

Department Head Blog
“The Blog that isn’t really a blog!”
March 22nd, 2021

In what was surely the first sign of Spring, I saw a cardinal in my backyard today. With the expansion of the vaccine rollout to now include non-front line health care workers and the proposed re-opening of the Atlantic bubble in mid-April, it feels like we are moving into the final phase of the COVID pandemic. As Atlantic Canadians, we should take pride in our collective response to the global health crisis but be careful to ensure that we don’t let our guard down as we enter what is hopefully the homestretch.

I would like to welcome **Eric Coates** to his new position of the **Health Services Manager for the Emergency Department at the Halifax Infirmary**. Eric brings with him his experience within the Emergency portfolio as an **Advanced Care Paramedic**, as well as a **Master of Business Administration from the Sobeys School of Business at St. Mary’s University** and as a **Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Leader within Nova Scotia Health Authority** in the Accreditation Unit. He most recently has been working as a Health Services Manager for the Cobequid and Hants Emergency Departments since August 2019.

Dr. Mike Clory, the **Site Chief for Cobequid**, will take on the role as the new **CCFP Enhanced Skills Program Director**. He is taking over from our own **Dr. Jock Murray**, who’s term has ended. Congratulations, Mike.

As made famous by Semisonic’s “Closing Time”, “Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end”. On November 9th, 1998, **David Urquhart** joined the Dalhousie Department of Emergency Medicine, and after **nearly 23 years** as our **IT Manager**, he has announced **his retirement for the end of March**. From website design to the creation of dashboards, research databases, access and flow reports and the ongoing iterating to improve these reports, it is difficult to imagine this Department without David’s presence and contributions. Although it is well recognized by others, I am not sure that David himself recognizes all that he has done to improve patient care in our region! Perhaps the pinnacle of his accomplished career, he won the **Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine Excellence in Leadership Award in 2018** in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the mission, vision and values of the Faculty of Medicine. I remember that day well and honestly cannot say who was happier – Dave receiving the award or all of us clapping until our hands were red! Dave, you will most certainly be missed. We wish you all the best as you embark on the next chapter of your life!

Dr. Robert Dunfield, a resident in our **iFMEM program**, is the recipient of a **CAEP 2021 Resident Research Abstract Award** for his study “**Does IVC ultrasound independently predict fluid status in spontaneously breathing, undifferentiated hypotensive patients? SHoC-IVC**”. Please join me in congratulating Robert for receiving this prestigious national honour!

DalEM Faculty continue to feature prominently in the **Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine**. **Dr. Robin Clouston**, **Jackie Fraser**, **Dr. Michael Howlett** and **Dr. Paul Atkinson** published [“Emergency Department occupancy is useful as a simple real-time measure of crowding”](#). **RCPS Resident Dr. Sean Hurley** with **Dr. Robert Green** published [“Comparison of clinical and anatomical criteria for resuscitative endovascular balloon occlusion of the aorta \(REBOA\) among major trauma patients in Nova Scotia”](#). And finally, in my role as Chair of the RCPS Specialty Committee, I penned a [letter to the editor](#) regarding the transition of Royal College Residency Training to competency by design. **Drs. Hana**

Weimer, Tara Dahn and Patrick Fok set their sights even higher publishing [“Development of the Canadian COVID-19 Emergency Department Rapid Response Network population-based registry: a methodology study”](#) in the most recent edition of the **Canadian Medical Association Journal**.

Kelly Timmons, a long-time nurse at the **Halifax Infirmary ED** was recently featured in a CTV new story on the delivery nurse care in Nunavut. Check out the segment [here](#). I was interviewed for a story in the **Toronto Star**, [“A year into the pandemic, doctors weigh in on what’s changed in Canada’s hospital emergency departments”](#).

The **QEII Foundation Diversity in Health Care Bursary** assists students who identify as African Nova Scotian/Black, Indigenous, Person of Colour, immigrant, 2SLGBTQIA+, and/or having a disability, in their pursuit of post-secondary education in a health-related profession with a longer-term goal of having a more diverse and inclusive workforce that better reflects our communities. The **deadline for applications is April 5th**. Click [here](#) to apply.

As always, if you have any comments, suggestions or news you would like me to share, I can be reached at emergency.medicine@dal.ca.

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