



Department Head Blog

"The Blog that isn't really a blog!"

May 25th, 2021

As evidenced by the great delay in getting this edition of "the blog" out, the past 4 weeks have been extremely busy. COVID cases have been on the rise, especially in Nova Scotia, where once again we find ourselves in lock-down. If you have not seen the movie "Groundhog Day", no need to – we are all living that experience. Re-adjusting to on-line schools, loss of extracurricular activities, working from home, social isolation, it all adds up. On top of that, we have had to cope with more mundane crisis – emergency nursing shortages, ED access and flow, to name but a few. And all the while, DalEM continues to provide high quality clinical care while advancing the specialty of Emergency Medicine through education and research – this Department and its members never cease to amaze me!

On the occasions of **Nurses' Week**, **Physicians' Day** and **Paramedic Services Week** I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the incredible work you do each and every day. Unlike other healthcare professionals who often develop long lasting relationships with their patients, our encounters with patients and their families are frequently anonymous, episodic and in times of crisis. Never has the valuable service you provide to Maritimers been more evident than during the past year of the pandemic. You have consistently stepped up to the plate to work on the front lines. **Thank you for all that you do!**

The **IWK Emergency Department** has launched a new [virtual COVID-19 check](#) to reach out to families of kids with COVID-19. With more than 850 kids under the age of 19 testing positive in the third wave, IWK emergency physicians are filling an important gap in the healthcare system for patient with COVID-19 and were recently featured in a CBC news story.

Working under the guidance of **Dr. David Lewis**, a group of spirited Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick students spearheaded the [DMNB PoCUS Club](#) – the first ever ultrasound lending library for medical students in Canada! With generous support from the **SJRH Foundation**, six Butterfly iQ probes were purchased allowing learners who sign out of the of the probes to access the library of [self-directed learning videos](#).

This year, our national [CAEP at the Forks: Rising to the Challenge](#) will be hosted virtually in Winnipeg from **June 15th- 17th** and I would encourage you to register. A big congratulations goes to our own **Dr. Rob Dunfield**, a second-year resident in the **iFEM program in Saint John**. Rob is one of seven **Resident Research Abstract Award winners** for his study "**Does IVC ultrasound independently predict**

fluid status in spontaneously breathing, undifferentiated hypotensive patients? SHoC-IVC.” Well done, Rob!

Members of our faculty contribute professionally to areas outside of Emergency Medicine. **Dr. Allyson Holland** was recently **re-elected to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia**. She continues to serve on the Investigations Committee and will now also sit on the Executive Committee.

DalEM Research Day has for the second year moved to an online virtual format as the **East Coast Research Series**. COVID has certainly had a significant impact across all domains of research within the Faculty of Medicine. I am very proud of our **Research Council** and researchers who have continued to both advance their own research programs as well as supporting the research of our learners during this challenging time. We have been fortunate to welcome **Drs. Brent Thoma, Antonia Stang and Janet Curran** as invited guest speakers as well as hearing from some of the talented researchers in our own department. **A big shout out to Melissa MacDougall** for her ongoing support of the Research Series – she has become a master of hosting virtual conferences! I hope you will join us for the final session on [June 8th at 2:00-4:00 PM](#) when **Dr. Justin Morgenstern** will present **“Evidence Based Medicine is Easy”**.

Dr. Jason Emsley, Dr. Katrina Hurley and Eleanor Fitzpatrick were part of the **PERC Network paper** on the national effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on pediatric emergency department presentations and acuity just accepted for publication in **Pediatric Emergency Care**.

Drs. Gaynor Watson Creed and Ajay Parasram will be hosting **“White Fragility Clinics”** to explore in a safe and non-judgmental space issues including the concept of whiteness and its role in racism and to build and practice racial resilience in attendees. These are one-hour interactive CPD accredited sessions. Having already attended one session, I would encourage others to do the same. As a person of privilege, it was eye-opening, incredibly powerful, and very welcoming. The next sessions are **on June 3rd, 10:30-11:30** and **June 17th, 11:00-12:00**. Please contact Maria Mueller (Maria.Mueller@dal.ca) to register.

Dr. Connie LeBlanc has been doing on-going work in equity, diversity, and inclusion. She is one of four author on the paper [“Six ways to get a grip by calling-out racism and enacting allyship in medical education”](#) that was just published in the most recent edition of **CMEJ**.

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.

Stay safe and keep well,
Kirk