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UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

June 03, 2025

Department of Emergency Medicine

Calgary Zone

weekly email updates for ED Physicians

DEM News Subscriber,

Operations

Notes from Catherine

ACH Pediatrics Physician Guidelines Website

With support from the Department of Pediatrics, the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation, AHS, and administrative assistance from Dani and Morgan, Dr. Simon Parsons (Pediatric Intensivist from the ACH) developed an open-access website (www.achpccg.com) that curates, hosts, and links to clinical guidelines for pediatric physicians. This includes resources from ACH, Provincial AHS, and a wide range of national and international sources.

Awards from ICEM

- Congratulations to **Colin Bell** for being part of the Marketplace booth on POCUS-guided nerve blocks that received 3rd place at ICEM
- Congratulations to **Cody Dunne** who received the award for best paper by a young investigator at ICEM 2025

ICEM Social Event

We had just over 40 people attend the Calgary Emergency Medicine ICEM social event on a Terrasse in Montreal - the weather and company were amazing!

CAEP Annual Awards

Please let me know if you would like the department to nominate any of our exceptional colleagues for CAEP Emergency Physician of the Year. Other awards include ones for Professionalism, Advocacy, PEM leadership, Researcher of the Year, Teacher of the Year, Resident Leadership, Emerging Leadership in EM, and Medical Journalism. Please let me know ASAP and I can organize the nomination letters. Details of each award can be found <https://caep.ca/who-we-are/caep-annual-awards/>

Paging Upgrade

The Spok Paging System used in Calgary Zone sites is scheduled for an upgrade on June 24, 2025. This upgrade includes a change to the web link used to access the paging system. Paging functionality will remain the same, and no service disruption is expected. While this change is expected to have minimal impact on building systems or staff operations, we're providing early notice to help your teams prepare.

Congratulations

Jessalyn Holodinsky received the Banding Discovery Foundation Award, a one-year grant up to \$30,000 for innovative health and biomedical research projects.

Opportunities:

RAAPID/Direct Admit Work

We have received some support from the EMS/Emergency PIN (previously the ESCN) for a Calgary zone EDMD to contribute to initiatives related to surgical direct admit and RAAPID initiatives. This is a 0.15FTE funded role. One of our first priorities is to assist with work on initiatives involving **Neurosurgery**. The DEM has had an initial meeting with Dr. Steve Casha Section Head of Neurosurgery and Dr. Nathalie Jette the Department Head of Clinical Neurosciences and several opportunities for improvement were identified. Please reach out to [Catherine Patocka](#) and/or [Andrea Boone](#) if you are interested in this position working on initiatives to improve the flow of patients with Neurosurgical conditions in the Zone (possible areas for work include identifying patients with conditions who may not require consultation i.e. small SAHs etc., identifying opportunities for direct admissions, avoidance of unnecessary transfers/use of virtual consultations).

PA Clerkship Director

As of September 2025, the Department of Emergency Medicine will be hosting clerks from the University of Calgary Physician Assistants Program (1-2 clerks per month). We are in need of a physician coordinator to help orient, schedule and complete the overall evaluation for these ~20 learners/year. The role will be funded at a 0.05FTE annually. If you are interested in getting involved in education this is a great steppingstone. **Please reach out to [Catherine Patocka](#) with a brief letter of interest and CV to apply or for more information.**

Catherine

Notes from James

Work Change Requests

Hi Folks,

In order to better plan for our needs in the fall hiring cycle (and if you haven't already), please reach out to me directly if you have any interest in changing your work situation in the next year, including:

- Plans to enter transition to retirement
- Plans to move/resign/fully retire

By better understanding the needs of our group well in advance of the fall hiring cycle, we can better accommodate your requests and optimize staffing at all sites across the zone.

All information provided will be held in confidence. Requests are appreciated before **August 1**.

Thanks,

James

james.andruchow@ahs.ca

Grand Rounds, Journal Club and Clinical Pearls

Grand Rounds Thursday June 05, 2025 (0900—1015)
(1.0 Education Credit)

Room: Theatre 4 (HSC)

NEW Zoom Webinar: <https://albertahealthservices.zoom.us/j/65876053204?pwd=jSOpQ9sLKif0kH5eSs2whSG6pZp6EM.1>

Meeting ID: 658 7605 3204

Passcode: 817531

Speaker: Dr. Ian Rigby

Bio: Ian is an emergency department physician, medical educator and also has a practice in obesity medicine. He has a developing interest in artificial intelligence and how this intersects with clinical medicine and education.

Title: AI Scribes

Description: In these Grand Rounds we will explore the use of AI scribes in clinical practice. We will touch upon how they work, the benefits and challenges of their use as well as some of the medico-legal and regulatory complexities associated with AI scribe use. Finally, we will discuss how to use AI scribes for those new to these applications.

Speaker 2: Research Update (1000-1015) with Dr. Andrew McRae

Title: Research Update—Syncope and Chest Pain studies

Description: Dr. McRae will be providing an introduction to a new observational chest pain study launching in the Calgary zone in June and providing an update on the Syncope study.

Grand Rounds Archive

Journal Club Thursday, June 12th, 2025

Emergency Medicine Journal Club

Time: 18:00 to 21:00

Topic: Effect of administration sequence of induction agents on first-attempt failure during emergency intubation: A Bayesian analysis of a prospective cohort published in Acad Emerg Med by Catoire.

Presenters: Drs. Jayelle Friesen-Enns & Pavneet Singh

Preceptor: Dr. Gavin Greenfield

Hosted by: Dr. Dave Mainprize

ARTICLE 1: Effect of administration sequence of induction agents on first-attempt failure during emergency intubation: A Bayesian analysis of a prospective cohort published in Acad Emerg Med by Catoire.

Please RSVP to Tris TriSurendra.Malasani@albertahealthservices.ca by **June 8th** if attending.

Thanks

Tris

Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Pearl of the Week

Read about today's pearl of the week. Today's topic is on [changes in drug pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics after gastric surgery](#).

Some gastric surgeries, like the Roux-en-Y procedure, may cause substantial changes in drug kinetics and dynamics. Adjustments to drug selection, dosing, and frequency may be required.

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](#).

Mark Yarema

Department News

G7

The 2025 G7 Leaders Summit will be hosted by the Government of Canada in Kananaskis, Alberta, from **June 15–17**, the G7 countries include Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom and the United States. There may also be other country delegations that will be in Calgary during that time but are not part of the core G7 members. Health Canada is leading medical support efforts for the G7 and has been working with AHS to ensure that health needs of participants and other visitors can be met. The G7 team is responsible for healthcare coverage for approximately 100 international protected persons (IPPs). IPPs include diplomats, heads of state, and other individuals under international protection, and may also include accompanying family members. We are expecting appropriately 10,000 people to be attending the event in various capacities (entourage, media etc.).

The G7 team will have 3 fixed medical clinics, 2 mobile clinics and 14 ambulances staffed by 11 emergency physicians, 10 nursing staff and 80-100 paramedics that are expected to be able to meet the majority of medical needs for the event. However, in the event that a higher level of care is required, **FMC is the designated facility for transport** (except in the event that specialty services such as Vascular, Ophthalmology or Urology are required). Should a patient require transport, patients will arrive via STARS or ground transport as deemed appropriate and we have tried to keep usual processes as much as possible. For privacy reasons IPPs will move confidentially through the system for the duration of their stay.

If transported to the hospital IPPs will be triaged based on their acuity, but they will not wait in public waiting rooms due to concerns with privacy and safety. The FMC operations team has been involved in the planning and have designated appropriate care spaces for these individuals and their security teams. Many IPPs arrive with their own health care team but their teams do not have medical privileges in Canada and treatment of any patient should follow standard clinical practice. Collaboration (whenever possible) with IPPs medical teams is up to the treating provider. There are health care liaisons for any IPP and Health Canada will help to facilitate communication as they will be the ultimate custodian of any records. I would just reiterate that should our providers find themselves caring for an IPP, processes and protocols should continue as usual (ie. Treatment, Consultation as deemed appropriate, Level 1 trauma activation, Cath lab activation). Billing of patients should proceed as you would for any out-of-province or out-of-country patient.

We also believe that there is a heightened chance of a **CODE ORANGE** during the time of the G7 (this could take place at any of our sites) and have been training and testing our code orange processes in the lead up. There is also an upcoming tabletop exercise to walk through the process and administrators on call have been invited to ensure they are up to speed on processes as well. Dr Granberg (our department disaster lead) will send a separate email about any updates/reminders related to Code Orange.

Catherine

Dr. Kari McFarlane
Thank you to Dr. Kari McFarlane from RGH ED (and all the nursing and support staff). I presented after falling on Sunday May 25th. Dr. McFarlane was kind, compassionate and very knowledgeable. I required stitches and a head CT scan, and she explained everything to me. Thank you for doing what you do and doing it so well.

In Case You Missed Last Week

Group Emergency Medicine Sessions AKA GEMS 2025/2026

GEMS sign up is now open for the upcoming academic year. These are small group, staff-only sessions interactive sessions on a variety of topics relevant to our practice each month. There are 5 groups throughout the week at different times to help accommodate everyone's unique schedules. While it is recommended to try to stick to your group for consistency and scheduling, it is always possible to attend another groups session, as needed, to fit your schedule and make the session.

Highlights for the upcoming year's sessions include a cadaver procedure day (limited availability, first come first served), 2 PEM (common cases + critical care cases), PoCUS, Airway, Geriatrics, Sports Med, Toxicology, and Addictions. These sessions can be claimed as Section 1 CME credit. Note: These sessions are funded by the PSF. If you are not a contributing PSF member, you will be required to pay a \$200 fee to attend.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jy-1pVFITA311k9WcQjDnsFhPSMwkHW8gvDlyWktUNQ/edit?pli=1&gid=0#gid=0>

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns and/or feedback!
Brit Sunderani

Synapse Course Registration Open

High yield neuro-EM content, distilled for clinical practice.

SYNAPSE is a practice-changing course designed with clinicians in mind – whether you are a seasoned veteran or early in practice, if you want to improve your comfort with managing neurologic emergencies, SYNAPSE is for you!

SYNAPSE offers both 1- and 2-day course options delivered by Dr. Katie Lin. As one of Canada's leading EM educators, Dr. Lin blends her clinical expertise in Emergency Medicine, Stroke Neurology, and STARS Air Ambulance critical care transport to provide high-yield, clinically focused teaching on common and can't-miss neurologic emergencies.

your next shift!

SYNAPSE is fully accredited for 3-credits per hour of CME (Mainpro+, MOC, AAFP) and includes full access to pre-course materials (including a casebook and lecture primers on neuroanatomy, neuro exam pearls, and neuroimaging basics), interactive virtual lectures, and access to lecture recordings.

A Calgary Discount Code has been created for 30% off registration for the upcoming June 13 course (valid until May 31): UCEM30%

The SYNAPSE Website is currently under construction and scheduled to come online in June 2025; registration can be completed online in the interim at:

https://events.myconferencesuite.com/Synapse_April_4_2025_/reg/landing

UPCOMING COURSE DATES (VIRTUAL COURSES):

- June 13 One-Day Course: 8:30AM – 4PM MST
- Oct 24 & 25 Two-Day Course: 8AM – 2PM MST

Questions/Comments? Feel free to reach out at: katie.lin@ahs.ca

Katie



AI in Medicine Symposium

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! Join us for a full-day symposium dedicated to the transformative role of artificial intelligence in medicine. This event brings together healthcare professionals, educators, researchers, and technologists to explore how AI is reshaping clinical care, medical education, and health systems. **Full details can be found in the link registration below.**

[Eventbrite Registration Link](#)

Through a **keynote talk, panel discussions, and interactive workshops**, participants will gain insight into emerging AI tools, ethical considerations, practical applications, and the skills needed to navigate an **AI-enabled healthcare and education landscape**.

Whether you're curious about how AI can support your practice or eager to deepen your understanding of its implications, this symposium offers a dynamic and accessible space for **learning and collaboration**.

WHEN: October 17, 2025 | 8:15 AM - 5:00 PM

CSM Faculty!

Jessalyn

Updated Newsletter Process

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