

# Department of Emergency Medicine

## Calgary Zone

weekly email updates for ED Physicians

DEM News Subscriber,

## Operations

### Notes from Catherine

#### ED Volumes

Thank you to everyone for working so hard over their respective Christmas and New Year's blocks and for helping to cover the unexpected open shifts that came up. We are aware that wait times and number of WTBS patients seemed excessively high and will be bringing this up at leadership tables over the coming weeks. We are aware of the ongoing need for some sort of a surge strategy and are working to try and develop solutions that would be acceptable to the physician group. If you have ideas please email them to me directly [Catherine.patocka@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Catherine.patocka@albertahealthservices.ca)

#### AI Scribes Update

I have a meeting with AHS leadership to try and advocate for more broad access to AI scribes. In preparation for that meeting it would be helpful to have an idea of who is using AI scribes for their work. This is an ANONYMOUS survey that will not collect any of your personal/identifying information, I am hoping it will simply help guide the conversation/advocacy efforts. <https://forms.gle/8rgQFD4QYGLqzUmQ8>

#### Leaving Consultants on Hold

During the holidays, some consultants expressed concerns about being left on hold for extended periods (over 10 minutes). I explained that the ED is a dynamic environment and told them it was reasonable to hang up well before they have waited for 10 minutes! However, I also committed to sending a note to physicians, asking them to try (if possible) to have someone answer the pager if an urgent matter prevents them from answering in a timely manner.

Catherine

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### Notes From James

\*EQUIPMENT CHANGE: NEW Esophageal balloons for Upper GI Bleeds

Just a reminder that the Linton esophageal balloon which we have used in the Calgary Zone for many years has recently been discontinued by the manufacturer.

The Blakemore tube has now been substituted. It's very similar to the Linton, but adds an esophageal balloon (which you don't necessarily have to use).

For more information on how to place them, please see the following videos from EM:RAP:

- Comparison of Linton and Blakemore <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yv4muh0hX7Y>
- Blakemore Tube Placement <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHelCd5Jtp4>

There will also be an upcoming sim session to gain some hands on experience – be on the lookout for an a signup.

### FTE Reductions List Cleared

Good news! Thanks to the hard work of Miles Hunter as Hiring Lead, as well as Scott Banks, Lillian Prudencio and the many people who volunteered their time as file reviewers and interviewers during our recent hiring cycle, we are well hired at all sites across the zone, and have been able to clear the FTE reductions received prior to this year's hiring cycle beginning with the summer schedule.

Your schedulers have likely already reached out to you to confirm your FTE reductions, but if you have not yet heard from them, please feel free to reach out to your scheduler or myself.

As always, if you have any questions/concerns/suggestions for improvement on workforce planning or clinical operations, please feel free to reach out to me directly at [james.andruchow@ahs.ca](mailto:james.andruchow@ahs.ca).

James

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## Grand Rounds, Journal Club and Clinical Pearls

Grand Rounds Thursday January 09, 2025 (0900—1000) (1.0 Education Credits)

**Room:** Theatre 4 – HSC

**Zoom Link:** <https://albertahealthservices.zoom.us/j/61834756597?pwd=SkglZmdXOGdRWmgxMUc0U3lNMjR5Zz09>

**Meeting ID:** 618 3475 6597    **Passcode:** 407952

**Speakers:** Dr. Katie Gourlay

**Moderator:** Dr. Brittany Sunderani

**Title:** Our Claim to Flame: The EM Guide to Burn Fluid Resuscitation

**Description:** This presentation will cover the pathophysiology of burn shock and the hemodynamic challenges emergency physicians might encounter in patients with large TBSA burns. We will cover common pitfalls emergency physicians might encounter when evaluating a patient with a burn, and how to frame our fluid resuscitation parameters according to the most recent evidence.

[DEM Academic Grand Rounds Evaluation](#)

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

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**Date:** Thursday, January 9, 2025, 1000-1015 (Same zoom link as Grand Rounds)

**Topic:** The Emergency Room Referral Instructions Communication Project

**Speaker:** Brenda Lavalley

**Location:** Theatre 4 (HSC)

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## GRAND ROUNDS 2025/2026

In an effort to support our colleagues and residents and to continue to improve the quality of our grand rounds, please consider contributing to the [GRAND ROUNDS DOCUMENT](#).

In this document, you may share any suggested topics or guest speakers you would like to see included in the upcoming year. Furthermore, if you have something you would like to present to our group, there is also a place to add your name, topic (if already known) and preferred month and/or dates so I can preferentially schedule you. Thank you, as always and feel free to reach out with any other suggestions.

Brit Sunderani

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## Journal Club

You are invited to attend the Department  
Emergency Medicine Journal Club on

## Emergency Medicine Journal Club

**Thursday, January 16, 2025**

**Time:** 18:00 to 21:00

**Topic:** HEARTRISK6 Scale - Predicting Short-Term Serious Outcomes in Emergency Department Acute Heart Failure Patients

**Presenters:** Drs. Mary Freymond, Hannah Boone and Bryce Paxton

**Preceptor:** Dr. Dave Mainprize

**Hosted by:** Dr. Brett Shaw

**ARTICLE 1:** HEART FAILURE AND CARDIOMYOPATHIES : HEARTRISK6 Scale - Predicting Short-Term Serious Outcomes in Emergency Department Acute Heart Failure Patients

**RVSP** to [TriSurendra.Malasanani@ahs.ca](mailto:TriSurendra.Malasanani@ahs.ca) by January 12, 2025 if attending.

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## Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Pearl of the Week

Read about today's pearl of the week. Today's topic: [Acetaminophen-Related Pyroglutamic Acidosis \(5-oxoprolinemia\)](#).

Mark Yarema

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# Department News

## Emergency Physician Spotlight

Today's spotlight features Dr. Daniel Joo. You can read more about this amazing doctor below.



My love for EM was sparked early in med school through a fortuitous and colossally impactful match-up with Dr. Ian Walker as faculty advisor. He was a mentor throughout med school and generously allowed me to join him for shifts throughout my training as it fit my schedule. I completed Calgary's CCFP-EM program 2011 under the leadership of Drs. Jen Peddy and Neil Collins.

While resuscitation and 'big cases' remain fun, what keeps me going in this job is the challenge and reward of building a small connection with the human in front of me in every case. The best way to avoid negative feelings brought on by the chronic symptom patient, the whiner, or the patient angling to have you bend to their agenda, is to connect with their humanity first. Interactions with patients with misaligned goals and desires from ours which can create resentment and burnout are largely negated. This has led me to spend more time describing my thought process and educating my patients, which may cost something in terms of patients/hour but boosts my satisfaction and therefore longevity (I hope).

When not working, I am still abiding by my jack-of-all trades and master-of-nothing way of being. I love team sports, mountain sports, racquet sports, movies, non-fiction books, weightlifting, sitting in my sauna, day dates with my wife, stand-up comedy, and watching my kids play their sports.

Recent Favourite Books: *The Coddling of the American Mind*, *The Righteous Mind* (both by Jonathan Haidt)

Current Favourite Podcasts: *Making Sense with Sam Harris*, *Honestly with Bari Weiss*

Favourite Comedians: Ricky Gervais, Jim Gaffigan, Trevor Noah

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## GEMS FEEDBACK

For anyone currently involved in GEMS or who would like to be involved in GEMS in the coming year, please see brief attached survey (<5 minutes) for requests for topics in the upcoming year and any feedback re: session format, timing, etc. This feedback is anonymous and greatly appreciated to improve future sessions. As a reminder, the remaining sessions this cycle include Connect Care Optimization, Critical Care, Toxicology, Psych in the ED (with PES) and Wellness. Thank you!

[Group Emergency Medicine Sessions \(GEMS\)](#)

Brit Sunderani

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## CAEP and NENA Feedback Needed in National Survey Related to Triage

The primary goal of this research survey is to gather comprehensive data on the current state of emergency medicine triage training, practices, and to subsequently uncover potential areas for improvement. By engaging the perspectives of frontline emergency medicine staff (nursing, allied health and physicians), we aim to map the current Canadian triage landscape with the goal of enhancing patient care and optimizing triage processes.

### Survey Details:

- The survey is designed to be user-friendly and will take approximately three minutes to complete.
- Participation is entirely voluntary, and all responses will be kept confidential.
- The information collected will be used solely for research purposes, with findings reported in aggregate to protect the anonymity of participants.

Your valuable input is instrumental in the success of this research endeavour. Thank you in advance for your dedication to excellence in emergency nursing care.

<https://surveys.mcgill.ca/ls3/484315?lang=en>

Thank you for your participation! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Justin Hall [justin.hall@utoronto.ca](mailto:justin.hall@utoronto.ca)

Joy Mccarron [joymccarronctas@gmail.com](mailto:joymccarronctas@gmail.com)

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## Teaching Opportunities

### Recruiting Facilitators for 2025 Emerg UME SIM

Medical students (elective and mandatory clerks) rotating through emergency will have a simulation during their 2-week block. This is generally on Thursdays from 09:00-11:00 in the Health Science's ATSSL (G820).

The group ranges between 6-14 learners and will typically require two facilitators per session. Your role will be to pre-brief, manage the scenario, and facilitate debriefing. I will send you the case including a review of discussion topics so it is low preparation.

**Remuneration is at the UME teaching rate \$125/hr.**

Sign up included below:

[UME SIM 2025 Sign up Sheet](#)

Thank you for considering! Please let me know if you have any questions.

Ryan Wilkie  
[rdwilkie@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rdwilkie@ucalgary.ca)

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## Staff Examiners Required FOR CCFP-EM ORAL EXAMS : Thursday's March 13th, 2025 – In Person

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

- **March 13th 2025 from 1030 – 1300**
- **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 **March 13, 2025** and **June 12, 2025** please send the responses to [TriSurendra.Malasanani@ahs.ca](mailto:TriSurendra.Malasanani@ahs.ca).

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

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## Research

### Call for Abstracts

It's time to showcase your scholarly activity!

Department of Emergency Medicine Research Day abstract submission is now open!

Research Day is coming up May 8, 2025 from 0800-1600. We are excited to partner with Pediatric Emergency Medicine to deliver a high-impact, high-quality, clinically relevant and engaging research day, with both adult and pediatric EM topics!

Please save the date and consider submitting your work! New this year, learners can receive feedback on their abstracts from abstract reviewers. Please use the attached form for submission to [christina.cherian@ahs.ca](mailto:christina.cherian@ahs.ca)

**Abstract submission deadline: January 10, 2025 at 1600h.**

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### Publications Kudos

A huge month for publications from Calgary EM! Congrats to **Drs. Colin Bell, Conor McKaigney, Eddy Lang, Jessalyn Holodinsky and Katie Lin** on their recent publications:

**Bell C, Nomura J, Ferre RM. Point-of-Care Ultrasound Infrastructure. Med Clin North Am. 2025 Jan;109(1):299-311. doi: 10.1016/j.mcna.2024.08.002. Epub 2024 Sep 14. PMID: 39567099.**

Mithoowani S, Bungard T, Castellucci L, Crowther M, de Wit K, Dowlatshahi D, Forbes N, **Lin K, Siegal DM. Multidisciplinary Expert Guidance for the Management of Severe**

**Bleeding on Oral Anticoagulation: An Algorithm for Practicing Clinicians.** Thromb Haemost. 2024 Dec 13. doi: 10.1055/a-2464-2887. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39515380.

**Bell C, Wagner N, Hall A, Newbigging J, Rang L, Vukadinovic T, McKaigney C. The ultrasound competency assessment tool for evaluation of early pregnancy with POCUS.** CJEM. 2025 Jan 3. doi: 10.1007/s43678-024-00839-5. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39752091.

Diprose W, Harmon M, Brown SB, **Holodinsky JK**, Ospel JM; EYMINT **Research and Survey Committee. Statistical principles in neurointervention part 1: basic principles, descriptive statistics and univariable analysis.** J Neurointerv Surg. 2025 Jan 3:jnis-2024-022538. doi: 10.1136/jnis-2024-022538. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39753339.

Hannah H, **Lin Y**, Jenny L, Y CW, Colleen C. **The contribution of nonmedical opioid use to healthcare encounters for opioid overdose and use disorders among long-term users with metastatic cancer.** Support Care Cancer. 2024 Dec 13;33(1):27. doi: 10.1007/s00520-024-09082-1. PMID: 39672945.

Harmon M, Diprose W, Brown SB, Ospel JM, **Holodinsky JK**; EYMINT **Research and Survey Committee; EYMINT research and survey committee. Statistical principles in neurointervention part 2. Multivariable analysis: generalized linear models, modification, confounding, and mediation.** J Neurointerv Surg. 2025 Jan 3:jnis-2024-022539. doi: 10.1136/jnis-2024-022539. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39753346.

McNaughton CD, Austin PC, Chu A, Santiago-Jimenez M, Li E, **Holodinsky JK**, Kamal N, Kumar M, Atzema CL, Vyas MV, Kapral MK, Yu AYX. **Turbulence in the system: Higher rates of left-without-being-seen emergency department visits and associations with increased risks of adverse patient outcomes since 2020.** J Am Coll Emerg Physicians Open. 2024 Dec 18;5(6):e13299. doi: 10.1002/emp2.13299. PMID: 39703807; PMCID: PMC11655912.

San Martin-Feeney D, Samborn S, Allemang B, Patton M, Punjwani Z, Pfister K, Ryan L, Guilcher GMT, Hamiwka L, Klarenbach S, **Lang E**, McBrien K, Nettel-Aguirre A, Pacaud D, Pinzon J, Scott SD, Zwaigenbaum L, Perrott C, Andersen J, Andrew G, Mackie AS, Samuel S, Dimitropoulos G. **Transition experiences of adolescents and young adults working with a patient navigator.** Health Care Transit. 2024 Nov 30;3:100088. doi: 10.1016/j.hctj.2024.100088. PMID: 39712475; PMCID: PMC11658225.

Lategan C, Wang X, Chisholm C, Hsu Z, **Lang E.** **Emergency department trends for inguinal hernia and gallbladder disease before and after COVID-19 scheduled surgery interruptions: lessons for hospital capacity management.** CJEM. 2025 Jan 3. doi: 10.1007/s43678-024-00832-y. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39752086.

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## Other Opportunities

### Call for Abstracts – Emerging Dynamics

**Emerging Dynamics June 10, 2025.**

The Emerging Dynamics Conference planning committee is pleased to announce the upcoming annual conference will take place on June 10, 2025, at the Health Sciences Center attached to the Foothills Hospital in Calgary, Alberta.

We are seeking people interested in presenting a topic relevant to emergency care/practice.

[Further information and guidelines can be found through this link.](#)

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# Updated Newsletter Process

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

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