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UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

April 29, 2025

Department of Emergency Medicine

Calgary Zone

weekly email updates for ED Physicians

DEM News Subscriber,

Operations

Notes from Catherine

Surgical Diversions

I was very disappointed to have to circulate the memo about a Spine Service reduced capacity on April 29 0700-1900. As mentioned in my email, this was escalated to Medical Leadership within the Zone emphasizing how deeply disappointing this is to our department members (and our patients). We unfortunately have little control over how the Department of Surgery manages its call schedule, but we will continue to work with the Task force on Acute Care Coverage to improve the diversion process and urge the DOS develop a plan to manage its ongoing workforce challenges. As a reminder, if there are challenges during a diversion process, I would urge our members that have a low threshold to contact the Acute Surgical Leader on Call (listed in ROCA).

Catherine

Notes from James

Holiday Scheduling (Christmas/New Year)

The holiday period has long posed staffing challenges for our group. As half of our workforce is away, it leads to a significant burden of shifts for the physicians that are working. In order to more equitably share the workload, the Physician Resource Committee (PRC) will be trialling the following changes this year:

- Shifts during the holiday period will be shared equally among the entire physician group, regardless of usual scheduled FTE. This will result in most people working 4-5 shifts during their non-holiday week.
- All self-schedulers will receive assigned shifts during the holiday period (i.e., the holiday period will be regularly scheduled).

ED Suture Cart Stocking Initiative: Post-implementation Survey

At long last, please see attached the link for the **post-implementation survey** for the Calgary Zone **ED Suture Cart Stocking** Improvement Initiative.

Appreciate your feedback on how effective this initiative was at each of the sites you regularly work at, and why you think this was the case. (**Please complete one survey per site – it takes 2-minutes**):

[Calgary Zone ED Supply Management Improvement Project](#)

Early Pregnancy Assessment Clinic (EPA) Clinic: Declined Referrals

We have raised concerns with the OB-GYN Department about rejected ED referrals to the EPA due to OB-GYN staff inappropriately recommending that ED physicians refer patients there.

Subscribe	Past Issues	We recently received a positive response from the OB-GYN leadership outlining their sincere efforts to reduce the declined EPA referrals.	Translate ▼	RSS
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Going forward, they recommend the following:

- Please review the EPA Referral Criteria below to ensure patient is eligible
- If an OB-GYN suggested you refer the patient to the EPA, please document the name of the OB-GYN in the referral. If an OB-GYN recommends referral to EPA and it bounces back, the referral will be pushed back to them and automatically accepted
- If any of the OB-GYNs give you a hard time, please send the patient details to Catherine and myself so we can address at the Departmental level

EPA Referral Criteria:

Inclusion criteria:

- Asymptomatic nonviable intrauterine pregnancy:
 - fetal pole CRL >7mm with no fetal heart activity
 - >25 mm MSD with no yolk sac or fetus
- Intrauterine pregnancy of uncertain viability
- Retained products of conception (RPOC) < 20weeks who have not already been seen at a tertiary centre for pregnancy loss
- Confirmed loss <12 weeks (gestational age must be confirmed by ultrasound - pregnancy must measure less than 12 weeks by size on ultrasound)

Referral rejection/exclusion criteria:

- Patients with active vaginal bleeding
- Pregnancy of unknown location or confirmed ectopic pregnancy
- Patients with confirmed or suspected loss of pregnancy measuring greater than 12 weeks gestational age by ultrasound
- Molar Pregnancies
- Complications secondary to therapeutic abortion or D&C for management of miscarriage

James

Grand Rounds, Journal Club and Clinical Pearls

Grand Rounds Thursday May 01, 2025 (0900—1000)
(1.0 Education Credit)

Room: Theatre 4

NEW Zoom Webinar: [https://albertahealthservices.zoom.us/j/65876053204?](https://albertahealthservices.zoom.us/j/65876053204?pwd=jSQpQ9sLKif0kH5eSs2whSG6pZp6EM.1)

[pwd=jSQpQ9sLKif0kH5eSs2whSG6pZp6EM.1](https://albertahealthservices.zoom.us/j/65876053204?pwd=jSQpQ9sLKif0kH5eSs2whSG6pZp6EM.1)

Meeting ID: 658 7605 3204

Passcode: 817531

Moderator: Dr. Bryan Weber

Speaker(s): Dr. Kira Genise

Title: Airway Update

Description: Review of recent literature and practical tips on topics such as preoxygenation, rapid sequence intubation and awake fiberoptic intubation.

Grand Rounds Archive

Emergency Medicine Journal Club

Subscribe	Past Issues	Journal Club	Date: Thursday, May 15, 2025	Translate ▼	RSS
Time: 1800 to 2100					
Topic: Effectiveness of nail bed repair in children with or without replacing the fingernail.					
Presenters: Drs. Duncan Simmons & Shaila Gunn					
Preceptor: Dr. Omar Damji					
Hosted by: Dr. Marc Francis					
ARTICLE 1: Effectiveness of nail bed repair in children with or without replacing the fingernail: NINJA multi-centre randomized clinical trial.					
Please RSVP to Tris (TriSurendra.Malasani@albertahealthservices.ca) by May 11th, 2025 if attending.					
Thanks					
Tris					

Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Pearl of the Week

Read about today's pearl of the week. Today's topic: [Extracorporeal Removal of Drugs and Toxins](#)

The Clinical Pharmacology (CP) physician consultation service is available Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm, excluding stat holidays. The on-call physician is listed in ROCA on the AHS Insite page. CP consultations are also available through Netcare e-referral, Specialist Link, and RAAPID. You can also find us in the [Alberta Referral Directory](#) (ARD) by searching "Pharmacology" from the ARD homepage. Click [HERE](#) for more details about the service.

The Poison and Drug Information Service (PADIS) is available 24/7 for questions related to poisonings. Please call 1-800-332-1414(AB and NWT) or 1-866-454-1212 (SK). Information about our outpatient Medical Toxicology Clinic can be found in [Alberta Referral Directory](#) (ARD) by searching "Toxicology" from the ARD home page.

More CPT Pearls of the Week can be found [HERE](#).

Department News

Kudos – Patient Commendation

Kudos Dr. Nick Packer and care team

D. and G. Windsor expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Foothills Emergency Department team for their prompt, professional, and compassionate care on April 14, highlighting the exceptional support provided by Dr. Nick Packer, nurse Jamie, EMTs, and others involved. They acknowledged the challenges facing Alberta's healthcare system and commended the staff's dedication and kindness.

Kudos – Grants

Kudos to Dr. Fareen Zaver

She has received two 2025 grants:

- University of Calgary Teaching and Learning Grant – \$45,000 to support the development and implementation of a new comprehensive Leadership course: Transforming Reconciliation and Academic Inclusivity through Leadership (TRAIL)
- University of Calgary Office of Indigenous Engagement ii' taa'poh'to'p Indigenous Curriculum Grant Competition - \$10,000 to advance Indigenous Engagement and Indigenous perspectives in curriculum development.

Kudos – Award

Kudos to Dr. Jessalyn Holodinsky

Congratulations to Dr. Jessalyn Holodinsky on her recent teaching award. The annual TEA is the SU's campus-wide recognition program giving undergraduate students the chance to honour and thank those instructors,

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<https://www.ucalgary.ca/news/students-union-announces-teaching-excellence-award-winners>

Annual Resident Year-End BBQ

We will be hosting our Annual Resident Year-End BBQ on **Thursday June 26th at 18:00** at the **Southern Alberta Pioneers Memorial Building located 3625 4th Street SW**. We're happy to welcome you all and your families to this great evening to welcome our new trainees and celebrate our graduating learners!

Please RSVP me at madhavi.talasila@albertahealthservices.ca if you are able to come and be sure to include how many family members you'll be bringing and also include any dietary restrictions, and whether you'd prefer a beef, chicken or veggie burger. **Please send your RSVP by June 4th!**

Madhavi

Teaching Opportunities

Staff Examiners Required FOR CCFP-EM ORAL EXAMS: Thursday's June 12th, 2025 – In Person

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

- June 12th, 2025 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 June 12, 2025, please send the responses to

TriSurendra.Malasani@ahs.ca

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

Thanks, Tris

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We are still looking for a few more staff preceptors for additional Royal College oral exam prep sessions this spring for our four R4 residents (Dirk/Mary/Julia M/Jon). Thank you for considering spending a couple of hours for this high yield and highly valued prep time. The EM program is able to compensate preceptors for a maximum of two preceptor hours per person.

We need preceptors for the following dates/times, ALL virtual:

- May 15 (10:30 - 12:30)
- May 20 (18:00 - 20:00)
- May 30 (13:00 - 16:00)

As a reminder, Chase has an exam bank with questions that he can provide you with, as needed - or you are welcome to bring your own cases. Please sign up on the google link below and Natasha (ngoumeniouk@gmed.ca) will reach out to you **2 weeks before** the session with more details.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IYAljhrFa42h_qNKjmT8C4pCc4OIqLnCUgUR2z8uM/edit?gid=0#gid=0

Thanks for considering!
Natasha + Chase

Academic Day Preceptor Opportunities

Before shift preferences are due for the rest of the Fall / Holiday schedule I thought I would circulate the academic day preceptor opportunities for folks that like to plan ahead!

All **resident led sessions** needing staff preceptors from **July 1st to December 31st, 2025** can be found in the link below. If you are interested in being a preceptor for one or more sessions, or have any questions, please email Kelsey (kelsey.ragan@ucalgary.ca).

[Academic Day Preceptor Opportunities](#)

Thanks in advance for everyone's ongoing support of the EM Residency program
Kelsey

Research

Kudos – Publications

Kudos to **Drs. Andrew McRae, Kathryn Crowder, Margaret McGillivray, Eddy Lang** on their publications:

Germain N, Audet M, Graves L, Murthy S, McLeod SL, Khangura J, Golchi S, McRae AD, Hohl CM, Cheng I, Olivier Chevrier G, Marshall JC, Archambault PM; APTs in Emergency Medicine Group. CAEP 2024 Academic Symposium: adaptive platform trials in emergency medicine in Canada. CJEM. 2025 Apr 29. doi: 10.1007/s43678-025-00874-w. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40295353.

Shah FI, Lew G, Chawdhry Z, Reich K, Crowder K, Lorenzetti DL, McGillivray M, Goodarzi Z. [Agitation management strategies for older adults in the emergency department or with emergency medical services: A scoping review](#). Am J Emerg Med. 2025 Apr 16;94:81-95. doi: 10.1016/j.ajem.2025.04.019. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40286527.

Chisholm C, Lategan C, Lang E. [Preoxygenation via noninvasive ventilation compared to oxygen masks for critically ill patients prior to endotracheal intubation](#). Intern Emerg Med. 2025 Apr 28. doi: 10.1007/s11739-025-03957-9. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40295390.
Kathryn

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Other Opportunities

Office of Faculty Development (OFD)

There's still time to share your thoughts on how the **Office of Faculty Development (OFD)** can better support your career—whether it's through leadership training, mentorship, coaching, teaching resources, technology, or academic growth.

This is your chance to tell us what's working, what's missing, and what programs you'd love to see. Your feedback in this **quick 10-minute survey** will help shape the future of our offerings—and make a real difference in your professional life.

Your voice matters...please complete the survey by **May 10, 2025!**

https://survey.ucalgary.ca/ffe/form/SV_dhtc2LhjHz93eZw

Chinook Regional Hospital Emergency Department (Lethbridge Alberta) is Requesting Urgent Locum Assistance to Cover Unfilled ED Shifts This Summer

Due to chronic staffing shortages combined with short term leaves, we have an urgent need for locum physicians to help with coverage. There are shifts available on select days from June through September, with the most critical need being throughout July and August.

[Please see the attached pdf for full details.](#)

Please contact Dr Sean Wilde, department lead and Michelle Compton (administrative assistant) for any further questions, or to discuss any availability you may have.

sean.wilde2@albertahealthservices.ca - (403)360-8121

michelle.compton@albertahealthservices.ca

In Case You Missed Last Week

ED Gala 2025 at the Calgary Zoo

Eileen and I are very excited to be your hosts for the ED Gala 2025 at the Calgary Zoo on **May 8th, 2025**. In order to prepare, **we require an important survey to be completed** prior to your attendance at the Gala. Please take two minutes to complete this survey, as this will influence the events of the evening.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeIX300tERhNaTime6hDF73lpJ_AX3ee6BHlrHER0wDw-Gmag/viewform?usp=header

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Huma & Eileen

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27 and June 24

Hi everyone,
We're reaching out with an **urgent request for two staff preceptors** on each of the upcoming **Senior Simulation Days — Monday, May 27th and Monday, June 24th**.

These sessions are always a valuable and engaging experience for our senior learners, and your involvement plays a key role in their success.

Lorissa Mews has simulation cases available for you to use, so no prep is needed on your end. You'll be compensated at **PGME rates** for your time, and it's a great opportunity to interact with and support our senior residents in a hands-on, dynamic learning environment.

Please reach out if you're able to assist — your support would make a big difference! You can email me directly at mews@ualberta.ca, or add your name to the signup genius!

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

Lorissa Mews

Research Day – May 8th, 2025

See poster below for details

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PEM/EM RESEARCH DAY 2025

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FROM IRRELEVANT TO ESSENTIAL: THE STORY OF CHILDREN'S PAIN CARE

MAY 8, 2025

**LIBIN THEATRE, HEALTH
SCIENCES CENTER
8:00 AM - 3:30 PM**

KeyNote - Dr. Samina Ali



SAMINA ALI IS A PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY PHYSICIAN AT THE STOLLERY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND A PROFESSOR OF PEDIATRICS AND EMERGENCY MEDICINE (UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA). SHE IS A NATIONAL AWARD-WINNING RESEARCHER, MENTOR, EDUCATOR, AND LEADER. DR. ALI IS CURRENTLY CHAIR OF PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY RESEARCH CANADA (PERC), CANADA'S EMERGENCY RESEARCH NETWORK FOR CHILDREN. SHE IS ALSO THE WESTERN CANADIAN HUB LEAD FOR SOLUTIONS FOR KIDS IN PAIN (SKIP), A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO IMPROVING PAIN CARE FOR CHILDREN.

DR. ALI'S INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED RESEARCH PROGRAM CONCERNS BETTER TREATMENT OF CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY CARE WITH A FOCUS ON PAIN TREATMENT-RELATED CLINICAL TRIALS, RESPONSIBLE PRESCRIBING OF OPIOIDS, MANAGEMENT OF MEDICAL PROCEDURE-RELATED PAIN, TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE PAIN CARE, AND MORE RECENTLY, EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CARE AND BETTER MEETING FAMILY NEEDS IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT.

RESEARCH DAY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Special Presentation - Dr. Colin Bell
- Local EM and PEM research
- Breakfast and Lunch provided

**REGISTER
HERE**



SCAN ME

PechaKucha Night Invitation

As you know, this is our traditional get-together before Research Day — a fun and relaxed evening to connect with colleagues, share ideas, and get inspired! You'll also have the chance to meet our keynote speaker, Dr. Samina Ali, and chat about all the amazing research everyone's been working on.

Details

When: Wednesday, May 7 | 6:30 PM

Where: The Banquet – University District (3957 University Ave NW, Calgary, AB T3B 6K3)

Cost: Free!

What's included: Appy Party, drinks, great company, and *bowling*!

Please RSVP by April 30th to rosette.canale@albertahealthservices.ca.

We hope you can join us for this exciting evening!

Updated Newsletter Process

Submissions can be sent to: natalie.sun@ahs.ca and CC Ruchi Sharma (ruchi.sharma@ahs.ca)

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- Deadline is **Tuesday at noon**
- **Late** submissions will run in the next edition

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**.

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