

ED Update

Wright State Emergency Medicine Residency

Volume 30, Issue 2

March 2008



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M.D.

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SETTING THE STAGE

Our last communication detailed events in our corner of the world from September through mid-December. We advance the quarterly flavor from our valley with several banners. My contributions lead and end with two fictitious characters, Santa and The lion of March.

LETTERS TO SANTA

10 days before Santa's flight about the earth, Santa's flight of fancy was displayed at the NCR Country Club, site of our Christmas party. **Nathan Schlicher**, a suitable surrogate for the true jolly man repeated his act of Santa meets Carrot Top as he sequentially pulled gifts from a bag. He read letters and delivered packages to the little boys and girls of the residency. As in previous years, the PGY I class took most of the semi-caustic flack on the chin. Santa explained the background attributes that lead to the specific stocking stuffer. He then distributed the spoof before the appreciative crowd, who offered commentary and chuckles. **Dr. Springer**, aka Chanukah Harry played the role of Santa's helper and relished the co-distribution of gifts, less the Super Hero Award Cape to **Jennifer Lim**.



TRADITION LIVED ON

Brian Syska, microphone in hand told a fib at the last Christmas party. He forced the then PGY I class to individually prance at the opening of the dance floor session. This year **Jason Pickett** upheld the (now true) tradition and as Ruth replied on our journey home, "They were cute." My estimate was equally favorable as I replied, "Spirited, near **Paco** perfection."

Chanukah Harry, in a more kindler and gentler mood, expressed his reservations on continuing the yearly one night acrimony. This planned acquiescence to civility was booed by the crowd.

New Year's Bump

I worked the day shift of December 31st in order to free up New Year's Eve for overnight babysitting. After a not particularly restful night, Ruth, our designated morning driver took the wheel and directed our Avalon towards an 11:00am brunch in Louisville. I read the newspaper, napped and awoke with Ruth's rhythmic knee tapping to a country-western song. We were in a cruise control mode when Ruth lost the front end and corrected our path. She felt the back end swing around and over-corrected, driving the right front end of our car into the dynamite blasted rock face of I-71 near mile marker 13. We impacted at a non-descending speed then flipped end over end twice landing upright on the axles. They snapped, wheels flew off. We exited on our own accord and thanked God for having survived what should have been a fatal crash.

We requested transport to the trauma center where we met JB's friend and mentor Sal Vacario, MD, who cared for us both. Sal attended to Ruth's finger laceration. He established that my dysnea, chest pain and hypoxia resulted from nothing life threatening. He established I had a fractured metacarpal and a dominant hand PIP dislocation that could not be reduced, Sal handed me off to the hand service. They relocated the digit and wired a fractured third metacarpal in the OR.

The gastronomical brunch of 08 was converted to the intravenous route. Morphine, versed, propofol, saline, Ancef, and contrast agent are not particularly palatable, but their infusion was far superior to the alternate, a fixating solution. Ruth and I want to thank those who wished us well and helped us get through this bump in the road. I conveyed my thoughts from my visit to Dr. Vacario in a poem that hopefully will be accepted in a future issue of *Academic Emergency Medicine*.

An Unmatched Confluence

Tuesday, February 5th was suitable for sporting costumes in recognition of the end of the pre-Lenten season. The 5th was not only Fat it was Super. Why? The inhabitants of 22 states braved the converging airs of deception and overconfidence and cast a vote (or votes for Chicagoans) for a presidential candidate, who, when all the hot vortexes abate, will provide us all leadership under financial constraints that will tender the majority of promises vacant.

In regard to a vacated hole, this Tuesday of great proportion which we regaled, fell within a dias-pounding timeframe of Punxsutawney Phil's prediction of six more weeks of bluster. His foresight had come without millions of campaign contributions, and his truth was foreshadowed by our only solar constancy. Hence, I'm more inclined to accept his promise as truth.

Matched Confluence

We're not the day sufficiently charged with it being Fat and Super, the 5th was for many, Splintering and Match Tuesday. Why? Splintering because 60 centrists from four southern states met their deaths from a rare mid-western outbreak of tornados that struck their bungalows. Match Tuesday because the residents and faculty met in the Dean Amphitheater to discuss 92 talented folks who had embraced our website information and graced our mansion from November through February. **Dr. Brown** convened the meeting at 5:00 pm and the grand jury returned indictments for only a few over the next few hours. The majority of the caucus provided overwhelming support for those who auditioned. JB provided our consensus opinion to the Giant Match Computer. As a result we were provided eight civilian residents. We'll provide their biographical sketches in the next issue.

Super Sunday



annual Super Bowl Party. The game was shown on two HDTVs. Brats, burgers, dogs, chicken wings, suds and sodas were provided. A side dish or dessert gained access to the doors.

The exit polling suggested that our sampling error for match day was within one to two percentage points of the survey. That margin of error was far less than the talking heads had predicting on the other superday, where a bowl was on everyone's mind. Many gathered for the catch of a century at **Soriya Pok-Todd's** house for the 3rd

Congratulations



Congratulations to **Stanley** and **Hope Koontz** on their new bundle of joy. Julia Renee Koontz was born on November 7th, 2007. She was 7 pounds 12 ounces.



Todd and **Andrea Davis** welcomed Jackson Todd Davis on November 27, 2007. The future golfing buddy was 9 lbs. 5 ounces.



Steve and **Susan Galvin** welcomed Riley Sebastian on February 14, 2008.



Meet **Ember Liana Kemp**, daughter of **Karin**. Born 11/28/07 down in ol' Mississippi. Karin is doing well at Keesler AFB.

Atul Gupta sent us photos of his children, **Arya**, 3 and **Ajay**, 2. Their papa is now ED Director at Hampton Regional Medical Center in Varnville, SC.



Dave Eakes sent us a couple photos of his two little girls, **Sarah Lawson** (11 months) and **Elizabeth August** (4 years).



Scott Padalik is a first time father. He sent us a photo of his new bundle of joy, **Connor Michael**.



Christmas Greetings and Contacts

Many individuals and couples sent us cards wishing us the best during the season and into the new year. Contacts came from the full spectrum of our graduates, from 1980 (**Craig Williams**) to the most current class. We were pleased to find their households well. We challenge you to match the following with the photos.

Gabby and Sophia **Boutros** (**Nabil** - class of '00)

Rob Pence (class of '04) with Brandy, Pasha and Olya

Jon Riggs (class of '06) with Amy, Cailey and Carl

Herman Elemberger (class of '04) Sierra, Sedona and Spring

Sean Bryant's (class of '01) Triumvirates

The Richardson's (class of '05, '06) stair stepping three.

Kevin Kulow (class of '00) and Brittain's triad of Jake, Colton and Kathryn.

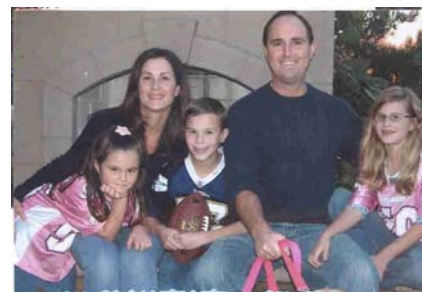
Mike Davis (class of '06) and his quartet.

Pam Stuart (class of '89) with Kevin, Ben and Daniel.

Robert Young (class of '02) with Katrina, Sean, Carolyn and Allison.

Tracy Weiner (class of '97) with Lucy, Zach and Victoria.

Steve Griffith (class of '05) with Afghanistan-deployed Kellie, Sydney and Alex.



Know-Nothing

- John Wightman, M.D.
Education Director

TEM CYCLING

Since the last *Update* around the holidays, the didactic and experiential curricula have been moving along well. We completed the TEM on ECGs and have now moved on to imaging. More CT and ultrasound material has been incorporated this year than had been in the past.

Brian Springer has continued to refine his series in sports medicine. Using his model, we have teased out the pediatric emergency medicine material by **Jon Singer** to better coincide with whatever section of the Model of the Clinical Practice of Emergency Medicine we happen to be covering at the time, instead of doing it all in one chunk once every three years. We are also piloting a series on geriatric emergency medicine, which **Mike Ballester** is helping me develop. There are others, such as disaster medicine, which you can check out on the residency website.

MID-YEAR TIME TRIALS

The mid-year evaluations were distributed after the New Year, and were due on 29 February. As of this writing the following week, they have yet to be collated and analyzed, so we know nothing about what residents really thought about this year's changes in the curriculum. My contemporaneous verbal feedback has been good, but anonymous responses often

reveal issues people are unwilling to say face-to-face.

As usual, sections of these will be scrutinized by the responsible faculty then ideas presented at the faculty/chief retreat in April. After comment and discussion, decisions about curriculum changes will be presented to the residents at the department retreat in May.

We are most interested in the new R I orientation program. Plans are being made for this July, but won't be solidified until we have the survey results.

OUR OWN DAYTONA

Although there is no true "beginning" to the curriculum cycle, since it is a continuous loop over a three-year period, we are starting its ninth loop this summer. It's been tweaked many times by many people over the years, but its overarching endurance is a

testament to my predecessors [*qián rèn*] who created a strong program in the first place, and those who nurtured it for many years before I became the Education Director. We will always welcome any substantive feedback we can get to continue making the curriculum the best it can be, leaving a little rubber on the asphalt and fumes in the air.

前任

MILITARY MANEUVERS

- Josh Wright, M.D.

CANDIDATE SELECTION

This year we had a competitive military match. We had over 50 applications for the 14 active duty slots. The field was so competitive that we actually took an extra candidate for a total of 7 for the incoming class. Here are just a few brief bios of the incoming class:

Mark Shepard: Currently serving as a flight surgeon at Nellis AFB. He has deployed to Iraq recently and will be heading back again prior to starting his residency.

Jennifer Whatley: Currently serving as a GMO primary physician at McDill AFB in Florida. She did her internship in internal medicine close by at Cincinnati.

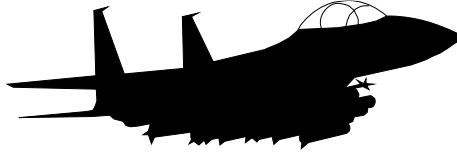
Roderick Fontenette: Currently a medical student at the LSU in Shreveport. Formerly enlisted in the USAF as a protocol officer and EMT.

Aaron Rubin: Currently serving as a flight surgeon down at Hurlbert Field. He is deployed to an unknown location at present.

Benjamin Barlow: Currently a USUHS student. Interested in sports medicine and is the leader of the interest group. Was a high school basketball coach in his college years at U of Colorado. Worked on a cattle ranch up in Big Timber Montana.

John Dorsch: Currently assigned in Tucson, AZ. Medical director of 48th rescue squadron. Valedictorian of his medical school class.

Tony Kim: Currently FP at Elmendorf, AK. Former chief resident in his FP residency.



LEAN AND MEAN

A few changes on the military side of things, fitness is a big issue. We are working very hard to become a fit fighting force and that includes everyone. The new standards are coming out for workouts and BMI. Be looking for these as these will impact more of the residents than you think.

Keep up the good work and train hard.

BALLESTER'S BULLETS

- Mike Ballester, M.D.



GERIATRIC DOINGS

During the post-football era I've has progress in the geriatric arena.

Recently applied for Geriatrics in Residency Education grant from the American Geriatrics Society for resident education in the field of geriatric emergency medicine. If funded, would be a two year program to increase the awareness of geriatrics in the specialty of emergency medicine through development of formal lectures for conferences, simulation cases, web based information for independent study and real time practice.

Will serve as a representative for a workshop on geriatric emergency medicine at the upcoming American Geriatric Society's annual meeting this spring in Washington, DC.

WRITINGS

I recently completed a book chapter for the upcoming Atals in Emergncy Medicine, entitle, "HIV in the Emergency Dept."

Other current projects include working on a book chapter "Substance Abuse in the ED" for a new textbook on substance abuse in medicine, as well as completing write up of a study presented last year at the SAEM Regional meeting on "The prevalence of substance abuse and alcohol on geriatric trauma patients."



Springer's Stuff

- Brian Springer, M.D.

GREETINGS

I hope this edition of *ED Update* finds you all well. No complaints here; I have managed to keep myself uninjured these past months, save a sore back from shoveling snow.

PATIENT CARE

Kettering remains as busy as ever, with the expected morbidity/mortality/admission rates given our older and generally sicker population. Respiratory and GI illness seem to have reached their seasonal peaks, and so perhaps a break is around the bend. But I am not holding my breath. The Sports Medicine Clinic is regaining momentum following the typical mid-winter lull, providing hard-charging (and now pediatric board-certified) fellow Scott Ahrenholz a chance to sharpen his skills prior to moving on.

STRETCHING TIME

I spent a week in January at the Cooper Institute in Dallas, Texas, completing their Law Enforcement Fitness Specialist Class. Of course, one should practice as they preach, and so we students were run through the recommended fitness battery and ranked based on nationally attained norms. For my age group (old) I topped out on absolute and dynamic strength, safely beat the mean on cardiovascular fitness and body composition, and hit rock-bottom on flexibility.

PUBLISHING

Also on the "tactical athlete" front, *Tactical Emergency Medicine* (Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins) has hit the press. A number of our faculty and residents contributed, and it is the first text that I know of that discusses the care of the tactical athlete. Thanks to **John Wightman** for guidance on tailoring my chapter to the target audience, and to Doug Kleiner, with whom I plan to continue development of the tactical athlete concept.

SWAT THIS

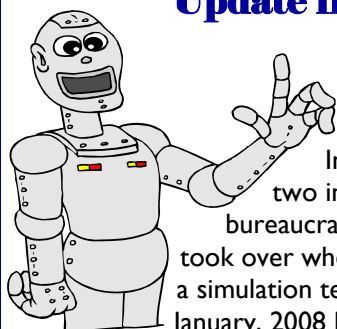
Departmental relations with Warren and Greene County SWAT continue to warm, with increasing faculty and resident participation. My own SWAT experiences these past months have been cold, literally. Both training and operations have occurred in bitter winter freeze.

ON A BALMY NOTE

Kim and I just returned from a trip to Disneyworld. Just us two grown-ups riding the attractions, hobnobbing with Mickey and pals, and having a great time. Thank you Jim and Judy Brown for all your rodent-world expertise and advice. Until the next edition, I wish you all the best!



Update from the Center for Immersive Medical Education and Research (CIMER) – Ray Ten Eyck, M.D.



NEW ARRIVALS

In the last *Update* I mentioned that our “baby watch” was still in progress for the delivery of two infant simulators. As the fates would have it, the two infant simulators vanished into the bureaucratic ether. However, as sure proof that there is true balance in the universe, Dr. Hamilton took over where the stork left off and delivered two full- grown adults to the simulation lab in the form a simulation technician and a second part-time faculty member. (see “The Estrogen Corner”) As of January, 2008 David Cherolis joined our staff as a full-time simulation technician. He brings with him a wide variety of skills including Army paramedic training, AV experience and a jack-of-all-trades ability to do what needs to be done to help maintain current models and programs as well as to bring new programs on line. **Dr. Melissa Schloneger** also joined the faculty and has already had a substantial impact on our ongoing simulation programs as well as coordinating the start-up to a new program for the KMC internal medicine residents. We are currently pursuing new avenues to secure the pediatric simulator models as well as the additional models needed to provide a full spectrum of both task training and patient care education opportunities.

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS

The other change since our last *Update* has to do with the expansion plans for the CIMER. The bad news is that the planned major expansion has been put on hold as various alternatives are explored, including the possibility of building new space. However, the good news is that a significant, but more modest expansion will be started soon and hopefully completed prior to our next update. In addition to providing needed space for simulation, the new plan will provide a bigger classroom setting and better AV support for the Department of Emergency Medicine. We welcome suggestions from our residents, staff, clinical and full-time faculty regarding additional ways in which we can serve your educational and research needs.

The Estrogen Corner

- Melissa Schloneger MD, MS



NEWBIE FACULTY

I started officially as part-time faculty on January 1st, 2008 and still have ED shifts at Good Sam (which I love) in addition to the resident and student simulation projects. I was very flattered and honored to work with **Dr.**

Raymond TenEyck in the simulation lab.

INSIGHT

This past week when I was observing some medical students during their simulation, I realized that **for most 4th year medical students, this was their first time ever making decisions on their own.** That’s why I find it critical that we push them past their comfort zone from watching to participating.

FUTURE EXPANSION

It is very exciting because we are working on expanding both the physical facilities that we use as well as the curriculum that we are developing. Many changes are coming, so be ready to hear about further developments in this area.

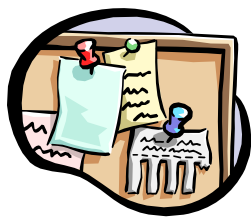


TRAINING GROUPS

We have 3 main groups of people to which we are providing training: EM Residents, IM Residents, and 4th year Medical Students. This means working on simulation cases as well as task training (I and D, central lines, intubation, etc.) that utilize our creativity – our abscesses smell quite nice with the mixture of liquid soap and flour to make them look real.

Cassie's Bulletin

- Cassie Browning



WEBSITE UPDATES

The website is coming along great. If you have any new ideas please let me know. Call me at the office at 937-395-8839 or e-mail me at

cassandra.browning@wright.edu.

I would like to thank Robin Suits, the Associate Director for Electronic Communications in the BSOM Marketing and Communications office, for all of her help with our website and the HELP Center website.

She has been great in making all of the changes that we have asked of her.

Thanks to Robin we are now able to see our website statistics. She has set-up a counter on our site for us called Stat Counter. This allows us to find out information about the last 500 people who have visited our site such as most popular pages, entry pages, exit pages, keyword analysis, visitor paths, visit length, etc. She also runs Google Analytics on our site that tells us pageviews, unique pageviews, time on page, bounce rate, etc.

The following are some of the statistics from Google Analytics as well as from Stat Counter:

- ♦ Most viewed page during the month of February: Department home page (Google Analytics)
- ♦ We have had people from all over the world viewing our site including people in the United Kingdom, Spain, Malaysia, Peru, France, Iran, Guatemala, Estonia, Poland, and Portugal. Check out the map below to see where our most recent visitors are from (Stat Counter).
- ♦ Since the time Robin started using Stat Counter on our site last year, we have had over 25,000 hits on the EM site. We have had over 9,000 hits so far this year alone.



Recent Visitor Map courtesy of Stat Counter

I will be keeping you all updated on the statistics of our website in future *ED Updates*.

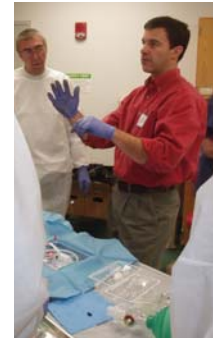
MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT

Kendra Dolan, M.D. recently had the opportunity to meet President George W. Bush during her deployment to Africa. In Arusha, she was given the opportunity to shake hands and take pictures with the President and First Lady while they were on a trip to Africa. She also treated a stewardess on Air Force One for Acute Cephalgia, and then was given a tour. By the end of the two week deployment she had been to 3 continents and 4 countries including Germany and Greece. Below are photos from her trip to Africa.



C.A.P. Lab Revisited

In the last issue we showed you a couple photos from the 2007 C.A.P. Lab. Here are a few more for your enjoyment!



Research Results

- Jim Olson, Ph.D.

GOT THE BEAT

The **Brain Edema And Trauma** group had an abstract accepted for presentation at the 2008 SAEM meeting to be held in Washington, DC. This retrospective analysis of trauma data from MVH evaluated the role of brain edema as determined by CT in determining outcome of patients with moderate or severe head trauma. The data indicate that despite equivalent Glasgow Coma Scores, individuals with significant edema did worse than those without edema. The BEAT group consists of Drs. Olson, Ballester and McCarthy (Department of Surgery) and fourth year medical students, Elena Caraman Megan Dines, and Jill Aston.

TO THE MOON

With planned missions to Mars and extended stays on the moon, NASA is concerned that astronauts will suffer from exposure to space radiation. Thus, NASA is seeking to understand mechanisms of cell injury that may occur during episodes of solar flares and as a result of cosmic ray exposure. Drs. Olson and Li submitted a proposal to examine how hypertension may influence cell death from space radiation and how it may be mediated by increased oxidative stress. Their project was found to be representative and relevant to the agency goal in the first stage of the application process. Phase two of the application process will incorporate behavioral and electrophysiological studies to examine changes in cognitive function and underlying cellular correlates following irradiation by high energy proton beams generated at the Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island.

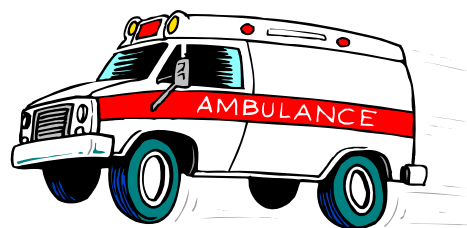


FEELING THE PRESSURE

Dr. Olson completed studies evaluating oxidative injury to cells exposed to normobaric and hyperbaric oxygen in a collaborative investigation with researchers at the University of South Florida. This study quantified cell membrane damage during hyperoxic exposures and the protective action of antioxidant treatments. For comparison, the researchers in Florida examined the cell surface using a sophisticated atomic force microscope and found perturbations in shape and structure during the exposure to high oxygen concentrations. In further investigations we will use these techniques to evaluate oxidative mechanisms of cell injury during prolonged cell swelling and edema.

Gebhart's Runs

- Mark Gebhart, M.D.



People, places and projects! HELP Center activities have been many and intense over the past few weeks.

PEOPLE

We would like to warmly welcome BGen William "Doogie" Germann, M.D., USAF (ret) to our team. His experience, talent and leadership will be an excellent addition to our Calamityville project. His USAF experience spans the last 20+ years and has taken him to assignments around the globe in service to our nation. His most recent assignment was as Surgeon General, Command Flight Surgeon, Air Force Material Command, WPAFB. Welcome Bill!

PLACES

Our center staff along with DEM participation has been traveling to work on a wide variety of issues specific to medical readiness. We visited Phoenix, D.C., and College Station, TX. A unique aspect of our travel has included our meeting with legislative staff at the US House and Senate. This is an essentially new territory for us that we are getting used to. Our next destination is set for Nashville as we travel to the National Disaster Medical System conference. This 4-day session will allow us to showcase our projects and do extensive networking.

PROJECTS

Each of our programatic themes continues to mature. We are entering a time where the Dynamic Medical Systems seeks renewal funding for the next funding cycle. This program, led by Pete Savard, RN, BSN has fundamentally solved a variety of complex surge capacity questions. The program continues to be viewed favorably across the state and with the key stakeholders.

Jim Gruenberg maintains a busy schedule with the Calamityville theme. Our selection of the site remains in process and we will announce details shortly.

We continue to cover the state of Ohio with BDLS/ADLS courses. Current projects numbers will exceed another 1000 trained by summers end.

Please check our HELP Center website, www.emhelpcenter.org, for the latest from the center.





The Chair's Perspective

- Glenn Hamilton, M.D.

WELCOME TO 2008!

Even as we have had serial snows and weather that recreates the movies *Fargo* and *Dr. Zhivago*, we continue to move forward in several exciting directions for the year.

RESIDENT MATCH

Although the Match will not be announced until the next newsletter, I can say we had a wonderful group of candidates come through the program. **Dr. Singer** did his usual excellent job of screening the initial 400-500 applicants, and the faculty and residents were dedicated and tireless in showing the candidates our sites and discussing the attributes of the program. The actual Match meeting event, which many of you remember is a lot like making sausage, was no different than usual, but at the end we came away with a list of talented individuals – all of whom we would be pleased to have join us. We were especially pleased with the Wright State contingent and anticipate approximately 12-14% of the class to select Emergency Medicine. One of our important tasks is to make sure that we assist as many of them as possible in their successful matching. Stay tuned for our own version of March Madness.

SIMULATION

With the addition of **Dr. Schloneger** and Dave Cherolis to assist the ever dedicated **Dr. TenEyck**, we continue to expand and increase our high-fidelity mannequin simulation training and impact in the region. Last year we tallied over 800 simulations, all given in a very small space. We now have added responsibilities beyond the medical students and Emergency Medicine residents. This includes the KMC Internal Medicine residents, and other queries continue to be directed our way. The end result is the necessary expansion we'd mentioned in previous *Updates*. We will triple the current simulation space in a modified and less costly manner than previously planned. This includes adding offices, a classroom, a multi-unit simulator area, and maintaining our single unit simulation area. We'll also increase our storage capability considerably. For those of you interested in this realm, don't forget the Consensus Conference at the end of May linked with SAEM in Washington, DC on the Science of Simulation. **Drs. TenEyck, Ballester** and **Tews** have submitted a very interesting paper which we hope will be accepted for presentation.

THE HELP CENTER

The HELP Center continues to roll forward with its very effective programs. We have completed business plans, applications for five different applications for different grants and contracts ranging from hundreds of thousands to tens of millions of dollars, and continue to work with the appropriations process at the federal level. Our two big themes are surge capacity solutions through the Modular Emergency Medical System (MEMS), and the continued development of the Calamityville Campus. This includes the tactical laboratory (the property for which is still being selected), a virtual Calamityville which will hopefully be assisted by grants funding from the medical school, and a research center, The Calamityville Fusion Center which the Ohio Research Scholars Program may fund (this is the big one). Combine that with our BDLS/ADLS training, AHA training and a variety of other activities and we have a whirlwind of activity ahead of us for an exciting 2008.

GERIATRICS

Dr. Ballester has some of his time assigned to the new Department of Geriatrics, and he is making excellent progress in this new discipline. There are plans to enhance the organization of geriatric training in the medical school curriculum, and initiate a geriatric fellowship with access from a variety of specialties including emergency medicine. Considering the age shift (no comments about the faculty please), this is wise and anticipatory thing to do. In addition, Dr. Ballester has written a very interesting grant for the American Geriatric Society which is under review. He and Dr. Lawhorne are building a case to create a Pepper Center at Wright State with the focus being on Geriatric Trauma. Our ability to work on regional topics with the trauma team at Miami Valley has gone very well, and we attribute the expertise of both Drs. Ballester and **Olson** to that positive relationship.

A new area under consideration and just open for dialogue is to expand into the realm of Tactical Emergency Medicine in a more formal manner. This too could be an additional activity for us and those discussions have just begun with **Drs. Springer** and **Brown** as well as interested residents in the forefront.

PARTICIPATION IN THE ADVENTURE EXPEDITION

Our thanks to **Chris Calvert**, **Brian Springer**, and **Jason Pickett** for building on our Wilderness Expo heritage and incorporating it into the WSU and community-sponsored Adventure Expedition held in February at Wright State University. When my daughter and I arrived to hear Dr. Springer talk about temperature related injuries and show images of particularly graphic frost bite damage to the lay public, we were impressed with the attendance and the number of people in the area in general. It was a bitterly cold day and yet the natatorium was filled with kayakers and there were several people up on the climbing wall. This is a great way to incorporate our talent into a broader themed adventure and outdoor series and continues the original vision of the Wilderness Expo that **Shawn Campbell** and others brought over the last several years.

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE ATTACHED QUERY

As we redesigned the *ED Update* under the talented guidance of Cassie Browning, we are striving to incorporate color into the document. To date, it remains rather prohibitive (4-5 times more the cost) to add color to the printed version of the *Update*. The web based version would be done in color. Therefore, we're asking whether you would prefer to receive the *ED Update* via the web and in color.

While we are discussing the web, we continue to ask you to take a look at our web site (<http://www.med.wright.edu/em/res/>) as well as the HELP Center website (www.em.helpcenter.org). We are receiving literally thousands of hits on the department web site and a 100 or more hits a day on the HELP Center website. We are very interested in your opinions regarding these sites, how welcoming they are, how informative they are and most importantly how they may be improved to allow us to put forth a better face to the national and global community.



FOND MEMORIES OF THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

It seems a long time ago, and maybe that's just been the nature of this winter, that we were celebrating the first snows and the holidays. Some of the fun over that entire period was diminished by the pressures of completing the Ohio Research Scholars Proposal, but that assignment was not completely under my control. At the same time, the one clear residual memory is the festive Christmas Party, when we celebrated the season and most importantly ourselves. We did come to the final moment of phase II of the faculty weight loss contest with Drs. Brown and Ballester literally throwing in the towel (or napkin as it were) and refusing to be publicly weighed with a scale that announced one's weight out to the crowd. I willingly stood before the assemblage and had it call out my 19 lb. weight loss. The unmentioned irony is the exact weight that it recited represented the weight that I started at during the 1986 weight loss contest and therefore I still have another 20 lbs. to go. That combination of early darkness and bulk food availability in southern Ohio with the general hibernation tendencies of our species makes this a tough challenge but a necessary one.

We did everything you might fondly remember at the Christmas Party. We had interesting conversation, fun food, gifts (yes, wine and chocolate), **Nate Schlicher** was a very erudite and funny Santa Clause. Dr. Brown led a toast for a group that was more than willing to come to the dance floor and show their "moves". Some of those moves made you look toward the person and others made you look away, but they were moves none the less. A new ritual has appeared. That is the calling out of the RIs for a brief demonstration of their dance prowess. This must be a spin-off of the "Dancing with the Stars". We are pleased that half the entering class was women as they seemed to know their way around the dance floor and the men, well some had style, and others seemed to follow those Arthur Murray footsteps that had been set down on the ground. All in all, and once again we had a great evening of escape and extended the light on one of the shortest days of the year.



CHANGES AT COX

Along with the revision of the simulation area, we have finally agreed and are moving forward on specific plans to renovate the Resident Lounge and the Conference Room. This will not only include the usual clean-up, paint-up, fix-up stuff, but also new furniture and audio-visual capability that will be linked both locally in the room and to the Simulation Center for group debriefing of performance activities. We'll even stop breaking the fire code and take the chain off the door in the resident lounge so individuals can actually get outside. We're considering building a wall out on the patio for some privacy (not too much) and make the place a little more accessible. So when you return to your home base at varied times, look around and hopefully the changes will be noticeable.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE:

In memoriam, Genevieve, 1995-2008.

Our family has completed a difficult transition that began before the Thanksgiving holiday and extending throughout. Our wonderful white-faced, but puppy-hearted Golden Retriever, Genevieve ("the bravest dog in all of France," named by Liz from the Madeline series) had become ill with gastric cancer. For three months every evening I gave her IVs, syringe feedings, anti-nausea medication and comfort; but she continued to become more ill and lost half her weight. With the support of a very caring veterinarian and Lynda and Liz, we knew we could not save her, but could not stop trying. Finally, she needed to be carried up and down the stairs that she had so fluidly moved on throughout her life. At 4am, she let us know it was time to go outside and lie in the snowy yard that had completely and happily shaped her world for 13 years. After a warm bath, she was carried to her "space" beside the bed where she lost consciousness and died at home with Lynda and I next to her. It was Valentine's Day morning, the right day to depart for a dog who had so well defined herself by unconditional love. Although I am glad to come home and not find her ill, the house is filled with emptiness. We really are looking forward to Spring.





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