

Department Head Blog December 14th, 2020

As we head into the Holiday Season, I wanted to take this opportunity to express my tremendous appreciation for all that you have done during this turbulent year. 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic has delivered unimaginable challenges, and as a Department, we have banded together to successfully tackle each and every task that has landed at our feet. All the while, working in an environment of incredible uncertainty and constant upheavals to our regular routines and lives. As Mary Jane Hampton, a local healthcare critique, recently wrote “they were building a plane while flying it, with passengers onboard.” I am very proud of our successes during the pandemic and wanted to thank you for your important contributions.

During this time of year, I am also conscious of the fact that many in our Department as a result of travel restrictions, may not have the opportunity to see family and loved ones over the Holidays. This is particularly true for our residents. While we may not be able to gather in large groups to celebrate, kindness on an individual level with our colleagues often goes further than we recognize.

Last week, we launched our new strategic plan and unveiled the **DalEM** logo that you see at the beginning of this blog. This is important recognition of the fact that the Dalhousie Department of Emergency Medicine includes Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. But branding and logos are only powerful if they are backed by intention and action. Our Strategic Plan is our commitment to this action. Together, **DalEM** is greater than the sum of its parts. Electronic copies of the logo are currently being distributed to all stakeholders in the Department and I would encourage you to use liberally.

Starting **Wednesday January 6th 1200-1200, 2021** and occurring every Wednesday at the same time, **DalEM** will be sharing rounds from the QEII HSC with clinicians providing Emergency Care from across the Maritime provinces. We will share the zoom invitation and once you respond that you will attend, we will send you the link for admission. It is essential that you RSVP and not share the link to avoid rounds being "Zoom Bombed". Rounds are accredited for CFPC Level 1 and RCPSC Section 1 credits. Each site is responsible for submitting the list of attendees to Jennifer Day (JenniferE.Day@nshealth.ca) every 3 months to obtain these certified credits.

In Charlottetown, **Dr. Charles Duffy** has been seconded from his role as ED Site Chief to the Incident Commander of the hospital Emergency Operations Committee. **Dr. Aaron Sibley** is once again stepping in as the Acting Site Chief. **Dr. Trevor Jain** has been appointed a disaster medicine advisor to the provincial Joint Response Team.

Under the guidance of **Dr. Paul Atkinson**, New Brunswick continues to develop a provincial Emergency Medicine group. Currently the group is discussing key quality metrics for the provinces. DalEM rounds as well as NB rounds which occur on the 2nd and 3rd Tuesday of the month were promoted. In Saint John, the department has established 11 clinical focus groups using MS Teams to raise issues and propose solutions. All staff emergency physicians are participating in at least one group.

CO-aVOID: Coronavirus Outbreak Affecting Variability of Presentations to a Local Emergency Department was just accepted for publication in CJEM. This was a collaborative effort between Halifax and Saint John. Congratulations to **Valancy Cole, Paul Atkinson, Robert Hanlon, Daniel Dutton, Tong**

Liu, Jacqueline Fraser, David Lewis, Keith Brunt, Hana Wiemer, Tara Dahn, Patrick Fok and Chris Vaillancourt. An excellent example of **DalEM** in action! The Saint John group has received a further grant for COVID research from the NBIF.

The Medical School continues to work through the decision-making process regarding hospital-based skilled clinician training, electives, and observerships for Med 1 and Med 2 students in Nova Scotia at IWK and NS Health facilities. Medical student observerships and electives in Nova Scotia will resume January 4th, 2021.

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.

Best wishes for a joyful and peaceful Holiday and the hope that 2021 will bring happiness and health.

Kirk