

# Department of Emergency Medicine

## Calgary Zone

weekly email updates for ED Physicians

DEM News Subscriber,

## Operations

### Notes from Catherine

#### Dr. Carly Hagel Appointed SHC Site Chief

We are delighted to announce that Dr. Carly Hagel will be appointed as the new Site Chief for the South Health Campus Emergency Department as of July 1, 2025. Dr. Hagel has served as SHC Assistant Site Chief since 2021 and has been a key member of the Physicians Executive Committee (PEC) for several years, contributing beyond her admin role by leading initiatives such as the website revision and site-specific projects at SHC. She has also played a significant role in residency training, simulation-based assessment, and point-of-care ultrasound instruction. Her dedication to patient care, clinical excellence, and mentorship has made a lasting impact, and these qualities will be invaluable as she steps into this new leadership role. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Hagel on this well-deserved appointment!

We'd also like to thank Dr. Hagel for her amazing work as assistant site chief and please **stay tuned for a job posting for the SHC assistant site chief position.**

#### AMHSP Townhall Minutes

We held an AMHSP town hall last week where the details of Emergency Medicine AMHSPs were discussed and interested candidates were able to ask questions. We were not able to record the meeting, but minutes are available. Please reach out directly to Catherine Patocka ([catherine.patocka@ahs.ca](mailto:catherine.patocka@ahs.ca)) to receive the minutes. Anyone interested in an AMHSP position please reach out to Catherine to discuss now as we hope to move to fill them over the next few months.

#### April 10, 2025 TOWNHALL REMINDER

The calendar invites for the spring town hall went out last week. Please reach out to Catherine or James if you have specific topics you would like to have addressed - current topics will be Surgical Diversion updates, updated PRC policies (including scheduling),

partnership with Canadian Armed Forces/DND, AMHSP update, and PSF incentivization measures. More details will follow.

## Physician on Call Coverage

As mentioned in the last month, there have been significant changes announced to the Physician on call program (POCP) (which are set to begin later this Spring) - most significantly many programs will no longer be receiving a weekday daytime call coverage stipend. Consequently, we believe there may be some services that look to changing how they interact with the ED. If you hear services tell you that they “will not be providing call” or “changing how they provide call” it is important to **let Catherine or James know about this** as the Zone Medical Director has stated that there should be no changes in service provided.

## Provincial Modules

On January 7, 2025, an email titled: Subject: **Access to Resuscitation Education Platform - Basic Life Support (BLS)** was sent in error to all physicians with emergency department and family medicine appointments. It was incorrect to state that this certification is mandatory for all physicians. You do not have to do this training.

We are still working to see if we can offer an alternative option for the **Bloody Easy** module and will let the group know as soon as we have further information

Thanks,  
Catherine

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# Grand Rounds, Journal Club and Clinical Pearls

## Grand Rounds Thursday March 06, 2025 (0900—1030) (1.5 Education Credits)

**Room:** Theatre 4 (HSC)

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

**Meeting ID:** 658 7605 3204

**Passcode:** 817531

**Speaker(s):**  
**Session #1 (0900-0945) Dr. Bryce Paxton**

**Title:** Eye Spy with my Ultrasound: Ocular PoCUS for Detection of Raised Intracranial Pressure

**Description:** PoCUS is an important tool for emergency medicine physicians.

This presentation will review how to perform Ocular PoCUS and its indications

We will also discuss ultrasound findings of raised intracranial pressure and potential applications in the emergency department

## Session #2 (0945-1030) Dr. Vincent Soh

**Title:** Damage Control Interventions in Prehospital Trauma Care

**Description:** We will review the latest evidence and current guidelines for hemostatic interventions performed in prehospital trauma care including application of pelvic binders, hemostatic dressings, tourniquets, as well as prehospital REBOA and thoracotomy.

The main theme of the presentation is the importance of time -- focusing on expediting transfer to a tertiary center for definitive surgical care and only performing interventions that are absolutely required or do not prolong time to transfer.

[DEM Academic Grand Rounds Evaluation](#)

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

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## Journal Club Update

A quick journal club catch up for everyone from the last few months!

First off, thanks to our Dec/Jan staff preceptors - Drs. Dunne & Mainprize - and host - Dr. Shaw!

Also, a huge thank you and great work to our resident leads for December and January: Drs. Wong, Loch, Freymond, Boone, & Paxton!

Here are the papers that were covered:

### December 2024

**Overview:** TRACE III compared TNK to antiplatelet therapy for large vessel ischemic strokes without access to thrombectomy presenting between 4.5-24 hours

**Bottom Line:** In patients with large vessel ischemic strokes who did not have access to thrombectomy **Tenecteplase administered between 4.5-24h after stroke onset resulted in a higher percentage of patients with no disability at 90 days** when compared to antiplatelet therapy. However, the incidence of symptomatic intracranial hemorrhage was higher in the Tenecteplase group, and mortality at 90 days was similar between the two groups.

**Summary Link:**

<https://www.calgaryem.com/admin/storage/uploads/2025/01/24/6793d467c645bDecember-JC-Summary---TRACEIII.pdf>

**Citation:** Xiong Y, et al. Tenecteplase for ischemic stroke at 4.5 to 24 hours without thrombectomy. N Engl J Med. 2024;391:203-12.

### January 2025

**Overview:** HEARTRISK6 is a risk score used to predict serious outcomes (death within 30-days, airway management, ED revisit with admission) in patients with acute heart failure. The risk score's 6 variables include: history of valvular disease, degree of tachycardia, NIPPV treatment required, elevated creatinine, elevated troponin, and failure to improve after initial ED treatment.

**Bottom Line:** The final HEARTRISK6 Scale includes 6 variables to assist with admission decisions for patients with acute heart failure. Based on this internal validation study, a score >1 could be considered for admission, with a sensitivity of 88% and specificity of 25%, and equated to a risk of 11.3% of serious outcomes.

**Summary Link:**

<https://www.calgaryem.com/admin/storage/uploads/2025/01/24/6793d4999d080January-JC-Summary---HEARTRISK6-Score.pdf>

**Citation:** Still I, et al. The HEARTRISK6 Scale: Predicting Short-Term Serious Outcomes in Emergency Department Acute Heart Failure Patients. JACC. 2024.

Cody & Omar

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## Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Pearl of the Week

Read about today's pearl of the week. Today's topic: [Drug Induced Extrapiramidal Symptoms \(EPS\)](#).

Mark

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## Department News

### Emergency Physician Spotlight

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



I completed my EM here in Calgary and then went to Auckland New Zealand for an additional year of EM training. I have been working primarily at RGH for the last five years, and I thoroughly enjoy it. My wife mentions to me that I never have trouble getting ready for a shift. There are certainly tough moments, but overall, I find our job to be challenging, fulfilling, and really fun.

My first daughter was born in New Zealand, and I have since added a few more for four kiddos total (ages 5, 4, 2, and 7 months). Home life is busy chasing after these four. Very busy. But so rewarding to see them grow and develop their own [spicy] little personalities! No cats or dogs but we do have four chickens in a little backyard coop.

When I'm not working or playing with the kids I like to bike. Nothing helps refresh my mindset like a spin in West Bragg or the Foothills.

Overall, I am very grateful to work with incredibly kind, intelligent and compassionate people. The commitment to excellent medical care in the ED is really inspiring and like nothing I have come across in the dozens of other places I have worked! This job is so much fun and I feel privileged to do it with you.

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## Kudos Corner – Patient Commendation

**Congratulations to Dr. Rhonda Ness, Victoria and the RGH ED staff on this patient commendation.**

I cut my thumb on Wednesday and visited the emergency department, where the triage nurse replaced my bandage and took my information. Once inside, Victoria and Dr. Ness provided excellent care, cleaning and closing the wound with glue before applying a protective dressing —I'm grateful for their kindness and competence.

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# Research

## Productive Emergency Physician Canada Recruitment

Emerg Docs: we need your help to participate in a quick group discussion on ED physician productivity. If you would be interested in participating in a group discussion with your colleagues we would love to hear from you! [See research study pdf attached](#) and please contact [rohitgandhi@montfort.on.ca](mailto:rohitgandhi@montfort.on.ca)

Rohit

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## Kudos Corner – Publications

Kudos to Drs. Colin Bell, Eddy Lang and Nik Bobrovitz for their hard work on these recent publications:

Miller DT, Michael S, **Bell C**, Brevik CH, Kaplan B, Svoboda E, Kendall J. [Physical and biophysical markers of assessment in medical training: A scoping review of the literature](#). Med Teach. 2025 Mar;47(3):436-444. doi: 10.1080/0142159X.2024.2345269. Epub 2024 Apr 30. PMID: 38688520.

Jelinski D, Fernandes B, Reich K, **Lang E**, Holroyd-Leduc J, Goodarzi Z. [Care for older adults living with dementia in the emergency department: a systematic review and meta-synthesis of care partner roles and perspectives](#). Emerg Med J. 2025 Feb 21;42(3):154-163. doi: 10.1136/emered-2023-213869. PMID: 39793980.

Cao C, Sang J, Arora R, Chen D, Kloosterman R, Cecere M, Gorla J, Saleh R, Drennan I, Teja B, Fehlings M, Ronksley P, Leung AA, Weisz DE, Ware H, Whelan M, Emerson DB, Arora RK, **Bobrovitz N**. [Development of Prompt Templates for Large Language Model-Driven Screening in Systematic Reviews](#). Ann Intern Med. 2025 Feb 25. doi: 10.7326/ANNALS-24-02189. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39993313.

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## Reminder to SAVE THE DATE:

EM/PEM Research Day 2025: May 8, 2025 0800-1530.

We are pleased to announce our Keynote Speaker **Dr. Samina Ali, Pediatric Emergency Medicine Specialist and Researcher**.

- Breakfast and lunch will be provided
- Also showcasing local work including projects in progress
- Everyone is welcome!
- Details to follow

Tune in for the **Grand Rounds Research Update March 20 Dr. Stephanie Vandenberg** presenting immediately after grand rounds: a big announcement coming and input from residents, students and clinical staff requested!

Kathryn

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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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## In Case You Missed Last Week

### Family Medicine Enhanced Skills Residency Program

#### Program Director – Role Description

<https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/128/2025-02-13%20ES-EM%20Program%20Director.pdf>

#### Overview

The Program Director, Enhanced Skills (ES) Emergency Medicine (“the program”) of the Department of Family Medicine of the University of Calgary is responsible for the oversight of the functioning of the ES Emergency Medicine program.

The responsibilities include planning, organization, recruitment, coordination of learner placement, promotion, administration, continuous quality improvement, and professional development. The Program Director will be accountable to the Head of the Department of Family Medicine, University of Calgary, through the Central Enhanced Skills Program Director and the Postgraduate Family Medicine Program Director. The Program Director also reports to the Department Head of Emergency Medicine.

#### Duties and Responsibilities

1. Provide academic support, guidance, and oversight for the academic functioning of the ES Emergency Medicine program.
2. Provide advice and counsel to the Central Enhanced Skills Program Director and Postgraduate Family Medicine Program Director on key issues affecting the training of ES Emergency Medicine residents.
3. Communicate regularly with the Education Manager on logistical and operational needs of the program.
4. Promote collaboration among the academic faculty of the Departments of Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine preceptors, as well as the wider Cumming School of Medicine faculty who act as preceptors to Enhanced Skills residents.
5. Communicate regularly with the Program Director of the Royal College Emergency Medicine Residency Program and Department Head of the Emergency Medicine

- program at the University of Calgary to ensure academic content, clinical opportunities, and institutional capacity for resident learning is supported across both programs.
6. Chair the ES Emergency Medicine Residency Program Committee (RPC) on a quarterly basis.
  7. Attend quarterly meetings of the Central ES RPC chaired by the Central ES Program Director.
  8. Liaise with other ES Emergency Medicine Program Directors at national meetings of the ES Emergency Medicine Program Directors' Group.
  9. Provide support for strategic planning, administrative issues, and recruitment of new preceptors.
  10. Facilitate and conduct continuous quality improvement initiatives such as, but not limited to, accreditation preparation and reviews, site visits, outcomes measures, faculty evaluation, resident feedback surveys, and resident exit interviews. This includes providing constructive feedback to preceptors and rotations of the program.
  11. Regularly review and revise academic content, goals and objectives of, and evaluation tools used in the program.
  12. Support interventions required for learners in difficulty.
  13. Lead the selection of candidates for the program.
  14. Participate in meetings of the Department related to the function of the program and the Residency Program.
  15. Fulfill other duties as may be assigned from time to time.

[Please see attached Appendix: CCFP ES EM Program Director Duties for additional details](#)

## Requirements

In accordance with Postgraduate Medical Education Residency Director qualifications:

- Member of the University of Calgary, Faculty of Medicine with certification or fellowship in the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC).
- Graduate of a CFPC ES Emergency Medicine program and holder of a Certificate of Added Competence in Emergency Medicine (CAC-EM).
- The candidate will need to have an academic appointment in the University of Calgary Department of Emergency Medicine and a clinical appointment in the AHS Calgary Zone Emergency Department.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to collaborate with stakeholders across both Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine Departments to manage program resources and operations.
- Leadership ability. Resident advocacy skills and interests.
- Working knowledge of the principles of adult learning and postgraduate medical education.

Clinical expertise in Emergency Medicine and experience in medical education and administration is a definite asset.

[See attached Appendix with tasks description](#)

## To Apply

We are currently recruiting an Enhanced Skills Emergency Medicine Program Director for Calgary. Compensation is commensurate with the number of residents in the program. With the current number of residents in the program (8) this is \$36,496 per annum; please note this role is salaried from the University of Calgary with corresponding required CRA deductions.

Please submit your CV to Dr. Martina Barton, Postgraduate Director for Family Medicine at [mbarton@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mbarton@ucalgary.ca) no later than 5pm on Friday, March 7. Interviews will be held in March. Planned start date is April 1, 2025

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# Patient Safety Concerns with Pregnancy Episodes in Connect Care

## FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION:

In order to make care safer for patients in your area, we ask your help in completing the following:

- Please cascade the attached Safer Practice Notice (SPN) through your internal distribution channels to ensure that all appropriate/impacted areas receive this information.
- Please ask them to share and post this Safer Practice Notice as soon as possible.

For your convenience the [SPN is included as an attachment](#).

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## 2025 ED Staff Simulation Sign Up (Jan-June):

There are still more staff SIM spots available!

Additionally, we will have a session on **March 11th at 8:30AM** at the PLC to review and practice using the Blakemore Tube on our SIM mannequin in the trauma bay.

**Check out the SignUp Genius below.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844AAAD22A5F8C25-52416005-2025#/>

Meg [meaghan.mackenzie2@ucalgary.ca](mailto:meaghan.mackenzie2@ucalgary.ca)

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

The CCFP-EM Residency Program is in need of **ONE more staff examiner** for the oral exams for

- March 13th 2025 from 1030 – 1300

These exams for March are virtual sessions by Zoom.

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.Malasani@ahs.ca](mailto: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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## ED Gala Tickets Now On Sale

The 2025 ED Gala has been confirmed for **May 8th** and tickets are now on sale!

A change in timing from the fall to spring, the 2024/25 ED Gala will also change venues with this year's event booked at the Calgary Zoo.

As always, this evening of celebration is for all of the emergency MD's across the city from all sites along with their significant others. The main theme will be around socializing and taking some time to relax, to have some fun, and to take the time to toast and pay tribute to all of the continued hard work and contributions made these past few years.

Lets lose the scrubs and lab coats and pull out those fine gala dresses and suits, to wine, dine, and dance the night away!

- Tickets: \$170 per person \*\*\*\*\*Etransfer (preferred) or Cheques accepted
- Etransfer to [bakerla@shaw.ca](mailto:bakerla@shaw.ca) and please include your name in the message.
- Cheques can be made out to "Awards Group - Dept of EM"
- **Space is very limited** and we are expecting a sell out crowd again this year so don't delay!

We sure hope to see most of you out!! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Further emails regarding award nominations will be coming shortly.

**Sincerely, Your ED Gala Planning Committee:** Laurie-Ann Baker, Chris Bond, Jen Puddy, Jen D'Mello, Ayesha Khory, Nancy Zuzic, Haley Cochrane, Naminder Sandhu, Marcie Leitch, Rachel Taylor, Catherine Patocka

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