

The Old Brown Coat

Issue 23

University of Illinois Emergency Medicine Residency Alumni News

May 2008

Reaching Out: Experiencing rural emergency medicine

In our unending quest for expansion, innovation, and – of course – income, the UIC ED department has contracted with rural hospitals in Rochelle and Galena, Illinois to provide ED staffing. The brainchild of Brian Macaulay ('94), stemming from his entrepreneurial education in pursuit of his MBA at UIC, the concept of allying our institution with these 25 bed or smaller critical access hospitals was born. Beginning in February, 2006 in Galena, dedicated ED faculty and alums made the trek to the hilly countryside near the Mississippi River to work 48 to 72 hours shifts. With an average daily census of 12 patients, a luxurious call suite and a supportive medical and nursing staff, these shifts are a sweet deal. Led for the first year by Liz Orsay, with support from Brian Macaulay, Heather Prendergast, Gannon Dudlar ('02), Tom Eiseman ('02) Scott Yilk ('04) and Ralph Losey ('86), these intrepid physicians transformed the emergency department there into a modern, functioning, up to date operation. With an ER straight from the set of "the 70's Show" and equipment to match, the UIC team introduced such practices as moderate sedation, rapid sequence intubation and other modern medical concepts not previously practiced there. Scott Yilk performed a lumbar puncture there in week one – a challenge initially in that locating an LP kit proved problematic. Tucked away in

the bowels of the stock room a dusty kit was retrieved, CSF obtained without difficulty, only to find that the CSF specimen had to be sent for analysis to their reference lab- in Iowa. The first 18 months there was without a ventilator – strong incentive to arrange for rapid transfer. Frontier medicine at its best...

How things have changed! Now directed by Ralph Losey and a growing team of ED physicians, the census is growing in the brand new, just opened (in December 2007) hospital. This is not just any hospital. This facility could rival any 5 star hotel, with spacious wood paneled rooms, a well equipped fitness center with a glass wall that overlooks the bluffs of the Mississippi River and a bright, big 7 bed ED that includes an enclosed ambulance bay, a CT scanner and MRI located steps away from the back door. (Check out their new digs at www.midwestmedicalcenter.org) The ED call suite has a bathroom bigger than most call rooms, not to mention a computer (complete with cool games, thanks to Scott and Gannon), TV, cable, DVD player, queen bed with a luxury thick mattress, fridge and microwave. Gannon provided the roll out putting green should boredom ensue. Life is good there

Rochelle Community Hospital, located approx 90 minutes drive west of downtown Chicago (where I-39 and I-88 cross) was added to the fold in September, 2007, also headed by Ralph Losey. With a somewhat higher patient volume of approximately 20 patients/day, 24 hours shifts are the norm there. With a newly renovated ER there, we stepped into an already state of the art facility, staffed by a most



dedicated and talented nursing staff. Described as a “little gem of an ER” this setting – caring for the farmers, truckers and salt of the earth rural residents - in a low volume ED armed with pleasant, earnest and bright nursing staff is a



Galena Emergency Department

welcomed respite from the grind of the inner city, tertiary care ED. No battling with sleep deprived residents blocking admissions here. The medically complex, noncompliant typical UIC patient doesn't come here. Each shift ends with a feeling of satisfaction, working in an underserved rural hospital caring for grateful people – a warm and fuzzy feeling all over.

That is not to say that these ER's are for the timid. It can be a challenge working in these rural ER's, where there are no consultants, the closest specialty or critical care may be 30 or more minutes away and your closest level I trauma center is an hour away by helicopter. But challenges are the stuff that ED docs are made of. We wouldn't be in emergency medicine if we wanted to work 9 to 5 in a controlled setting. This is anything but – providing a nice contrast to our home ED experience.

We may be expanding our rural hospital roster further as other hospitals express interest, pending adequate staffing. Interested? If so, email Ralph at Rlosey@uic.edu.

Superbowl Victory supported by UIC alum

- Kameno Bell's ('05) team wins again! As if it wasn't enough that the Indianapolis Colts seized the superbowl in 2007 when Kameno was completing his sports medicine fellowship there. Now his current team and employer, the New York Giants, claimed the title in a most exciting game in February. The man is a lucky charm – and a talented one for sure.

We asked Kameno for his “inside story” as team physician for the national champs. Here's what he wrote:

“My role is evolving, initially and during the offseasons there is a lot of primary care involved. The cases that residents complain come to the ER, now that becomes important. This includes players' family members needing antibiotics for a cold or front office members needing a referral to a good physician. A good bit of internal medicine is needed for the older coaches and front office. I have found myself checking LFTs this year because a lot of the coaches are on Crestor. The IM/EM guys would love it. The one attribute I lend to this team is as a former NFL player, although brief, I can relate to the social and mental stresses that they experience throughout their career and they are surprised when they hear me joke with them on their level. A former Bears player, RW McQuarters initially was very formal with me when I did his preseason camp physical. Another older player told him I was a former player and apparently he ran through the locker room to give me a hug. His quote ‘I am damn proud to see you here with us.’

The sports medicine I practice is limited. I have 3 experienced orthopods from Hospital of Special Surgery that cover the Giants. So any diagnosis I make for musculoskeletal disorder is a preliminary one.....The academic sports medicine I learned in fellowship is nice but it is not the world of professional sports. I am still adjusting to that..”

Needless to say, we are so proud of Kameno we can hardly stop bragging. We wish him all the best with his new career and his new wife on the east coast.

As the World Turns....

-Melissa (Brannon) Gillespie ('92) participated in the Ironman Florida 2007 last November – an endurance race consisting of a 2.4 mile ocean swim, 112 mile biking and 26.2 mile run, for 140.6 miles in all (!), her 5th Ironman competition. This incredible physical feat was undertaken to raise funds for the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative for a project spearheaded by Dr. Julie VanRooyen (OB/GYNE at Harvard and Mike's ('91) wife) and Dr. Valerie Dobiesz ('91). Called the Panzi Hospital Project, funds

bring aid to a hospital in war torn Congo to care for women and child victims of violence, rape and torture. With this support, surgical services can be expanded, as often the survivors require extensive pelvic reconstructive surgery and fistula repair. Congolese physicians will also receive additional training, developing sustainable longitudinal care and promoting legal support programs. Melissa raised almost \$26,000 for this valuable project, describing this as her “most meaningful” ironman ever. We are *most* impressed with the talents, stamina, physical fortitude and benevolence of Melissa, Julie and Valerie. That’s some sweat equity!

-In another tale of stamina and fortitude, Cary McDonald (’90) headed north from his home in North Carolina with his triplets in tow – Alex, Anne & Connor, ages 9 to visit the Max Koenigsberg (’84) triplets – Jake, Talia & Sam, ages 12 for fun and pizza. “It was zone defense (3 on 6) as usual.” Cary still practices at WakeMed in Raleigh, NC in a group that has grown from 14 →65 docs over 17 years, serving 180k pts in 3 venues. Cary(’90), fellow alum David Dubow (’91) and Lisa (Horn) Thompson (Christ grad and former IMMC attending) are now the top 3 senior members of their group. They share the training grounds with the UNC EM residency.



Triple threat x 2

-Tracy Sanson(’90) was a featured speaker at this spring’s Illinois College of EP symposium, speaking on the impact of medical malpractice claims on physicians’ professional and personal lives. She is currently the Education Director for the University of South Florida EM Program and Director of TeamHealth’s Professional Liaison Division.

-Nitin Soorya(’01) and wife, Ranjana welcomed their third child, a son named Rohan,



into the world last July, pictured below with their older daughters, Isha (4) and Riya (2).

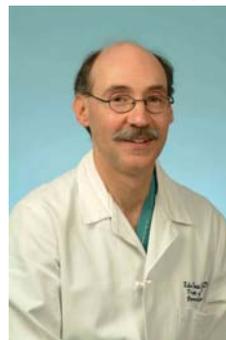
Soorya children 2007

- Rod Altman(’96) wrote from the west coast where he works as a venture capitalist in San Francisco investing in companies developing medical devices, biotechnology and diagnostics. He continues to do some clinical medicine, mostly at Stanford, occasionally at Kaiser Redwood City and rarely at MacNeal in Berwyn, IL.

-Jen (Meyer) Springhart(’01) is now a faculty member at LSU in Shreveport, Louisiana. This is a new program, in its fourth year with a great group of residents. She and husband Patrick have a 21 month old daughter named Hope that keep them busy.



-Here’s a major blast from the past. Ever wonder what happened to Robin Eisner? (’85, then attending at Mercy, left to complete an Ob/Gyne residency in California) We found him! He completed his Ob residency in ’90, *then* did a fellowship in gyne onc, and is now Chief of gyne onc at UCLA Santa Monica.



Yes, nine years of post graduate education! (He did always seem to be filled with energy....)

-Jamie Eliades (’99) wrote from Atlanta, where Todd Templeton (IM/EM ’07) now works and resides. After getting sign out one night they finally realized they are both UIC alums. Small world...

-Another blast from the past! Lou Perretta (’86). Some 22 years later, he writes from Oregon “I just did my second recertification and look forward to another 5 years before clinical retirement. Over the years, I have been engaged in EMS work, directing an EMT program at my local college, some business ventures, teaching,

international medical work and, of course, clinical work. Brenda (also '86) and I moved out here in 1987 and with the passing of Brenda 4 years ago (after an 8 year battle with breast cancer), I decided to move from a private group to Kaiser Permanente...Personally, our children are engaged in school with the oldest now attending Portland State University and is a junior majoring in psychology. Nate (pictured below with his dad) is currently in high school...I met a wonderful woman and we were married in April, 07. Her name is Karen and she is a businesswoman by profession. I am beginning to explore the International work more and have settled in with a group that has missions to Bolivia and Kenya."



Lou and Nate Perretta on the Altiplano in Bolivia, 2007

-Melissa Tom and Mike Jugo (both '03) are in California with their daughter, Sonja, age 3 (though contemplating a move to Portland.) Michael returned from a tour in Iraq last Thanksgiving – happy and relieved to have him home.

-Mike Zimmerman ('07) called to UIC during a late night shift in January, on his way home from a shift in Long Island, NY where he's halfway through his ultrasound fellowship. He just had one of the "great saves" of his career so far.."and I owe it to my training at U of I"..A middle-aged man with C/P and EKG with ST depressions, Mike suspected more than CAD, and over the objections of the admitting cardiologist, held the heparin, got the chest CT which, indeed, showed a significant aortic dissection. Mike was ever "so glad" he listened to his intuition: and drove home in a semi-euphoric state.. or was it just thankfulness? (We at UIC love these late night calls....)

-The UIC residency director's club, composed of Felix Ankel ('92), Marc Dorfman('96) and Ed Callahan('91) got together for their annual gathering at ACEP in Seattle in October. Felix is in his 11th year of directing the residency at the University of Minnesota, Ed runs the Medical College of Wisconsin program and Marc directs the Resurrection program here in Chicago.



Three Wise Men wander into a bar

-Mike Coogan('95) wrote from Janesville, Wisconsin where he has lived and worked for the past 12 years, where he outlasted Ed Callahan, the man responsible for bringing him there. He has gotten some of Ed's residents to moonlight there, though is still looking for recruits. He works part time there and with alums Steve Diebold('93) and Warren Tripp('89) in Stoughton, WI.

-Tim Erickson ('89) will receive the prestigious UIC faculty of the year award for 2008. This award is given in recognition of his long term dedication to the College, the exceptional breadth of his teaching and service achievements as well as his important contributions as an academic scientist. The award will be presented at the Commencement on Friday, May 9, 2008.

-Ethan Sterk (IM/EM resident, 08) and wife Anna are proud parents of a son, born in November.



Proud papa, Ethan and son

-IM/EM grads Nancy Badrov('00) and Tom Eiseman ('02) have produced the first purebred IM/EM baby

in our program's history: Elin Marie, born in February. Nancy is EM director at St. Anthony's Hospital and Tom recently accepted a position at Central DuPage Hospital in the western suburbs, though he continues to do a shift or 2 at UIC and in Galena. Alums Carissa Tyo('06) and Chad Kessler ('05) take over the IM/EM program directorship as co-directors.



Another proud papa, Tom with Elin



Parents Nancy and Tom, with Elin

Dear John,

It's that time of year again, when the winter blahs give 'way to enthusiasm for sun and warmer, longer days—and this year we've earned it! As the seniors determine where they'll be working in a few months and commit to new positions, we hear comments such as "It was nice working with you," or, "This is my last shift," and suddenly we realize this young physician who was timidly presenting his or her first patient—it seems only a few months ago—will soon be moving on to take control of his or her own ED. The timid (or brash) young intern of yesterday has quickly become the confident (or brash) young emergency physician about whom we will soon be reading, or to whom we will be signing out our patients.



It is a threshold in their lives, and the cause for a moment of reflection in many of the teaching staff. The freshly minted EP's are eager to assume their new roles and barely pause after their last rotations before embarking on new challenges. We wish them all the best as they embark on the next chapter in their lives.

In all sincerity, I may speak for our faculty when I say I am proud of and humbled by the achievement of our graduates. Their professional contributions locally and globally are truly inspiring. It is awesome to contemplate the breadth and commitment of the hundreds of men and women who have come from wildly diverse backgrounds to train in our program, and who have ventured to far-flung regions of the country and the world to work and become leaders in their communities.

Speaking of which: "We've had another successful match!" says our residency director Brad Bunney. Word on our incoming class is that it is quite a diverse crowd, with new interns coming from not just the midwest but across the country.

Rumor has it that ACEP will be in Chicago this year. This calls for a party! To celebrate, our program is hosting a reception for all graduates, residents, friends and faculty this fall during the conference. It will be held in the famous and fabulous penthouse suite atop Mercy Hospital on Tuesday, October 28th 2008. We have great expectations to see everyone from past classes there! Word is out! With our program dating back to 1978 (at Lutheran General Hospital) and the combination of the 3 community hospitals (Masonic, Mercy and Lutheran) in 1982 (to form the UIC program), we are celebrating 30 years of history, 25 years since the graduation of our first combined program class and some 350 grads! There are several special activities and much-anticipated entertainment, including our own home-grown Code Brown Band featuring Carl Ferraro, Tim Erickson, Wes Eilbert, and other special guest stars—you will not want to miss this! Invites will be sent late summer/early fall. Contact George Hossfeld (EmrgncyMD@comcast.net) for more info.

John Williams '95



University of Illinois at Chicago
Dept. of Emergency Medicine
(M/C 724)
Room 471-H College of Medicine East
808 South Wood Street
Chicago, IL 60612-7354