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UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

May 20, 2025

Department of Emergency Medicine

Calgary Zone

weekly email updates for ED Physicians

DEM News Subscriber,

Operations

Notes from Catherine

Deputy Quality Improvement Appointment

I am pleased to announce that **Dr. Michael Szava-Kovats** has accepted the role of **Deputy Quality Improvement (DQI) Lead** for the Department of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Szava-Kovats brings a wealth of experience in clinical leadership, public health, and quality improvement, including his role as a founding board member of Calgary's Pulmonary Embolism Response Team (PERT). He has practiced emergency medicine in both Calgary and Toronto, gaining insight into academic and community care environments in both contexts. With graduate training from Johns Hopkins in epidemiology, health policy, and management, he is well positioned to lead quality and safety initiatives that are data-informed, patient-centered, and operationally sustainable. In this role, Dr. Szava-Kovats will work closely with departmental and zonal leaders to advance performance improvement projects, oversee QA processes, and foster a culture of continuous learning. Please join us in welcoming him to this important leadership role!

Dr. Greg Powell Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Greg's momentous life will be held at the BMO Centre in the Champions Ballroom ([1912 Flores Ladue Parade SE, Calgary, AB](#)) on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. MST. Kindly please RSVP if planning in-person attendance. Email to: DGPCElebration@stars.ca. Family and friends who are unable to attend in person are invited to join Greg's service streamed live (link to be added closer to the service) on the day of the service. For those who are unable to view live, a recording of the service will be posted. Details can be found on the following webpage.

AMHSP

We received the incredibly disappointing news from Alberta Health that the AMHSP program is under review and that the expansion will only be revisited once that review is complete. We have now been told that our AMHSPs are expected no sooner than January 2026. The zone and university have been made aware of our disappointment and the risk this poses to our programs.

ICEM Calgary Event

The Department of Emergency Medicine will be hosting a small gathering during the ICEM conference in Montreal at Terrasse Place d'Armes overlooking the city. The event will be on Tuesday May 27 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Appetizers/Canapes will be provided, and a cash bar will be available. Space is limited to 40 people. We are currently accepting RSVPs from departmental staff and residents only. If additional space becomes available, we will open it up to learners/partners/spouses. Please RSVP to [Ruchi Sharma](#) to confirm your attendance.

2025 Gala – Award Winners

Please join me in congratulating our 2025 gala award winners, the pictures from the event are amazing please check them out if you haven't had a chance. A huge thank you to the gala planning committee who work tirelessly over the course of the year to make this event happen, we are so fortunate to have this group of amazing planners: Rachel Taylor, Marcie Veitch, Jenn Puddy, Laurie-Ann Baker, Haley Cochrane, Chris Bond, Jen D'Mello, Ayesha Khory, Naminder Sandhu, and Nancy Zuzic.

Mike Hodsman Lifelong Learner Award: Dr Tony Chad

Humanitarian Award: Dr. Andrew Battison

FMC Rookie of the Year: Dr. Zoe Polsky and Dr. Emma Meeuwisse

FMC Clinician of the Year: Dr. James Huffman and Dr. Katie Lin

SHC Rookie of the year: Dr. Natasha Goumeniouk and Dr Travis Novak

SHC Clinician of the Year: Dr. Colin Bell and Dr Paul McKenna

RGH Rookie of the year: Dr. Robin Liu and Dr. Emmeline Ruka

RGH Clinician of the Year: Dr. Tayo Dawodu and Dr. Nancy Zuzic

PLC Rookie of the year: Dr. Alex Hamelin and Dr. Miles Hunter

PLC Clinician of the Year: Dr. Danny Peterson and Dr. Rob Lafrenière

Notes from James

Suture Cart Stocking Improvement Initiative.

Appreciate your feedback on how effective this initiative was at each of the sites you regularly work at, and why you think this was the case. (**Please complete one survey per site – it takes 2-minutes**): [Calgary Zone ED Supply Management Improvement Project](#)

Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss (SSNHL) Pathway Survey

Dr. Justin Lui from ENT is working to improve care for patients with sudden sensorineural hearing loss (SSNHL) and has developed a clinical pathway in collaboration with ED physicians, family doctors, and audiologists.

They are now seeking broader input via a short survey to better understand current SSNHL practices and gather feedback on the pathway and patient handout.

Your time in completing the survey would be greatly appreciated and key to making this a collaborative, high-impact effort.

[BEGIN SURVEY](#)

Thanks for your time,
James

Grand Rounds, Journal Club and Clinical Pearls

City-Wide Emergency Medicine Grand Rounds

Thursday May 22, 2025 (0900—1000) (1.0 Education Credit)

Room: **Virtual ONLY**

Zoom Webinar: <https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/96163000592?pwd=blxTIPki7IBZyVX0biNszCTagQxarM.1>

Meeting ID: 961 6300 0592

Passcode: 953448

Speaker(s): Dr. Karl Phillips

Title: Identifying Intra-Thoracic Injuries in Stable Pediatric Blunt Torso Trauma

Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Pearl of the Week

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

Methylene blue is used in the management of patients with methemoglobinemia and distributive shock. It has also gained popularity in social media amongst people who take it daily for its alleged neuroprotective effects ("the blue tongue movement").

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

AI Scribe

Tired of writing or dictating your notes from scratch? AHS is piloting an A.I. Scribe, code named Jenkins. All Calgary EDMDs should now have access. Please check your AHS email for the invitation and basic onboarding/use instructions.

Shawn and Mike

Kudos Corner – Patient Commendation

My grandfather, Richard (Dick), unexpectedly passed away at Rockyview ER on April 27. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire team—especially **Dr. Salima Alladina and nurses**

Announcements – Successful Candidate

We are pleased to announce **Dr. Denise Watt as the successful candidate for the Site Medical Informatics Lead (sMIL) position**, a new digital health prescriber support role, for Rockyview General Hospital. Below is a brief introduction and contact information, as well as an overview of the sMIL role. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Denise Watt, and feel free to reach out to her if you have any concerns, feedback, or ideas regarding meaningful improvements.

[sMIL position announcement](#)

Job Postings

Director, Pathways to Health Professions

Applications are invited for the [position of Director, Pathways to Health Professions Program](#). This position will be responsible for all operational aspects of the program and will lead its strategic vision to meet the needs of students and align with the priorities of the community it serves. The Director will build on the success of the existing program to expand opportunities for students both within and external to the Cumming School of Medicine.

This position will manage program finances, support the work of the Program Manager and chair the Pathways Advisory Committee and the Application and Selection Committee. The Director will engage in a process of continuous quality improvement to evaluate program outcomes, student experience, and community needs to ensure the program remains responsive and flexible.

- This is a 0.2 FTE position.
- The Director will report to the Senior Associate Dean, Education

Please forward a 1-page Letter of Interest and Curriculum Vitae, no later than **Friday May 30, 2025**, to: Jennifer.gilroy@ucalgary.ca

Conferences, Workshops and Courses

Synapse Course Registration Open

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

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.

Come for the engaging and interactive teaching, stay for the clinical pearls that will help you on 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



In Case You Missed Last Week

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

The CCFP-EM Residency Program is in need of five 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

Dr. Ron Stewart EMS Clinician Scientist position

Dalhousie Department of Emergency Medicine is now recruiting to the newly created **Dr. Ron Stewart EMS Clinician Scientist** position. A quick link for direct access to the posting is: [Dalhousie University | Dr. Ron Stewart EMS Clinical Scientist](#). This is an amazing opportunity for those looking to make a meaningful impact in EMS research.

[Attached is a pdf document description of the position](#)

I am hoping that you can circulate this among your various networks. **The deadline for applications is June 13, 2025.**

Kirk Magee

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**

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Past Issues

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you would like to re-run your submission after two weeks, **please submit with updates.**

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