AUTUMN DEPARTMENTAL REPLAYS

As constant as the sunrise and fall, the autumn to winter transition brought events that were pleasant repetitions. The replays included WSU’s student interview day, the physical diagnosis class and the departmental retreat.

STUDENTS

Fourth year Wright State students anticipating entering an Emergency Medicine residency this summer took us up on our annual offer to interview with us before their scheduled roadtrips. Drs. Hamilton, Heitz, Wightman, Dagrosa, Morrison, Janz, Olson, Schloneger, Mihata & Brady sat on a side of the desk and performed 25 minute meet-and-greet sessions. Our students responded to inquiries and all the while I, and Dr. Ballester sat in a corner tangential to the exchange and observed attire, facial expression, body motion and analyzed the content of what was said. We then engaged each student in a private feedback session. We reinforced the positives and gave pointers on rectifying interviewing errors.

PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS:

When it's Friday morning and the air is crisp and the leaves fall, first year students hear an hours presentation on a particular body part then divide into multiple subgroups for preceptorship under a watchful faculty eye. It is clearly a hoot to engage in enthusiastic neophytes who pair off before you to look, listen, feel and percuss each other’s regional anatomy. This year I had the inaugural session and will share the tutorials with other EM faculty throughout winter and spring.

FACULTY RETREAT

The faculty and chiefs gathered this year for the faculty retreat in the Patterson House. The homestead was once 2,000 acres. The place was named for a Revolutionary War hero. He would be proud of the appearance of the grounds and presence of adjacent buildings of historic repute. Across the street is the Pine Club. The latter is equally as dark as the Patterson House, but serves infinitely better food. After a pseudo high fructose exposure, the faculty and chiefs exchanged ideas and information from 9-5. Thereafter we broke and recollected in CesToot. The buff bartender, who we should hire for ultrasound guided intravenous insertion classes was pleased to provide us libation before a spectacular dinner. I was randomly housed with tablemates who chose entrées from various food groups. The adjacent table was uniform in its consumption of beef. No one had any reservations about joining the Clean Plate Club.
GROUNDHOG DAY EQUIVALENTS

Ruth and I participated in two Groundhog Day movie equivalents that included Thanksgiving holiday and a golfing holiday.

With multiple members of the Buchino family we have celebrated Turkey day since our paths crossed in the early seventies. We initially cohabitated for several days in a Kentucky state park cabin/lodge with our entire clan. In the past decade we have done celebrating at their house in Louisville or they have hauled 100 miles to our home. If any of our eight adult kids are free, they and their family members join in. This year we trucked down I-71. As we neared the mile marker 14 where we had a high speed motor vehicle crash January 1st, 2008, I was somewhat anxious. The sweaty palms and white knuckle moment did not detract from a festive visit.

Annually for a decade or two Ruth and I have spent three to four days with three other couples. We rotate organizational responsibilities and hang out sharing stories, meals, viewing entertainment and knocking a golf ball about. This year we played hardily in Gatlinburg during a timeframe when the leaves were aglow. I saw one lonely deer in Tennessee, three less than I saw grazing on both sides of Southern Blvd.

ALUMNI DINNERS

Ruth and I attended a Cincinnati Children’s Hospital alumni dinner in October. I joined 180 others who grazed in the eastern ballroom of the Paul Brown Stadium. I ran into several classmates, preceptors, faculty mentors and community pediatricians that I had not seen in many years. One pediatrician greeted me with a welcomed handshake. He indicated he retained a poem I had written for his office staff in 1974. Further, he indicated he recently purchased and read my autobiographical book, “My Sum, The Doctor.” With his admission I was able to respond, “So you’re the guy who I made $1.19 from in royalties in 2008 – I had wondered who the singular person was who had purchased my book.”

Wright State’s alumni dinner was held in conjunction with the ACEP meeting in Chicago. Dr. Brown had picked the restaurant, Quartinos. The early arrivees congregated in the bar before ascending to a private room that housed almost 50 revelers. They represented many geographic locales and different generations of emergency medicine residents. We all enjoyed (as evidence by photos) each other’s company.

OTHER ROADTRIPS

I have made several trips via Megabus to either Indianapolis or Chicago to visit family. For those unfamiliar with this relatively new mode of transportation you access a reservation online. The earlier you do, the cheaper the ticket. I have made roundtrips to both locations for as little as $8.00.
STARTING THE BUS RIDE

Sutton Ashley Singer was born on October 13th. Daughter-in-law Brooke produced a gorgeous little girl, nicknamed “potatohead.”

Nathan and Jessica Schlicher welcomed David Carroll on December 12th. He weighed 8 lbs and was 20.5 inches.

Emily and Chris Maupin welcomed Allison Claire on Oct. 16th weighing 6lbs. 10 oz. and 20.5 inches long.

Terry and Maria Lonergan welcomed girl #2, Mary Elizabeth Lonergan born on Dec. 1st weighing 9lbs, 4oz.

Nabil and Christina Boutros welcomed Eli Nabil Boutros on January 14th weighing 9lbs, 9oz.

RECENT CONTACTS

Steve Griffith, sent his hellos from a medical mission in Haiti.

Rob Spence is now working in southern Idaho and is in line for a directorship probably next year. He is soon to be married.

Steve Ross lined up JB and Mark Gebhart for a future South Dakota ACEP conference.

Kelly Manning sent us pictures of two strange individuals in the snow. One was identifiable as a grizzly bear.

Chris Russi was the first in his Department at Mayo to get NIH funding (KL2 career development award). His research focus is prehospital resuscitation efforts. He is a journal reviewer for Annals and International J of EM and is working on his Masters.

Know-Nothing
- John Wightman, M.D.
  Education Director

There will be no Know Nothing article this quarter, because John Wightman is deployed to the ED in Balad, Iraq. He is there with Jeff Harris, a 2008 graduate who works at Langley AFB’s urgent care and Portsmouth Naval Medical Center’s ED when in garrison.
ULTRASOUND FOCUS
I have been very glad to hear the enthusiasm about ultrasound among the residents. Many first year residents have sought opportunities to start honing their skills in preparation for the formal second year selective. I have been impressed with the quality of work that several of the residents have produced. Even more impressive is the feedback I get from fellow attendings around town about our residents leading the way in emergency ultrasound in Dayton. The pelvic ultrasound products have been much better as well. If anyone would like extra pelvic ultrasound training, please let me know and I’ll get you set up with the Good Sam clinics. If you would like some extra general ultrasound training, let me know and we’ll set up a time to meet and practice.

MILITARY RESIDENT SELECTION:
In the beginning of December, I attended the military resident selection board in Washington DC. It was an eye-opening experience to say the least. Every residency director from each branch of the military attends this week long marathon and, from the conference, the seeds for the future of military medicine are sown (at least that’s what they tell us…). We had a fantastic board and ended up with six excellent selectees. They are: Maj Jackie Percy, Maj Kevin Juozapavicius, Capt Pablo Medina, Capt Scott Everson, Capt Brooke McCarthy and Capt James Manley. We will report their biographies in the next Update. We expect great things from these soon-to-be residents.

ON ANOTHER NOTE
The senior military residents will be accompanying me to San Antonio for the annual GSACEP conference in February. It should be a great trip. Lt Col Ed Fieg will be back from Afghanistan and lecturing about his experiences at the conference.

Faculty Development Fellow
- Corey Heitz, M.D, M.S.

Baby Stewie Gets Saved!
Early in January, Baby Stewie had a couple of rough days. He was placed under the intensive care of residents, once for two motivated R3s (Catherine Kim and Michael "Dr. Love Bump" Arocho), and then had another bout of illness again for the R2s. During each period of time, he underwent several cardiac arrests and painful procedures, including not-just-a-few IOs and one "oops...I forgot to sync", and the residents managed to avert disaster each time. Hats off to the residents! Baby Stewie looks forward to many more opportunities to scare the bejesus out of a few unsuspecting physicians-in-training.
MEETING THE AUTUMN SEASON

Geese and academic researchers seem to do most of their travel during the Fall months. First, in September was the SAEM Midwest Regional meeting in Coralville, Iowa hosted by the University of Iowa, Department of Emergency Medicine. There we presented two posters recycled from the 2007 Society for Neuroscience meeting and the 2008 SAEM Annual meeting. In addition, our department was represented by Dr. Nathan Schlicher whose Oral Presentation on a simulated malpractice situation took the award for “Best Resident Oral Presentation”. Dr. Brown contributed to a medical student forum on emergency medicine residency programs. The keynote address given by Dr. Sandy Schneider, focused on how young faculty and residents can manage their responsibilities in academics and scholarship. The organizers of Midwest Regional Meeting also conferred briefly to plan for the future meeting venues. University of Michigan will host the meeting in September 2009 and in 2010 the 20th annual Midwest SAEM Regional Meeting will return to Wright State. This should be sufficient warning for you to get your data gathered and abstract written before the meeting deadline.

In November, most of the research laboratory traveled to Washington D.C. for the Society of Neuroscience Annual Meeting. Three scientific posters were presented by Ian Wenker (Masters Student now at U Conn), Brian Tucker (WSU Masters Student), and Dr. Guangze Li. These presentations garnered significant attention from many of the over 30,000 neuroscientists attending the meeting. In addition to these scientific presentations Dr. Olson presented a poster on his activities promoting neuroscience through the Science Olympiad program for middle school and high schools. With additional meetings with the Society for Neuroscience local chapter workshop, Dr. Olson hopes to further increase the visibility of this educational program for scientific outreach amongst Society for Neuroscience members.

YES WE CAN!

With a certain audacity of hope Dr. Olson submitted an application for 5 years of research funding to the National Institutes of Health on October 5th, 2008. The application was submitted online SEVERAL HOURS BEFORE THE DEADLINE. Thus far, tracking the proposal reveals that it has been assigned to the most appropriate initial review group and its fate will be discussed at this scientific caucus on February 5th, 2009. Some last minute campaign documents on behalf of the proposal will be submitted 30 days prior to the decision. These will include manuscripts that have gone to press since the application was submitted (see below). We will be looking for the appropriately low percentile score (rather than high electoral count) and should hear the outcome of the voting several days after the caucus.
PAPER PUBLICATION PAIR

One manuscript authored by Dr. Guang-ze Li and Jim Olson, Ph.D. is now published online in the American Journal of Physiology, Cell Biology. The print version should come out during 2008. This article describes changes in neuron electrophysiology during cellular edema which facilitates volume homeostasis. In addition, the data demonstrate an important cellular signaling mechanism involved in this process and the functional response of the cell. Understanding these cellular signaling pathways provides potential avenues of drug development for cerebral edema and improved functional recovery of patients who experience significant brain injury.

In a second article co-authored by Drs. Dominic D’Agostino and Jay Dean (University of South Florida) we examined biochemical and physical changes in cells exposed to high oxygen concentrations in normobaric and hyperbaric conditions. This study is the first to quantify changes in cell membrane structure at nanometer resolution during oxygen toxicity and is relevant for patients treated with long term oxygen, those undergoing hyperbaric treatments, and for deep water divers. At the time of this writing this manuscript is undergoing minor revisions and we anticipate its acceptance by the journal by the time you read this update.

Springer’s Stuff

- Brian Springer, M.D.

NOVEMBER COURSE

Mid-November, myself and two athletic trainers from the Dayton Sports Medicine Institute’s Athletic Workshop drove down to the North Carolina Justice Academy in not-so-scenic Salemsburg. There we spent a long week in an EMT-Tactical class hosted by Tactical Medics International, the trainers as students, myself as a “student/instructor.” For those of you, who have taken CONTOMS, imagine it pumped up a few notches, with a daily emphasis on sleep deprivation, night-ops, physical exhaustion, and psychological stress. In other words, it was an awesome week! It certainly enhanced my tactical medical skills, and I look forward to much future collaboration with TMI.

DECEMBER ABSENCE

December marked a first for me: for the first time since starting residency, I missed the Department’s Holiday Party. Truth is, after 10 years I needed a break. And after 6 years, Kim needed a break, too. So we spent the weekend of the party at Murphin Ridge Inn, a quaint bed and breakfast out in Adams County (in the heart of Amish country.) Good food, beautiful country, and highly therapeutic.

BACK IN THE REAL WORLD

Back in the “real world” things continue to go well in the Kettering Medical Center Emergency Department, and KMC chief resident Ryan Mihata continues to serve as a fine ambassador of our program. Sports medicine fellow Chuck Flores continues to gain experience in the clinic and out, busy now with wrestling tournaments and Dayton Bombers hockey. I continue to work with Sinclair College athletics, and this year’s men’s basketball team is really solid.
NAME CHANGE

As we continue to establish ourselves as a powerful tool for education and economic development for the Dayton region and the State of Ohio by pioneering the unique and nationally significant niche of Medical Readiness, the executive committee has decided to align our new mission and vision by formally changing our name to National Center for Medical Readiness (NCMR). Services and training opportunities in the four defining areas of civil medical readiness (Human Population Risk Assessment, Human Access Care and Evaluation, Dynamic Medical Systems and Healthcare Recovery) remain unchanged.

SYMPOSIUMS

In late September, NCMR co-hosted the 2nd annual AFIT/WSU CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives) Symposium. Over a hundred participants from the military and civilian organizations participated in the two day event held at the NCR Country Club in Kettering, Ohio. We were honored to have Dr. Paul K. Carlton Retired Lt Gen USAF as the keynote speaker and Mr. Tal Hanan, CEO of Demoman Intl' who has devoted his carrier both in Israel and internationally to counter terrorists and guerilla.

Several NCMR staff traveled to San Antonio for the AMSUS Conference in November for the opportunity to showcase NCMR projects and continue extensive networking efforts. In mid December staff also attended the Homeland Security Executive Course (HLSMEC) in Norfolk, Virginia. This course focused on working within the National Response Framework to prepare, respond, and recover from an all-hazards incident.

MEMS

Back in 2006, ODH contracted with the NCMR to pilot the MEMS program by creating and testing ACCs and NEHCs. Building on the success of those initial efforts, on November 5, the NCMR provided ODH with three new ACCs during an event at the NCMR headquarters in Dayton. The ACCs will be deployed to sites across Ohio and are strategically placed throughout the state. The MEMS will maintain a total of seven centers capable of serving up to 1,750 people at a time.

The Dynamic Medical Systems program has established a medical RFID laboratory at our current MACIE Center Facility. This lab, directed by Peter Savard, RN, BSN is looking at a number of logistical and supply chain related issues impacting our programs. Preliminary work on projects is already underway with the Raj Soin College of Business and the College of Engineering.

CALAMITYVILLE™

The NCMR was awarded federal funding of $3M in FY09 Federal earmarks for the development and construction of the Calamityville Tactical Laboratory.

We are several steps closer to realizing our goal of being “on location” with the Calamityville™ Tactical Laboratory by the end of this calendar year. The environmental issues for the CEMEX Town Plant site is nearing an end soon and we will be able to evaluate the two remaining sites in Fairborn based upon costs, risks, benefits and available features. Design of the tactical laboratory’s Master Plan will begin early this year with the establishment of a classroom facility on site to follow shortly thereafter so as to begin offering classes in mid 2009. Curriculum development is actively progressing along a parallel timeline.

Calamityville-VL™

Rapid progress has been made on the Calamityville-Virtual Lab (C-VL™) through funding from the Boonshoft Innovation Fund. Stay tuned as we establish its web presence and populate it with web-based training opportunities that reflect this same medical approach, but in a virtual environment.
EMS
The NCMR offered its first EMT-Paramedic Refresher with a Tactical Twist course in late October. This unique course created an opportunity for both civilian and military paramedics to work together, learn from one another, and lay the groundwork for better collaboration in the event of a real emergency.

Two field exercises took place for participants to manage as a team. The first field exercise was a downed private plane at Oakes Quarry, where participants had to repel down the side of a rock wall amid rugged terrain to get to the three patients in the wreckage. Miami Valley Careflight, Englewood Fire Department, Fairborn Fire Department, and Wright Patterson Air Force Base Fire Department all took part in the exercise to create the most realistic experience possible by providing air transport, medical gator evacuation, and a rope system for repelling.

Participants then headed to the MACIE Training Center warehouse for a night operation with Warren County SWAT. Participants were incorporated into SWAT entries into the warehouse to help evacuate and care for the wounded. The exercise concluded with a mass casualty incident that required a triage system.

Throughout the week long course participants attended numerous lectures and an anatomy lab, accompanied physicians in the Trauma Program at Miami Valley Hospital, and rode along with the Trotwood and Harrison Township Fire Department.

The next EMT-Paramedic Refresher with a Tactical Twist is slated for April 2009.

BDLS/ADLS
Although the contract with the Ohio Department of Health to offer BDLS and ADLS statewide was not renewed for 2009 due to budget cuts, we continue to offer these courses here in Dayton. In mid October NCMR presented the course to 100 WSU nursing students as part of their community health course.

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

TRAINING
As we enter 2009, we are in the process of completing one of the most active periods of simulation-based educational activities since the inception of the Center for Immersive Medical Education and Research (CIMER).

In addition to the core programs for our emergency medicine residents and the fourth year medical student emergency medicine clerkship, we have conducted an increasing number of training programs. The simulation support for the ADLS course this fall led to the incorporation of a new simulation-based patient assessment and treatment station into the CAP lab in early December. Thanks to the perseverance of Dr. Schloneger and Dr. Pickett, we presented two ultrasound guided vascular access labs for attending emergency physicians from KMC, MVH and GSH. The emergency procedures simulation program for Kettering Internal Medicine’s residents was expanded with the addition of scenario-based resuscitation sessions. Our faculty completed the training program for our new Pediasim mannequin and we had an opportunity to deploy the SimBaby in support of a code pink exercise for the KMC code team. We also hosted visitors from the Southeast Ohio air ambulance system and from the Navy chemical, biological and nuclear event medical response team.
RESEARCH

On the research front, we presented a poster at the ACEP national meeting in October and submitted several abstracts to SAEM. Dr. Schlicher was recognized for the best resident oral presentation at the Midwest Regional SAEM conference in September for his malpractice simulation research. Several residents have completed simulation electives and are in the process of submitting cases for publication on the AAMC MedEdPortal. We have offered them an opportunity to learn more about simulation as an educational tool and we are grateful for their contributions to the growing library of simulation cases which will support our future programs.

NEW LAB

In the midst of all of this activity, the construction of the new lab was completed. It has offered us more opportunity than we initially anticipated. The new classroom offers a larger capacity and better aesthetics than previously available and has become a great resource for the department. At the same time, in the process of renovating the old simulation area we realized how much additional space we have. We are currently considering how to redesign the area in order to better support the needs of our customers as we move into 2009.

The Estrogen Corner

- Melissa Schloneger MD, MS

US GUIDED COURSES

Ultrasound Guidance Training for IV placement labs has been the latest thing to get started. One has been done with residents in November and we have 2 for attendings in early December. There has been a large demand by attendings for this training as they see the residents learning, but they have not had the opportunity to do it themselves until now (unless they pay money to go somewhere for the training).

We are still teaching the Internal Medicine and Emergency Medicine residents with procedures and case-based simulation on a monthly basis. The exciting pediatric simulation is slowly coming along and I need to get some diapers and clothes from home to make it a little more realistic.

Personal Notes

It is approaching one year of being part-time faculty with WSU physicians and I have learned a great deal about the world of academics while still keeping my toes in the clinical land of Good Samaritan ER. I definitely feel that the clinical hours contribute to teaching and the involvement with the residency has made me a better clinician. I am very appreciative of this opportunity.

Schloneger #3 will be baby girl #3 for us and her name will be Natalie Joy. If you ask me how the pregnancy is going, I just might say “the sooner the better to purge the parasite”. Her eldest sister is excited for her coming, but I think the current younger sister will find her throne usurped and struggle with large amount of gnashing of teeth. We’ll see…around March 13th-ish.
Pickett's Pontifications  
- J.R. Pickett, M.D.

FACULTY APPOINTMENT
The end of residency and beginning of my new career at MVH has brought many welcome changes. I appreciate the support that I continue to receive from both residents and faculty as I make the transition to being the HMFC. The trial by fire began the night after the windstorm, with widespread power outages and a special needs population suddenly in the cold (in more ways than one), I had my first shift as the North station attending. Chris Beechy was a godsend in a truly chaotic shift, and proved himself a strong addition to the residency program.

Speaking of the residency, I am officially faculty, though in true stealth fashion, nobody truly knows what my title here is. I don’t care, since I have business cards.

NEW DIAPER BAG
The biggest change in our life came on December 29, when at 2:29 pm we welcomed Julianna Caroline Pickett into the world with much fanfare. As many of you know, Becky and I have been working toward an adoption for some time. With immeasurable help from Greg Kennebeck’s wife Caroline, we were introduced to Julianna’s birth mother, a bright and compassionate young woman who lovingly decided to allow her baby to be raised by us. We spent 2 days in the hospital with her, forming a bond with another family that will last a lifetime. And now I have a swag new tactical diaper bag in foliage green ballistic nylon from Maxpedition.

TACTICAL ACTIVITIES
Those of you who participated in some of this fall’s tactical activities know that we’ve been busy. In October, the NCMR put on the EMT-Paramedic Refresher with a Tactical Twist, which included a nighttime field exercise at MACIE. The Warren County SWAT team sent a few officers to participate in the exercise, and felt it was valuable enough that they have made the next 2 refresher classes (April and October) part of their yearly training. Middletown Hospital began demolition, but not before Kettering SWAT and Warren County SWAT were able to use it for training, during which Brian Springer was shot in the head multiple times. Bill Brady, Robb Wiegand, and Scott VandeHoef remain active with their SWAT teams and Rod Morrison gets out every now and then to Xenia for some tactical training as well.

COURSES
After many months of development, Bill Brady, Brian Springer, and John Wightman taught the first "Basic Tactical Medicine for Operators" course for Kettering SWAT team in November. The one day course was very well received, and the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy sent their training director to attend. They plan on making it a regular offering at the academy with our assistance. We continue to hold combative training/grappling every Tuesday and Friday at 1 pm at Fairmont High School wrestling room with two of the Kettering SWAT officers. RSVP if you would like to attend.
CAP LAB
The 3rd Annual Cadaver, Anatomy, and Procedure Lab for EMS (CAP Lab) came and went with rave reviews from all. This event continues to be THE EMS training event of the year, and we had students this year from New Jersey, Texas, Missouri, California, Indiana, and Canada. The residents and faculty who taught for this were lauded with praise, if not piles of equipment. Stephanie Carrion, Laura Nolting, and Joey Mauro took this year’s lab by the horns and created an outstanding class. Ray Ten Eyck, Melissa Schloneger, and David Cherolis brought the simulation lab to the field, and were singled out as one of the best and most educational stations. Leslie Mangas provided invaluable support and insight through the planning process. Doug Gilmore and the Miami Township Fire Department provided their usual stellar support, and without them, the event would not happen. Speaking of which, Pete Savard and Mark Gebhart came through for the lab in a real pinch, as did Lt. Jason Kinley from Xenia Fire Division and Chief Brandon Saylor from JEMS. This offering is truly unique, and what has become evident is that nobody else is doing what we do.

VAScular ACCESS
Ray Ten Eyck, Melissa Schloneger, and Corey Heitz put together a great course on ultrasound guided vascular access for the ED physicians and PAs from Miami Valley. The outstanding reviews have more members of the staff asking for another one.

DEPLOYMENT
I also want to extend best wishes and prayers to David Cherolis, who is deploying to Afghanistan with the Air Force for 4 months starting in January. We know that he will make us all proud with his service to our country and the men and women who fight for it.

RECENT CONTACTS & NEWS
♦ Jeff Greenwood and his wife Nicole are enjoying Atlanta, and are expecting a baby boy this spring.
♦ Robert Sarlay buzzed into town from Korea for boards, and then headed out again to continue his tour.
♦ Adam Bromberg and his wife Angel love Florida and their new ridiculously huge hurricane proof house where they are raising baby Zack.

THEY HAVE NAMES!!!
We are proud to announce the names of our Sim children. Please welcome Teddy the Meti and Stewie the Sim baby to the Wright State Department of Emergency Medicine.

ANOTHER DEPLOYMENT
Besides Dr. Wightman and David Cherolis being deployed, we received a letter from Kirk Hinkley, a 2007 graduate, informing us about his 6 month deployment. In his letter he states, “I will be supporting the war efforts in southwest Asia, based in a tiny coastal country called Qatar…My job in Qatar will to be the team leader of a 3 person team that evacuates the most critically injured, or seriously ill soldiers or American civilians from the area.” We wish all the best to Wightman, Cherolis, and Hinkley as they are overseas.
The Chair’s Perspective

- Glenn Hamilton, M.D.

Re: Succession Planning for the Chair’s Position

At the close of the Fall Faculty Retreat held November 5th, I outlined plans to initiate a succession plan for the position of Chair, Department of Emergency Medicine, Boonshoft School of Medicine. This plan has been under discussion for the last few months and has met with the approval of the academic faculty and senior leadership of the Medical School.

As of July 1, 2009, James E. Brown, MD will assume the role of Acting Chair. I will take the position of Vice-Chair and Advisor to the Chair. Dr. Brown will maintain his current status as Program Director. As the Acting chair, Dr. Brown will be responsible for all but three administrative and supervisory components that constitute the Chair’s role. The three exceptions will remain my responsibility and include the Simulation Center (CIMER), the National Center for Medical readiness (NCMR, formerly the HELP Center), and the Departmental finances and budget. It is anticipated this arrangement will continue until July, 2010. At that time, the Dean and Dr. Brown will make the necessary decisions about the Chair’s position. I will work with both of them to decide my own future relative to the Department and Vice-Chair’s position. In addition, this year I’ll become the new director of the Office of Military affairs for the medical school. The planned move of the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, and more than 1000 personnel to WPAFB in Dayton is a one time opportunity for the school. We need to be well prepared for this more than $4B move over the next three years, and assuring the school’s successful role in transitioning these individuals and considerable assets will be an exciting challenge.

Serving as Chair since 1982 has offered me a wonderful academic life and an amazing range of opportunities. There has been a surprisingly stable group of academic and clinical faculty and support staff, combined with more than 300 ever-changing and multi-talented residents that has made nearly every day, one of accomplishment and satisfaction. Still, this is the right time for this transition for several reasons:

- The multiple programs within the department and the faculty assigned to direct them have reached a high level of sophistication and operational success.

- The current academic faculty is as productive, complimentary, and cohesive as any group of colleagues since the beginning of the Department and Residency.

- The financial condition of the Department is solid with current investments having a high potential for substantial future dividends – both financially and academically. Our nearly $20M of extramural funding in the last four years has ranked us second against all clinical departments in the medical school.
Dr. Brown has actively and effectively prepared himself for the Chair’s role. He most recently completed a Masters in Medical Management representing an important milestone on this journey. He is both ready and willing to take on this expanded administrative role – but due to the continuance of the Program Director’s activities, it seemed only fair to decrease the number of responsibilities in the three areas previously mentioned.

The Simulation Center and especially the NCMR have demanded more and more of my time. These are legacy-level programs in need of specific attention over the course of this most important year in their development. With Dr. Brown attending to the Department and Residency primarily, I will have the time to ensure a well-organized, business-orientated success of these two projects. Having directed the budget for nearly 30 years, I anticipate offering Dr. Brown valuable assistance in its planning and use. It’s easier to accomplish that by maintaining my long established role.

The USAF Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process is underway. With our long-term linkages with the military and knowledge of the academic and clinical healthcare resources in the community, now is the time to prepare for an exciting arrival of talented new people and their supporting infrastructure.

With its strong financials, educational heritage and impressive successes in medical readiness, simulation, research and education, this Department is positioned better for the future than at any time in its history – and that’s the best time to introduce a modicum of change.

This is the time for a transition, and this succession plan will guarantee a smooth one with an eye toward even greater success and accomplishment for the future. It is my plan to remain fully engaged at all levels for the duration of this year, and to fulfill all my obligations as an academic faculty in the Department and medical school next year.

Please accept my personal thanks to each of you for your commitment and contribution to this Residency and Department now and in the past. These planned changes will bring new ideas and enthusiasm, and build upon our many, many successes over the last three decades. It has been the most satisfying professional life I could have imagined, and my privilege to have worked with you.
C.A.P LAB
2008
ACEP 2008 IN CHICAGO

SAEM MIDWEST REGIONAL 2008