Message from the Chair

Welcome to our first newsletter from the UC Irvine Health Department of Emergency Medicine! There are many exciting and innovative changes happening and our goal is to share them with our UC Irvine Health partners and community on a regular basis!

Times are challenging for both the hospital and the emergency department, especially with the dramatic expansion of our MediCal patient population after implementation of the Affordable Care Act. To manage large patient volumes and longer wait times, we have been looking at alternative ways to treat our acute and urgent “unscheduled care” patients in a variety of innovative ways.

For example, after extensive work between hospital leadership and the Department of Public Health, we will finally open our new Emergency Department Observation Unit on June 1! This expansion allows increased capacity for both the emergency department and the hospital for lower acuity patient admissions to be served in an operationally efficient and timely manner. This 20 bed, “23-hour unit” will off-load emergency department beds of patients who have typically required prolonged work-ups and observations, as well as keep hospital beds upstairs open for more acute patient needs. We hope to significantly improve our throughput for admitted patients with the addition of this new unit!

Additionally, we will also open an after-hours, walk-in urgent care unit in the pavilion clinics (across from the emergency department) in July. This clinic will be open in the evenings and on weekends to help serve our less acute patients who seek unscheduled care in a more timely manner. Both new units will be served by mid-level providers under the direct supervision of emergency department attending physicians.

Every day we strive to serve our patients, our hospital and our community with the highest quality of emergency care and urgent care services available! We hope to improve on that promise with these exciting changes—and with continued innovations—in the years to come! Onward!

Erik Barton, MD, MS, MBA
Chair and Clinical Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine

Congratuations!

UniHealth awarded Dr. Christian Fox a $750,000 grant to expand the ultrasound teaching program to Charles Drew University in Los Angeles and UC Riverside. The program will train faculty physicians, residents and nurse practitioners in the proper use of point-of-care ultrasound. Training will provide the competencies required to supervise medical students and meet the growing demand among specialty physicians for bedside ultrasound training. Dr. Fox was recently named one of the 25 Top Professors of Sonography by Medical Technology Schools.
Residency Program News

New Residency Curriculum

*Rotation curriculum*: Our R2s will now have a four-week rotation at the Long Beach VA and our R3s will start a six-week rotation at the CHOC ED.

*Core curriculum (Conference & Journal Club)*: Journal clubs will be held the last Thursday of every month. We are also continuing to revolutionize resident learning with our asynchronous curriculum and our revamped conference didactics.

*New Resident Schedules*: Our residency program has expanded from six residents to eight per program year and we have expanded our resident coverage in the emergency department.

Residency Retreats

We will start “class specific” retreats for each program year for residents. The interns R1 retreat will be in late June. The R3 retreat will be in September and the R2 retreat will be in April. These class-specific retreats will target the needs of each class.

Residency 25th Anniversary

Our residency program graduated its first class in 1992. Next year (2016), we will graduate our 25th residency class! This is our “lucky seven,” the only residency class of seven residents. Residency alumni activities are planned to mark this milestone.

Graduating Residents—Class of 2015: Where Will They Go?

Ahmed Elrefaie, MD. MLK Hospital and UC Irvine part-time faculty

Maxwell Jen, MD. UC Irvine clinical informatics fellowship

Alisa Wray, MD. UC Irvine educational technologies fellowship

Erica Frumin, MD. Palomar Medical Center in Escondido

Kenneth Kim, MD. UC Irvine palliative medicine fellowship

Juan Rendon, MD. Kaiser Permanente, Downey.

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EM Travel to Saudi Arabia

Kristi Koenig invited as expert to Saudi-American Forum in Riyadh

The Saudi-American Healthcare Forum ([www.sahf15.com](http://www.sahf15.com)) was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from April 27 to 29, 2015. As an invited international speaker by the secretary general, Saudi health council, Kristi L. Koenig, MD, developed and led a workshop on EMS regionalization in collaboration with Faisal AlMazroua, MD, a recent graduate of the UC Irvine international EMS and disaster medical sciences fellowship.

More than 1,200 participants attended the forum, including such high-profile guests as U.S. ambassador Joseph W. Westphal, U.S. diplomat Jimmy Kolker Clocker, the governor of Riyadh Province (Prince Faisal Bin Bandar Al Saud) and the Saudi health minister. The theme of this unique forum was “Improving Healthcare through Bilateral Knowledge.” Speakers were invited to submit initiatives for consideration of adoption by the health council.

As one of only six initiatives selected for action, Dr. Koenig’s proposal to “establish a unified command for disaster management under the Gulf Cooperation Council umbrella” was presented by the secretary general at the closing ceremony and featured as the headline in a subsequent Alriyadh news article.

The forum will contribute to exchange of knowledge and expertise in health care between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia and serve to encourage innovative projects to improve our healthcare systems.
Focus on a Fellow: Shadi Lahham, MD

Emergency ultrasound fellow Shadi Lahham, MD, earned both his undergraduate and medical degrees from UC Irvine. Following this, he started his residency training at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in emergency medicine. He is highly recommended by his mentors and peers who have noted his strong clinical abilities.

Dr. Lahham is currently completing a point-of-care ultrasound fellowship under Dr. Christian Fox. During his fellowship, Dr. Lahham oversaw 18 IRB protocols and is in the process of submitting four articles for publication—a promising start to his career promulgating this important bedside tool.

In addition to his role teaching the residents ultrasound, he will also start as the assistant program director for the emergency medicine residency program. He also teaches the ultrasound curriculum for the intensive care units (surgical and medical) and teaches internal medicine residents and faculty at the Long Beach VA.

In his spare time, Dr. Lahham enjoys weightlifting and taking selfies that he shares with his girlfriend through Snapchat.

Starting this July, Dr. Lahham will take on the reins as the director of emergency ultrasound. Given his strong background in ultrasound, the residency will benefit from his enthusiasm and infectious teaching style.

Shadi Lahham, MD
Emergency ultrasound fellow and future director of emergency ultrasound and assistant residency program director, starting the new academic year.
**Recent Department Events & News:**

**Mark Langdorf, MD,** was appointed as senior associate dean at the UC Irvine School of Medicine effective April 1.

*Western Journal of Emergency Medicine: Integrating Emergency Care with Population Health* (WestJEM) is now indexed in the National Library of Medicine’s MEDLINE - Index Medicus. WestJEM is published by the UC Irvine Health Department of Emergency Medicine, the only academic emergency medicine department in the United States to publish a specialty journal. WestJEM publishes more than 150 papers per year in bimonthly issues that are also accessible at PubMed Central via open access. To learn more, visit westjem.com.

The department of emergency medicine will be extending its services to a new unit in the UC Irvine Health Douglas Hospital effective June. This is to allow observed patients to move to a different area.

The department of emergency medicine will staff the after hours walk-in clinic effective July 6.

**New residency program coordinator** Monica Iqbal is replacing June Casey, who will retire after 11 years with our department.

**UC Irvine emergency medicine** academic offices has moved to the City Tower building at 333 City Blvd., West, Suite 640, Orange, CA 92868.

**Daevi Chandwani** was born on May 8 to vice chair of clinical operations Carrie Chandwani.

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**Notable Faculty Publications**


Koenig K, Majestic C, Burns M. “Ebola Virus Disease: Essential Public Health Principles for Clinicians.” *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine.* 2014 Sept. This article was the No. 1 most popular paper on eScholarship Nov. 5, 2014.


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**EMIG Spotlight**

Emergency medicine interest group receives generous grant for a new anatomy workshop

The UC Irvine School of Medicine emergency medicine interest group (EMIG) recently received a SAEM educational grant that facilitated the first emergency medicine cadaver procedure elective of its kind.

On Feb. 9, EMIG successfully organized a procedure workshop which took place in the anatomy lab. Students learned and practiced procedures relevant to emergency medicine using fresh tissue cadavers. The workshop featured demonstrations on intubation, cricothyrotomies, chest tube placement, thoracotomies, ultrasound-guided central line placement and suturing.

This innovative educational method will introduce first- and second-year medical students to hands-on training in emergency medicine. Students learn relevant and interesting procedures performed by emergency medicine physicians in a pre-clinical learning environment that gives a realistic experience and allows time for questions without endangering patients. This course elective will benefit senior medical students; skills can be practiced before entering a clerkship or residency.