

# The DEMOCRAT

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE OPERATIONAL CLINICAL RESEARCH & ACADEMIC TABLOID

OCTOBER 2014

## Inside This Issue

- 1 Capacity Concerns
- 1 Awards Night
- 2 Residents
- 2 Research Update
- 2 Manpower Update
- 2 Active Committees
- 3 Surge Strategy Update
- 3 PADIS Update
- 3 Effectiveness Coordinator
- 3 Path to Care / Triage Redirect
- 4 PLC Update – Neil Collin
- 4 SHC Update
- 4 Congratulations, PADIS!

## Capacity Concerns Calgary Zone

The past months have seen challenges to ED flow that the Calgary Zone has not seen since 2010. The phenomenon is province-wide and is multifactorial but primarily linked to levels of inpatient occupancy that are in excess of 100% across the city. Exacerbating that are higher than usual numbers of alternate level of care (ALC) patients which further impede access to inpatient beds. The situation has resulted in EMS offload delays, crowded hallways and a significant drop in morale for all providers. The problem is at the forefront of AHS leadership concerns and in the crosshairs of Mr. Stephen Mandel the new minister of health.

Relief should be forthcoming on a number of fronts including but not limited to an increase in continuing care beds opening up in the community. Initiatives being launched at the RGH and FMC to improve the ability of patients in EMS park to see patients more efficiently and have orders carried as well as Zone-wide projects that target populations consuming high inpatient resources and others that could benefit from

## Clinician Awards Night – Laurie-Ann

Congratulations to Laurie-Ann Baker and the planning committee she chaired for putting on a spectacular event in early September. With attention to details that can only be compared to planning a wedding the sold-out event went off without a hitch and a memorable night was had by all. Special thanks to Angelo and Jen for an outstanding job as emcees and Ping Chen for providing musical diversion.

The event raised significant funds for the Cumming School of Medicine

Award winners included...

Make sure to attend  
the

### **PHYSICIAN RETREAT**

SHC Auditorium  
on  
**October 20<sup>th</sup>**  
at 8:30 am.



## **CCFP (EM) and FRCP Residents**

Three months into the new academic year and it is hoped that everyone is becoming more familiar with all our new residents. This fall will be busy as both EM programs are preparing for upcoming external accreditation reviews in February 2015. This fall will also be busy for the CFPC-EM program as they are preparing for another round of CaRMS. The applicants will be undergoing a new interview format consisting of multiple mini interviews as well as traditional interview formats. As such there has been a lot of work put into station development. The EM and FR program leads would like to use this opportunity to say a big thank you to all those helping out with CaRMS preparation.

### **Research Update**

- ✦ **Andruchow InT study**
- ✦ **Research Day hold the date**
- ✦ **Daniel Grigat and PRIHS**

### **Manpower Update**

Kudos to Chris for publishing his project evaluating transition services in the province of Alberta. The *Emergency to Home Project: impact of an emergency department care coordinator on hospital admission and emergency department utilization among seniors* appears in the latest International Journal of Emergency Medicine.

### **Active Committees**

Great work continues with the Analgesia Working Group. They are working with Tom Rich to develop evidence-based revisions of our ED Analgesia and Antiemetic order set. Also recently meeting are the website development committee and the Awards Night committee chaired by Laurie-Ann.





## **Surge Strategy Update**

Laurie-Ann

## **PADIS Update**

Congratulations for Stephen Freedman for landing a spectacular CRIO grant from Alberta Innovates Health Solutions. Five million dollars of funding for the APPETITE project is poised to transform our understanding of the viral etiology of gastroenteritis worldwide.

Kudos as well to Marshall Ross and a team consisting of Ping and Stuart Netherton and supervision by Graham Thompson for publishing in Academic EM on the topic of outcomes in children with appendicitis but indeterminate ultrasound.

## **Effectiveness Coordinator**

We've received remarkable interest for the position of Effectiveness Coordinator. The goal of the position is to ensure that our order sets reflect the latest in evidence-based emergency care and provide optimal functionality. The content of the order sets will also be integrated into resident projects and CME for our department.

## **Path to Care / Triage Redirect**

The project designed to refer appropriate low-acuity patients from FMC triage to the Foothills PCN is continuing to demonstrate impressive results, with successfully winning a grant to hire a nurse educator who will coordinate this effort. The program is now expanding into the south Calgary with the RGH establishing a similar program.







## **PLC Update – Neil Collins**

The renovation to create a new intake area is nearing completion. There will be 6 assessment spaces in this area and a new “push” process to get charts over from Triage. The contractors did a nice job and it hardly looks like an old hallway anymore. We anticipate that we be able to more fully utilize the extra morning MD staffing that we added a few months ago. I appreciate your patience as we try to get the MD shifts to match our capacity to see the patients. We now have ultrasound until 1900 on weekdays, and 3:30 on the weekend. The PLC ED continues to be a high acuity, high volume, great place to efficiently see interesting patients!

## **SHC Update**



---

*If we've overlooked something, or you want some content added to  
the next edition,  
please contact Judy Mackay*

