

The Old Brown Coat

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Something to Brag about...

We are pleased and most proud to announce the addition of our *third* fellowship at UIC, the Ultrasound fellowship, to our already existing International Medicine and Toxicology Fellowships. This adds an incredible amount of expertise and academic diversity to our educational program and contributes to the outstanding education our residents receive (as reflected in the now 8 year review cycle that we have been awarded by the residency review board). The quality of our educational conferences is reflected as well, with expert presentations on these topics routinely offered, as a result of housing these fellowships. Residents (and faculty) in our emergency medicine residency benefit tremendously from the presence of these three fellowships and our IM/EM combined residency, as we are fortunate to share in the knowledge and expertise being passed from our multiply boarded and degreed attendings to their fellows and residents.

This additional fellowship catapults us to the leaders of the pack in emergency medicine residencies. In our somewhat scientific survey of EM residencies nationwide, we identified only one other program with three fellowships (Univ of Mass). We could find no other program with three fellowships and an IM/EM residency. The following is an account of the successes, challenges, stories and statistics of our fellowships at UIC written by John Williams, who carefully collated their stories.

UIC Emergency Medicine: Excellence in Education

It's well known that the UIC Emergency Medicine Residency Program is one of the most respected in the country. But with the recent establishment of the ultrasound fellowship-- our

3rd active fellowship here at the U—an outstanding program has an unprecedented number of affiliated fellowships and programs.

As many of you may know from last fall's 25-year reunion celebration (when ACEP was in town), our program was established in 1979 and our first class of brown-coaters graduated in 1982. Since then our residency has grown: from just 5 residents in the first class to 13 EM residents per year and 2 residents per year in the combined EM/IM program, for a total of almost 50 residents at any one time. Brad Bunney is the current residency director, and Carissa Tyo ('06) the combined (EM/IM) five-year program director. There are only about 10 such combined programs in the country. Residents rotate through three primary hospitals—UIC, Mercy, and Advocate Illinois Masonic-- and also at a variety of urban and community hospitals which currently include MacNeal, Children's Memorial, UofC, Children's, Christ, and Mt Sinai.

The diversity of settings and attendings, from seasoned chairmen to fellows fresh from residency, provide a great breadth of experience. The quality of the program and commitment of our faculty is attested to by our last accreditation in 2006 for an unprecedented 8 years. The current fellowships in toxicology, international EM and ultrasound exemplify the high level of expertise and academic diversity concentrated in our program. Previous fellowships have been offered in administration, EMS, and education.

The toxicology fellowship, our first program, began in 1989 under the wise direction of Dan Hryhorczuk, a partnership between Cook County Hospital and UIC. It is part of a consortium called Toxikon (after the Greek word for poisoned arrow) and now includes the Illinois Poison Control Center and the Metropolitan Chicago Health Council. It was the first

accredited program in the U.S. and is a two-year fellowship. The first fellow was our very own Tim Erickson ('89), who also ran the program from 1992 to 1997 (in addition to being our residency director for a decade). In those early days Tim's desk was a door propped up on folding chairs in an ancient CCH building, since demolished.

The program has flourished (they now have real desks and an office!) and they still work closely with the Illinois Poison Control Center, the first established PCC in the country. The program has graduated over twenty-five fellows and teaches a hundred residents and students each year. All of the current board-certified toxicologists in the state (and almost all of the Chicago-area hospitals that have one) were trained in the Toxikon program. It has grown to become one of the premiere fellowships nationally. The reputation extends internationally as well for cultivating excellent clinicians with a passion for medical details and chemical structures—people who, as Tim admits, think of themselves as “cool nerds”. After all, as they like to say, “all the world is tox.”

Graduates of the program work all over the country, from Seattle and San Francisco to Boston and the eastern seaboard. Former brown-coaters who have become Tox Fellows include Todd Vanden Hoek ('90), Kim Sing ('92), Bonnie MacManus ('93), Ken Bizovi ('93) (a director in Oregon), Niko Keys ('94), Mike Wahl ('94), Mark Crockett ('96), Elif Oker ('97) and Kirk Cumpston ('01). Tim Meehan ('08) is our newest fellow. Mike Wahl, once fearful of public speaking (he once told Tim he'd rather light himself on fire than stand up before a group) is current director of the Chicago PCC



Tim Erickson & Steve Aks: Toxicology leaders

and has frequent speaking engagements all over the country.

Certain traditions have evolved within

Toxikon. Years ago, Tim and Steve Aks (the current program director) were the first toxicologists to report a “lava lamp” ingestion, and ever since each graduating fellow is awarded a Lava Lamp. Moreover, each graduate is given a nickname which is the element from the periodic table that corresponds to the number of their graduation. Oh, those wacky toxicologists! (They always were “different”.)

The International Emergency Medicine and Health Fellowship is also a two-year program begun in 1995 by Mike Van Rooyen ('91). The aim is to provide training for expertise and leadership in global humanitarian and emergency care in the international community. Fellows do five months of field work in areas such as disaster relief, EM development, large population (refugee) health care, tropical medicine, public health promotion and education. They also are expected to complete teaching and research work in the field and at UIC. In this process, fellows complete coursework for their Masters in Public Health, and work attending shifts in the ED.

At its inception it was one of the first in the nation. Our first fellow was David Townes ('96) (who also ran the program for one year) followed by Tom Lee, Cecelia Cruz ('00), Amy Szysko ('01), Jamie Eliades ('99) (whose experience brought him into contact with former presidents!), and then Janet Lin ('02), who became the director when she graduated in 2004. Rob Furno was a fellow subsequently, followed by Naina Bhalla and Renee King, and currently Stacey Chamberlain. Anjali (Tripathi) Pant ('04) and Rachel Moresky ('01) also pursued international medicine fellowships and are both active in the field.



Janet Lin on assignment abroad

The strong tradition of international emergency medicine in our program is demonstrated by the

number of residents who complete an international elective month. There is a long list of residents on our website with reflections on their experiences in such places as Rwanda, Guatemala, Eritrea, India, Belize, Zambia, Borneo, and Pakistan. Finally, there are plans to start a consortium of international emergency medicine physicians in the Chicago area in the fall.

Lisa Spear's ('08) arrival as the first Ultrasound Fellow matched opportunity to coincidence after her graduation from our residency in 2008, when the new program was looking for its first fellow. She happily stepped into the hectic schedule of study, teaching, research, and attending shifts in the ED (at Masonic and Rochelle Community Hospital).

Her favorite part of the day is doing ultrasounds with the residents and showing that ultrasound in the ED is a practical and easy skill. She frequently finds gallstones and the occasional pericardial effusion, and recently gave the good news to a newly-pregnant patient that she was the mother of twins. At the end of her fellowship Lisa will take the certification exam for Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer.

Joe Colla is the director who teaches and directs, with Leon Gussow, an energetic program of thrice-weekly ultrasound teaching, monthly



Joe Colla: Ultrasound Wiz Kid

rotations, and grand rounds at our three main hospitals. With their efforts, the residents are proficient at multiple procedures and use the ultrasound routinely to find gallstones, IUPs, AAAs, do FAST exams, and

obtain peripheral IVs. Likewise, the ultrasound skills of the attendings have greatly improved.

Additionally, Joe has several research projects currently including pediatric dehydration and foot fractures, and he has started a new group: the Chicago Emergency Ultrasound Society. The program may join with a larger hospital in the near future-- talks currently underway-- which would expand the number of patient cases.

As a result of these three fellowships and our IM/EM residency, our emergency medicine residents are exposed to a robust educational experience. We all benefit from having these programs housed here. That's something to brag about....

Alum News....

-Rachel Waldron ('98) lives and works in New



Rachel Waldron and family

York (New York Hospital Queens) and is medical director for the ambulance service, running about 10 ambulances in the 911 system and transfers. Her family recently expanded to 4 children with the birth of baby boy

in November – William Robert Apt.

- George Hossfeld ('83) published an editorial in the national newsletter *Emergency Medicine News*, entitled "Speak the Unspeakable: I was Sued for Malpractice." He writes of his personal account of the professional and personal effects of our warped medical litigation system and the "lottery mentality" that accompanies it. Though his case had a positive outcome, the lifelong emotional effects of the trial are not. George is lobbying hard for litigation support groups within our specialty, as well as a system overhaul of the current flawed court system. Anyone with an interest in joining that effort, or who is in the process of a malpractice action and would like to talk with someone who has been through a trial, please contact George at EmrgncyMD@att.net. George is past president of ICEP and has been involved in the legal side of emergency medicine for more than 25 years.

-Mary Ann Cooper, recently retired (we are so envious!!)UIC faculty, was awarded the Wilderness Medical Society's Research Award for 2008, coinciding with the 25th anniversary WMS meeting. Though she was not informed of her prestigious award until AFTER the meeting (due to clerical issues at both WMS and UIC), she was recognized and commended for her "accomplishments and professional commitment to research."

-February 09 was a particularly productive month for our alums.



Jonathan Babbitt ('07) and wife Mirrian brought baby Jonathan Gabriel into the world on Feb 8. Mark Monahan ('03) welcomed Baby boy Cormac Francis

The Babbitt boys

Monahan on Feb 25 . Ray Hart ('87) and wife Bridget added a 4th child, Mary Inez, to their brood, consisting of Brian (5), Evie (3) and Elise (18 months, then). He is currently doing occupation medicine work at *Mary Inez Hart+ Mom* the Ford Truck Plant in Louisville, Ky. ("low key, close to home and day work..").



Anna Parker Wheeler

- Lisa Maier ('08) beat out the February crowd of deliveries, with the production of baby Anna Parker Wheeler on January 16, at 41 ½ weeks gestation after 3 months of preterm contraction bedrest angst.



-Ralph Losey ('86), UIC faculty member, EM director of Galena Hospital and Rochelle Community Hospital and Chief Medical Officer at Galena Hospital, contributed this photo, "*Stone at the UV Junction*". The sage

perspective of our esteemed faculty cannot be underestimated. Personally, I think he's spending waaay too much time on the road....

Dear John,



It's May and our doctors are escaping from the university...not just senior residents, but a seasoned veteran too! Mary Ann Cooper is retiring after a lifetime spent in emergency medicine, most of it here at the U.

Dr. Cooper trained at the first EM program in the US (Cincinnati) and was excited to be working in a new area of medicine with relatively few practitioners, and so had many opportunities. After a short time in Omaha and several years in Louisville (serving as residency director), she became the ED director at a large hospital in Connecticut. Eventually her friend and colleague Hal Jayne convinced her to come to Chicago where many opportunities beckoned.

Dr. Cooper has been an educational and academic leader. She was the first woman elected president of a national EM society and served on the boards of the predecessors to SAEM, writing by-laws and standards for residency training and playing key roles in their survival. Her work has impacted the development of EM into a major specialty.

As an examiner for the review committee (prior to coming to Chicago) Dr. Cooper did the original accreditation site visit for the predecessor to our present program-- then it was a young residency run jointly by Lutheran and IMMC. Mercy Hospital also merged into the mix about this time.

When Dr. Cooper was hired as research director for the new program, Tim Erickson and Ed Sloan were residents. The program developed through great turmoil and crises. When Hal Jayne died unexpectedly, Gary Strange took over as residency director. At that time the UIH ED consisted of one hall that was surgical and one that was medical with rooms, as Dr, Cooper says, "too small to do any resuscitation in, although

that didn't prevent patients from arresting in them." And housestaff seldom saw an attending!

Mary Ann was part of a group that took over the operation of emergency services here to provide clinical services, teaching programs, research, and more, and they centered the residency at the U. In the process they set a record for academic salaries in Chicago and gained status and academic equality with the medical school. Mary Ann remembers her first shift in this new arrangement on November 1st 1990 seemed like a great accomplishment, but it was just the beginning for the new residency.

How did Dr. Cooper become a lightning expert? She always loved thunderstorms. A relative had suffered a high-voltage injury and she found very little information on electrical injuries. What she found she presented in grand rounds as a resident. She collected a number of cases and collated them (a friend with access to a computer ran the punch cards!). Her lecture was successful and the paper, published in *Annals* in 1980, was the first organized paper on lightning injuries. She has subsequently given the lecture many times and has written many textbook chapters. She is the first physician elected as Fellow of the American Meteorological Society.

Mary Ann Cooper is grateful for her mentors and the opportunities to lead, teach, and develop the specialty as it was being forged. She's happy that EPs "no longer fight the surgeons and internists to share the space... we don't argue with the surgeons for the right to put in a chest tube, defy the anesthesiologists to intubate a patient, disobey the cardiologists to defibrillate, or plead with the neurosurgeons to obtain a CT scan."

Dr. Cooper's retirement party in the College of Medicine Alumni Hall on April 7 was well attended by colleagues, friends, and family. Her life's work is intertwined with the development of our program and emergency medicine in this country as well. We wish her good health, good luck and godspeed in her new endeavors.

John Williams 95 (medwright@gmail.com)

Dr. Gary Strange announces his retirement:

After nineteen years as chief of emergency medicine at UIC and a total of 27 years (!!) of service with our emergency medicine residency, Dr. Strange announced he will leave us for a better life of retirement in September 2009. His retirement celebration reception is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept 1st at 1PM in the UIC Faculty Alumni Lounge on the first floor of the College of Medicine on Polk Street. All cherished alumni are invited to attend.

To enhance our presentation of his life and career at Mercy Hospital and UIC, we would much appreciate any comments, letters, pictures and recollections that you would kindly share with us. As Dr. Strange has been with us since almost the inception of this program, he has participated in the education of hundreds of University of Illinois Emergency Medicine physician graduates. He has been a tireless teacher, fearless leader and kind and compassionate advisor to us all. We hope to send him off with the kudos and compliments that he has earned over his many valuable years of service in our program. (More on his life and legacy to follow...) Please send your letters, comments, pictures and memories to Liz Orsay at EOrsay@pol.net.

Thank You!



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