

Department Head Blog February 8th, 2021

Residents are the heart and soul of any academic department and with National Resident Awareness Week quickly approaching (February 10th to 14th) I wanted to recognize and celebrate our Emergency Medicine Residents and PEM Fellows in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Emergency Medicine is one of the most competitive residencies in CaRMS, and we are fortunate to have matched stellar candidates to DalEM over the years. They have enriched the Department with their countless contributions. With pandemic travel restrictions, many of our residents have not seen their families for over a year. If you get a chance, a quick “thank you” or a cup of coffee goes a long way!

Dr. Lucy Patrick is the latest graduate from the RCPC Residency Program to join the Department. We are very excited that she started working at the QEII HSC ED just prior to the Holidays. Lucy, welcome to DalEM!

Jami Gillis, the Clinical Nurse Educator for Cobequid and Hants received a Nursing-Led Innovation Grant to provide an inter-professional simulation program which involves both physicians and nurses. Four high fidelity simulation sessions involving 1 physician and 4-5 nurses were held at the Cobequid Community Health Centre Simulation Room and included the distribution of evidence-based education resources prior to the sessions. The uptake by Hants staff has been amazing with 71% of the full-time nurses attending. Sessions were informative, invigorating and wonderful for team trust building. Said one participant, “Jami is an absolute rock star!”

Conducting clinical studies has been a real challenge during COVID-19 with most programs pausing data collection. The Red Flags for Low Back Pain Study led by Dr. Jill Hayden is re-launching at four NS EDs (QEII HSC, DGH, and Hants) with an ambitious goal to enroll 1,700 patients and complete recruitment by the end of 2021. For details about the study, please contact Rachel Ogilvie (Rachel.Ogilvie@Dal.Ca).

The Prehospital Evidence-Based Practice (PEP) program is one of the crown jewels of the Division of EMS. PEP is an online, freely accessible, continuously updated emergency medical services evidence repository. Jennifer Greene, Judah Goldstein, Jan Jensen, Yves Leroux and Alix Carter just published State of the evidence for emergency medical services care of adult patients with sepsis: an analysis of research from the Prehospital Evidence-based Practice in the Australasian Journal of Paramedicine. Congratulations team!

Drs. Laurel Murphy and Nancy Murphy’s article “Venlafaxine overdose treated with extracorporeal life support” was published in the most recent edition of the CMAJ.

Academic promotion within the Faculty of Medicine is an important milestone recognizing the significant accomplishments of faculty members. Those that have previously applied for promotion understand the rigour of the process and the amount of work involved in putting together an application. The DalEM Promotion Committee has been acknowledged by the Dean for its high-quality processes and procedures. We are one of the few departments to have one hundred percent of the committee’s recommendations be eventually confirmed by the Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Simon Field, Chair of the Promotions Committee has had his article “Seven ways to get a grip on running a successful promotions process” accepted for publication by the Canadian Medical Education Journal. Well done!

Preparation for the redevelopment of the QEII Health Sciences Centre has been in planning for quite some time. The first step in the multi-year project will involve demolition of the current admin space. A beautiful state-of-the-art new administrative space (with windows!) will begin construction on top of the current Emergency Department in the next 1-2 months with ground preparation taking place on the Robie Street side of the ED. To say that I am excited is an understatement!

The Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine has introduced a program in academic leadership for clinical and basic science faculty, Emerging Leaders in Academic Medicine (ELAM). The program provides an opportunity for faculty with limited leadership experience to become more familiar with the functioning of the medical school and acquire knowledge and skills to take on expanded roles in their academic settings. The next program runs from April 6th to June 8th, 2021. For mor information, please visit their website.

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.

Kirk