

First Canadian EM Residents Workshop: Overview

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The First Canadian EM Residents Workshop took place in conjunction with the June 2000 Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians (CAEP) annual scientific meeting in St. John, NB. This was the first time the CAEP Residents' Section (CAEP-RS) formally brought together emergency medicine (EM) residents from pediatric, family and FRCP programs across the country. We think it was a phenomenal success, and we were proud to see residents from Newfoundland to BC.

The meeting involved a dinner and social events with a guest speaker, followed by a half-day workshop on EM resident issues. Dr. Isser Dubinsky, Chief of Emergency Medicine at the University Health Network in Toronto, was chosen as the first speaker at

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this annual event. His poignant address appears in this section.¹ The next day, Dr. Dubinsky and the organizing team (Jennifer Riley, Jason Frank, Christopher Denny,² Shawn Mawhinney³) facilitated small group sessions on learning in the ED, resident research, getting a job, and CAEP. We will publish a brief synopsis of each of the sessions, some in this issue, some in the January 2001 issue.

I thank those who helped make the event a reality. The advisory committee included Suneel Upadhye (McMaster), Sunil Sookram (Edmonton), Vincent Poirier (McGill), Adam Lund (Edmonton) and Monica Cermignani (McGill). Most of all, thanks to the residents who travelled from across the country and contributed to this first national event.

CAEP 2001 looms on the horizon, and planning is underway for the Second Canadian EM Residents Workshop, tentatively booked for Mar. 19th

and 20th in Calgary, Alta., to precede CAEP's Annual Scientific Meeting (Mar. 21–24). There are still opportunities to be involved in the organization. Interested people should contact the CAEP Head Office.

CAEP-RS executive elections will be held at the March 2001 meeting. With so much happening in the Residents' Section, now is the time to get involved.

References

1. Dubinsky I. "The Future of Emergency Medicine." Inaugural address to the First Canadian EM Residents Workshop. *CJEM* 2000;2(4):262-4.
2. Denny CJ. First Canadian EM Residents Workshop. Forum on Research and Scholarly Activity. *CJEM* 2000;2(4):265-6.
3. Mawhinney S. First Canadian EM Residents Workshop. CAEP Residents' Section: Where Do We Go From Here? *CJEM* 2000;2(4):266.

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Forum on Research and Scholarly Activity

Christopher J. Denny, MD

"Discovery consists of looking at the same thing as everyone else and thinking something different."

– Albert Szent-Gyorgi

Emergency medicine training programs often require residents to participate in research activity. One goal of the Resident Forum was to discuss ways of improving this element of our training. We asked ourselves the following questions.

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What are the objectives for a graduating resident?

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada's Standard for the Academic and Scholarly Aspects of the Residency Program¹ states: "There must be a faculty member with the responsibility to facilitate the involvement of residents in research and other scholarly work. The academic program must provide the opportunity for residents to learn biostatistics and the critical appraisal of research methodology and medical literature. Such teaching must include issues related to age, gender,

culture and ethnicity in research protocols and data presentation and discussion. Residents should be encouraged to participate in clinical research during the course of the residency program."

However, all of the Canadian programs differ in their interpretation of these standards.

Should research be a mandatory activity?

Resident Forum participants felt that mandatory scholarly activity was a useful educational endeavour. The group agreed with the Society of Aca-