

Department Head Blog January 25th, 2021

At our most recent Dalhousie Clinical Department Heads meeting, Dr. Angela Cooper, Assistant Dean, Faculty Wellness spoke to us about us about wellness during COVID-19. All in attendance uniformly expressed a feeling of tiredness. As the pandemic drags on, we are not only faced with new demands and uncertainty, but many of our normal outlets that we would routinely use to recharge our batteries are simply not there. It is important to recognize this, that it is not just you rather it is all of us. It factors into all of our day-to-day interactions. Dr. Cooper emphasized the need to be gentle – with each other and with ourselves.

Two weeks ago, the staff at the **DGH ED** were personally recognized by **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau** for their efforts in response to COVID-19 over the past year. What was supposed to be a 20-minute virtual session lasted nearly an hour. The Prime Minister heard from physicians, nurses and paramedics of what it has been like to be part of the frontline response to COVID-19. Those in attendance represented the department in a manner that was genuine and professional. **Dr. Ravi Parkesh, Site Chief at the DGH** said that the session “strengthened my belief that we have some really special people working here... the PM was astounded by the feeling of comradery he sensed within staff and organization and beyond the walls into the community and province.” Kudos to the entire DGH ED team!

DalEM continues to virtually share department grand rounds across the Maritimes. I have been impressed by both the content of the rounds and by the number of folks who have been joining us on-line. For **Dr. George Kovacs** session “**Optimizing the DangerousER Airway in Dangerous Times**” we had 85 attendees! I am hoping that these rounds become a regular fixture of your CPD in the Maritimes. Rounds are accredited for CFPC Level 1 and RCPSC Section 1 credits. Please contact Jennifer Day (JenniferE.Day@nshealth.ca) for details.

Dr. Todd Howlett was just named as the new **Central Zone Medical Executive Director** after serving in an interim position for 12 months. An emergency physician with 20 years of physician leadership experience, Todd was previously the Site Director for DGH and is the current Medical Lead for 811.

Many of you will have already noticed that many emails originating from my office include **Terri Baker**. Terri is my new administrative assistant and comes from the Division of Geriatrics. I have already been accosted in the hallway by members of the Division for pouching such a valuable member of their team! Terri, welcome to this crazy place we call DalEM.

Some exciting news from the **iFMEM program** in Saint John, led by **Dr. Robin Clouston**. The iFMEM program is the only three-year integrated CCFP-EM residency in Canada. **Dr. Mandy Peach** is the new **Evaluation Coordinator** for the program. Dr. Peach is a graduate of the iFMEM residency and also completed a fellowship in Point of Care Ultrasound. Mandy is also the department Website Co-ordinator and so brings some great tech know-how to the role! **Dr. Erin Slaunwhite** is the new **Curriculum Coordinator**. She completed her CCFP-EM at Queens, and Family Medicine residency at Dalhousie in Halifax. She brings much experience from various medical leadership committees. Dr. Slaunwhite is also interested in Simulation, which ties in very well with the Curriculum role. In November, **Dr. Kavish Chandra** joined the team as the **Resident Project Coordinator** as part of his ED Research Director role.

With CaRMS moving to a virtual format in response to the pandemic, residency programs have had to re-think how they promote themselves to medical students across Canada. Hot off the press, please follow the attached link to view the **Saint John Integrated Family Medicine Emergency Medicine Program** [CaRMS promotional video](#) featuring the illustrious **Dr. Devon Webster** and the esteemed **Dr. Kavish Chandra**.

DalEM residents continue to impress. **Dr. David Hung**, a first-year resident in the RCPS program received a **Living Lab Grant of \$4200** for his project titled "**Producing Teaching Videos of Rare and Critical Procedures in Emergency Medicine During COVID-19 Pandemic.**" Supervised by **Drs. James Gould** and **Lorri Beatty**, Dave will produce 5 high-quality educational videos for the 5 procedures listed in the RCPS CBD Core Special Assessment 1 (lateral canthotomy, perimortem c-section, resuscitative thoracotomy, resuscitative hysterotomy, pacemaker wire insertion and pericardiocentesis). Once developed, he will attempt to assess their quality and usefulness by survey, and intends to share them as a free and open-access resource nationally. **Dr. Ashely Martin**, one of our senior PEM residents received a **Living Lab Grant of \$2250** for her study titled "**Oral case presentation skills in the emergency department: Developing a COVID safe curriculum for medical students.**" Her supervisors are **Drs. Emma Burns, Simon Field** and Lorri Beatty. Congratulations to both!

Please note that the **2021 CAEP Grant Competition** opens of February 1st and closes on March 17th. DalEM faculty members and residents are encouraged to submit applications using the following [link](#).

The **Faculty of Medicine** is currently looking for **volunteers for a number of Faculty Committees** that will become vacant as of July 1st, 2021. Faculty Council strongly encourages all faculty members to consider serving on these committees. Active participation by all faculty in the governance of the Faculty of Medicine is essential. Interested faculty members are asked to submit a brief statement of interest and motivation for serving on any of these standing committees by e-mail to dean.medicine@dal.ca by Friday, February 19, 2021. The terms of reference are available [here](#). If you have any questions about these committees, please contact Anne Weeden in the Dean's Office at anne.weeden@dal.ca.

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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