

## Department Head Blog

### November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

On **Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**, please join me on Zoom from **9:30 to 11:00** as we unveil the **new logo** for the Dalhousie Department of Emergency Medicine and officially launch the **2021-2026 Strategic Plan**. This event culminates the important work we started last Fall with our focus group meetings in Halifax and Saint John chaired by Doug Sinclair. I am excited to work with all of you as we continue to build a truly Maritime based Department of Emergency Medicine. Zoom details will follow in a separate email closer to the date.

The Atlantic bubble continues to hold strong, but rising COVID case counts in the United States and other parts of Canada are a stark reminder that we cannot be lax in our preparation for the second wave. As the last of the autumn leaves fall to the ground and with flu season just around the corner, it is important this year, more than ever, to get your flu shot.

Members of Dalhousie Department of Emergency Medicine are participating in a national registry study of ED patients with suspected or confirmed CoVID, the Canadian CoVID-19 Emergency Department Network (CCEDRRN). Drs. Hana Wiemer, Tara Dahn, Sam Campbell, Kory Arsenault, and Patrick Fok are site leads for Nova Scotian; Dr. Kavish Chandra has taken over as the site lead for SJRH. The registry, chaired by Corinne Hohl at UBC and vice-chaired by Laurie Morrison at UofT, was awarded a \$2.5million CIHR grant to fund this registry. The initial aims of the project are to develop, validate, and implement Clinical decision rules to guide ED decision-making, describe the short and long term quality of life of ED CoVID patients, characterize characteristics of CoVID tests, and identify risk factors for poor outcomes.

Year after year, EMS Research Day continues to grow. On October 27<sup>th</sup>, the event was held virtually with nearly 180 people from across Canada attending on-line! Mr. John Taplin, an Advanced Care Paramedic from Alberta Health Services EMS gave the keynote address: "Health Economics and EMS: Evaluating Effectiveness". J. Chris Smith, MSc(c) ACP from Trent University won the Dr. Ron Stewart Award "Leveraging paramedic data for temporal monitoring and modelling of opioid and other intoxicant use". Unfortunately, Ron was not able to be in attendance but sent his best wishes. Dr. Alix Carter won the Top Research Award "Paramedics providing palliative care at home program associated with increase in days at home and home deaths: a pre-post implementation analysis". Congratulations to the award winners and to all of the presenters for their engaging presentations. Kudos to Alix, Melissa MacDougall and the rest of the Division of EMS for hosting such a successful event.

I hope that you will join us on November 10<sup>th</sup> on Zoom from 6:30 to 8:30 for the fourth and final session of the East Coast Fall Research Series. Dr. Brian Rowe, Scientific Director, Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health (ICRH), Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine and School of Public Health, University of Alberta, will be the key-note speaker. Always engaging and topical, Brian is an icon of Emergency Medicine research in Canada and I can think of no one more fitting to close out our Research series.

The Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship program was the department's first residency program to host a virtual CaRMS interview process. Thanks to the hard work of Dr. Emma Burns, Leigh Thibideau and the rest of the team, by all accounts, the event was a glowing success! Dalhousie was the last program on "the tour" and feedback from applicants was that Dalhousie did the best job "selling" our

program. Check out this 4 minute [video](#) and you will quickly understand the passion and excitement of those closely involved with the PEM Fellowship.

Residency is an intense and often stressful time. The relationships forged in this environment play a crucial role in resident wellness. With educational activities now largely occurring virtually or in very small groups, the pandemic has negatively impacted this aspect of resident life. Dr. Lorri Beatty, Associate PD for the RCPS Program, worked diligently with Public Health to develop a safety-plan and secure an exemption to the group gathering limits to host a Resident Wilderness Retreat at the cottages of Drs. George Kovacs and Graham Bullock on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you all for making this event such a success and a special thank you to Halifax Search and Rescue for the countless hours they volunteered!

Dr. Mary-Lynn Watson was named the new Medical Director CQI/CQA at the Halifax Infirmary Emergency Department. Mary-Lynn is a long-standing member of the Department having previously served as the CCFP-EM Program Director and nationally as the President of CAEP from 2006-08. She is currently enrolled in the Safety, Quality and Informatics program at Harvard and has been accepted to the RCPS Advancing Safety for Patients in Residency Education (ASPIRE) program. She begins her four-year term as Medical Director starting November 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine has put out a call for proposals for the Dalhousie Medical Education “Living Laboratory” Fund. This year’s focus is “Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Medical Education”. The deadline for proposal submissions is **Friday, December 11, 2020, 4:00 pm Atlantic Time**. Continuing Professional Development and Medical Education Research will be offering a series of Living Lab virtual grant-writing drop-in sessions: November 18, 25, and December 1 from 12:00-1:00 pm via MS Teams (meeting details to follow). For more information regarding the call for proposals, please reach out to Dr. Sarah Burm at [Sarah.Burm@dal.ca](mailto:Sarah.Burm@dal.ca) or Dr. Anna MacLeod at [Anna.MacLeod@Dal.ca](mailto:Anna.MacLeod@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](mailto:emergency.medicine@dal.ca).

Cheers, Kirk