

## Department Head Blog January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Although for many, travel restrictions and Public Health guidelines meant a more subdued Holiday Season, I hope that you had the opportunity to take much deserved time off to reconnect with family and friends and to re-charge your wellness batteries. With political events south of the border and nationally spiking COVID numbers, the New Year has certainly come in with a bang. Viral internet memes with 2021 asking 2020 “to hold my beer” seem chillingly prophetic. But the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine offers a renewed hope and already, many members of the Department throughout the Maritimes have received their second dose of the vaccine.

During the pandemic, members of the Department continue to contribute to the healthcare of Canadians beyond their involvement in their local EDs. **Dr. Heather Morrison**, currently on a leave of absence from the ED, is an emergency physician and the **Chief Public Health Officer for PEI**. **Drs. Adam Harris, Lorri Beatty, Nicholas Sowers, Sam Campbell, David Petrie, David Hung and George Kovacs** published the QEII HSC’s **unique rapid response distributed educational model for emergency department COVID-19 airway management** in [CJEM](#). A great example of **DalEM** advancing its core strategic direction of Educating Physicians and Health Care Teams. **Drs. Aaron Sibley and Trevor Jain** had their secondments to the Paramedicine Degree program at UPEI renewed by the Department of Health and Wellness for an additional 5 years helping to solidify the program within the region.

In an excellent demonstration of interprovincial collaboration between Dal Med NB, HorizonNB, NS Health and DalEM, **Paul Atkinson, Jacqueline Fraser, David Lewis, Hana Wiemer, Tara Dahn, Patrick Fok and Chris Vaillancourt** published the [CO-aVoID Study](#) in CJEM. **Dr. Atkinson** also published two commentaries in the same edition: [Patient Care Accountability Frameworks](#) and [Just Three Things](#). Both are provocative, timely and important reads – I would encourage you to have a look.

Over the past year, COVID has been the single issue dominating the emergency health care system. While we continue to see rapid evolving changes, it is important that we continue to focus on our core academic mandates – education and research. Just this morning, I learned that **Drs. Patrick Fok, Tara Dahn, Ms. Angela Quinn and team** were successful in their application for a Translating Research in Care (TRIC) Grant to study “**QI initiative to increase the performance of femoral nerve blocks for acute hip fracture patients in the ED**”. Well done everyone!

Last week for the first time, **DalEM** virtually shared our department’s grand rounds across this Maritimes. I hope that you will join us on **Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**, when **Dr. George Kovacs** will present “**Optimizing the DangerousER Airway in Dangerous Times**”. Please contact Jennifer Day for details. 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](mailto:JenniferE.Day@nshealth.ca)) every 3 months to obtain these certified credits.

The end of 2020 marked some important milestones for DalEM. The NSH Central Zone Medical Staff Association recognized **Drs. George Kovacs and Ismail Cajee for 25 years of service** and **Graham Bullock for 30 years of service**. Impressive illustrations of longevity and resilience. And sadly, it was also a time for good-byes, with **Drs. John Grant and Lorraine Lewis** from the IWK and **Peggy Dingle** working their last clinical shifts in December. Prior to working for the past 20 years at the IWK, John was a Family Physician in BC before completing his Pediatric residency. A voracious reader, John has been part of the

lifeblood of the Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine – it is difficult to imagine the department without his steady presence. During that same time-period, Loraine has been an engaged and contributing locum at the IWK. Over the past 2 years, she has really stepped up to the plate and been a “life-saver”. And finally, Peggy – working at the old Infirmary before transitioning to the QEII HSC with amalgamation, she has been a steadfast, committed member of DalEM. She championed the SANE model and initiated our existing radiology and lab review process. **To John, Lorraine and Peggy, I extend, on behalf of DalEM, my heart felt thank you for your amazing contributions to the Department and wish you all the best as you enter this next chapter of your lives.**

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](mailto:emergency.medicine@dal.ca).

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