

Emergency Medicine Newsletter

Volume 1
November 2001

for Alumni, Faculty, and Affiliates of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine

WELCOME

I am excited to present our newest addition to the Emergency Department! The *Emergency Medicine Newsletter* will serve as a link between our department and all our alumni and affiliates.

Please forward your news and updates, as well as any contributions for upcoming publications.

-MeeMee Lahman, Editor

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A REFLECTION

Whatever news and academic activities we would have announced in this column have been over shadowed by the disaster at the WTC. The unimaginable loss of life and the suffering of the families and friends of the victims are almost incalculable. We offer our deepest sympathies to those who have lost loved ones in this tragedy.

On September 11, 2001 hospital-based and pre-hospital emergency services were maximally challenged and were found to be able to respond at the highest level of professionalism and dedication for which one could wish. We were, and continued to be, troubled by the lethality of the event and the small number of victims that needed our care.

We will be holding post event analyses, critiques and critical incident debriefings for our staff, for EMS and for any members of our community who desire this support and attention. The key to the prevention of post traumatic stress syndrome is our ability to talk about our experiences, responses, and lingering issues frankly, repeatedly, and as openly as is appropriate.

It is more important than ever that we support each other and offer hope and affection to our patients, staff, family and colleagues.



We are working diligently to move our academic and clinical programs ahead at all of our 5 sites. We have been successful in garnering new research grants and in recruiting a superb new class of residents. We will speak more about these academic achievements in subsequent columns. However the greatest resource and accomplishment has been to recruit and retain a world-class group of co-workers who manage to provide the highest standard of care under difficult working conditions with concomitant good humor and collegiality.

We recognize and thank you for all of your efforts.

-Shelley Jacobson, MD, FACEP
Chairman of Emergency Medicine

THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

It is difficult to believe how quickly time has passed. Five years ago, when we started our first class of residents at Mount Sinai, we promised to make them "clinically proficient and academically accomplished". As I look back at the residency program that we have created and the impressive physicians who have graduated from our program, I believe that we have fulfilled that promise. As I look around at the talented individuals we are currently training and the continuing enhancements we are adding to our curriculum, I am certain that the best is yet to come. In five short years, we have developed a residency program that all of you can be proud to claim as your alma mater. The Mount Sinai School of Medicine Emergency Medicine Residency Program is amongst the most sought after programs on the east coast; last year we had almost 500 applicants from all over the United States. As our graduates grow in number and the quality of their training becomes evident to an ever-widening circle, our



reputation will continue grow.

The past year has been a particularly exciting one with many successes to our credit and growth in new directions. We were restored to our original size of ten residents per year and hope to continue to expand the number of residents. Dr. Kevin Baumlín was appointed Associate Residency Director and Site Director for the Mount Sinai site when Dr. Andy Jagoda stepped down. (Andy is still here at Mount Sinai; he was promoted to Professor of Emergency Medicine and has assumed a new set of responsibilities within the Department of Emergency Medicine.) Dr. Jessica Freedman has assumed Kevin's previous position of Assistant Residency Director. The new EMS rotation at Jersey City Medical Center has been tremendously popular with the residents and has been made a permanent feature of our curriculum. Mount Sinai was well represented at regional and national scientific meetings this year with 9 resident abstracts at the New York Regional SAEM meeting last March; 2 resident abstracts at the

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national SAEM meeting in May and 4 abstracts from residents (or former residents) at the ACEP Research Forum in October. During his senior year, Dr. Clay Merchant, Class of 2001, won the SAEM Resident Research Year Grant, an award of \$50,000 per year for two years; he is using this to fund his Research Fellowship at Brown University while obtaining his MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Ula Hwang, class of 2002, has been accepted into the prestigious Clinical Scholars Program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; she will be starting her research fellowship at Yale University in July of 2002.

Consider joining us at conference on any Wednesday that you

are free. We would love to see you.

-Lynne D. Richardson, MD, FACEP
Emergency Medicine Residency Director

New York Magazine "Best Doctors in New York" issue (June 4, 2001) named Dr. Lynne D. Richardson, Vice-Chair and Residency Director of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine to their "Hall of Fame". Dr. Richardson was recognized for her role as a clinician and educator: "[she] is teaching a generation of doctors that morality and medicine must go hand in hand". Dr. Richardson is the first emergency medicine physician ever to be featured in a "Best Doctors in New York" issue.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT AT SINAI

When notified of the disaster at the WTC, the hospital's disaster plan was immediately activated; within one hour, the ED was cleared and the majority of patients were admitted and transferred to the floors. Triage and treatment teams were organized, while operating rooms and ICU beds were readied. A staffing pool was established, O-negative blood and antibiotics received, and preparations for trauma and burn injuries readied . . . But few patients came. The City's Emergency Operations Center was in the WTC thus the City's coordinating and communication functions were lost for several hours while an alternate site was being set up. The hospital's phone system proved unreliable and radios became the mainstay for internal communications. The hospital's external decontamination shower was deployed, but never put into action. In the end, only 20 minor trauma patients were treated within the first 8 hours. Over the ensuing days a number of patients were seen with post traumatic stress related symptoms.

We all struggled with sorrow and frustration at our inability

to provide meaningful medical assistance; a natural response that must be addressed in disaster planning with timely debriefing. Despite our focus on the WTC tragedy, we remained aware of other medical emergencies. Shortly after the World Trade Center collapse, a fire broke out in an apartment building up the block. One of the victims required intubation upon arrival.

The hospital's response to the WTC disaster sheds light on the problems of overcrowding and lack of beds in the ED. It emphasizes the need for emergency services that can expand to accommodate the community's need in a time of crisis. Analysis of patient admissions and discharges during the disaster provides insight into our systems strengths and weaknesses. Hopefully lessons learned can be applied to improve the operations in our quest to provide the best medical care available in NYC.

-Kevin Chason, DO
Director of Pre-hospital Care and Disaster Management
Department of Emergency Medicine

RESEARCH & GRANTS UPDATE

Catalyst Fund

The Catalyst Fund is designed to internally support research initiatives and scholarly activities in the Mount Sinai Department of Emergency Medicine. The Fund is intended to foster the development of faculty and staff who are in the early stage of their academic career: It is intended that the Fund will enable faculty and staff to expand their potential as researchers or academicians. It provides the resource necessary to establish the credential needed to be competitive in obtaining additional funding through extramural sources.

The Catalyst Fund's mission is broad in scope and flexible in its application: The Fund is intended to promote excellence in the academic and research productivity of the faculty and staff in the Department of Emergency Medicine. It provides a mechanism for grant recipients that can be used to acquire time, equipment, administrative support, technical support, or expert assistance. Funded

proposals range from projects related to clinical research, to those related to health care policy, to projects focused at improving the teaching of emergency medicine.

2001 Recipients

Michael Bessette, MD , Jersey City Medical Center	\$8,800
<i>Outpatient Prescription errors: a time and cost analysis</i>	
Denise Nassisi, MD , Mount Sinai Hospital	\$15,067
<i>ED collaboration with the East Harlem Partnership for Cancer Awareness on colorectal and prostate cancer</i>	
Devorah Nazarian, MD , Mount Sinai Hospital/Elmhurst Hospital Center	\$12,500
<i>Mini-Fellowship in critical care</i>	
Maria O'Rourke, MD , Mount Sinai School of Medicine	
Residency	\$4,366
<i>Alcohol in the ED: what are physicians' attitudes towards alcohol patients?</i>	

RESEARCH & GRANTS UPDATE, continued (from p.2)

GRANTS

Assessment of Colon Cancer Awareness, Participation in Colon Cancer

Screening Barriers.

PI: Denise Nassisi, M.D. Co-investigator: Ilene Wilets

NIH funded

Emergency Medicine Patient Access to Health Care (EMPATH)

PI: Lynne Richardson, M.D. Co-investigators: Debbie Ragin, Ph.D., Ula Hwang, M.D., Robert Wood Johnson funded

Clinical Policy for Neuroimaging and Decision-Making in Adult MTBI Patients in the Acute Setting

Andy Jagoda, MD

International Brain Injury Association

RESEARCH

Regional Conferences

SAEM Regional

March 12-13, 2001 - Rochester, NY

Poster Presentations

Cultural Attitudes Toward Domestic Violence

Laura Iavicoli, Sheree Givre, Ilene Wilets, Erica Kriesman, Tabasum Amir

Emergency Department Patients and Alcohol Use: Are ED Physicians Missing an Opportunity to Help?

Maria O'Rourke, Smitha Pillai, Lynne Richardson

Emergency Contraception Provision: A Survey of Emergency Department Practitioners

Roland Merchant, Reza Keshavarz

Hepatitis B Post-Exposure Prophylaxis: A Survey of Emergency Department Practitioners

Roland Merchant, Reza Keshavarz, Ilene Wilets, Barbara Richardson, Jeffrey Jacobson

*HIV Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Provided in a Large Urban Pediatric Emergency Department after Sexual Assault

Roland Merchant, Reza Keshavarz, Christine Low, Ilene Wilets, Barbara Richardson, Jeffrey Jacobson

HIV Post-Exposure Prophylaxis: A Survey of New York State Emergency Department Practitioners

Roland Merchant, Reza Keshavarz, Ilene Wilets, Karen Hamilton, Barbara Richardson, Jeffrey Jacobson

Patient Satisfaction in Improvement after the Introduction of Management and Staffing by an Academic Department of Emergency Medicine into an Urban Trauma Center

Richard Nierenberg, Ernst Paul, Young Yoon

Prevalence of Information Technologies in Academic Emergency Medicine

Dan Pallin, MeeMee Lahman, Kevin Baumlín

The Utility of a Procedure Laboratory for the Teaching of Critical Emergency Procedures to House Staff and Medical Students

Reza Keshavarz, Eric Wasserman, Todd Carlson, Niels Dua

National Conferences

SAEM National

May 6-9, 2001 - Atlanta, GA

Poster Presentations

Cultural Attitudes Toward Domestic Violence

Laura Iavicoli, Sheree Givre, Ilene Wilets, Erica Kriesman, Tabasum Amir

Emergency Department Patients and Alcohol Use: Are ED Physicians Missing an Opportunity to Help?

Maria O'Rourke, Smitha Pillai, Lynne Richardson

How Emergency Department Patients and Visitors View Clinical Research

Ilene Wilets, Maria O'Rourke, Patricia Dew, Denise Nassisi, Adrienne Moore, Karen Hamilton

Minority Faculty In Academic Emergency Medicine

Lynne Richardson, Ilene Wilets

ACEP

October 15-17, 2001- Chicago, IL

Poster Presentations

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Prevalence of Information Technologies in Academic Emergency Medicine

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...National Conferences continued from page 3

Scientific Assembly Presentations

Balance: Tips on Not Tipping the Scale

Kevin Baumlín

Case Studies in Neurologic Emergencies, EMRA/FERNE Stroke Symposium, FERNE

Seizure Symposium, FERNE

Behavioral Emergencies, Satellite Symposium

EMRA Career Symposium

Andy Jagoda

UPDATES FROM THE EM WORLD

Mount Sinai Update

The Department of EM at Mount Sinai is in the process of entering the 21st Century by embarking on both a systems and a physical space redesign effort. Changes in patient volume and hospital resources have mandated the need to reassess the provision of emergency care at our institution

Carol Barsky has been appointed the Department's Clinical Director and she has assembled an impressive management team that includes Abe Warshaw, Scot Hill, Kevin Chason, and Tamara Dildy. Together, they are dissecting the individual components of our department in order to reconstruct a state-of-the-art ED that maximizes the quality of care we provide our patients.

A critical component of the Department's new design is new space. The first step in addressing the space needs will be to build a resuscitation room in the "asthma room" and to remove the "medication room" in order to improve visibility; the second step in the planned redesign is too exciting to even mention at this time . . . But there is well founded hope that the day is near when we will be able to practice emergency medicine in a space facilitates quality care.

*Andy Jagoda, MD, FACEP
EM Professor & Director of International Studies*

Pediatric EM Update

The Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine sees approximately 25,000 patients per year. Our department staff, all of whom work in the pediatric section of the ED, now includes six board certified physicians in pediatric emergency medicine. Starting is November 2001, Kevin McSherry MD, will be joining the EM faculty. Kevin has just complete a pediatric emergency medicine fellowship prior to which he was a practicing pediatric hematologist oncologist for ten years. The pediatric ED is currently completing its needs assessment for the upcoming ED redesign project. In addition, the pediatric division has developed an aggressive research program and is in the process in obtaining funding for a number of projects.

*-Reza Keshavarz, MD, MPH
Director of Pediatric Emergency Medicine*

Elmhurst Update

Elmhurst continues to be one of the most dynamic and diverse emergency departments in the country, thus offering residents a challenging and interesting clinical experience. Patient visits have increased by more than 10% over the past 5 years. Our number of faculty and PA staff positions has been stable and there have been only moderate turnover in these ranks. We are working cooperatively with Beth Israel and North Shore University Hospital emergency medicine training programs. Each of their resident spends 4 weeks in our department getting an exceptional trauma experience. In January 2002, the ED renovation will begin, optimizing the workspace for our patients, residents and staff. And recently the hospital completed a Joint Commission Survey, which we passed with high marks.

On September 11th, like so many other departments in the city, we geared up in anticipation of victims from the World Trade Centers. Unfortunately, we received very few patients all with minor physical injuries and some who needing decontamination. Our preparation for incoming patients was not in vain though as it brought ED staff together. As Elmhurst is the primary hub for EMS, we mourn the loss of one paramedic, Carlos Lillo, who died trying to save others at Ground Zero. Our condolences are offered to his family.

*Phil Fairweather, MD
Residency Site Director
Elmhurst Hospital*

International Update

ITALY

September 6,7,8, 2001 our Department organized a symposium in Abano Terme (outside of Venice), Italy entitled "The Architecture of Emergency Medicine". The symposium was organized in conjunction with Emilio Briguglio, the Chairman of Emergency Medicine at Camposampiero, Padova. The symposium brought together architects and physicians to discuss the hardware and software necessary for efficient emergency department operations. There were 158 participants at the symposium which was conducted in both Italian and English, with simultaneous translation. James Harrell,

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the architect who designed the EDs at University of Cincinnati, University of Pennsylvania, and Rochester, presented on his experience designing over 20 emergency departments. Other speakers at the conference included Ron Walls, John Marx, Bill Barsan, Shelly Jacobson, Andy Jagoda, Kevin Baumlin, Bob Schneider, Lewis Goldfrank, Steve Bernstein, Sandy Schneider, and Marvin Sachs (the architect for Mount Sinai). After the James Harrell, Marvin Sachs, and two Italian architects presented on functional design issues, American and Italian clinicians presented on their experience working with architects, and lessons learned in melding architecture limitations with clinical needs. On the last day of the conference, cases were presented that were designed to illustrate how ED design can promote or obstruct patient care. Overall, the conference was a success; it stimulated a tremendous amount of discussion and hopefully will benefit the Mount Sinai leadership as it moves forward with our Department's re-design.

AMSTERDAM

October 2001, Doug Lee and Rhett Silver, both EM-2s, went for a one month elective at the OLVG hospital in Amsterdam. Over the past three years we have had an ongoing relationship with OLVG as they have initiated the first emergency medicine training program in the Netherlands. The elective had a clinical and a research objective: the clinical objective

was to observe the clinical practice of emergency medicine in a department that has no EM leadership; the research objective was to study the impact on patient care of a system that has no patient triage. To accomplish the research objective, Doug and Rhett spent the first week observing the system and familiarizing themselves with operations; they then designed a study tool which captured time of arrival, presenting complaint, times of evaluation and diagnostic testing, final diagnosis and outcomes. At the present time, OLVG has 5 EM residents and Doug and Rhett went prepared to integrate into their academic program. In addition, they were invited to visit several of the other new EM programs in the Netherlands and to give lectures at those programs. On the trip home, Rhett and Doug stopped in Reykjavik, Iceland. They were hosted by the city's primary emergency department and they performed a "site survey" for the upcoming Nordic Emergency Medicine Conference, to be held in June 2002.

GUYANA

Barbara Richardson went to Guyana at the invitation of the medical school to participate in analyzing their academic program and to help with curriculum redesign. During her one week stay in Guyana she had the opportunity to observe clinical practice, to teach, and to make recommendations to the medical school faculty on ways to improve their education experience.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Scott Weingart, EM-1: Appointed to "ER-1", a national taskforce funded by the DoD to design the emergency department of the future in preparation for disaster response. Scott has also been appointed our EMRA representative.

Josh Wallenstein, EM-1: Congratulations on a new baby girl!

Marie Carmel-Elli, EM-2: Elected as national vice-speaker for EMRA.

Trystan Davies, EM-2: Tristen arrived at the WTC site within 1 hr. of the disaster and took a leading role in the triage and care of victims. He was directly responsible for supervising an immediate care area which was ultimately moved to the gymnasium at a nearby high school. He cared for hundreds of victims throughout the day, and has commented that his training at Mount Sinai was invaluable to his

preparation to respond to this disaster.

Maria O'Rourke, EM-3: Successfully competed and earned control of the Mount Sinai Research Booth at ACEP. She conducted her survey on attitudes towards alcoholics, and now has almost 600 data entries to analyze.

Ula Hwang, EM-3: Published in AEM, November 2001; "Access to Care: A review of the EM literature", "America's Healthcare Safety Net: Intact or unraveling?". On a more important note (!), congratulations to Ula on her recent marriage.

Jason Bolden, EM-3: Appointed to a CDC taskforce which will write educational material on traumatic brain injury.

Lincoln Cox, EM-3: Successful organizer of a hospital-wide program on Palm applications in clinical practice.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Hugh Feuer, MD: published in AJEM, Sept. 2001, "Myasthenia Gravis Presenting as a Unilateral Abducens Nerve Palsy".

Eric Wasserman, MD: Published in EMPractice, Nov. 2001, "Wrist Injuries".

Stay tuned to this section for future updates from your friends and colleagues!

Send us your news! Please report professional and personal milestones to Andy Jagoda at:
andy.jagoda@mountsinai.org



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EVENTS UPDATE

MOUNT SINAI AFFILIATES MEETING December 12th, 5-7pm

Cocktail reception and guest speaker, Jeff Schaidler, MD
Vice-Chair of Cook County Hospital, *"Development, Implementation, and Clinical Effect of a Chest Pain Decision Aid in the ED"*

Feb. 9-10 INTERNATIONAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM Mount Sinai's Gold Auditorium. Open to 3rd & 4th yr. medical students, faculty and staff.

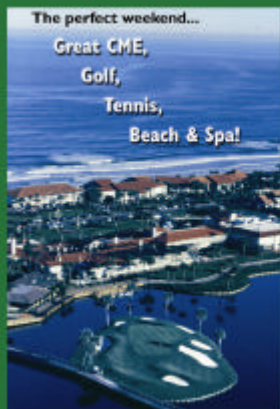
Feb 20, 9am-2pm, "ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROME" (a Mt.

Sinai EM Symposium) in Mt. Sinai's Hatch Auditorium.

Mar. 8-9 DISASTER MEDICINE: Preparing for the Globalization of Terrorism (a Mt. Sinai, ACEP, and Italian EM Society Joint Symposium) in Torino, ITALY - Ski in Sestiere (site of the 2006 Winter Olympics) after the symposium! Limited availability.

May 31-Jun 2 CME Program in Ponte Vedra, Florida. See below.

For more information on any of these events, contact MeeMee Lahman at meemee.lahman@mountsinai.org.



Clinical Decisions in Emergency Medicine



May 31 - June 2, 2002
Ponte Vedra Inn & Club
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

The Emergency Medicine Departments of:
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
George Washington University
The Mayo Clinic and
The University of Florida

Cordially invite you to a perfect weekend of stimulating lectures, great golf & tennis, and superb cuisine at the spectacular Ponte Vedra Inn and Club.

Earn 10 CME credits in four sessions of clinical updates covering neuropsychiatry, cardiopulmonary disease, infectious diseases, and trauma. There will be Friday and Saturday golf and tennis tournaments in which thousands of research dollars will go to the winning teams' residency programs. All are welcome. Put together a foursome from your alumni, faculty & residents and join us for a unique CME experience!

For further information please contact:
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