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CAL/AAEM Supports Western Regional Emergency Medicine Symposium

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On October 23, 2010, the 2nd annual Western Regional Emergency Medicine Student Symposium took place in Irvine, California, co-hosted by University of California Irvine's Emergency Medicine Interest Group (UCI-EMIG) and University of Southern California's Emergency Medicine Student Interest Group (USC-EMSIG). The symposium caters to medical students interested in emergency medicine (EM) and provides students both didactic and hands-on sessions led by faculty from across California.

The event began with an energetic talk by Dr. Michael Menchine from USC regarding the prevalence of medical mistakes and ways EM physicians could decrease their incidence. UCI's Dr. Carl Schultz then closed the morning session by discussing if standard of care during disasters should be modified to more appropriately address the unique medical challenges confronted by EM physicians.

Participants were able to choose four workshops among nine offered. Dr. Gerald Maguire of UCI Psychiatry lent his expertise in the management of psychiatric patients in the Emergency Department. Dr. Tim Horeczko from UCLA-Harbor instructed students in the ABCs of airway management and emergent pediatric intubation using mannequins. Dr. Madhu Hardasmalani of USC led a Pediatric Arrests workshop featuring case-based simulations. In Crash Deliveries, led by Dr. Jenny Jaque and Dr. Jorge Fernandez of USC, students studied the techniques used during emergency deliveries by practicing on simulation models. Others visualized the heart and assessed cardiac function in Dr. Chris Fox's EM Ultrasound workshop. Dr. Chris Sloane of University of California San Diego showed students how to produce potable water using wilderness medicine methods. In Medical Legal Lawsuits, Dr. Michael Bresler of Stanford/Kaiser challenged students to consider the ethical and legal implications of their medical decision-making. The symposium also sponsored a residency fair with representatives from 10 California programs. These same representatives led a Q&A session for first and second-year medical students. Finally, EM

research presentations were judged by Drs. Mark Langdorf and Carl Schultz of UCI and Dr. Michael Menchine of USC. Bill Mulkerin, medical student (MS) year three, received the award for Best Presentation and Nam Phuong Tran, MS2, received the award for Best Research.

Dr. Bassil Aish presented the keynote lecture, "Sports-related Concussion: ED Evaluation and Beyond." He began with a discussion of sports-related head injuries and the cumulative effect of concussion over an athlete's lifetime, followed by methods to assess and treat concussions. Stanford/Kaiser EM physician Dr. Michael Bresler followed this lecture with an inspiring speech about the role physicians play in healthcare reform, including the development and enactment of EMTALA legislation. To close the day, Dr. Kenny Banh and Dr. James Comes from University of California San Francisco-Fresno gave an entertaining talk on "How to Honor Your EM Rotation," filled with lighthearted role play of stereotypical student and faculty interactions.

The symposium was the result of intense planning over two years by chairs of symposium Erica Frumin, MS3, and Mason Shieh, MS4, and EMIG co-presidents Kathleen Laning, MS2 and Lacey King, MS3. From choosing a venue, catering, managing a budget and recruiting faculty to the day-to-day coordination, they poured countless hours into the event. The symposium would not have been possible without the fundraising efforts of Joann Chang, vice president (VP) of finance. Richard Kwong, VP of outreach, recruited students from throughout the country with his relentless promotion. We are also grateful to Matthew Whealon, VP of operations, for his flawless management of the technical aspects of the symposium, including our website, registration and the audio-visual needs of the event. Shadi Lahham, VP of education, oversaw the coordination of faculty and student volunteers for the symposium and its workshops. EMIG benefited greatly from the wonderful advice and experience provided by Nick Sawyer and Shannon Toohey, EMIG Senior Advisors. Special and overwhelming thanks go to medical student

volunteers Kiah Bertoglio, Chris Yeh, Nguyen Nguyen and Ekatarina Tzvetkova, whose help was invaluable both before and during the symposium.

We are especially grateful for the continuous support of the California Chapter of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine (CAL/AAEM) and UC Irvine Department of Emergency Medicine especially our dedicated Faculty Advisor Dr. Shahram Lotfipour. We are also grateful to Ms. Amal Khalil and the entire ED staff for their continued support.

The event would not have been possible without the generosity of event sponsors: California Chapter of AAEM,

UC Irvine Department of Emergency Medicine, UC Irvine School of Medicine, USC Department of Emergency Medicine, American Academy of Emergency Medicine, Emergency Medicine Residents Association (EMRA), American Academy of Emergency Medicine Resident and Student Association (AAEM RSA), Ethicon Inc., Kaplan Medical, and Orange County Medical Association (OCMA). Finally we would like to thank yet again all the medical students, guest volunteers, speakers and physicians who donated their time, efforts, and energy to come and speak, lead our workshops, and make our symposium a resounding success.



Figure 1. Medical students participating in a workshop on pediatric airway management.