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UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

May 06, 2025

Department of Emergency Medicine

Calgary Zone

weekly email updates for ED Physicians

DEM News Subscriber,

Operations

Notes from Catherine

In Memoriam: Dr. Greg Powell (1947–2025)

I would like to take a moment to honour the life and legacy of Dr. Greg Powell, an important member of the Department of Emergency Medicine. His contributions transformed emergency medicine in Canada. As the founder of the Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service (STARS), Dr. Powell pioneered the use of HEMS transport, ensuring rapid, specialized care for critically ill and injured patients across rural and remote communities. His dedication to improving patient outcomes led to the establishment of STARS in 1985, which has since completed over 42,000 missions.

Dr. Powell's commitment to excellence earned him numerous accolades, including being named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2006 and induction into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame in 2018. His enduring impact on emergency medical services continues to save lives and inspire healthcare professionals nationwide.

Dr. Powell passed away on April 30, 2025, at the age of 77, surrounded by his family. His legacy lives on through the countless lives he touched and the systems he helped build.

ICEM Department Event

The Department of Emergency Medicine will be hosting a small gathering with appetizers during the ICEM conference in Montreal on a terrace overlooking the city. The event will be on **Tuesday May 27 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM**. A cash bar will be available. **Space is limited to 40 people**, so we are currently accepting RSVPs from departmental staff and residents only. If additional space becomes available, we will open it up to learners. Please RSVP to Ruchi Sharma to confirm your attendance. (ruchi.sharma@albertahealthservices.ca)

Transfusion Committee

We are still looking for members interested in joining the transfusion committee which meets periodically to discuss all aspects of transfusion please reach out to Catherine if you are interested.

AI Scribe Grand Rounds

This is a reminder that our upcoming organized by Dr. Ian Rigby Grand Rounds on **June 5, 2025** will focus on the topic of AI scribes in clinical practice.

Town Hall Minutes

Please find attached the [town hall minutes from April 10, 2025](#).

Grand Rounds, Journal Club and Clinical Pearls

Grand Rounds Cancelled due to Research Day

Grand Rounds Archive

Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Pearl of the Week

This week's Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology pearl is on adverse reactions to complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) in medical oncology patients.

[Adverse Reactions to Alternative Therapies in Medical Oncology](#)

There are several CAM medications that are known to cause toxicity in patients with cancer, either on their own or in combination with antineoplastic treatments such as chemotherapy.

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](#).

Department News

Connect Care – AHS Digital Scribe Project Phase 2

basis in the next few months.

Please see the full message from Dr. Jeremy Theal on the [Digital Scribe Project Phase 2](#)

Ultrasound Training Survey

Hi Calgary Docs,

It has been a few years since I informally surveyed our department to better understand who has what type of ultrasound training. There are many ways in which people receive training. For example since 2018 FRCPC residency is equivalent to EDE 1. Please try as best as possible to capture the skills which you would feel confident teaching residents. Please also indicate your interest in teaching ultrasound to residents. With our department growing so fast it is hard to keep track of everyone. Incoming staff, please also add yourselves.

Thanks for taking the moment to update your information and feel free to reach out with any questions.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1REGLgmSZf3LiaKQCyzxopCJRx1wK61ai0UUCIIN6M7/edit?usp=sharing>

Thanks,

Kasia

lenz.kasia@gmail.com

Career Development Week (pre-clerkship) 2025

We are hosting pre-clerks for their Career Development Weeks in June and July. The purpose of this week is to see the “day in the life” of a working ED physician.

Shifts with pre-clerks are distributed as equitably as possible amongst sites and staff. You will see them on Metricaid as “pc” under your name.

These pre-clerk shifts are strictly **shadowing shifts**, ie the pre-clerk should not be seeing their own patients. It is also acceptable to send your pre-clerk home after four hours if you wish. This is our new department policy to ensure efficiency and flow during your shift.

Frequent Visitors Program: Updates to Exceptional Care Plan (ECP) Functionality in Connect Care

- Exceptional Care Plans (ECPs) flag key notes in Connect Care to inform the medical team when a patient’s care may deviate from usual practice.
- This note type is used by various programs. The ED Frequent Visitors Program uses ECPs to communicate individualized care for patients with frequent ED utilization.
- Recent major updates have made it much easier to identify and view ECPs in Connect Care.
- See the [attached document for simple step-by-step instructions](#) on how to:

- Please email me with any issues or suggestions for improvement — I've been working closely with the Connect Care team on enhancing ECP visibility and accessibility.

Check out our Insite webpage for more info about our program in general:

- <https://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/edc/Page26721.aspx>

Christine East

Call for Volunteers: Calgary Clinical Cue Cards Revision Review

Calgary Clinical Cue Cards is a point-of-care quick reference resource that I first developed in 2016 during my CCFP(EM) program. Designed for use on shift and in simulation, the cards focus on key ED presentations — especially rapid access to drug doses and therapeutic considerations — as a physical alternative to app-based references. We have been providing a set to incoming residents for the last 5 years or so, and they are also freely [available online](#).

I'm now preparing a major revision and am looking for 2–3 EDMDs (and/or residents!) to help review the updated set. Volunteers will be asked to provide feedback on content, usability, and overall clarity (no need to verify every reference, just bring a fresh set of eyes!).

The draft will be ready by the last week of May, with feedback requested by the last week of June. As a thank you, volunteers will receive a professionally printed copy of the cue cards.

If you're interested, please get in touch with Christine East at calgaryclinicalcuecards@gmail.com.

Christine East

Kudos – Publications

Congratulations to Dr. VandenBerg on her publication:

Wiens B, Beaven J, Williams E, Viste D, Ghosh SM, Stokvis C, Lemma B, Rioux W, VandenBerg S. [Bridging the Gap: examining emergency service providers' experiences caring for patients with methamphetamine-induced behavioural disturbance](#). Am J Emerg Med. 2025 May;91:204-205. doi: 10.1016/j.ajem.2024.11.083. Epub 2024 Nov 30. PMID: 39658431.

Research

Research Day, 2025

On behalf of Dr. Kathryn Crowder, Research Division Head and the Research Planning committee, we are excited to invite you to Research Day 2025.

Event Details

Date: Thursday, May 8, 2025

Time: 8:00am-3:30pm

Location: Libin Theatre, Health Sciences Centre

https://albertahealthservices.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rFGU1e3-SJQpwUMFrXTUQQ#/registration

***In-person Registration Link**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pem-em-research-day-2025-tickets-1318810350259?aff=ebdssshcopyurl&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=organizer-profile&utm-share-source=organizer-profile>

*(breakfast and lunch will be provided)

We hope to see you there!


PEM/EM RESEARCH DAY 2025

FROM IRRELEVANT TO ESSENTIAL: THE STORY OF CHILDREN'S PAIN CARE

MAY 8, 2025

**LIBIN THEATRE, HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
8:00 AM - 3:30 PM**

KeyNote - Dr. Samina Ali




SAMINA ALI IS A PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY PHYSICIAN AT THE STOLLERY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND A PROFESSOR OF PEDIATRICS AND EMERGENCY MEDICINE (UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA). SHE IS A NATIONAL AWARD-WINNING RESEARCHER, MENTOR, EDUCATOR, AND LEADER. DR. ALI IS CURRENTLY CHAIR OF PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY RESEARCH CANADA (PERC), CANADA'S EMERGENCY RESEARCH NETWORK FOR CHILDREN. SHE IS ALSO THE WESTERN CANADIAN HUB LEAD FOR SOLUTIONS FOR KIDS IN PAIN (SKIP), A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO IMPROVING PAIN CARE FOR CHILDREN.

DR. ALI'S INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED RESEARCH PROGRAM CONCERNS BETTER TREATMENT OF CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY CARE WITH A FOCUS ON PAIN TREATMENT-RELATED CLINICAL TRIALS, RESPONSIBLE PRESCRIBING OF OPIOIDS, MANAGEMENT OF MEDICAL PROCEDURE-RELATED PAIN, TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE PAIN CARE, AND MORE RECENTLY, EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CARE AND BETTER MEETING FAMILY NEEDS IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT.

RESEARCH DAY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Special Presentation - Dr. Colin Bell
- Local EM and PEM research
- Breakfast and Lunch provided

REGISTER HERE



SCAN ME

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Corner

The Power of Many Stories

understanding of people, places, and cultures. She reminds us that when we rely on a single narrative, we risk misunderstanding others and reinforcing harmful assumptions. Adichie encourages us to seek out and listen to multiple stories, which broadens our perspectives and fosters empathy. In health care and education, this message is especially relevant: recognizing the complexity of each patient, learner, and colleague helps us build more inclusive and respectful environments. [Watch the talk here: The Danger of a Single Story.](#)

In Case You Missed Last Week

FRCPC Oral Exam Prep - May

We are still looking for a few more staff preceptors for additional Royal College oral exam prep sessions this spring for our four R4 residents (Dirk/Mary/Julia M/Jon). Thank you for considering spending a couple of hours for this high yield and highly valued prep time. The EM program is able to compensate preceptors for a maximum of two preceptor hours per person. We need preceptors for the following dates/times, ALL virtual:

- May 20 (18:00 - 20:00)
- May 22 (10:30-12:30)
- May 30 (13:00 - 16:00)

As a reminder, Chase has an exam bank with questions that he can provide you with, as needed - or you are welcome to bring your own cases. Please sign up on the google link below and Natasha (ngoumeniouk@gmed.ca) will reach out to you 2 weeks before the session with more details.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IYAljhprFa42h_gNKjmT8C4pCc4OIkgLnCUgUR2z8uM/edit?gid=0#gid=0

Thanks for considering!
Natasha + Chase

Pecha Kucha Night Invitation

As you know, this is our traditional get-together before Research Day — a fun and relaxed evening to connect with colleagues, share ideas, and get inspired! You'll also have the chance to meet our keynote speaker, Dr. Samina Ali, and chat about all the amazing research everyone's been working on.

Details

When: Wednesday, May 7 | 6:30 PM

Where: The Banquet – University District (3957 University Ave NW, Calgary, AB T3B 6K3)

Cost: Free!

What's included: Appy Party, drinks, great company, and bowling!

Please RSVP to rosette.canale@albertahealthservices.ca.

We hope you can join us for this exciting evening!

Staff Examiners Required FOR CCFP-EM ORAL EXAMS: Thursday's June 12th, 2025 – In Person

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

- 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 June 12, 2025, please send the responses to TriSurendra.Malasani@ahs.ca

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

Thanks, Tris

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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