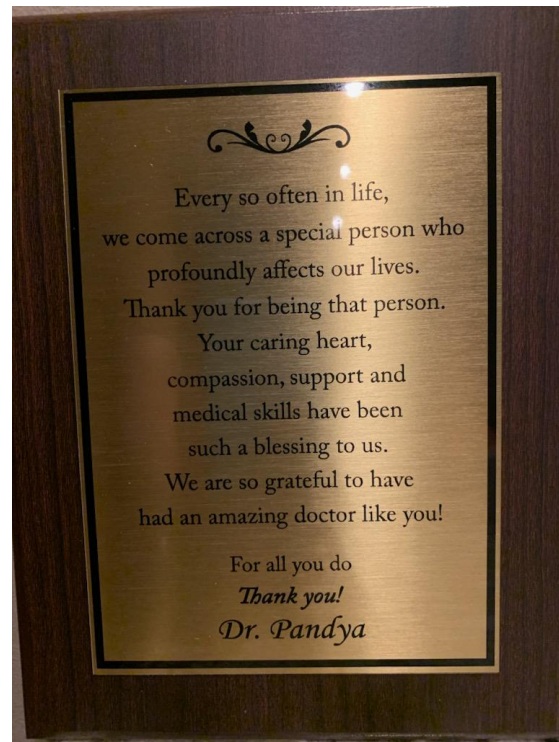
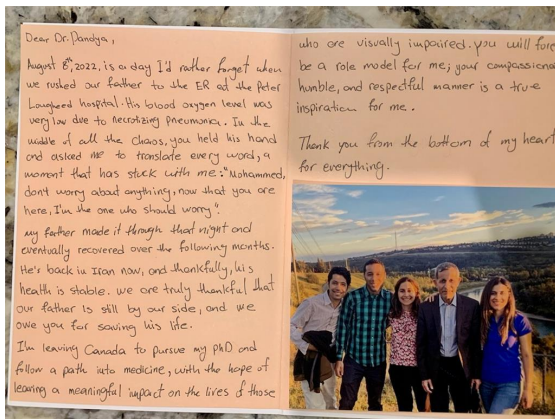
[https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency Medicine/September 2023/Benzo tapering_POWSept5.pdf?id=ufurqvk?f_type=file&f_name=Benzo tapering_POWSept5.pdf](https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency%20Medicine/September%2023/Benzo_tapering_POWSept5.pdf?id=ufurqvk?f_type=file&f_name=Benzo_tapering_POWSept5.pdf)

Departmental News

Kudos Corner

Congrats to Dr. Emmeline Ruka, ED MD at RGH for joining the CFPC committee – Committee on Examinations – Emergency Medicine. The purpose of this national committee is to create the SAMPs for the EM exam. The best part is to contribute to the future generations of emergency physicians!

Kudos to Dr. Sudhir Pandya



Welcome Jill Vandenbrand

We are very pleased to welcome back Jill Vandenbrand as the new Administrative Assistant V replacing Jenny Woo, effective September 18, 2023. Jenny recently accepted a position in the department of Critical Care Medicine.

Jill Vandenbrand is returning to the Department of Emergency Medicine as the Research Administrative Assistant and Site Chief support. She is a Research Administrator with ten years of experience as a Research Admin, and 15 years of experience as a Medical Administrator within Alberta Health Services and the University of Calgary. Jill has extensive experience in multi-site ethics applications, research budgeting, contracts and research accounting. When not in the office Jill thrives on coffee, heavy metal and gardening.

She can be reached at Jillian.Vandenbrand@albertahealthservices.ca / 403.944.3264

Team building is back!

In the spirit of bonding the residents are organizing a BBQ the evening of September 7th (details below). Any and all staff are invited to join! Bring yourself and your favourite lawn game for some casual competition and fun.

- When: Thursday September 7th, 2023
- Where: Sandy Beach, picnic site #1 (address: 4500 14a St SW, Calgary, AB T2T 2V8; site map can be found here: <https://www.calgary.ca/parks/sandy-beach.html>)
- What time: Come join us anytime after 5pm

If you are interested in joining us please RSVP so we can get a sense of numbers for food planning: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9-HXHGPYPVwZAm1fVx850poU_p6_CqhEmg822eNjzyCixvg/viewform
We hope to see you there!

The R5's (Cara, Natasha, Jason, Cody)

2023 ED Staff Sim Sign Up (Sept-Dec 2023)

We have spots for September! Please check your availability and sign up with the sign-up genius link below. Thank you!

- PLC – Sept 12 (2 spots)
- RGH – Sept 20 (1 spot)
- SHC – Sept 27 (2 spots)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4ca5ac2eaaff2-20231#/>

ED Gala Oct 19, 2023

The ED Gala has been confirmed for Oct 19th after a long three year hiatus and tickets are now on sale! This year's event will return to the Fairmont Palliser downtown. It's time to ditch the scrubs and pull out those suits/tuxes and fine gala dresses to wine, dine and dance the night away! Please see the link below for more information:

[https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency Medicine/September 2023/Emergency Department Gala Sept.pdf?id=8a1819v?f_type=file&f_name=Emergency Department Gala Sept.pdf](https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency%20Medicine/September%202023/Emergency%20Department%20Gala%20Sept.pdf?id=8a1819v?f_type=file&f_name=Emergency%20Department%20Gala%20Sept.pdf)

Teaching Opportunities

Central Venous Access Workshop

Recruiting for 3 more preceptors for the annual Central Venous Access Workshop on **Thursday October 26th, 1-5 PM in ATSSL dry lab**. Teaching time is remunerated at standard PGME rates. Please contact Patty Lee-Nobbee if available.

CME Learning

Discovery Day in Health Sciences at UCalgary - Call For Presenters

In partnership with the University of Calgary's Cumming School of Medicine, we are delighted to again host our annual Discovery Day in Health Sciences on October 18! The objective of the day is to spark their interest in considering a future career in health care.

Workshop Presenters are Still Urgently Needed. To find out more information about being a presenter, please go to the link below:

<https://www.cdnmedhall.ca/ucalgary/presenters>

To be included in the first posting and circulation of our 2023 workshop catalogue, submissions must be received before Friday, September 8.
