

Department of Emergency Medicine

# Weekly **email**

Updates for ED Physicians

April 02, 2024 Edition

Natalie

## Updated Newsletter Process

Submissions can be sent to: [natalie.sun@ahs.ca](mailto:natalie.sun@ahs.ca). CC Jordan Detillieux. [Jordan-Rose.Detillieux@ahs.ca](mailto:Jordan-Rose.Detillieux@ahs.ca).

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## Operations

Notes from Eddy April 2, 2024

Dear colleagues,

I hope you all had an opportunity to find some down time and re-set during the spring break and Easter period. In this edition of Notes, I will highlight a range of issues that have been at the center of my radar over the last few weeks. Please know that I am very grateful for the excellent clinical care we provide to over 300K Calgarians every year. I think we are also blessed to have such dedicated and hard working academic and clinical leadership teams in our department.

### 1. Operational update

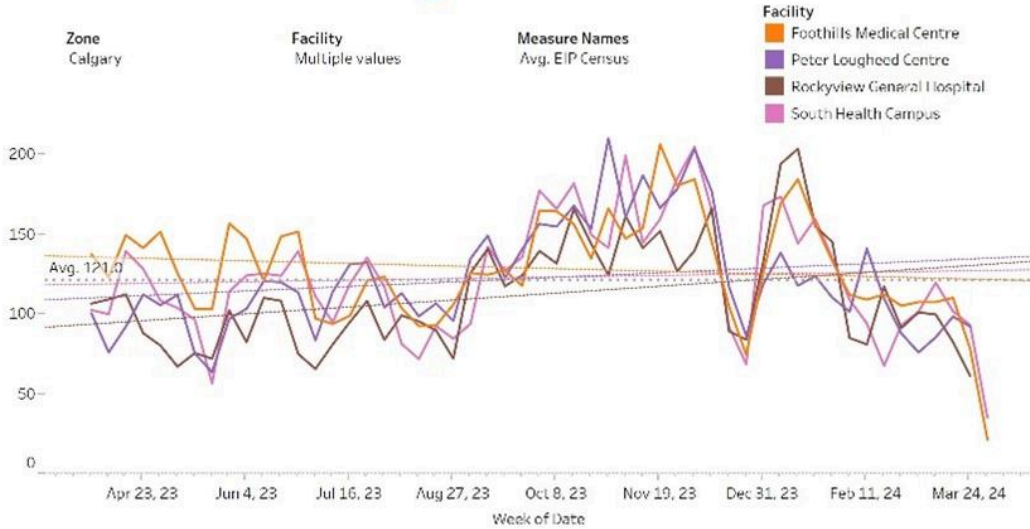
While still busy with high patient volumes and acuity, the Zone EDs have seen a period of considerable improvement in flow facilitated by a relatively low burden of EIPs since emerging from the last respiratory surge. This is seen in both census data and EIP time. These measures are the prime determinant of bed block and poor outcomes in our department.

Move metric definition to the bottom

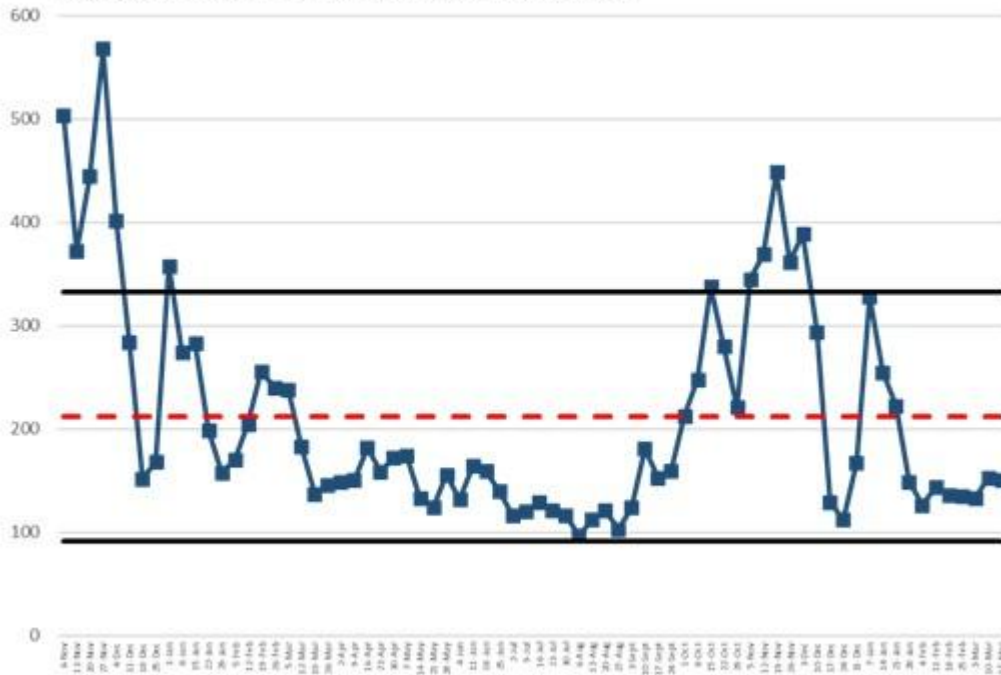
**Emergency Inpatients (EIPs)** are patients in an ED receiving treatment after a decision has been made to admit them to hospital.

**Average Daily EIP** is the number of EIPs averaged over a 24 hour period.

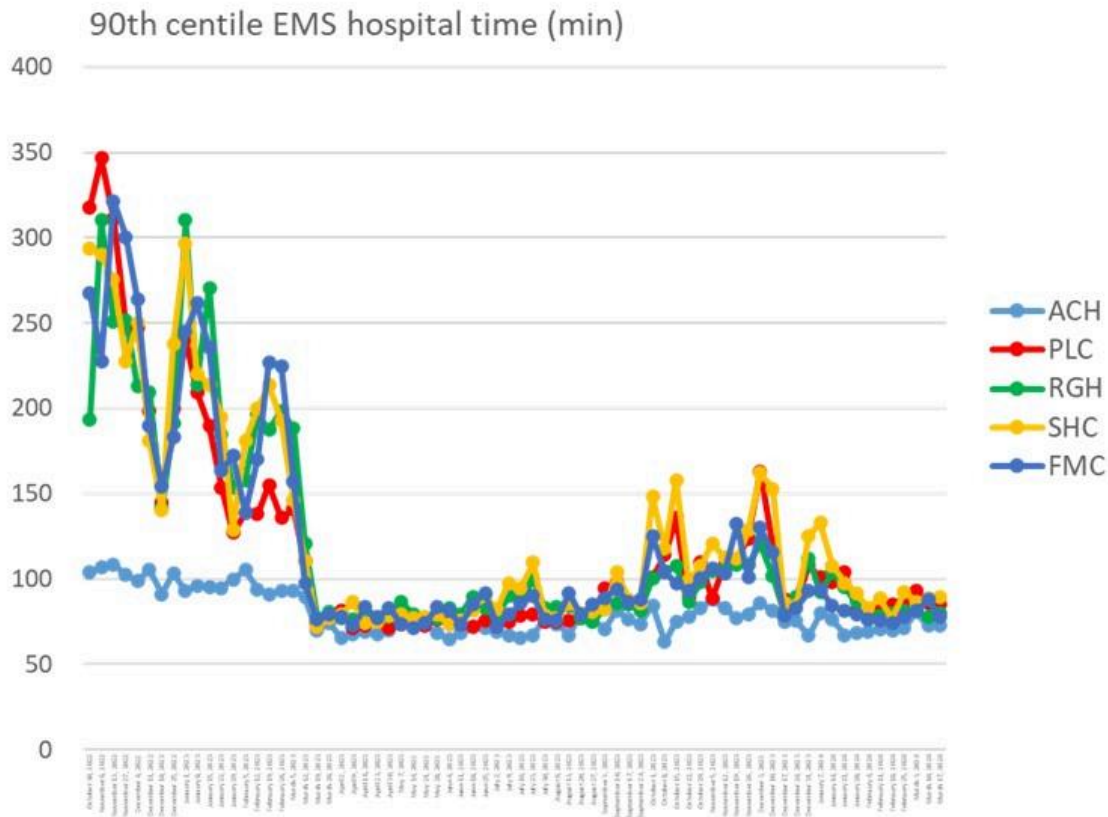
## Avg. EIP Census



## Aggregate median EIP time (min): Calgary Urban



Impressive gains in EMS offload remain despite some worsening over the winter months.



These gains are only possible because of the concerted and collaborative efforts of our Zone Department of EM multidisciplinary team and keen attention to capacity issues and surge mechanisms with our Zone operational leadership.

## 2. CAEP EMPower

CAEP released its much anticipated EMPower report on March 18th and has been successful in planning a long requested National Forum in Toronto at the end of this month. I will be in attendance representing our Zone and the CAEP Board. We also anticipate participation from a number of Alberta Healthcare leaders of significance.

<https://caep.ca/empower-2/>

This far reaching and comprehensive report received significant contributions from our previous Department Head Dr. Grant Innes who led the section on accountability frameworks.

## 3. Insights from our US colleagues

I had the distinct pleasure of attending the annual meeting of the Academy of Academic Chairs of EM recently and likely for the last time as my second term comes to an end.

Presentations and slides actually available at:

<https://www.saem.org/about-saem/academies-interest-groups-affiliates2/aaaem/annual-retreat/past-retreat-presentations>

A major preoccupation of my US Department Head colleagues, 90 of whom were in attendance at the meeting was the threat of private equity takeover of now nearly 25% of all EDs. Many are envious of our single payer, not for profit system (near) universal access system in Canada.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KZkEv1CHgE>

Other interesting facts emerging from the meeting include data on hours worked and patients seen from a 50-institution benchmarking survey that is reported annually.

US ED MDs see 2.3 patients / hour in their academic EDs despite having multiple learners including residents who provide most of the care. This is essentially the same as our group average of 2.2. US ED MDs devote a remarkably consistent 1440 hours of time to patient care over 11 working months each year. This is comparable but probably higher than what a 1.0 FTE represents in our group (14 shifts x 11 months x 8 hours = 1232 hours). I note this difference with an emphasis on how I think our department has developed a much more reasonable approach to staffing hours.

See salary trends below. Many of my US Department Head peers with children in college / university do bemoan the high percentage of their income (sometimes as much as 30%) dedicated to tuition for them.



Encouraging is that the radical drop in medical student interest in EM residencies that was seen in the 2023 match in the US has seen a considerable recovery. We remain fortunate in Canada to see EM as one of the most popular specialties with nearly complete filling of spots on the first round of the CaRMS match.

Other troubling trends discussed at the meeting was data on burnout and attrition from the specialty where women in Emergency Medicine in the US are leaving the profession at the age of 47 on average. Burnout rates among US ED MDs are as high and as troubling as they are in Canada and in our own group.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38323951/>

#### 4. Health system restructuring

There is still significant angst and uncertainty in AHS as it relates to the restructuring that this government is proposing. The plan to restructure has been delayed with the Continuing Care component being pushed from this spring to the fall of this year and the current focus on Addictions and Mental Health has yielded the creation of Recovery Alberta launched today.

<https://www.recoveryalberta.ca/>

One other concrete development and a source of distress is the transfer of many AHS leaders being shifted to Alberta Health positions reflecting the ministries intent on having a more hands on approach for health system management. This has not yet affected emergency care positions.

Dr. Braden Manns has been an outspoken and well-informed critic of the upcoming changes.

<https://edmontonjournal.com/opinion/columnists/opinion-lagrange-should-check-her-facts-before-blaming-ahs-managers>

As always, I remain at your service for a few more months at least and would be pleased to meet with you and discuss any questions or concerns that you may have.

These items will be covered at the upcoming April town hall meeting.

Eddy

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## Calgary Zone Early Pregnancy Assessment (EPA) Expansion of Scope – Starting April 1st, 2024

In support of AHS' priority of reducing emergency department wait times, and to improve the patient and family experience, the EPA clinics are expanding their scope effective April 1, 2024 to include:

- Intra-uterine Pregnancy of Unknown Viability
- Retained Products of Conception

Therefore, our redefined eligibility requirements on or after April 1st will include:

- High degree of suspicion of miscarriage under 12 weeks of gestation
- Intra-uterine Pregnancy of Unknown Viability
- Retained Products of Conception

Memo from AHS EPA:

[https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/EmergencyMedicine/4\\_April/CalgaryZoneEarlyPregnancyAssessmentClinics.pdf?id=ks9ifas?f\\_type=file&f\\_name=CalgaryZoneEarlyPregnancyAssessmentClinics.pdf](https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/EmergencyMedicine/4_April/CalgaryZoneEarlyPregnancyAssessmentClinics.pdf?id=ks9ifas?f_type=file&f_name=CalgaryZoneEarlyPregnancyAssessmentClinics.pdf)

Patient flow pathway:

[https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/EmergencyMedicine/4\\_April/CalgaryZoneEarlyPregnancyFlowPathway.pdf?id=xc62s82?f\\_type=file&f\\_name=CalgaryZoneEarlyPregnancyFlowPathway.pdf](https://secure.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/EmergencyMedicine/4_April/CalgaryZoneEarlyPregnancyFlowPathway.pdf?id=xc62s82?f_type=file&f_name=CalgaryZoneEarlyPregnancyFlowPathway.pdf)

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## Connect Care Update

Hi Everyone,

No major new items for this week's Connect Care Update, so please see below for some reminders about helpful items that have been posted in the past.

### 1) FORM 1 WOES

A couple of key points to remember when completing your Form 1's:

a) ALWAYS REMEMBER TO SIGN YOUR FORM. This can (and should) be done electronically. Note that the Signature Box will only allow you to sign the form once all the mandatory fields have been completed.

b) REMEMBER THAT THE THREE TIMES ON THE FORM MUST BE IN SEQUENCE AND MUST BE DIFFERENT FROM EACH OTHER (i.e. - the 'Start of assessment' must come before 'End of Assessment' which must come before 'Time of issuance'). Note that if you simply 'tab' through the various time fields, the 'Time of Issuance' field will auto-populate with 'Now', which will mean it won't necessarily meet these criteria depending on what times you fill into the other fields.

### 2) MEDS TO GO

Please remember that the nurses require an order to be able to dispense 'meds to go' from the ED. The Communication that is embedded in the Dispo tab (where you detail which med / how many tabs to go) DOES NOT constitute an order. You MUST have either a **Dispo tab prescription OR a during-visit order in the Orders tab** for the same medication that you intend to dispense, in order for the nurses to have an order to be able to dispense the medication with. The proper workflow is detailed in the Common Workflows document:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/11wPjhRV0wj\\_1jzAU9k35BFth2sq03lp/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/11wPjhRV0wj_1jzAU9k35BFth2sq03lp/edit)

### 3) RAAPID Documentation

There still seem to be many docs not documenting their conversation with RAAPID on patients being sent to the ED. These notes can prove invaluable to the downstream EDMD to help clarify the reason for transfer and the preliminary plan of action. Even if the reason for transfer is straightforward please try your best to include a brief note. If you've forgotten how to add RAAPID documentation, check out the ED Common Workflows document (see link above).

### 4) RGH EYE CLINIC REFERRALS

We are still receiving regular feedback from the RGH eye clinic that the proper outpatient referral workflow is not being followed regularly, resulting in problems when the patient arrives in the clinic. Please remember that you must **ALWAYS** enter an ambulatory referral to the RGH Eye Clinic from the Dispo tab when discharging a patient with next-day follow up. **This is true even if you have spoken to the ophthalmologist / resident on call directly, and is also true if you are booking directly through RAAPID overnight.** PLEASE NOTE that the clinic will not know the patient is coming if you do not enter the ambulatory referral!

### 5) CZ Referral Pathways Document

For those of you looking for a quick primer on how to access various outpatient referral pathways, check out the Calgary Zone Referral Workflows document here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nY54n2dgWdfZsh0KCD6R5Zvb2Rx2Wm9n/edit#bookmark=id.gjdgxs>

Several new referral options have been added in recent weeks / months (check out General Surgery - Southern AB Surgical Center, and Cardiology - Symphony of Health Clinic for example).

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask!

Chris Hall

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## Grand Rounds and Journal Club

QAER Grand Rounds Thursday April 04, 2024 (0900—1000)

**QAER Rounds will not be recorded.**

**Room:** Clara Christie Theatre – HSC

**Zoom Link:** <https://albertahealthservices.zoom.us/j/61834756597?pwd=Skg1ZmdXOGdRWmgxMUc0U3lNMjR5Zz09>

**Meeting ID:** 618 3475 6597

**Passcode:** 407952

#### Session #1

**Speaker:** Dr. Mary Freymond

**Moderator:** Dr. Adam Oster

**Title:** Pediatric Airways: The airway consult process at PLC

**Description:** Quality Assurance and Educational Rounds - We will be reviewing a pediatric case that has led to the evaluation and formalization of a difficult airway consult process designed for PLC.

**Evaluation Link:** [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfE89aef\\_BC5V\\_zgP6JjXVrkJ3GP0fcyMezgAXKCKvwrQRog/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfE89aef_BC5V_zgP6JjXVrkJ3GP0fcyMezgAXKCKvwrQRog/viewform)

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## Departmental News

### Kudos Corner

Congratulations to Dr. Steven Liu for this patient commendation regarding care of his patient.

*Husband fell on Feb 15th and had an x-ray on Feb 16th. On Feb 17th his doctor suggested we go to Emerg. We arrived there at 19:30. Within five minutes husband was triaged by first nurse. Then we were directed to registration which took approximately ten minutes. We were asked to wait in the waiting room. (here we assumed we would wait for ages). Not so! After another 15 minutes we were taken (by very well-*

trained volunteers) to the amazing hospital tent. Another short wait and we were put into one of the little examining rooms. A very pleasant nurse came with her computer and took details. Another short wait and Dr. Steven Liu attended husband, looked at his x-rays, examined husband, suggested treatment and we left. Amazing treatment from all your staff. Thank you so much.

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## Residency Program Announcement

The residency program is thrilled to announce that the following four candidates will be joining us on July 1, 2024

- Jade Chow (McMaster)
- Adrian Teare (U of S)
- Ben Campbell (U of C)
- Tyara Marchand (U of C)

Thanks, Catherine and Anj

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## Wellness Peer Support

The practice of medicine is rewarding but may be challenging. The University of Calgary Department of Emergency Medicine has a formal Peer Support Team. We encourage you to reach out to our trained peer supporters when dealing with personal or professional challenges such as relationship issues, poor patient outcomes, career-track indecision, occupational distress or mental health concerns.

Here is the list of formally trained Peer Supporters.

[https://media.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency Medicine/Peer Support Contact Info.pdf?id=wm38mvp?f\\_type=file&f\\_name=Peer Support Contact Info.pdf](https://media.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency%20Medicine/Peer%20Support%20Contact%20Info.pdf?id=wm38mvp?f_type=file&f_name=Peer%20Support%20Contact%20Info.pdf)

You can call the Physician and Family Support Program (PFSP) 24/7 at 1877SOS4MDS for help. You are entitled to free counselling for yourself and for your family members.

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## PSF Update / Application is Open

We have lowered the PSF dues for \$20/shift X 45 shifts/6 months to \$15/shift X 50 shifts/6 months. The new withdrawals will be a maximum of \$750/6 months. We have built up some savings and feel we can afford a smaller amount. We heard from some members they wanted the dues lowered and we have listened. We feel this amount can still make the fund sustainable. We will reassess things in another 2-3 years. Thanks for your support!

If you have not joined, please do so. If we can have more members, then we might be able to lower the dues further. It benefits everyone.

Arun Abbi *On behalf of the PSF Committee*

### **Application:**

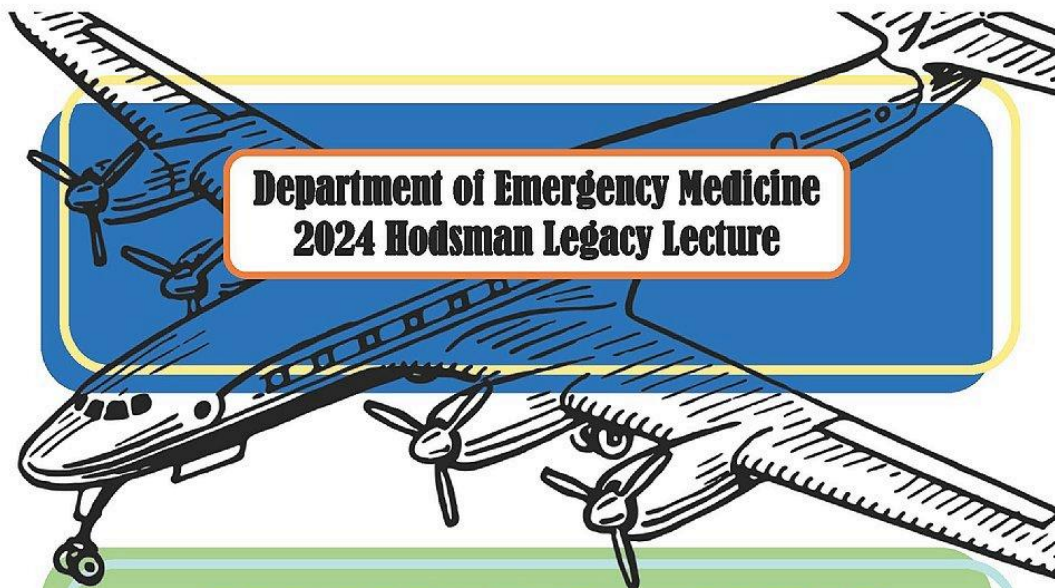
[https://media.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency Medicine/4 April/PSF application guideline form April2.pdf?id=kq2nf6d?f\\_type=file&f\\_name=PSF application guideline form April2.pdf](https://media.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency%20Medicine/4%20April/PSF%20application%20guideline%20form%20April2.pdf?id=kq2nf6d?f_type=file&f_name=PSF%20application%20guideline%20form%20April2.pdf)

### **Mandate and Process:**

[https://media.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency Medicine/4 April/PSF Mandate and Process April2.pdf?id=hkx06vv?f\\_type=file&f\\_name=PSF Mandate and Process April2.pdf](https://media.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency%20Medicine/4%20April/PSF%20Mandate%20and%20Process%20April2.pdf?id=hkx06vv?f_type=file&f_name=PSF%20Mandate%20and%20Process%20April2.pdf)

**Physician Support Fund (PSF) application is open. See attached PSF mandate/process and PSF application guidelines.**

- Deadline for PSF Application submission: April 15, 2024
  - FTE Next withdrawal: April 30, 2024
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**Department of Emergency Medicine  
2024 Hodsman Legacy Lecture**

**BUILDING BRIDGES  
RECIPROCAL PARTNERSHIPS IN  
GLOBAL EMERGENCY MEDICINE**



*Keynote Speaker*

**Dr. Megan Landes**  
Associate Professor  
University of Toronto



*Presentations from*

**Dr. Margriet Greidanus**  
*and*  
**Dr. Andrew Battison**



*Honoring*

**Dr. Ian Wishart**



**TERMINAL:**

HSC – Theater 4

**DATE:**

April 11, 2024

**DEPARTURE TIME**

8:30am – 12:30PM

**REGISTRATION:**



You are invited to Hodsman Legacy Lecture 2024

**When:** Apr 11, 2024 09:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

**Topic:** Hodsman Legacy Lecture 2024

Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://albertahealthservices.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Sca7CJ-CTo6iB6jYewLVKA](https://albertahealthservices.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Sca7CJ-CTo6iB6jYewLVKA)

**Teaching Opportunities**

Difficult Airway Management Workshop



The next iteration of the Difficult Airway Management Workshop will soon be here on May 9th! We need attending physician instructors for the day. I 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 8:30 until ~15:00 at the ATSSL with faculty instructors from various disciplines. We integrate cadaveric models, pig tracheas for front of neck access, and high fidelity airway simulation as part of the workshop. Resident participants 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 and coffee 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. We really do need your support to continue the success of this educational experience. Please help out if you're able.

Kindly notify Stephon Anderson ([stephon.anderson@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:stephon.anderson@albertahealthservices.ca)) as soon as possible if you can assist. Thank you in advance, sincerely, Jonathan

Jonathan Gaudet MD, MSc, FRCPC

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## Job Postings

### Research Associate, Emergency Medicine

The Department of Emergency Medicine in the Cumming School of Medicine invites applications for a Research Associate. This Full-time Fixed Term position is for approximately one year (based on length of grant funding), with the possibility of extension.

<https://internal.careers.ucalgary.ca/jobs/14176951-research-associate-emergency-medicine>

You can view the posting on the UCalgary Internal Careers Site by searching for Job Opening ID: 31433.

**Current close date is scheduled for April 11, 2024.**

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## CME Learning

### Recruitment of faculty to participate in Master Physician Assistant Program (MPAS)

The MPAS program will be launching in the fall of 2024. With university and government approvals now in place the team is focusing on recruiting faculty members to assist with the admissions process and to serve as Course Leads. Please see the link below for further information.

[https://media.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/EmergencyMedicine/4\\_April/MasterPhysicianAssistantProgram.pdf?id=4qmfyew?f\\_type=file&f\\_name=MasterPhysicianAssistantProgram.pdf](https://media.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/EmergencyMedicine/4_April/MasterPhysicianAssistantProgram.pdf?id=4qmfyew?f_type=file&f_name=MasterPhysicianAssistantProgram.pdf)

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# “EMERG”-ING DYNAMICS CONFERENCE

June 11, 2024



Join us on June 11, 2024, for a day of learning and networking with Emergency Department Professionals

- Focusing on emerging trends in the care of Emergency Department patients and the dynamics of caring for this patient population.
- Cost: \$131.75; includes continental breakfast and hot lunch
- Click the below link to register:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4DADA629A3FDC52-46948180-emerging>

June 11, 2024, 0800-1600

Libin Lecture Theatre  
Health Sciences Center  
Foothills Hospital  
Calgary



FOOTHILLS HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

1403 29<sup>th</sup> St. N.W.  
Calgary, Alberta

Emerg-ing Dynamics 2024 Conference

Note, there is no CME credit. Click on the link below to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4DADA629A3FDC52-46948180-emerging#/>

Other Opportunities

UCalgary Giving Day launches April 4, 2024

We are reaching out to ask for your support of the Calgary-Mbarara Emergency Medicine (CMEM) collaboration. Although going to Uganda or teaching in Calgary may not be feasible, an alternative way you can support this partnership is through a charitable donation. This project supports the development of emergency medicine in Uganda by supporting the residents at the Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST). The specialty is still in the infancy stages, with less than twenty EM trained physicians in the country. Donating to this collaboration helps train EM doctors in Uganda and shape the future of EM in East Africa.

A focus of this collaboration is bringing MUST EM residents to Calgary for elective rotations. Currently, we are in the process of bringing another cohort for a two month elective starting in May: Drs. Balu Mabiala, Jacob Busingye, and Sarah Oworinawe. They are keen residents hoping to learn and experience what Calgary offers. This is a life-changing opportunity for these trainees, and without the support of our department and faculty like you it would be impossible.

Although we have some funding through the McLaughlin Traveling Medical Education Fund, we are still in need of financial support.

April 4, 2024 is the "earlybird" launch of UCalgary Giving Day, and donations will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$2,500 per gift, until funds run out. Therefore, donations made soon after the launch April 4 have a higher chance of being matched. A tax receipt will be provided to you by the university.

Donations can be made directly to the CMEM collaboration at <https://engage.ucalgary.ca/give?id=8dc11145-7d3e-455d-b142-0deb4675d339>

We are also recruiting preceptors for the MUST residents this May and June. If you're interested in being added to the volunteer preceptor list please email me at [awbattison@gmail.com](mailto:awbattison@gmail.com).

Thank you!

Andrew Battison and Margriet Greidanus

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## Newsletter Process

Submissions can be sent to: [natalie.sun@ahs.ca](mailto:natalie.sun@ahs.ca). CC Jordan Detillieux. [Jordan-Rose.Detillieux@ahs.ca](mailto:Jordan-Rose.Detillieux@ahs.ca).

For reoccurring submissions, there is a **max three week run**. If you would like to re-run your submission, please submit with updates.

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