

# ED Update

Wright State Emergency Medicine Residency

Volume 30, Issue 3

July 2008



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**M.D.**

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**Cassie Browning**

## SNOWED OUT

We experienced climatic extremes before winter ended. We were blanketed with several snow falls. One twelve inch display shut down the roadway. As in the past when there has been inclement weather I was caught in Dayton, not at home. On a Friday at midnight I completed patient care and could not even navigate back to the office couch for sleep. I racked out on a patient cart until 6 am in the car I coursed southward on what I projected was the interstate. Much was cancelled during snow falls. We had a historic cancellation of two consecutive Friday Conferences.

## SPRING ARRIVED

The calendar ultimately held truth and pleasant weather arrived as projected. I got to watch buried bulbs turn into floral projections throughout the yard. I ran the mower to pick off the few cowlicks then headed to Greece.

Like other tourists, I snapped many images.



Traveling companions pictured above, Dan and Gail Nure, Jim and **Phyllis Doerger** joined Ruth and I for a two-week romp. We caught Athens, Delphi and Metoria on the mainland. Then we hit the seas on a 150 foot boat and island hopped. We caught 8 of the 140 occupied islands and past by several of the fourteen hundred unoccupied land masses. When we did encounter people they were gracious hosts. Their cuisine was excellent. The buried treasures were well preserved for all to see.



Several of them have been committed to a future publication entitled "Alpha Bet: A Greek Tragedy."

**Reminder: You can view the color version of our ED Updates on our website at: <http://www.med.wright.edu/em/res/multimedia.html>**

## ALPHA BET

With the help of Cassandra Browning, I committed many of the Greek photos to the narration I had written last year. This twenty-six paragraph child's book takes the reader from A thru Z and tells a story of Alpha, a young boy of Greek decent who bet on T-ball and never was enshrined in his school's Hall of Fame.

I intend to provide this book to all individuals who will support the WSU Emergency Medicine Residents Research and Education fund. The book is ideally suited for those with young children. The book was test marketed by four of Alaine White's grandchildren ages 4 thru 9. The elder youngster caught the message and the theme, but was UN enthused by the "weak ending". The five and seven year old were mesmerized by the photos. The four year old promptly abandoned her knee at the turning of the first page.

## KIDS WHO JOINED US



**Bill and Holly Brady** welcomed Izabella Jane on March 13, 2008. She was 7 pounds, 7 ounces.



Congratulations to **Adam and Angel Bromberg**. Zachary Ryan Bromberg was born on March 26, 2008. He was 5 pounds 1.3 ounces.



Congratulations to **Melissa and Nathan Williams**. They welcomed Abigail Cherry on May 22, 2008. She weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces.



**Kirk and Danelle Hinkley** welcomed Kaleb Stephens Hinkley on May 5, 2008. He was 5 pounds, 4 ounces.



Above: the Hinkleys on the 4th of July.

**Carrie and Luke Arnold** welcomed Rowen Lucas on June 19, 2008. He was 7 pounds, 13.8 ounces.



## KID APPROVAL

We held our Spring Retreat at the Dominick Lofino Park in Beavercreek. This gathering ended the historic congregations at John Bryant Park. The rustic setting of the latter was certainly appreciated. The Dominick Lofino Park did contain one of the largest full service wood mulched area of pediatric joy witnessed by mankind. During the 90 minute business meeting, children, spouses and dogs frolicked.



## RECENT CONTACTS

I received a long note from **Bob Dupper**. He and the family are doing well in Loveland Colorado. Susan still teaches exercise classes and is a personal trainer. The girls, Alissa (just married) Bethany and Courtney are all grown up.

**Mike Davis** dropped in on a recent trip to the Midwest. He has one further duty assignment in the sand. He projects that he and the family will exit Colorado for a Midwest environment.

## CONGRATULATIONS

This spring, Miami Valley Hospital Emergency Physicians Keith Bricking and Brian Zimmerman were among twelve individuals recognized for exemplary patient care, work ethic and employee interaction. Their names and pictures appeared on the MVH Wall of Excellence.

**Mark Gebhart** was presented an award by WSU President David Hopkins for Early Career Achievement.

**Nathan Schlicher** overcame an audiovisual nightmare and did a great job at the Helen Poppaway presentation.

The following were considered the Top Ten clinical faculty educators for the year:

**Kevin Johnston** (Childrens Medical Center),

**Scott Doak** (Kettering Medical Center),

**Roger Pacholka** (Miami Valley Hospital),

**Dana Drazner** (Childrens Medical Center),

**Steve Chapman** (Miami Valley Hospital),

**Dale Evans** (Childrens Medical Center),

**Mike Grunkemeyer** (Kettering Fire Department),

**Susan Henry** (Childrens Medical Center),

**Kim Kwiatek** (Kettering Medical Center),

**William Matre** (Childrens Medical Center)

## BALLESTER'S BULLETS



- Mike Ballester, M.D.

I have been fortunate to recently have been awarded by the American Geriatric Society: Geriatric for Specialty Resident Education Grant. It will provide \$20,000 per year for two years to develop and sustain a curriculum for emergency medicine residents in the field of geriatric emergency medicine. I hope to place a focus on geriatric simulation involving atypical presentations of common diseases, geriatric trauma principles as well as developing web based modules for self study. It should also free up some money for guest lecturers and travel to national meetings. Hopefully this curriculum will serve as a basis for better understanding and recognizing illness and injury in the ever expanding elder patient population we are all seeing in our busy emergency departments.

# Know-Nothing

- John Wightman, M.D.

## “Reflections on the EM Practice”

While on a much-needed vacation this spring, I was introduced to the most insightful modern book I have ever read, *Deep Survival* by Laurence Gonzales. It is definitely on par with—and certainly less cryptic than—the *Dé Dao Jīng*. Drawing on empirical evidence, psychology, and neuroscience, Gonzales explored several themes. Although not one employed examples from clinical medicine, many had important applicability to working in a wide range of high-stakes environments [e.g., EDs].

How many of us have been so focused on finding the cords that we didn't hear the rapidly decreasing tone of the pulse oximeter? We get a good feeling after successfully intubating. It's one of the coolest things we do. We don't [or shouldn't] intubate people just for the rush, but the implicit (unconscious) memory of the good feeling can drive behavior to the physiological exclusion of unnecessary information—at least as far as our amygdalae are concerned.

As stress levels go up, our responses narrow our focus. We “see less, hear less, miss more cues from the environment, and make mistakes.” Unconscious emotion begins to take control. “Reason is tentative, slow, and fallible, while emotion is sure, quick, and unhesitating.” An active amygdala dampens function of the prefrontal cortex. Cognitive decision-making when stressed can easily lead to retrospective sayings like: often wrong but never in doubt.

现实

There is more to patient care than logging another procedure, but the mind's reality is often driven by what it remembers. Unfortunately, this goal—or “memory of the future” as Gonzales described it—may not accurately reflect environmental actuality (*xiàn shí*). When this occurs, our abilities may not be up to the test. “We face the same challenges the experts face. Nature doesn't adjust to our level of skill.”

“To deal with reality, you must first recognize it as such.” There has to be a balance between reason and emotion, which can only be established and maintained through self-reflection. Who cares if we get the tube at the expense of anoxic brain injury?

Two methods of adapting to future stressful situations are: 1) continuous mental and physical practice of the skills; and 2) awareness of potential traps through experience and learning from others' mistakes. With regard to #1, I for instance practice uncommon procedures on models and in simulations, but I more frequently practice them in my mind while driving to work. One of many approaches to #2 is paying attention in morbidity & mortality conferences and similar hallway discussions with colleagues.

谦逊

True learning, on the other hand, will not occur without an adult dose of humility (*qiān xùn*). Zen philosophy holds that “... it is impossible to add anything more to a cup that is already full ... an attitude that says, ‘I already know,’ may cause [us] to miss important information.” Since reality is ever-changing, this is why we must know nothing [see *The Update* 2007; 29(1)].

The farther one goes,  
the less one knows.

Lao-tzu

Experience is critically important, but past experiences can also set us up for disaster.

Chaos and complexity theories would hold that, no matter how much they may look the same from one day to the next, the EDs we work in today are quite literally not the same EDs we worked in yesterday. Everything changes incessantly, while our brains “live in a continuous reinterpretation of sensory input and memories ... contained in presets ... which we come to think of as reality.”

Complex systems—the ED being a great example of one—experience “accidents” continuously, even to the point of them being “normal” and expected. Inconsequentially small mistakes happen frequently; catastrophically large blunders are rare. Both are inevitable, yet nobody can predict what, when, how, and to whom they will occur. In a tightly coupled system, imperceptible perturbations can cause rapidly cascading failure [e.g., the butterfly effect].

The more complex the system is made by attempts to prevent accidents, the more likely they are to occur. Engineering and regulatory fixes are not substitutes for the human brain, but it takes effort and introspection to add errors to our cognitive memories, and humility to imprint negative experiences onto our emotional memories.

On the occasion of every accident that befalls you, remember to turn to yourself and inquire what power you have for turning it to use.

Epictetus

(See, it's not all Asian philosophy.)

平衡

“The system reacts to circumstances, finds [emotional] bookmarks that flag similar experiences in [our] past and [our] response to them, and allows [us] to recall the feelings, good or bad, of the outcomes of [our] actions.” If we don't keep efficiently updating those memories and presets, and work hard at maintaining equilibrium (*píng héng*) between deliberate thought and bold action; we tip our “risk homeostasis” in an unfavorable direction, and fail to grow as clinicians.

\* all materials in quotations came from Laurence Gonzales' book, *Deep Survival*.

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

### MAY & JUNE

In May we conducted an orientation to simulation for the Emergency Medicine Interest Group. The session was well attended and the feedback was very positive. Special thanks go out to Drs. **Schloneger, Sarlay, Vandehoef, Koncal** and Mr. Cherolis for their assistance in this effort. Also in May we finished the first year of simulation based medical student curriculum and simulation based research projects. Dr. **Schlicher** presented two of these projects at SAEM.

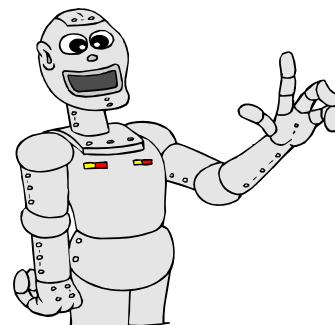
We will conduct the last simulation based YDC for the R-3's in June and then implement plans for greater integration of simulation into the resident curriculum in the new academic year starting July 1, 2008!

### GRANT RECEIVED

Thanks to the monitorship of Dr. **Hamilton** and the generosity of the Physicians' Charitable Foundation of the Miami Valley, we received a \$50,000.00 grant on June 5<sup>th</sup>, with a matching amount from the Boonshoft School of Medicine. We will purchase additional high-fidelity models that will allow us to expand simulation to others in the Miami Valley.

### SIM FOR OTHERS

We have continued to offer our simulation services and experience to the Dayton Area Graduate Medical Education consortium. This year we have had a curriculum for Kettering Internal Medicine residents. We recently initiated our first session with the WSU Department of Surgery. We look forward to training activities and research participation with other departments.



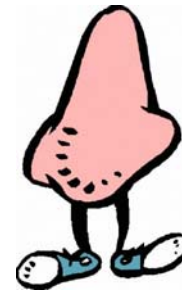
# BROWN KNOWS

- James Brown, M.D.

Last year we instituted an orientation month for the program. As most of you know, our orientation in the past consisted of the *merit badge* courses and a few hours together the day before rotations began. Then, half of the residents would be farmed out to the off-services for July. With 14 residents, we'd lost the 'symmetry' that 12 residents brought us. Additionally, the RRC had told me that we were doing too much surgery. What to do with that extra surgery month? Orientation!

With a lot of help from John Wightman, we've designed a month that gets the interns acclimated to the ED and the emergency medicine way of thinking. We also get a chance to evaluate where the new residents are clinically and academically. Those labs we squeezed in over the first few months (airway and suture) we could do with less grief from the off-services. We added an IV access lab and moved most of the first year YDC material into the month. It really didn't make much sense to talk about the approach to the patient with abdominal pain in December anyway.

Our preliminary feedback has been very positive. The faculty like having all the interns 'on the same page.' The interns like easing into the program. Interestingly, the other departments in their medical school have been watching closely and may soon start their own orientation programs.



## Newland's Snooze

- Guy Newland, M.D.



### *Oral Board Simulation Course Format Revised!*

Beginning with the fall Oral Board Simulation, the format for this experience will undergo significant changes. The fall OBS is scheduled for the mornings of 19 and 21 November. There will be no "full day" requirement for examiners as there has been in the past.

On Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> R-3's will start the day with a workshop exploring the role of the examiner. After the workshop, they will test the R-1's with the assistance of a few faculty observers. R-3 examiners will each be responsible for only one case, which they will give to three or four R-1's. Over lunch the R-3's will debrief the experience with faculty observers.

On Friday the 21<sup>st</sup>, we will need affiliated clinical faculty to assist with two examination sessions for R-2's and R-3's as we have done in the past. And, with the success of the Spring '08 OBS, we will continue to have examiners do either one single case for 3-4 residents or perform a triple-case for two residents during each session. This is a departure from the past when we had examiners each do two singles and one triple. Lunch and debriefing will follow with dismissal prior to afternoon conference.

The new format allows examiners to concentrate on fewer cases and makes preparation easier. Examiner inter-rater variability is better, trends or problem areas become more apparent and, because examiners are grouped in "pods" and see the same group of residents, resident feedback is more focused and reliable.

And with a requirement for only a half-day from busy clinical faculty, we hope examiner recruitment efforts will be met with enthusiasm!

## **MILITARY MANEUVERS**

- Josh Wright, M.D.

### **ORIENTATION MONTH**

Last month was the start of orientation for all of the residents but the military residents started one week early to get all of the military requirements in. Thankfully, all reported in on time and there have been no complications as of yet. I am just waiting for the first to report that they are not getting paid, or not in the system, their security package is missing or something of the like.

### **CLINICAL FACULTY**

Anyway, we also wanted to say goodbye to the clinical faculty that will be leaving is this summer: Capt **Brian Bosscher** will be moving back to his home in Michigan. Maj **Matt McKay** will be moving back to his home in Illinois. LtCol **John Taylor** will be staying in the area but a little to the south in Cincinnati.



### **OVERSEAS**

We currently have a number of people deployed overseas taking care of our troops in the forefront: Maj **Richard Dargosa** hopefully will be back in time for teaching ultrasound to our intern class and Capt **Francisco Ramirez** is performing a flying mission as a critical care air transport physician. Of course LtCol. **Ed Fieg** is off doing something somewhere, but apparently is having quite the time. The remaining summer will be hard on the manning but as always, we will persevere. Have a lovely Air Force Day.

# Gebhart's Runs

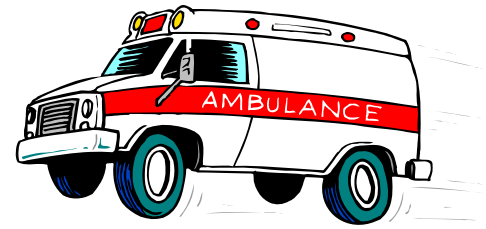
- Mark Gebhart, M.D.

## HELP Center

Progress is a resonating theme at the HELP Center over the spring of 2008. Our entire staff has been extraordinarily busy as we work in the areas of project development and the concurrent management of numerous projects. The NDLS programs have just come to a close for this year under the direction of Dan Kirkpatrick, RN and Lori Ann Acoba. Their work resulted in the most successful year to date in this multi-year contract from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Over 1,000 health providers from all four corners of Ohio participated in these courses contributed directly to a large number of the total sum for the year and we thank them. NDLS will be continuing in Ohio. Recently Laura Tiberi, executive director of OACEP announced a partnership between OACEP and WSU to state strategic advisory committee charged with disaster education in Ohio. WSU will be contributing our talent to help our partners better coordinate NDLS

## CALAMITYVILLE

The Calamityville Tactical Laboratory reached a new milestone when the capital budget of the State of Ohio funded phase I to the tune of \$3 million dollars. WSU will be using the phase I and our project plans call for the beginning of the courses in the first half of 2009. Calamityville and its family of campuses will form the cornerstone of the new National Medical Readiness Center, located here at WSU. The project has garnered nation-wide support and promises to be a site where training, education, research, development, and commercialization all fold into a state of the art facility. Jim Gruenberg and BGen William Germann, MD lead this rapidly progressing project. Recently, our partners from Owens Technical College in Toledo visited and we are delighted at the newly formed relationship we have with the center. By summer's end, we will have completed site selection and as of this writing, our architectural firm has completed the 3-D tabletop model as well as a computer "fly through" of the complex, complete with EMEDS exercise area, rubble piles, warehouse and manufacturing sites, and the tornado appearing center of education. Glenn Hamilton, MD Mark Gebhart, MD and William Germann, MD recently represented WSU at CORONA. While there, we presented our project to the senior leaders in the USAF. Our program was viewed as a very important and the future mission will certainly intersect the USAF and DoD. Jim Gruenberg and William Germann has also been busy recently received funding for virtual Calamityville where virtual portal is being developed. Interviews are being held for a web architect at the doctoral level.



## MEMS

Ohio's capability for non-hospital surge is now led by WSU and MEMS project. In its 3<sup>rd</sup> year, the Dynamic Medical Systems team has grown in number and knowledge. During the spring, a first MobEx (mobilization exercise) was conducted during the regional pandemic influenza exercise. Pete Savard, RN, Mike Porter, RN, and Jack Smith, EMT-P lead this program and worked with local private sector partners to analyze this event. The most important finding is this huge asset can be deployed to an impacted area and begin seeing patients within a very short period of time. WSU has learned a great deal from this MobEx and future plans call for a fully functional deployment. Currently this project is responsible for surge in over ½ of Ohio's 88 counties. We have added Michael Corbett as a logistics specialist. Welcome Michael!

## EMS

The HELP Center welcomes Leslie Mangas, EMT-P, EMSI as our center's coordinator. Leslie has been working very hard in a number of areas including AHA and EMS. Recently, the center underwent its review for renewal as continuing education site for the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Leslie has a very ambitious plan for the next 5 years and will clearly interact with every one of our programmatic areas. Look for new and novel EMS education strategies to appear as she moves forward. Welcome Leslie!



## UPCOMING TRAVEL

Our summer will be a busy one and we anticipate a number of travel destinations. We have become regular travelers to Washington (and we recently visited FEMA region 5 in Chicago-special thanks to Tish Miller for arranging the accommodations at the Hotel Sax). Other summer destinations include San Diego for the Homeland Security Medical Executive Course. Fall will also be busy as Courtney Florenzano MD, and Mark Gebhart, MD present the paper Medical Team Composition/Capability in Urban Search and Rescue teams in Munich, Germany and Pattama Ulrich, RN, BSN, MPH and Mark Gebhart, MD present a Model for Community Disaster Resilience at the American Public Health Association meeting in San Diego, California.

Please visit our website at [www.emhelpcenter.org](http://www.emhelpcenter.org) to see the latest on our many programs.



## Springer's Stuff

- Brian Springer, M.D.

### THE TACTICAL ATHLETE

Southview Hospital, using a template first developed by paramedic/athletic trainer Woody Goffinett (along with some input from yours truly), has developed a performance enhancement program for law enforcement and EMS personnel. Drawing from the fields of sports medicine, athletic training, and exercise physiology, it looks to be a unique addition to the civilian medical world. I am currently in active discussion to assume the role as medical director. Given the Department of Emergency Medicine's strong links to the tactical and EMS communities, we feel this will be a natural fit, and will provide training and educational experience for our residents and sports medicine fellows. Our relationship with the Air Force is also pivotal; former residency graduate and USAF "lifer" **Brian Delmonaco** is working on a similar program for Para-jumpers in North Carolina. I anticipate a future working relationship and exchange of ideas.

### THE TACTICAL PHYSICIAN

SWAT activities continue to keep our residents and faculty busy. **JR Pickett, Bill Brady, Rob Wiegand, and Scott Vandehoef** continue to train and deploy with a number of teams. I continue to train regularly with the FBI, and find myself continually challenged by their high level of knowledge, skill and fitness.

Kim and I, along with **Greg and Caroline Kennebeck**, spent several days in April at the Tactical Defense Institute engaged in intensive handgun training. It was a chance for Greg and me to hone our skills (I have trained extensively at TDI over the last several years) and a chance for our better halves to develop their skills. Kim gained my undivided attention and respect, demonstrating repeated ability to place rounds into a man's scrotum from 25 yards. Greg, too, was noted to be saying "yes dear" to Caroline more than usual.

### THE SPORTS MEDICINE EDUCATOR

I spent the last week of May in Indianapolis at the American College of Sports Medicine annual meeting. The lecture content was solid, including some excellent talks on pediatric injury, and on the high physiologic toll on warfighters in the environmental extremes of Iraq and Afghanistan. Current fellow Scott Ahrenholz was in attendance, as well as former fellow Ben Moorehead. Ben is a full-time sports medicine physician in West Virginia and doing well. Scott and I have just submitted an article for *Pediatric Emergency Medicine Reports* on knee and ankle injuries, and await the response of the editors.

Until the next time, I wish you all the best!

# Cassie's Bulletin

- Cassie Browning



## EMS/SPORTS MEDICINE SYMPOSIUM

WSU's Department of Emergency Medicine and the Greater Dayton Athletic Trainers Association partnered to create a symposium and practicum to review and practice the Task Force guidelines. The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual EMS/Sports Medicine Symposium at Kettering Fairmont High School featured presentations by **Brian Springer, Mike Grunkemeyer**, Robin Lensch and James Lehner. This year's topic, "Prehospital Care for the Spine-Injured Football Player" taught local prehospital providers and physicians who care for athletes how to properly remove football equipment under a number of circumstances. The symposium was a success. Special thanks to **Jeff Greenwood, Debra Edwards, Derrick Darnsteadt, Laura Nolting, Jackie Barnes, Scott Ahrenholz** and **Roman Hill** for helping out, and to Phil Neal at the Boonshoft School of Medicine's Office of Marketing and Communications for helping us get coverage on WHIO channel 7.



BoundTree and Riddell were on hand to show attendees the latest football equipment.



Above: Dr. Springer being interviewed by WHIO Channel 7.



Left to right: Robin Lensch, Mike Grunkemeyer, Brian Springer, and Cassie Browning



## SPOUSE CLUB

Each year it has been a tradition that a second year spouse does the Emergency Medicine Spouse Club newsletter and a third year spouse takes care of the dinners for the new moms and dads. We would like to thank Kelly Vandehoef for all of her help with the EMSC newsletter over the last year and to Becky Pickett for coordinating the dinners for all the new parents. We would also like to thank Kelly taking charge of the dinners this year and Stacey Mauro for taking over the EMSC newsletter.

## THANKS

By the time you are reading you should be able to view new videos on our website. I would like to thank **Ryan Mihata** and **Nathan Schlicher** for agreeing to be our “department newscasters.” The videos will also appear on the flash drives that we hand out to recruits. I also want to send a big thanks to **David Cherolis** for turning one of our rooms into a TV studio to videotape Ryan and Nathan.

## MEET EDWARD OF KANDAHAR

**Ed Fieg** sent us an article entitled, “You’ve heard of Lawrence of Arabia? Meet Edward of Kandahar: A week in the life on an Air Force doctor mentoring the Afghan National Army” written by Major Kevin L. Wright, USAF, BSC. Dr. Fieg is presently in Afghanistan on a one-year deployment of his choosing as part of a medical embedded training team (ETT), mentoring the Afghan National Army Medical Service. Major Wright’s article tells us what a week is like during this time by telling readers about the day-to-day activities of Dr. Fieg and the ETT.



## WEBSITE STATISTICS

### Emergency Medicine

- ◆ According to Stat Counter, the EM website has been averaging 600 hits a week.
- ◆ Top countries that have logged onto the EM site: United States, Malaysia, United Kingdom, Pakistan, Dominican Republic, Canada, and India.
- ◆ Top 10 cities that have logged onto the EM site: Dayton, OH; Millersburg, OH; Upper Sandusky, OH; Piqua, OH; Charlotte, NC; New Brunswick, NJ; Bakersville, NC; Nashville, TN; Santa Ana, CA; and Bradenton, FL.

### HELP Center

- ◆ According to Stat Counter, the HELP Center website has been averaging 400 hits a week.
- ◆ Top countries that have logged onto the HELP Center site: United States, Saudi Arabia, Canada, China, Kenya, France and Turkey.
- ◆ Top 10 cities that have logged onto the HELP Center site: Dayton, OH; Columbus, OH; New York, NY; Minneapolis, MN; Tokyo, Japan; Atlanta, GA; Herndon, VA; Clearwater, FL; Urbana, OH and Union City, OH.



EM Website Recent Visitor Map courtesy of Stat Counter



HELP Center Website Recent Visitor Map courtesy of Stat Counter

# Research Results

- Jim Olson, Ph.D.



## GRADUATION

Crystal Stuckey successfully defended her Masters dissertation in a public presentation. Her studies demonstrated that cell survival is not affected by glial swelling despite an increase in oxidative stress. Since leaving, Crystal has been working in the Department of Community Medicine at the Lifespan Health Research Center. We wish Crystal the best as she pursues her biomedical interests.

## THIS IS YOUR BRAIN...

Brian Tucker from our laboratory joined other graduate and medical students to prepare high school and middle school students for the Science Olympiad competition in Health Science. Using hands-on displays of anatomical specimens, ultrasound imagers, EMG stimulators, and microscopes (to name a few) approximately 25 students learned about the nervous and circulatory systems in health and disease. The project was organized by **Jim Olson** and supported by the Departments of Emergency Medicine and Neuroscience, Cell Biology & Physiology. A synopsis of the materials presented to the students and photographs of the day-long event can be found at <http://www.wright.edu/~james.olson/ScienceOlympiadClinic.html>

## STUDENT RESEARCH

Amanda Reese (WSU, MD, Ph.D. student) and Jim Olson were awarded a grant from the Emergency Medicine Foundation. Amanda has been refining the techniques needed to perform western blot analysis of membrane proteins important for neuronal cell volume regulation. This project will be performed in collaboration with Dr. David Cool, who will provide expertise in imaging and mass spectrographic analysis.

## ABSTRACT PRESENTED

Dr. Olson presented a poster at the annual SAEM meeting in DC. This poster, submitted in collaboration with **Dr. Ballester** and Dr. McCarthy, medical students **Megan Dines**, Elena Caraman and **Jill Aston**, examined the effects of brain edema on long-term outcomes of MVH patients with traumatic brain injury. The results indicated a significant increase in mortality and adverse outcomes if brain edema was observed on initial presentation to the ED. We hope to expand this project with Megan and Jill's presence during residency.

## ABSTRACTS PENDING

From the laboratory, Dr. Guangze Li, Ian Wenker and Brian Tucker submitted 3 different abstracts to the upcoming Society of Neuroscience Annual meeting. Word on acceptance of these abstracts should be received by the next *Update*.

## MARS SPLASH DOWN EQUIVALENT

Drs. Olson and Li submitted a research application to NASA to fund ground-based studies in space radiation. If funded, this project will be performed at the heavy ion accelerator at Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island. We will measure the production of oxidative stress and brain injury during simulated solar flares and will determine how this alters synaptic plasticity in the formation of memories. How about them apples?





# The Chair's Perspective

- Glenn Hamilton, M.D.

## WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITIONS

**Roger Pacholka, MD, (Class of 1988)** was named the Xenia Volunteer of the Year in recognition of his work as medical director for the Xenia Fire Division. With his typical humility, Roger was quoted saying, "I don't consider myself a volunteer. It feels like I am being paid by the reward of working with these men and women every day. I am blessed by what they do for me." In addition, at the School of Medicine graduation ceremonies held on May 30<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Pacholka was recognized with the Humanitarian Award from the school and medical students. Roger's missionary work in Africa is a wonderful tribute to his character and commitment. We have been pleased to support his efforts over the years with financial assistance as well as involvement of our residents and faculty. Congratulations Roger for two well-deserved awards! Your ideals set an appropriately high standard for all of us.

## AHA COURSES

With the addition of Leslie Mangas to the department and HELP Center staff, the organization of our AHA offerings has come together very nicely. This is an area that has slipped to a degree over the last several years, and we are delighted with Leslie's enthusiasm and ability to strategically plan and position ourselves in this important area for the region. We remain the WSU AHA training center and will become more active in this realm in the coming months. One specific change is a better organized structure for training our residents as BLS/ACLS providers and instructors. Part of the instructor expectation will be to teach at least 1-2 courses within the undergraduate or graduate medical education structure. More to follow in this area.

## BUILDING PROGRESS

Now, of course, we have gotten what we have wished for....and the associated disruption of our physical space. Currently the resident lounge is closed as a new ceiling, paint, carpet and equipment are going into place. Furniture will follow. The expansion of the simulation center will be next. We are pleased to say we have purchased



all of the equipment, audiovisual and otherwise, as necessary, have made our color and fabric selections, and look forward to a "new look" for both the resident lounge and simulation center. We have negotiated a positive arrangement with KMC that will allow us to improve considerably the fiber-optic high-speed connection between Cox and KMC. This will directly impact the speed of our computer systems and Internet connections. In addition, the building will have WiFi capability, and we will store the digital images generated by the simulation center on the KMC shared drive. Our goal is to allow us to pull up lectures, video and other images from the shared drive at multiple sites within the Cox Institute. Finally, we will be working towards a video conferencing capability, which should allow us to present information at any number of sites in the state, nation or globe.



## WEB UPGRADES FOR 2008

Cassie Browning has made our web site a far more “living document” than in the past. She will certainly comment on this under her byline. With the conclusion of the match process, each faculty member was asked to upgrade their web information, and this has been accomplished. This regularly-upgraded site with upgraded faculty and residency information is very important for our 2008-09 recruitment season. Students across the country begin to review our site early in the year, and we remain aggressive in our approach to giving them the most current information possible. You are always invited to visit our web site at <http://www.med.wright.edu/em/res/> and comment as to ways it may be improved.



## ANNUAL REPORT COMPLETED

The School of Medicine has changed its approach to the annual report. It is more structured than in the past. If you are interested in reviewing this document, it is posted on our web site at <http://www.med.wright.edu/em/res/>.

## ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE MATCH

As you know by now, we had wonderful success in both the military and civilian matches. Beyond our own success, I am pleased to report over the last two years a total of 30 Wright State seniors have applied to emergency medicine residency programs. Our success rate in assisting them with their match is 100%! All 30 have found residency positions in the specialty, and the competitiveness of emergency medicine remains as high as ever. We are especially proud of their success and also our own role in contributing to it.

## DEPARTMENT RETREAT

As is usual during the post-match season, the faculty first holds their retreat, usually at Ridgeleigh Terrace as was done this year, and the full department retreat follows to present and discuss plans and progress in the training program and department. Although the sun remained clear, the weather was chilly when the full department retreat was held on May 24<sup>th</sup> at a new park site in Beavercreek. Over the course of 60+ minutes, the faculty outlined in detail their analysis of resident comments and summary thoughts regarding each of the elements of the training program. The changes and plans continue to be evolutionary rather than revolutionary, but continued organizational efforts around the orientation month, conferences, evaluation approaches, especially the oral exams, and more inclusion of simulation into the resident experience, were all placed on the table for discussion. We accomplished our goal of keeping the residency vital and ensuring new ideas and opportunities are incorporated each year into the residency program. As always, we were well fed and enjoyed the camaraderie.

## INTERNSHIPS IN RESEARCH

With some of the indirect monies made available through the success of the HELP Center activity, we have agreed to support 2-3 summer internships for Wright State medical students interested in doing research between their first and second years. Currently we are pleased to welcome Chris Gentile, MS-I, who is working with the HELP Center’s virtual Calamityville project. This is our first year for inclusion in the summer internship program, and with more advance advertising next year, we anticipate having even more students involved. This is important to promote research in our field with the students and, of course, has the potential of longer-term recruitment and interest generated in emergency medicine.



## SAEM ANNUAL MEETING

I am pleased to say that Wright State faculty and residents were “all over” during the annual meeting of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine held at the Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC in late May. Drs. **TenEyck**, **Schloneger** and **Brown** attended the 3-day science of simulation meeting and came away with a number of excellent ideas and recognition that we were as “cutting edge” as anyone else, some of these sites having nearly 70 years experience and much larger staffs. The SAEM Meeting proper saw myself, **Jim Olson**, **James Brown**, **John Wightman**, as well as **Rod Morrison**, **Nathan Schlicher** and **Bill Brady** all actively involved in the committee meetings, displays, posters, and presentations.

Our compliments to Dr. Schlicher who was nominated as the board member of the Emergency Medicine Resident’s Association, and who also had a poster entitled, “Medical Malpractice: Identifying the Knowledge Gap” for the innovations in medical education exhibits. This SAEM Meeting remains a very important presence for us and 2008 was no exception to our truly being there.

We continued to support all residents in the program as SAEM members for the upcoming year.

The last two years, for a variety of reasons, including a waning attendance we have held off on the resident/faculty/alumni dinner. This is a gathering event we had previously held for more than 25 years during one evening of the ACEP Scientific Assembly. Historically, Chicago had been the site of our best attendance ever (more than 60 residents) and we’re hoping to duplicate those kind of numbers as we plan to renew this important event this fall. Please see the attached flyer to the *Update* and send in your interest level to the departmental office at your earliest convenience. We are still choosing the restaurant, and some have rather high minimum cost, but if a turnout of 40 or more individuals, we can make this well worth the money expended. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are able to join us in Chicago for a festive evening.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Larry W. Lawhorne, MD, chair of the Department of Geriatrics, informed us that **Mike Ballester** was awarded one of the AGS/Hartford grants for EM and geriatrics to partner in a training activity for EM residents. According to Lawhorne, Mike along with Gordana Gataric, who will be the geriatrician on the project, worked hard to put together a very nice grant. Congratulations Mike!

## OLSON RECEIVES AWARD FROM ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

**Dr. Olson** was awarded the Outstanding Senior faculty Member Award from the Academy of Medicine.

Below is the closing paragraph from his nomination letter:

“Dr. Olson’s continuous research, teaching, and service activities exemplify an outstanding faculty member. His contributions extend from his own laboratory to include partnerships with clinicians and other basic scientists in the Wright State Community and worldwide. These scientific interactions have developed into ongoing active collaborations with investigators in Puerto Rico, Prague, and New York City. He has developed and fostered research and education in several departments and programs at Wright State University and has published peer reviewed articles with thirteen different Wright State Faculty and twelve students. He is always ready to offer support and useful advice for faculty research efforts and participates in resident education via specific lectures, research mentorship, and Journal Club. All of these accomplishments represent stages in a continuing career as Dr. Olson currently has two grant proposals pending review, one manuscript submitted for publication, six students working on basic and clinical science projects, and is organizing Wright State graduate students and faculty for an educational outreach project. Dr. Olson has epitomized the supportive and creative relationships that can be developed by a basic scientist in a clinical medical department. I hope you will agree that Dr. Olson is well deserving of an Outstanding Faculty Award from the Academy Medicine.”



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