

Department of Emergency Medicine

Calgary Zone

weekly email updates for ED Physicians

DEM News Subscriber,

Operations

Notes from Catherine

Please note that there will be no newsletter next week March 25 as both admins are away. Happy spring break to those that have the opportunity to get away and thank you to those that will be working!

Dr. Mel Sohn finishes her tenure as Emergency Medicine Clerkship Director!

Thank you to Mel for her outstanding work as the Clerkship Director of Emergency Medicine. EM has one of the highest rated clerkships within the UME program and we are grateful to her and her team (Emmeline Ruka and Ryan Wilkie who as far as I know are staying on) for their contributions. Please note that there is a UME posting for this role can be found here: https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/4/job-opportunities/Clerkship%20Director_EM_March%2011%2C%202025.pdf

Welldoc

Many will remember the Wellness survey done in our department in 2022 by Welldoc. In light of many changes in the department and our ongoing commitment to improving the wellness of our members (which means we need to know how you are doing), we are planning to re-measure this Fall 2025. Stay tuned for more information

Ian Walker recognized as an CSM Alumni of Distinction

Congratulations to Ian on his well-deserved recognition! He prefers to highlight the impact of the Pathways Program rather than his award—see below for more details on this important initiative.

AMHSP - expression of interest submission

We are making steady progress toward launching the EM AMHSPs. As previously noted, we have six positions available, and there has been significant interest. To ensure a fair and thoughtful selection process, I have assembled a committee to review expressions of interest and determine position assignments. To assist the committee in this process, we ask all interested members to submit a brief, one-page expression of interest.

https://media.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency_Medicine/03-Mar-2025/AMHSP_EOI.pdf?id=ksbn90b?f_type=file&f_name=AMHSP_EOI.pdf

Please reach out to catherine.patocka@ahs.ca if you want to have a conversation or have any questions.

Declined Early Pregnancy Assessment (EPA) Clinic Referrals

Many emergency physicians have expressed concerns about declined EPA clinic referrals. There are clear criteria for these clinics (on EOLAS app), however at times the gynecologist on call has recommended the referral. If you are referring to the EPA on the recommendation of the gynecologist on call, please make sure to **NOTE THE GYNECOLOGIST'S NAME** in the referral. If they have inappropriately advised us to refer to the EPA clinic, the referral will be re-routed to that gynecologist (rather than back to the ED provider). Connect Care has developed a report for us to track declined referrals and we will check in in a few months to see if there has been progress. We do plan to look more broadly at other declined referrals. If anybody wants to help with this please let me know, or if there are other repeat offenders that we should focus on please also let me know.

Measles

I have heard through the public media that measles cases have been identified in Calgary and surrounding areas. Please have a look at your AHS emails for information from the zone about measles. <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/topic/immunization/pages/measles.aspx>

Albertans uncertain of their immunization history, or their child's immunization history, can text "vaccine record" to 88111, call Health Link at 811 or their [local public health office](#). Albertans can also text "measles" to 88111 to get measles health information texted to their mobile device.

Grand Rounds, Journal Club and Clinical Pearls

Grand Rounds Thursday March 20th, 2025 (0900—1015) (1.0 Education Credit)

Room: Theater 4 (HSC)

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

Meeting ID: 658 7605 3204
Passcode: 817531

Session #1 (0900-1000)

Speaker: Dr. Scott Wakeham, Emergency Medicine R5, Palliative Medicine Fellow

Moderator: Dr Jennifer Hughes FRCPC, Emergency Physician and Medical Director of the Intensive Palliative Care Unit (IPCU) at the Arthur Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre

Title: Practical Palliative Care in the ED

Description: We will focus on practical tips for taking care of palliative patients within the Emergency Department. This will include:

- A review of palliative medicine and the growing presentations within the ED

- The layout of palliative care for the Calgary Zone and when to consult from the ED
- Palliative home care and how it is accessed
- ConnectCare tips to quickly find relevant information for cancer patients

A review of Goals of Care and tips for these discussions in acute situations

Session #2 (1000-1015)

Speaker: Dr. Stephanie Vandenberg, MD MSc, Associate Research Director, Emergency Physician

Title: Research Update: "Incorporating peers as recovery coaches into Emergency Departments to provide support and facilitate management of substance use disorders while enabling transfer to community settings in Alberta"

Description: The emergency department is often the first point of access to the health care system for adults with acute substance use concerns. In collaboration with multiple stakeholders including people with lived experience, researchers, operations leads, physicians and addiction service providers, we have designed a program that involves the creation of a Recovery Coach Network (RCN) supporting persons with substance use concerns in transitioning between acute care and community care on their recovery journey. This presentation will provide an overview of the Recovery Coach Network and invite you to participate in a baseline survey about any prior experience working alongside a Recovery Coach.

We look forward to seeing you and hearing your input at Grand Rounds!

[DEM Academic Grand Rounds Evaluation](#)

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

Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Pearl of the Week

This week's Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology pearl is on [Lead Toxicity](#).

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

Kudos – Patient Commendation

Sent to **Dr. Sudhir Pandya**

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the precious gift of time with my mother. She passed peacefully last night, surrounded by love, and my family is deeply grateful for the incredible compassion of the staff at Peter Lougheed.

Kudos- Dr. Walker

Dr. Ian Walker is the recipient of a 2025 Cumming School of Medicine Alumni of Distinction Award (<https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/alumni/aoda2025>). He is recognized for his efforts to create a more equitable admissions process as past Director of Admissions at the Cumming School of Medicine. In particular, The Pathways to Medicine program, now in its tenth year, supports exceptional undergraduate students from low-income, rural, and Indigenous backgrounds on their pre-medical journey. If you're interested in supporting the Pathways program please reach out to Ian iwwalker@ucalgary.ca

Kudos- Dr. Scott Lucyk for his recent publication:

Fox EJ, Dalton AM, Mullins ME, Matoushek T, Ruha AM, Burns MM, Simone K, Beuhler MC, Heard KJ, Mazer-Amirshahi M, Stork CM, Varney SM, Funk AR, Cantrell FL, Cole JB, Banner W, Stolbach AI, Hendrickson RG, Lucyk SN, Sivilotti MLA, Su MK, Nelson LS, Rumack BH, Dart RC. Out-of-hospital assessment and triage of paracetamol (acetaminophen) exposure in the United States and Canada: a consensus guideline. Clin Toxicol (Phila). 2025 Mar 6:1-5. doi: 10.1080/15563650.2025.2471915. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40047505.

CaRMS Match 2025

We would like to thank everyone involved for their time and effort in reviewing our CaRMS applicants this year. We are delighted to announce that we have matched 5 wonderful candidates who will be starting the FRCP program in July. Please join us in welcoming:

- Taylore Shalovsky (UWO)
- Sean Park (U of C)
- Bree Kullman (U of C)
- Jakob Larsson (U of A)
- Ryley Bennett (U of C)

Thank you all for your contribution to another successful match!

Anjali & Kelsey

Teaching 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. The 2-hour rounds are scheduled every second Thursday, starting at 1130h. The rounds are delivered to clerkship students who are rotating through emergency medicine. Typically, there are six to eight students attending each session. 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

Melanie

Job Postings

0.3FTE Deputy Head - Quality Improvement - Dept of Emergency Medicine

Calgary Zone Emergency Medicine Physicians:

A new and very exciting opportunity is now available for a 0.3 FTE Emergency Department Deputy Head of Quality Improvement. The new Deputy Head of Quality Improvement (DQI) for the Department of Emergency Medicine will serve as a key leader in advancing quality improvement and safety initiatives within our Department. They will work with the Zone Clinical Department Head and Deputy Department Head/Operations Lead, the Executive Directors overseeing Emergency Medicine, clinical safety leaders, departmental analysts, clinical colleagues, and the appropriate quality councils or QI bodies associated with the Department in achieving these goals.

This role will appeal to a dynamic leader who values quality improvement and wants to make a real and meaningful impact within our department. This Alberta Health Services funded 0.3 FTE position offers an annual remuneration of \$81,450.00 and is available as early as April 1, 2025, or on a mutually agreed start date with the successful candidate.

To apply, please email a letter of interest describing your motivation for the role and how your experience aligns with its responsibilities, along with your CV, to scotth.banks@ahs.ca by March 24, 2025.

Key Responsibilities of Deputy Head – Quality Improvement:

Quality Improvement (QI) Leadership

- Collaborate with the Department Head/Deputy Department Head, Physician Executive Committee (PEC), and Zone Department of Emergency Medicine (ZDEM) to define and implement QI priorities.
- Plan, execute, and sustain QI initiatives to improve emergency medicine care quality and safety.
- Ensure QI projects align with Departmental and Zonal priorities.
- Liaise with Zone and Provincial QI councils on joint initiatives.
- Develop DEM Physician Performance Improvement Project (PIPP) initiatives to support DEM members in maintaining their College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) license.
- Assist in preparing the QI section of the Department Annual Report.

Quality Assurance (QA)

- Co-lead the Emergency Department Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) and participate in reviews of safety events, mortality, and adverse events, and recommend actions to improve care processes.
- Update PEC on QA activities and contribute to the QA section of the Annual Report.

Knowledge Development & Education

- Develop expertise through dedicated training in QI/QA methods, performance measurement, and team facilitation.
- Support QI education for trainees and staff through curriculum development, seminars/rounds/workshops, and GEMS sessions.
- Provide mentorship to emergency medicine residents in planning and executing their QI projects.
- Organize Quality Assurance and Education Rounds (QAER): collect cases, support trainee in their preparation and presentation of these rounds (4-5X/year).
- Participate in zonal/provincial QI training and when appropriate contribute to QI literature through publications.

Administrative Contributions

- Collect, analyze and present data relevant to departmental priorities on flow, efficiency and safety.
- Assist with development and maintenance of the DEM performance measures dashboard.
- Prepare semi-annual QI reports for leadership and councils.

Commitment to Learning

- Engage in continuous professional development in QI methodologies.

Research

Successful Grant Application

Dr. Jessalyn Holodinsky was part of a successful grant application to predict head and neck cancer patients at risk of emergency department use for catastrophic health events.

Fu R, Sauro K, **Holodinsky J**, Li N, Matthews T, Chandarana S, Fung A, Banerjee R, Dort J.

Arthur Child Innovation Catalyst Grant (Alberta Cancer Foundation)
Identifying Head and Neck Cancer Patients at Risk of Catastrophic Health Events Using Machine Learning
\$300,000

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

EM/PEM Research Day

May 8, 2025 from 0800-1530, Registration details to come.

We are excited to welcome Keynote Speaker Dr. Samina Ali to research day and highlight local research!

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Corner

Inclusive Language in Medicine

Inclusive language in medicine ensures that all patients and healthcare team members feel respected, valued, and understood. It involves using patient-centered, non-stigmatizing, and culturally sensitive terminology that acknowledges diversity in gender, race, ethnicity, ability, and lived experiences. Inclusive language fosters trust, enhances communication, and improves health outcomes by reducing biases and barriers to care.

Examples include using gender-neutral terms when appropriate (e.g., “person with diabetes” instead of “diabetic”) and avoiding assumptions about identity or lived experience. By embracing inclusive language, we create a more equitable and compassionate healthcare environment for all.

If you are interested in learning more about inclusive language, please see the attached resources (ppt slide, website), or if you have a great resource please share with the department.

BC government website on inclusive language

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/home/accessible-government/toolkit/audience-diversity/inclusive-language-and-terms>

https://media.campaigner.com/media/77/776142/Emergency_Medicine/03-Mar-2025/MGR_Slides_Inclusive_Language.pdf?id=o1bckk2?f_type=file&f_name=MGR_Slides_Inclusive_Language.pdf

Other Opportunities

UME MCC Review Course Opportunity

UME is searching for a preceptor to help with the MCC Review Week this coming year. The commitment involves delivering a 1 hour presentation via zoom during the week of April 28th to May 2nd (multiple time slots available). It is a rapid-fire summary of Emergency Medicine to help the clerks prepare for the MCC exam. Prior iterations have been seen as highly helpful by clerks!

If you are interested please email mcc.review@ucalgary.ca and cc Geoff Lampard at jlampar@ucalgary.ca. Geoff has last year's presentation material to alleviate much of the preparation if so desired.

Conferences, Workshops and Courses

Further information on these conferences and courses can be found on the web pages below.

Conferences: <https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/departments/emergency-medicine/faculty-staff/professional-development/conferences-interest>

Courses: <https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/departments/emergency-medicine/faculty-staff/professional-development/workshop-and-courses>

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

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

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](#)
