

Department of Emergency Medicine

Calgary Zone

weekly email updates for ED Physicians

Natalie

Operations

Notes from Catherine

I am excited to announce that Dr. Jessalyn Holodinsky, PhD, the DEM's Data scientist will be stepping into an exciting role at the Office of Faculty Development (OFDP) as **Director of AI & Data Education and Ethics (AIDEE)**. Dr. Holodinsky has over a decade of experience in university-level teaching and learning, predominantly teaching statistics and machine learning. She prides herself in making statistics both accessible and fun (yes, it is possible!) and has a goal of increasing data literacy across students and faculty alike.

In a world where AI is all the buzz, it is exciting to have Dr Holodinsky contribute her expertise in our department and at the University. For those of you who may not be aware, she is also currently working on a project to contribute to the highly important Exceptional Patient Care program led by Dr. Christine East which brings tremendous benefit to our members and patients.

Catherine

Notes from James

Physician Staffing and Fall Hiring Cycle Update

We recognize that our jobs are more challenging than ever before, as we struggle to manage a growing, aging and more medically complex patient population in an increasingly resource constrained environment.

While we as a leadership team are doing our best to improve the working conditions and clinical experience of our physicians with the tools available to us, we know that many of you are feeling burned out and are looking for ways to rebalance your careers. These may include seeking clinical or non-clinical work outside of the ED and/or requesting to work at a reduced FTE.

We want to be flexible in accommodating people wherever possible; however, our first priority is to keep our departments fully staffed. Consequently, based on our current staffing situation, we are unlikely to be able to grant additional FTE reductions until new hires come online, and given the backlog of more than 25 requests, we are likely looking at 1-2 years until all outstanding requests could be granted.

The good news is that with our recent 1.0 FTE reduction from 13 to 12 shifts in 28 days, the whole group has already effectively received a ~0.1 FTE reduction.

In the interest of transparency, priority in granting further FTE reduction requests will depend on:

- when the request was placed
- what the individual's current FTE is
- if they have previously been granted an FTE reduction
- extra-clinical contributions, particularly those directly benefiting the department

We have taken these issues into consideration for our fall hiring cycle, are advertising nationally and are looking forward to another robust round of hiring in October. However, because we know word-of-mouth can be powerful, please tell your colleagues across the country that Calgary is hiring. You can also refer them to the Job Opportunities page below (which Miles and Natalie recently did a great job of updating) for more information. Applications close September 15.

<https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/departments/emergency-medicine/job-opportunities>

Stocking and Supply Update

We know that there have been issues with inconsistency in the stocking of supplies in the Calgary EDs. These create frustration for staff, delay care and disrupt ED flow.

We are grateful that the QI nurses have been working with MD leadership at all sites to improve routine restocking, as well developing an urgent restocking process. While we hope that regularly scheduled stocking keeps our carts well supplied, the urgent restocking process has been created to ensure carts can be rapidly restocked in real time (e.g., after a suture cart was depleted following an extensive procedure).

Starting August 13th, MDs are requested to call or secure chat the unit clerk if any supplies in the suture cart have 2 or fewer items remaining, specifying:

1) Which specific suture cart is affected (this specific cart information will be located on the RED STOP sign located on the suture carts)

2) Which specific supplies are low or missing

For example, "Suture cart 2 is out of lidocaine with epi and 7 ½ gloves."

**Please note that this does not replace a robust baseline stocking process, which remains a high priority. What this does allow for is a consistent process for rapid restocking when required.

James

Grand Rounds and Journal Club

Grand Rounds run on Thursdays (0900—1000) (1.0 Education Credits)

September 5th will be the first Grand Rounds for 2024-2025 academic year. Please check back for more information in the fall.

[To view archived grand rounds, please visit our website.](#)

Department News

Kudos - Patient Commendation

Congratulations to **Dr. Huma Ali and team** on this patient commendation.

Hello, I just wanted to reach out and thank Dr. Huma Ali and nurse Jazz in the ER that treated me on July 25th. As a transgender woman it was very well noticed that everyone on the ER team treated me with respect and dignity which I very much appreciated. In a stressful situation like this not having to worry about an extra issue like transphobia is amazing and I hope you let the team know how much of a difference it really makes. Thank you again.

Kudos - Patient Commendation

Congratulations to **Dr. Stuart Turner and team** on this patient commendation.

I saw Dr. Turner on July 14th in emergency. Dr. Turner was very kind and caring, patiently listened to my concerns and responded thoroughly. He explained the results of tests I underwent and ordered bloodwork. He told me he'd try to call me back the same day with the results. I was very pleased he called me back today (the 15th), left a message to call him and promptly answered when I returned the call and he was summoned by the staff at emerg. I know he must be very busy with very ill patients so I very much appreciated hearing back from him about test results. I now feel much better about my situation.

I commend Dr. Turner for his care and attention and wish him all the best. I also appreciated how all the staff dealt with me during my visit.

Kudos - Patient Commendation

Congratulations to the **FMC team** on this patient commendation. Great team work.

On March 19, after suffering a broken ankle and a sprain, I received exceptional care from numerous healthcare professionals. Although I can't remember everyone's names, I want to acknowledge the kindness of the paramedics, the efficiency of the admissions staff at Sheldon Chumir Centre and Foothills, and the expertise of the X-ray technicians, nurses, and doctors. Dr. Chris, Dr. Michael Leslie, Dr. Paul Tourigny, Dr. Linda Mrkonjic, and the orthopedic techs at the Cast Clinic all provided outstanding care, answering my questions with patience and reassuring me throughout the process.

I am incredibly grateful for our universal healthcare system and the dedicated professionals who ensured my recovery. It's crucial that the system remains well-funded and that these experts are fairly compensated, as they are the true frontline

experts. My sincere thanks to everyone involved in my care. While I appreciate all you've done, I hope not to meet under similar circumstances again.

Kudos - Patient Commendation

Congratulations to **Dr. Christine East and Dr. Danyluk** on this patient commendation.

I cannot even contain how much the care I received from Dr. Christine East and the Resident Dr Danyluk made a difference to my wellbeing (even though they couldn't treat me) and my faith in the Health Care system. They were the kindest, most patient Drs I have ever encountered. I am 45 years old, I have 2 older children and I take Clients to the Dr professionally and these 2 professionals are the best Drs I have EVER seen in practice, EVER. It makes me almost speechless. They are saving lives.

Group Emergency Medicine Sessions aka GEMS 2024/2025

The sign up is still open for the coming year for the Group Emergency Medicine Sessions (GEMS). These are small group, staff only sessions on a variety of topics relevant to our practice that occur throughout the year. Please sign up for a group on the google doc that works best for your schedule. You may move between sessions, as needed based on your schedule, throughout the year. Note: These sessions are funded by the PSF. If you are not a contributing PSF member, you will be required to pay a fee to attend.

Brit Sunderani

[Group Emergency Medicine Sessions \(GEMS\) 2024/2025 Signup](#)

Emergency Physician Spotlight

In this week's edition, we are featuring **Dr. Anjali Pandya**.



Anjali has been a practicing EM physician in Calgary since 2017 after completing her FRCPC here as well. She works primarily at the PLC and FMC, and has recently stepped into the role of Program Director for the FRCP EM Program. Despite the increasingly challenging work environment and state of healthcare in Alberta, Anjali is grateful to work with such a wonderful and talented group of people. When she is not at work, you will find her consuming tacos with extreme vigor, travelling, and failing at various athletic pursuits.

Teaching Opportunities

MedSIS 3C TRANSITION

Phase 1 of the launch of MedSIS 3C is scheduled for October 2nd and will include Emergency Medicine along with 22 other residency programs. This platform will replace Mainport/E-Portfolio for EPA completion for residency programs that have transitioned to CBD (this includes essentially all Royal College residents that you work with including off-service residents like surgical and medicine residents). Narrative global evaluations will continue to utilize One45 for the time being. In order to be able to use MedSIS you will need to know your UCalgary SSO credentials. If you do not already know these, please review this document to help troubleshoot and confirm your credentials: [IT Account Info LGI Education MedSIS](#)

If you have any questions please contact Anjali at anjali.pandya@gmail.com

Anjali Pandya

2024/2025 ED Jr. Sim Sign Up

Please check your availability and sign up with the sign-up genius link below.

There is still one spot available on:

- Sep 5
- Oct 31
- Nov 28

Junior SIM Sessions are from 1030-1200.

[Junior Sim Facilitators: 2024/2025 Junior SIM Facilitators \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

Patricia Lee

2024/2025 ED Staff Sim Sign Up:

Please check your availability and sign up with the sign-up genius link below.

Sept – Dec 2024 Sign Up. Sessions still available on:

- Sep 25
- Oct 23
- Nov 12
- Dec 17

[EM Physician Participants: 2024 ED Staff Simulation \(Sept-Dec\) \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

Meaghan Mackenzie

Other Opportunities

Rural Medicine Coverage Needed

The Department of Rural Medicine is requesting assistance in providing coverage at Okotoks Urgent Care Centre on **August 21st 10:00am – 4:00pm**.

If you are available to cover this shift, please contact Dr. Ash Khan, Site Medical Director, OUC ashraf.khan2@ahs.ca

Updated Newsletter Process

Submissions can be sent to: natalie.sun@ahs.ca and CC Jordan-Rose.Detillieux@ahs.ca.

- Submissions will run for a period of one week
- Body copy will be edited at the discretion of the editor to optimize communication
- The deadline is **Tuesdays at noon**

For reoccurring submissions, **there is a max two week run and this must be requested**. If you would like to re-run your submission after two weeks, please submit with updates.

In Case You Missed Last Week

Teaching Opportunities

Staff Examiners Required FOR CCFP-EM ORAL EXAMS : 2024 Thursday's September 5th, 2024 – In Person

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

- **September 5, 2024 from 1030 – 1300**

These exams are In-Person sessions. Lunch will be provided.

Please check your availability and let me know if you can help on **September 5, 2024**, please send the responses to TriSurendra.Malasan@ahs.ca

Your help and assistance is very much appreciated. Once confirmed, a Calendar invite will be sent.

Thanks,

Tris Malasani

CCFP-EM File Reviewers and Interviewers

The CCFP-EM program is selecting our future residents and potential future colleagues. This is a rigorous and important process and we are hoping to have a spectrum of staff of various backgrounds to assist with some of the below.

I am in particular need of file reviewers (**Sept 10 to Oct 3** is the review period), but also interviewers (**Oct 22 +/- 23**).

- process will require about 4-5 hours
- remunerated by the PGME (approx. \$600 depending on how many reviewers and applications we get)

Please e-mail me if you are available to help (charleskhong@gmail.com).

Thank you,

Charles Wong
