

Department of Emergency Medicine

Calgary Zone

weekly email updates for ED Physicians

DEM News Subscriber,

Operations

Notes from Catherine

Provincial Medical Informatics Lead

Congratulations to Dr Chris Hall who has accepted a position as a Provincial Medical Informatics Lead where he will be working to maintain and improve knowledge and workflows in clinical information systems, with a goal to improve quality, efficiency and safety of patient care. It is incredibly important that Calgary EM have a voice at the table regarding CC and Chris' track record as an MIL will I'm sure serve him and our department well.

Declined referrals project

I am meeting with the Connect Care team in the next few weeks to discuss strategies to address the large number of declined referrals that we face. We have built a report in CC that allows us to track declined referrals but if there are particular concerns with specific pathways (for instance I know that the Early Pregnancy Assessment Clinic has been a challenge for many) then please let me know as there will be a lot to pursue and prioritizing the list of which declined referrals are most problematic will be helpful

Notes from James

New Guidance: Balloon Tamponade for Variceal Bleeds

Just a reminder that the Linton gastric balloons for variceal bleeds have been discontinued and have now been replaced by the Blakemore balloons (which have both a gastric and an esophageal balloon).

Please see attached the new [Resource](#) provided by the Department of Critical Care Medicine outlining safe placement of the Blakemore (and Minnesota tubes - should you somehow find

yourself encountering one).

Please note that Critical Care **does not recommend inflating the esophageal balloon on the Blakemore Tube**; however they have provided basic instructions for inflation, should it be deemed necessary. Please see the screenshot below:

BALLOON TAMPONADE FOR VARICEAL BLEEDS- ADULT RESOURCE

8. The DCCM- Calgary zone recommends the esophageal balloon is left deflated to reduce the risk of esophageal ischemia, necrosis, or rupture. If it is determined the esophageal balloon is to be inflated, attach a sphygmomanometer device or pressure gauge device to the esophageal balloon port. The ICU Attending, Critical Care Resident, Gastroenterologist, or Nurse Practitioner should gradually inflate the balloon to 25-45mmHg. Use the minimum amount of pressure required to create tamponade (and not exceeding 45 mmHg).
 - Discuss with MRHP frequency of ongoing esophageal pressure monitoring (order required).

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

James

james.andruchow@ahs.ca

Grand Rounds, Journal Club and Clinical Pearls

Grand Rounds Thursday Month 13, 2025 (0900—1000) (1.0 Education Credit)

Location: Theater 4 (HSC)

NEW Zoom Webinar: <https://albertahealthservices.zoom.us/j/65876053204?pwd=JSOpQ9sLKif0kH5eSs2whSG6pZp6EM.1>

Meeting ID: 658 7605 3204

Passcode: 817531

Speaker(s): Dr. Ryan Deedo MD BSc EMT-A DipAeroRT MAvMed FRCPC

Ryan Deedo has been an emergency medicine physician in Calgary, as well as a STARS transport physician since 2009. He grew up in Calgary; did his undergraduate education at SAIT and the University of Calgary before going to the University of Alberta for medical school and then the University of British Columbia for his residency in Emergency Medicine. He was an EMT-A (now basic life support paramedic) in Alberta before and during medical school. He has a Diploma in Aeromedical Retrieval and Transport as well as a Masters in Aviation Medicine from the University of Otago. He is a clinical lecturer at the University of Calgary and was previously one at the University of Otago as well. He was a prior site surveyor for the Commission on Air Medical Transport (CAMTS).

Title: A Collection of Aviation Medicine and Retrieval Cases.

Description: We will discuss a few cases that are pertinent to aviation and retrieval medicine that an emergency medicine physician should be familiar with.

This presentation will address a few topics related to aviation and retrieval medicine that an emergency physician should know.

- Some diagnoses have significant implications for pilots and air crew
- There are some conditions where the method of transport is important to consider
- Some treatments may affect patients' ability to travel
- Some guidance on how to deal with inflight emergencies

[DEM Academic Grand Rounds Evaluation](#)

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

Grand Rounds Feedback

We are looking for your input for the upcoming year of grand rounds - topics you would like to see more of, less of and any specific topics or speakers you would like to see included. If you would like to present, there is also a sign up and I will connect with you to select your preferred date as I schedule speakers. [This link will also now be included](#) in the weekly email with grand rounds links so you can add throughout the year. Thank you!

Brit

Journal Club Summary

Another journal club update for everyone from the last few months!

First off, thanks to our Jan/Feb staff preceptor - Drs. Holodinsky - and host - Dr. Hemphill! Also, a huge thank you and great work to our residents leads for February and March: Drs. Gourlay, Bobrovitz & Ma!!

February 2025

Overview:

The Sudbury Vertigo Risk Score is a 7-item risk score designed to predict serious diagnosis (stroke, TIA, vertebral dissection or brain tumour) in patients presenting with dizziness, vertigo, or imbalance. The 7-items include male sex (+1), age > 65 years (+1), diabetes history (+1), hypertension (+3), motor or sensory deficit (+5), cerebellar deficits (+6), or clinician's diagnosis of BPPV (-5).

Bottom Line: The 7-item Sudbury Vertigo Risk Score had a sensitivity for a serious diagnosis (stroke, transient ischemic attack, vertebral artery dissection or brain tumor) of 100% (95% CI, 97.1% to 100%) and a specificity of 72.1% (95% CI, 70.1% to 74%) for a score <5. Using a score of >4 to define a high-risk group that warrants further investigation would reduce CT use by 10% and would not miss any serious events at 30 days. However, this risk score has not been externally validated and did not assess key clinical variables previously shown to significantly associated with the outcomes being studied (e.g., nystagmus).

Summary Link: [Clinical-Vertigo-Risk-Score.pdf](#)

Citation: Ohle R, et al. Development of a Clinical Risk Score to Risk Stratify for a Serious Cause of Vertigo in Patients Presenting to the Emergency Department. *Ann Emerg Med.* 2025 Feb;85(2):122-131.

March 2025

Overview: In this prospective multicentre study with over than 19000 children enrolled between the two cohorts, two PECARN clinical decision rules were validated. See the **Summary Link's** last page for an overview of the rules and inclusion criteria.

Bottom Line:

- The PECARN blunt **abdominal trauma rule** (all ages < 18 years) had a **sensitivity of 100%**, NPV 100% for injury requiring acute intervention.
- In children < **2 years**, the PECARN **minor head trauma rule** had a **sensitivity of 100%**, NPV 100% for clinically important TBI.
- In children > **2 years**, the PECARN **minor head trauma rule** had a **sensitivity of 98.8%** and NPV 100% for clinically important TBI. The 2 children misclassified for the head trauma were admitted but did not require surgical intervention.

Both rules are great as a “rule out” approach to minimize un-necessary CT use in children with blunt abdominal and minor head trauma.

Summary Link: [PECARN-Minor-Head-Injury-and-Blunt-Abdominal-Injury-Rule-.pdf](#)

Citation: Holmes JF, et al. PECARN prediction rules for CT imaging of children presenting to the emergency department with blunt abdominal or minor head trauma: a multicentre prospective validation study. *Lancet.* 2024.

Cody & Omar

Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Pearl of the Week

Read about today's pearl of the week. Today's topic: Read about today's pearl of the week. Today's topic: [Tirzepatide](#)

The Clinical Pharmacology (CP) physician consultation service is available Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm. 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 through RAAPID. You can also find us in the [Alberta Referral Directory \(ARD\)](#) by searching “Pharmacology” from the ARD home page. 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

Department News

PGME Clinical Teaching Award 2024/2025

Congratulations to the following physicians on their PGME Clinical Teaching Award this year.

Dr. Michael Betzner

Dr. Gert Du Plessis

Dr. Ayesha Khory

Dr. Christopher Lipp

Dr. Lanette Prediger

Dr. Melanie Sohn

Dr. Mandeep Sran

Dr. Fiona Stewart

Dr. Bryan Weber



Announcement: Rosette Canale - New Administrative Assistant

We are pleased to announce that effective March 24, 2025, Rosette Canale will be joining the Department of Emergency Medicine as an Administrative Assistant V (replacing Jill Vandenbrand). Rosette will be supporting the ED Research Section; the Site Leads and Dr. Sarah McPherson in her Deputy Department Head, Strategy & Engagement role.

Prior to joining our team, Rosette worked in various roles including as a Medical Office Assistant at a Calgary medical clinic, as Administrative Support for Access & Disclosure at PLC, Assertive Community Treatment at Sheldon Chumir, PCL & Somatic Rehab Clinic at ACH, and then most recently she served as an Administrative Assistant V with the Department of Clinical Neurosciences at FMC.

Rosette is a highly motivated individual that is self-directed, a great team player, multitasker, is hardworking, and she has a very positive attitude. She believes building strong relationships are critical to success, and she is looking forward to giving her absolute best by assisting physicians, residents and other staff in the Calgary Zone Emergency Department.

Outside of work, Rosette enjoys spending quality time with her two children and husband, and one of her favorite things to do is to go for long walks with her family and enjoy all the excellent things Calgary has to offer.

Rosette's contact details are as follows:

Email: Rosette.Canale@albertahealthservices.ca

Phone: 403-943-7579

Kudos Corner

From: Dr Gilmour

I want to extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU to Ryan Wilkie, Vero, Leanne and Kate** for the outstanding care you provided to a patient I recently saw in the Functional Movement Disorder Clinic. From the ED visit to neurology, nursing support, and clinic coordination, every step of their journey was met with kindness, expertise, and compassion—something the patient and their mother repeatedly expressed deep gratitude for.

Research

Research study on upward feedback in PGME, please consider completing this survey

A research team at the Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary is conducting a study to better understand the landscape of upward feedback (feedback to faculty and supervisors) within Postgraduate Medical education. If you teach/supervise learners in PGME, we are hoping that you will consider completing a survey (estimated time to complete is 5-10 minutes) that explores your experience with upward feedback. You will also have the opportunity to sign up for a one-on-one interview (if you choose to participate in an interview, you will receive a \$20 gift card)

Here is the survey link (which begins with a thorough description and consent to participate)

https://survey.ucalgary.ca/jfe/form/SV_4NIFdbOvXZwSUzI

Study Protocol: A realist evaluation of faculty feedback in PGME at the CSM

Principal Investigator: Catherine Patocka (catherine.patocka@ucalgary.ca)

Collaborators: Lea Harper, Sarah Glaze, Colleen Curtis, Rayane Al-Achkar, Liam Ouyang, Catherine Deans

Ethics ID: REB24-0866

Study Title: A realist evaluation of faculty feedback in PGME at the CSM

PI: CATHERINE PATOCKA

Conferences, Workshops and Courses

Trauma Resuscitation In Kids Course at ACH KidSIM

Dr. Phillips is inviting residents / staff physicians interested in improving their pediatric resuscitation skills to register for the upcoming Trauma Resuscitation in Kids (TRIK) simulation based course he is hosting at Alberta Children's Hospital KidSIM June 9th and 10th 2025. The allied health professional spots for nurses and RT's are full but there are still a few spots available for physicians.

Course Info and Registration Links: <https://caep.ca/cpd-courses/trik/>

Questions: Gail Chapman gchapman@caep.ca

Karl Phillips



T|R|I|K

TRAUMA RESUSCITATION IN KIDS

2-DAY SIMULATION COURSE

CALGARY

June 9-10, 2025

KidSIM Pediatric Simulation Program - Alberta Children's Hospital

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Describe the differences between adult and child pathophysiology (Medical Expert)
- Conduct a primary and secondary survey for pediatric trauma cases (Medical Expert, Collaborator)
- Recognize, diagnose and manage common trauma-related pediatric injuries (Medical Expert)
- Recognize and consider ethical issues related to pediatric trauma (Health Advocate)
- Interpret diagnostic images for pediatric trauma cases (Medical Expert)
- Determine the appropriate steps to prepare for the transport of a pediatric trauma patient (Leader, Communicator, Collaborator)

Credits:

RCPSC – This activity is an **Accredited Simulation Activity (Section 3)** as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and approved by the Royal College CPD unit. You may claim a maximum of **14 hours 30 minutes** (credits are automatically calculated).

+ NYGH CONFERENCE SERVICES
PRESENTS:

SYNAPSE

EM Neuro Essentials

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



Presented by:
Dr. Katie Lin MD MPH FRCPC

Next Course Date: **April 4, 2025** (Virtual)
YYC Promo Code: **UCEM30** (30% off until Mar 21st)



Register Here:



INTERACTIVE CONTENT INCLUDING:

Critical Neuroresuscitation	Altered Mentation & Weakness
Acute Stroke	Approach to Headaches
Traumatic Brain Injury	Acute Seizure Management

Katie Lin's SYNAPSE Course Launch: April 4 (virtual)

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend the SYNAPSE beta test lectures and kindly provided feedback!

The full SYNAPSE Neuro-EM Course is set to launch **April 4** (virtual attendance) and registration is officially

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

As a thank you to our local YYC medical community, the code UCEM30 has been set up for 30% off registration until March 21st.

SYNAPSE is set to cover a broad range of commonly encountered Neuro-EM presentations, with a focus on practical/concise approaches for:

- Neuroresuscitation of the undifferentiated neurocritical patient
- Acute Ischemic Stroke - The Major, the Minor, and the Uncertain
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Headaches - the Common, the Dangerous, and the Refractory
- Seizures - the Stable, the Suspect, and the Status
- Altered LOC & Weakness - a Practical ED Approach

Course registration also provides access to pre- and post-course bonus materials/videos, including:

- Lecture recording access for 3 months
- Practical Neuroanatomy for the EM Provider
- Concise Neuroimaging Primer
- Screening Neuro Exam Tips & Tricks
- Interactive case workbook and formative quiz

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions: katielinmd@gmail.com

Katie

Other Opportunities

Key Concept Preceptors Needed

The Undergraduate Medical Education Hub is looking for preceptors for our upcoming Key Concept Rounds in the spring and summer. They are scheduled every second Thursday, starting at 1130h. They can be delivered virtually or in person. Students will have reviewed relevant material prior to the session and a preceptor package which contains cases and discussion points will be e-mailed to you in advance.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please e-mail me: melanie.sohn@ahs.ca

Are you interested in faculty development?

Do you have ideas for faculty development programming (new or established) that you want to see disseminated across the Cumming School of Medicine? Do you see gaps in programming that you want to see addressed?

If so - then the Faculty Development Collaborative may be for you!

The Office of Faculty Development (OFD) is excited to announce the launch of a new Faculty Development Collaborative - a group responsible for identifying and elevating the profile of Faculty Development champions across the Cumming School of Medicine and for guiding the development of OFD programming. This group will be advisory to the OFD Leadership Team,

with broad and diverse representation from across CSM. Members can be self-nominated or nominated by their Department Head.

The Collaborative will meet in person on a quarterly basis, and our first meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2025 from 12 - 2 PM in HMRB G43A. We welcome both established faculty development champions and emerging leaders in this space.

If you are interested in joining this Collaborative, we invite you to submit an expression of interest by clicking the button below by March 17. All Collaborative members must have a CSM faculty appointment (clinical or academic) or be a MaPS or AUPE staff member with a defined leadership role.

DETAILS:

The collaborative will be responsible for:

- Identifying and elevating faculty development (FD) champions and programs within CSM, focusing on those with potential for broader impact and scalability across the institution
- Assessing and highlighting key areas of need and priority within FD programming to guide the strategic focus of OFD
- Providing innovative ideas and suggestions to enhance the design and delivery of FD programming

We are looking forward to hearing from you and working together to identify areas of need within faculty development and elevating the profile of faculty development champions across CSM!

Please submit your expression of interest by clicking the button below:

<https://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/main/assets/tms/ra/tma-ra-staff-faq.pdf>

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 **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.

In Case You Missed Last Week

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 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

Save the Date: Calgary EM Educators Day

When: April 17th 2025, 1-4 PM Libin Theatre (after the Hodsman Lecture)

Does having a learner on shift make you stressed? Have you ever felt overwhelmed by the cognitive load reviewing a learner's patients while answering RAAPIDs, consultants and CTAS 1s? Do you wonder how your colleagues seem to be "doing it all"?

Join Drs. James Huffman, Patty Lee-Nobbee, Sarah McPherson and Fareen Zaver for an afternoon of sharing tips and tricks on the art of on shift learner management. Let's increase the collective competence of our faculty and utilize the incredible experience of our group to further the educational prowess of our department.

Supported by the PSF, [April 17th Calgary EM Education Day Signup](#)

Patricia
