

THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE

2024 Annual Report



THIS IS OUR SHIP!

OUR YEAR OF TRANSFORMATION



"It's Our Ship" Slogan



ED Safety &
Operations Huddle
September 16th

Director: Albany Med Physician Leads Double H Medical Team



Every Patient Matters



Kindness,
Compassion &
Patient Centered
Care



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Denis R. Pauzé, MD Chair Department of Emergency Medicine Professor of Emergency Medicine & Pediatrics

Greetings!

Welcome to our 2024 Departmental Annual Summary!
We will use one word to describe 2024 ... "Transformative"!

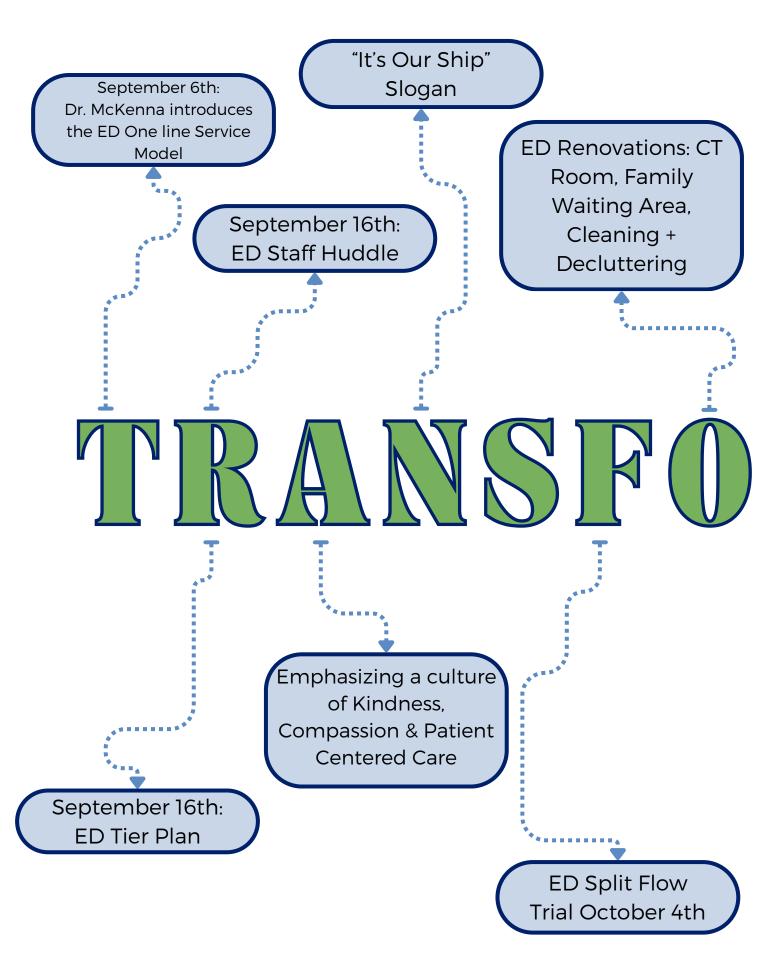
It was, arguably, the Department of Emergency Medicine's most transformative year. We introduced EPIC, our new state-of-the-art electronic medical record. Our Logistics Center solidified itself as Albany Med's "Air Traffic Control", specializing in hospital wide patient flow. And...our team initiated patient care centered changes within our emergency department.

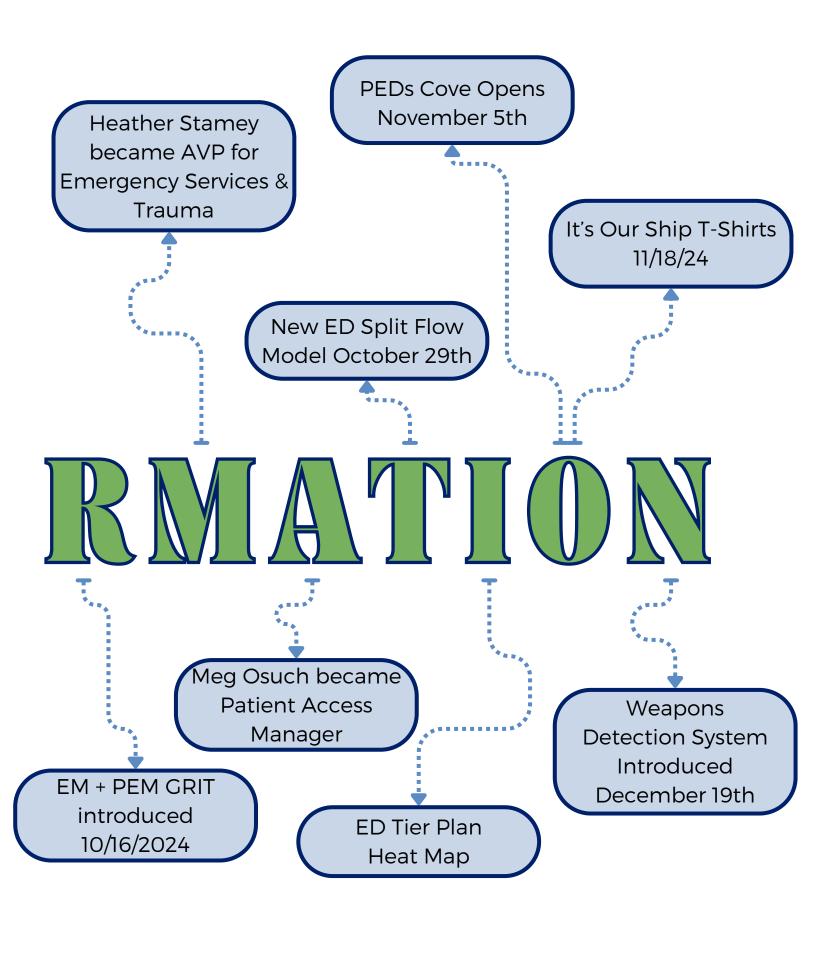
In the fall of 2024, we implemented several major changes to improve our department and patient care. We started a new slogan "It's Our Ship" and emphasized a culture of kindness, compassion, and patient centered care. We initiated a new patient flow pathway. We developed an ED Tier Plan and introduced a daily ED Safety Huddle. Our department formed "GRIT" teams, which are rapid improvement teams making improvements within our ED. And, on October 29th, we continued our transformative journey by introducing a brand-new patient care team assigned split flow model.

We introduced several new positions and welcomed new team members:

- ·Dr. Jess Noonan- Well Being Physician Director: given the high EM physician and staff burnout
- ·Dr. Alex Bracey- Our new Associate Research Director
- ·Dr. Chris Woll our inaugural Pediatric Research Director
- ·Dr. Rishi Malik inaugural Medical Director for Data Analytics as we rely heavily on data driven analytics to make informed changes.
- ·Heather Stamey -our new Assistant Vice President of Emergency and Trauma Services Nursing
- ·Meg Osuch -our new Manager of Patient Access

And...so, so , so much more! I am excited for you to read about all the wonderful things our department accomplished in 2024!







NURSING

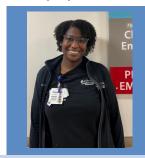
Assistant VP Emergency & Trauma Heather Stamey MBA BSN we were still in the ED and Lauren was Adult ED Nurse Manager: Briana Caban, BSN, RN, CPEN back on. My daughter's face lit up where she saw her. Lauren was with us the

AMAZING WORK! Our Nurses led a "Rapid EMS Hand Off" initiative in the fall of 2024. Led by Nurse Manager Bri Caban, our EMS colleagues and patients were met virtually immediately by an ED Nurse. This specialized nurse helped to immediately take report from EMS, allowing EMS to rapidly turn over back into the community.



Safety Heroes:

- Rubina Uprety: Awarded for early recognition of new neurological changes which expedited the diagnosis and optimized care for a critical patient.
- **Samantha Vining**: Awarded for being an exceptional preceptor and for early recognition of new neurological changes which expedited the diagnosis and optimized care for a critical patient.
- Adira Arnold + Hailey Seamon: Awarded for recognition of a life threatening medical emergency and taking immediate action to ensure proper care for a critical patient.



Paris Jarrell, BSN, RN was promoted to Assistant Nurse Manager. Paris has been working in the Pediatric Emergency Department since October 2020.



Emergency Department is our newest DAISY Award winner. Lauren was nominated by the parent of a girl who arrived here by ambulance after a cheerleading accident. "Lauren took the time to talk to my daughter and get to know her as a person. The next morning, we were still in the ED and Lauren was back on. My daughter's face lit up when she saw her. Lauren was with us the whole time until she was transferred. She continued to make sure my

daughter was relaxed, and I was okay as

a mom." Congratulations, Lauren! - From

the Intranet

Lauren Leeson, RN, from the Pediatric



Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) in recognizing Oct. 6-12 as Emergency Nurses Week. We celebrate our emergency nurses for their dedication, compassion and strength, even during the most challenging times. To our adult and pediatrics ED nurses, thank you for your continued commitment to patient care.

Albany Medical Center joins the



FUTURA In 2024, the Patient Access team in the Emergency Departments achieved remarkable growth and success, building on the strong foundation we laid in 2023. This year has been defined by exceptional teamwork, a renewed commitment to the patient experience, and significant strides in communication, collaboration, and professionalism.

2024 has also been about returning to brilliance in the basics. While we embraced new tools and systems like Epic, we also focused on refining the foundational elements of our work. Our team took pride in the core responsibilities of patient intake, ensuring accurate information is always captured and promoting positive, compassionate interactions with every patient, every time.

ROBOTO Looking back on 2024, we can confidently say that our accomplishments were not just about the significant changes we embraced, but also about returning to the fundamental practices that make us an exceptional and compassionate team. This year, the Patient Access team has demonstrated unwavering commitment, resilience, and a dedication to excellence that demonstrates immense pride in the work we do.

Helvetical NOW We will continue to build on our success, with a steadfast commitment to innovation, as well as to the core values that define us: compassion, respect, accountability, and engagement with the momentum of this year propelling us forward, we are more confident than ever in our ability to meet new challenges and seize new opportunities. Patient Access has accomplished so much, working together as a team and will continue to shine in the year ahead.



PATIENT ACCESS

Meg Osuch

Manager Patient Access

Access Services

- The rollout of Epic was one of our most significant accomplishments this year.
- Comprehensive training and preparation started in 2023 for the transition to Epic.
- Integrating Epic into our daily workflows enhanced patient intake, streamlined communication with clinical teams, and helped improve overall patient flow within the ED.
- The Patient Access team has become even more deeply connected to the ED's core operations.
- September saw the start of a culture shift that fostered an environment of respect, accountability, and compassion
- Our team has become more more cohesive, motivated, and engaged.
- This atmosphere of collaboration and care permeated not only interactions with teammates, but patient interactions as well.
- Pictured below: We celebrated Karen Gardner retiring after being with AMC for 21 years.





Congrats to **Tony Parenti** for earning his Certification of Advanced Qualifications in Emergency Medicine.

Pictures below: **Jen Pelesz** and **Cora Caulfield** at the 25 Year Club.



ADVANCE PRACTICE PROVIDERS (APPS)

Pamela Young, PA
Director of APP Operations
Department of Emergency Medicine

The Advanced Practice Provider group continued with the Clinical Advancement Program that participates in routine didactic lectures and simulations to improve their clinical acumen and procedure skills. This allowed us to be an

integral part of process improvement, throughput and providing excellent patient care. APPs are at the frontline of multiple initiatives including Sepsis process improvement, Morbidity and Mortality review and the "Flow Committee".

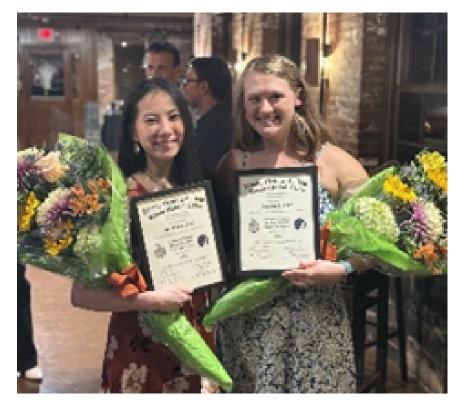
The highly efficient ED Observation Unit decreases patient length of stay, with an average of less than two days. We continue to improve upon this metric, with the goals being efficient evaluations with significantly less length of stays than patients who are admitted to the hospital. The Department of Corrections continues to use our telehealth services, with us providing expedited care to inmates at

times that their regular providers are not available. We are able to avoid approximately 40% of transfers to the

hospital for evaluation for these patients.

Multiple faculty members continue to teach at the AMC Physician Assistant Program and participate in the ED D.R.E.A.M. Team initiative. We held our 6th annual "Topics in Emergency Medicine for the Advanced Practice Provider". We welcomed new providers to our group and were able to retain 100% of our graduating Fellowship class to be faculty.





POSTGRADUATE PA FELLOWSHIP IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Co-Directors:

Patrick Fontaine, PA-C, MSPAS
Anthony Parenti, PA-C, MSPAS, CAQ-EM

GARAMOND The 2024 Physician Assistant Postgraduate Fellowship Program graduated its thirteenth class this year!Both of our Fellows decided to join our staff upon graduation. Please Welcome Julia Danko, PA-C and Sara Wichlei, PA-C to our ED APP Staff!

In addition to their time with us in our Adult and Pediatric Level 1 Trauma Departments, they completed their rotations in Surgical Critical Care, Cardiac Critical Care, Anesthesia, Ultrasound, Toxicology, Ophthalmology and Trauma. They received their certifications in BLS, ACLS, PALS and ATLS. This year, they also took part in our departments first ever Nerve Block Training. Continuing with a focus in both clinical and didactic learning, our Fellows took part in weekly Resident Conference, bi-weekly APP Fellow Conference and journal club.

Our Fellows attended the National SEMPA 360 conference in New Orleans Louisianna. They took part in the annual quiz bowl representing Albany Medical Center. They not only enjoyed the week of education and networking that SEMPA provides, but they also became experts in Alligators and Louisiana culture.

Class of 2024 Awards:

- Attending Faculty Teaching
 Award: Dr. Kelsie Phelan
- APP Faculty Teaching
 Award: Douglas Fish, PA-C

We are excited and looking forward to our next group of Fellows. Please welcome our incoming Class of 2025!

- 2 Ava Datsch DA-C
- 3.Joshua Sullivan, PA-C













DIVISION OF EMERGENCY CRITICAL CARE

Luke Duncan, MD Emergency Medicine and Surgical Critical Care Chief, Division of Emergency Medicine Critical Care

Fry BASKERVILLE The Division of Critical Care was founded in 2019 and is directed by Division Chief, Dr. Luke Duncan, an AMCH Emergency Medicine Residency graduate with Surgical Critical Care Fellowship training. The division consists of 4 dual-board certified emergency physicians and intensivists (Geary, Hanowitz, Wu) and one Clinical Resuscitation trained physician (Bracey).

Currently, our group constitutes one of the largest divisions of Emergency Medicine/Critical Care in the country. It provides us with a unique opportunity to innovate care delivery to critically ill patients. The mission of the Division is to provide patients with comprehensive critical care while they are in the Emergency Department. Under that banner, we strive to educate Emergency Medicine trainees in advanced critical care modalities, act as a resource to other emergency physicians for their complex critically ill patients and attempt to improve patient condition to the point where they no longer need ICU care.



- Recruited additional faculty member Matthew Johnson, MD whom is completing his training in Surgical Critical Care at Albany Medical Center and will join us Summer 2025.
- Trained our 3rd class of
 Resuscitation and Emergency
 Critical Care Fellows with Drs. Iman
 Aly, Rachel Leavitt, James Mantas.
- Successfully recruited the 4th RECC fellow class, to start August 2025.
- Created ED Extubation Guidelines and began collecting data for a retrospective trial.
- Created Post-Cardiac Arrest Care Guidelines and are currently operationalizing.
- Published our Emergency
 Department Critical Care
 Consultation team data (Academic Emergency Medicine).
- Presented our data and expertise at SCCM '25 (Hanowitz), AAEM '25 (Bracey, Duncan, Geary, Wu) and SAEM '25 (Bracey).
- Migrated our EDCCT shift collection data to REDCAP in hope of creating a multi-institutional repository for similar ED-Critical Care teams and dedicated units.
- Continued development of Future ED-ICU space in future ED Renovation plan.

Division of Emergency Critical Care, Est. 2019 Dr. Luke Duncan's Emergency Medicine-Critical Care Mentorship Tree





COLUMBIA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Michael Weisberg, MD Vice Chair for Community Emergency Medicine Chief of Emergency Medicine, Columbia Memorial Health

We completed our first year under AMC ED.

We went live with Epic.

New APP Rachel Schwartz started.

New physicians started:

- Joshua Rosenfield, MD
- Mackenzie Laporte, MD
- Michael Zampi, MD
- Wen Zhang, MD
- Caleb Watkins, MD
- Megan Hodges, MD
- Katherine Brodie, MD

Pictured left: We reopened Rapid
Care Copake! It has performed beyond expectations!

- Tom McKibbin-Vaughn PA returned to Rapid Care.
- We welcomed
 Hannah Blackwell as
 our Rapid Care
 Manager for Valaite,
 Copake and Catskill.
- Rapid Care and EmUrgent continued to align.





D.R.E.A.M. TEAM

The DREAM (Diversity, Recruitment, Education & Allyship in Medicine)
Team, co-founded by ED APP Pamela Young, Dr. Boahema Pinto and
Dr. Denis Pauzé, continues its mission to expand medical education and
access in an inclusive environment within the communities we serve.
The DREAM team focuses on staff education to promote unbiased
healthcare and awareness of social determinants of health that may
impact their patients. The team also works extensively to encourage
students from multiple high schools within the capital region from
backgrounds that are typically underrepresented in medicine, or who
may have societal or economic stressors, to pursue careers in the
healthcare field.

Students who participate in the DREAM bootcamp sessions are invited to apply to be DREAM Interns. As Interns, they have the opportunity to spend time with professionals both in the ED and throughout the hospital. DREAM interns are studying Biochemistry at NYU, Neuroscience at SUNY Brockport, Biology at Coppin State University, Medical Anthropology at Western Reserve University, and Nuclear Medicine at Molloy University. Interns are given the chance to work as "Staff" during the Boot Camps. We have been able to provide a small stipend to several students. There were 2 interns for the 2024-2025 year,



Boahema Pinto, MD

Associate Dean of Equity, Diversity

+ Inclusior

Assistant Director, Emergency Ultrasound

Associate Professor, Departmen of Emergency Medicine

Pamela Young, PA
Director of APP Operations
Department of Emergency
medicine

BOOTCAMP:

Local high school students are invited to the DREAM Team's "EMmersion Boot Camps". The students come to AMC in the winter and summer sessions and are introduced to all aspects of emergency medicine. They learn patient care, participate in immersive hands-on workshops including brain, heart, and spinal cord dissections, CPR and AED training, STOP The Bleed, basic wound care, EKG's, splinting, suturing, and learn about the various careers in medicine. The summer session hosts a career fair. where we have over 15 specialties hospital-wide.

- ED staff members volunteer their time to run the BOOTCAMP
- 35 students attended the 2024 summer EMmersion Bootcamp.
- The DREAM Team is expanding into further schools:
 - Troy High School
 - St. Anne's Institute for Girls
 - TOAST (Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology





DIVISION OF EMS/PREHOSPITAL AND OPERATIONAL MEDICINE

Michael Dailey, MD
Chief, Division of Prehospital and Operational
Medicine

Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine

- Ongoing EMS contact, liaison, and regional leadership
- Partnership with Bassett EM to allow Afienko to participate in the fellowship
- DOCCS consulting for critical patients in the setting of poor ambulance coverage. Conclusion of contracting for EMS training and consulting.
- Mohawk Critical Care interfacility team training (Cordi)
- Cadaver lab conducted monthly for EMS providers (Hayashi)
- Ongoing FBI tactical support (Collins, Gillespie, Hayashi, Dailey)
- Dr. Michael Dailey was quoted in the article, "Governor Hochul Announces Progress on Addressing the Opioid and Overdose Epidemic Across New York."
- Two publications:
 - Cochran-Caggiano N, Tse W, Swinburne C, Lang N, Till S, Donovan S, Woodson MC, Dailey MW. Children and Restraints Study in Emergency Ambulance Transport-Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CARSEAT-CPR): An Observational Cohort Study of a Simulated Pediatric Cardiac Arrest. Pediatric Emergency Care. 2024 Dec 6:10-97.
 - Dailey MW, Hayashi W. "EMS Electronic Health Records-An
 Opportunity for Integration to Improve Care" Commentary on
 Kamta et al. Prehospital Emergency Care. 2024 Apr 2;28(3):513-4.

Members:

Dr. Heidi Cordi (Mohawk, Town of Hoosick)

Dr. Warren Hayashi (LifeNet, Community, Hoosick Valley, Rensselaer County)

Dr. Megan Hodges

Dr. Michael Waldrop (Albany FD,

Schenectady FD, USAR TF-2,

Duanesburg)

Tactical Only:

Dr. Kevin Collins

Dr. Geoffry Gillespie

Fellows:

Dr. David Afienko

Dr. Paige Reinfeld

Presentations:

- International Association of Chiefs of Police (Dailey/Hayashi)
- EMS World (Dailey)
- Local EMS presentations (All)

Ongoing Work:

- Naloxone use in law enforcement
- Law enforcement defibrillation
- Temperature regulation in neonatal transport (with Hodges and NICU team)
- Intravenous vs. PO nitroglycerin administration (Hayashi and Cordi)

Notable Field Responses:

- >200 field response with:
 - Field transfusion x 2
 - ROSC from cardiac arrest x 10
 - Critical care time multiple hours
 - Tactical response/support approximately 20 times





DIVISION OF FORENSIC MEDICINE

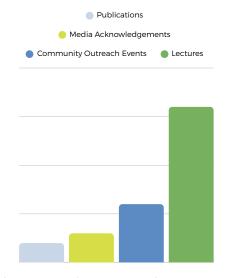
Kirsten Morrissey, MD

Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine & Pediatrics Division Chief, Forensic Medicine

Kaylin Dawson - Forensic Program Manager

- Forensic Program
 Manager: Kaylin Dawson
 - Forensic Medicine Social
 Worker: Annabel Oconnor
- Forensic Medicine
 Coordinator: Shelby Asher
- Forensic Medicine
 Administrator: Dena

 LeClaire



In 2024, the Division of Forensic Medicine cared for 889 patients, which is a 32% increase from 2023. The Division of Forensic Medicine services all victims of violence including adult and pediatric sexual assault, physical violence and/or intimate partner violence, child physical abuse, human trafficking and workplace violence. In addition to the roles at the bedside in providing forensic care, the Division has an integral part in the community.

In April 2024, we welcomed our first ever forensic medicine social worker Annabel O'Connor. Annabel is a vital part of our team to ensure proper follow up with all patients (averaged follow up with 53.3% of our patients) and make sure that all available resources for them are established. In October 2024, the team welcomed a new forensic coordinator Shelby Asher, who was a forensic examiner on staff prior to transitioning to her current role. Her role is vital in onboarding new examiners, and community involvement and education.

Our 8th annual WE CARE project was completed alongside UAlbany. Every April, during sexual assault awareness month, Albany Med and UAlbany support victims by hosting this event which brings together students, staff, and community partners to package comfort items, new clothing, toiletry items for patients that present to Albany Med.

In May 2024, we hosted another provider course to train new forensic examiners for our AMC program and within our system to include Saratoga and Glens Falls. We welcomed the NYSP, evidence technician Brian Kenney to provide continued education on Forensic Photography to our new and senior examiners. We also initiated an annual Forensic Bootcamp, that forensic examiners would participate in once a year. Our program currently has several team members that are nationally certified from the International Association of Forensic Nurses.

- Adult Sexual Assault- SANE-A Certified Nurses- Kaylin Dawson, Shelby Asher, Justine Shoemaker, Stephanie Frank,
 Melissa Ives
- Pediatric Sexual Assault- SANE-P Certified Nurses- Kaylin Dawson, Shelby Asher, Justine Shoemaker, Elizabeth Heaphy
- Daisy Award- Janica Kavoukian



GLENS FALLS HOSPITAL

Robert McHugh, DO Director, Emergency Department, Glens Falls Hospital Chair of Emergency Medicine, Glens Falls Hospital









"Dr. Agresta was absolutely awesome. He took the time to thoroughly check everything and explained things in layman's terms."

Patient Experience Weel
 2024 Quote

Volume: 44,361

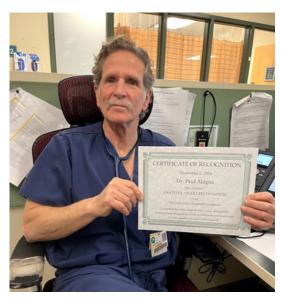
• Admits: 10,585

• Ambulances: 15,615

AVG LWBS: 3.91%

 EPIC went live in November

GFH received a NYS
 Grant for \$15 Million for
 the expansion and
 renovation project for
 the New Sheridan
 Emergency Department





DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Carrie Danziger, MD
Chief, Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine
Associate Professor, Department of Emergency
Medicine & Pediatrics

A compliment from a family that embraces our mission of providing patient-centered care with kindness, compassion, and excellence:

"I wanted to express by gratitude form the exceptional care that my son received in his most recent trip to Albany Med Pediatric ER. The nurses who cared for him were so attentive and patient as he asked questions. He has expressed interest in pursuing medicine in college and each one patiently explained things to him. I extend gratitude to the x-ray technician who had such a positive attitude and was just a pure joy, and to the nurses and doctors and their dedication to his well-being. I definitely do not want to leave out the staff who assisted on arrival – valet, security, and the front desk – all so friendly and helpful. This unfortunately was not his first trip to the ER. I do hope he does not make a habit of landing in the ER, but if it should happen, we most definitely will be using Albany Med. The genuine concern and expertise were top-notch."

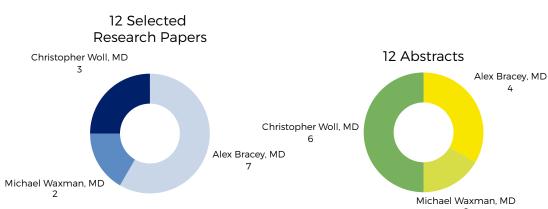
- Dr. George Waterman
- Dr. Kirsten Morrissey
- Dr. Christopher Woll
- Dr. Christopher
 Malabanan
- Dr. David Feingold
- Dr. Denis Pauzé
- Elyse Malabanan NP
- Gabrielle Rocha de Assis DNP
- Beth Gresen NP
- A dedicated team of providers, nurses and techs who provide extraordinary care for children and families during unanticipated emergency room visits
- Beautiful, child-friendly dedicated space to care for the children of the region
- The only Pediatric Level 1 Trauma
 Center in a 100-mile radius
- Providing care to 24,000 patients yearly
- Involved in teaching the pediatric emergency care to EM residents,
 Pediatric residents, Family
 Medicine residents, Advanced
 Practice Providers, and Medical
 Students
- Strong collaboration with the Department of Pediatrics on evidence-based pediatric pathways, quality improvement projects, and daily operations, with the goal of improving the care of pediatric patients
- Partnership with Double H Ranch, a serious fun camp in the Adirondacks providing summer and winter programs to children and families with life threatening illnesses



Dr. Michael Waxman, EM Research Director presenting on Vaccinations in the Emergency Department at the Academic Emergency Medicine annual conference in New Orleans.

DIVISION OF RESEARCH

2024 was a very successful year for our Research Division.
Our team continued our federal funded grant on
Alternatives to Opioids in the Emergency Department
(\$1.45 million). We were awarded two additional grants
(\$345,000) from Albany County (One to staff a Pain
Management Coach in the Department and the other to
provide for a Case Manager for our Addiction Medicine
Service). And we continue to collaborate with industry and
non-profit partners. Our faculty authored or co-authored
multiple peer-reviewed papers and presented over 12
abstracts at national conferences. Dr. Grajny presented our
Simulation Medicine research in Rome Italy.



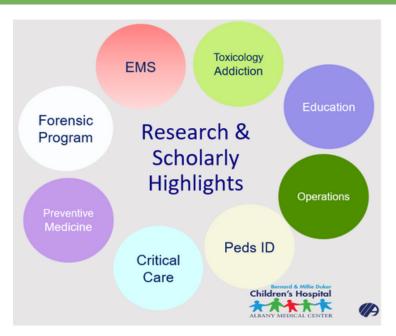
Andrew Chang, MD
Vice Chair of
Research/Academic Affairs
Professor, Department of
Emergency Medicine

Michael Waxman, MD
Associate Professor and
Research Director
Department of Emergency
Medicine

Grants:

- Emergency Department Alternatives to Opioids at the Albany Med Health System (ED-ALT AMHS) (Waxman) SAMHSA
 - This award is to development, implementation, and evaluation of alternatives to opioids in the ED across the Albany Medical Health System
- Preventing Opioid Use Disorder in Albany Medical Center Emergency Department Patients with an Alternatives to Opioids Coach
 - This was awarded to Albany
 County programs to provide
 prevention and treatment to
 Albany County resident who have
 or are at risk for having opioid use
 disorder
- Preventing Opioid Use Disorder in Albany Medical Center Emergency Department Patients with an Alternatives to Opioids Coach
 - Case Manager Support for the Albany Medical Center Addiction Medicine Service
 - This was awarded to Albany
 County programs to provide prevention and treatment to
 Albany County residents who have or are at risk for having opioid use disorder

Division of Research Continued...



Our areas of research in 2024 included:

- Vascular access options in emergency department patients
- Predicting serious infections in febrile children
- Alternatives to opioids for pain management in the emergency department setting
- Using microinductions to transition patients to buprenorphine
- Assessment of pediatric vaccination status in the emergency department, and barriers to pediatric vaccination.

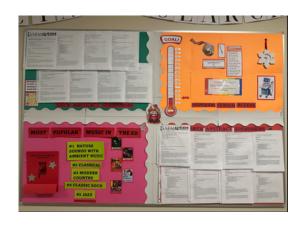


We developed a Pain Management Coach Program to help patients with nonpharmacological therapies while in the ED (music therapy, mindfulness, canine therapy, etc.). Pictures is our Pain Management Coach Rose Godfrey.

• We have reached over 1,200 ED patients so far, and this has reduced mean pain scores about 15%.

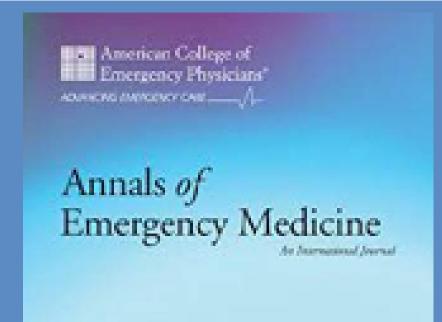


Dr. Chris King Faculty Development Award: An internal grant awarded to support a faculty member with their research. Dr. Alex Bracey and Dr. Christopher Woll were recipients.



ED Research Bulletin board highlighting important announcements, current studies, and funding initiatives.

Division of Research Continued...



Doctors Bracey, Waxman and Wu were featured in "Clinical Controversies" in the June 2024 issue of *Annals of Emergency Medicine*.

MIDLINE CATHETERS ARE THE OPTIMAL VASCULAR ACCESS DEVICE FOR MANAGING SEPTIC SHOCK IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT



Alexander Bracey, MD Department of Emergency Medicine Albany Medical Center Albany, NY

Michael H. Sherman, MD, MA Department of Emergency Medicine University of Massachusetts Worcester, MA

[Ann Emerg Med. 2024;83:605-606.]

CLINICAL CONTROVERSIES

Intravenous Access in Septic Patients

Opposing authors provide succinct, authoritative discussions of controversial issues in emergency medicine. Authors are provided the opportunity to review and comment on opposing presentations. Each topic is accompanied by an Editor's Note that summarizes important concepts. Participation as an authoritative discussant is by invitation only, but suggestions for topics and potential authors can be submitted to the section editors.

Editor's Note: Physicians have multiple choices in selecting intravenous access for septic patients. Discussants in this 3-way Clinical Controversies series present the benefits and risks of standard peripheral Ns, midline catheters, and contral lines.

THE CENTRAL VENOUS CATHETER CANNOT BE SUPPLANTED WHEN IT COMES TO SEPTIC SHOCK .

Gregory P, Wu, MD

Gregory P, Wu, MD

Advanced Palmonary Critical Care

Medicine, Departments of Emergency Medicine and Medicine,

Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY

Nana Sefa, MD, MPH Departments of Emergency Medicine and Critical Care, MedStar Washington Hospital Center, Washington, DC

(CMS). The subsequent care for CLABSIs is not reimbuned per CMS guidelines. Because of the catherer location, neither peripheral intravenous catheres nor milline catheres meet the definition of CLABSI and are not subject to the same rules. This is an accounting error and not a true safety benefit. In a comparison of milline catheres versus central venous catheres, including non-tunellied catheres commonly used in septic shock, milline catheres have a blood stream infection rate of 0.88 per 1,000 catherer days, whereas central venous catheren had a rase of 1.10 per 1,000 catherer days, the "Describ venous catheren had a rase of 1.10 per 1,000 catherer saocitation are difficult to estimate due to varying research definitions." However, mortality rates of peripheral intervenous catherer-associated infections are bigh, with a reported 12% mortality incidence in peripheral intervenous catherer-associated infections, similar to the 12.8% 30-day mortality with CLABSI." Any perceived infections safety benefit of peripheral catherers is of administrative accounting benefit.

CLINICAL CONTROVERSIES

- 603 The Central Venous Catheter Cannot Be Supplanted When It Comes to Septic Shock

 GP Wu, N Sefa
- 605 Midline Catheters Are the Optimal Vascular Access Device for Managing Septic Shock in the Emergency Department

A Bracey, MH Sherman

607 Peripheral Intravenous Catheters Are Preferable for Emergency Department Patients With Septic Shock

MJ Waxman, EM Schechter-Perkins

Our Department has joint publications with Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Vascular Surgery, Psychiatry and the Dept. of Health

Man Presenting After Hydrochloric Acid Ingestion

Emma R. Furlano, MD*[†]
Gregory P. Wu, MD*[‡]
Brendan Vosburgh, MD*
Cameron R. Waldman, MD*
Jessica Noonan, MD*
Alexander Bracey, MD*

- *Albany Medical Center, Department of Emergency Medicine, Albany, New York

 †Albany Medical Center, Department of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary Critical Care
 Medicine, Albany, New York
- [‡]Albany Medical Center, Department of Emergency Medicine, Division of Toxicology and Addiction Medicine, Albany, New York

Chan et al. Injury Epidemiology (2024) 11:11 https://doi.org/10.1186/s40621-024-00495-4 Injury Epidemiology

SHORT REPORT

Open Access

Protocolized abuse screening to decrease provider bias and increase capture of potential events

Ashley Chan¹, Mary D. Feller¹, Kaylin Dawson², Kirsten Morrissey², Ashar Ata³ and Mary J. Edwards^{3*}

Authors

Lauren Palladino, MD, MSHP

Fellow, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Division of Emergency Medicine, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Christopher Woll, MD, FAAP

Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics, Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY, Medical Director, Double H Ranch, Lake Luzerne, NY

Paul L. Aronson, MD, MHS

Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine, Section of Pediatric Emergency Medicine; Deputy Director, Pediatric Residency Program, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT



Febrile Infants Aged ≤60 Days: Evaluation and Management in the Emergency Department

PEDIATRIC TRAUMA :: JUNE 2024

Severe Traumatic Brain Injury in Children: An Evidence-Based Review of Emergency Department Management

AUTHORS

Hilary Fairbrother, MD, MPH, FACEP Kirsten Morrissey, MD, FAAP

■ Abstract

More than 1.7 million traumatic brain injuries occur in adults and children each year in

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Children and Restraints Study in Emergency Ambulance Transport-Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CARSEAT-CPR) An Observational Cohort Study of a Simulated Pediatric Cardiac Arrest

Nicholas Cochran-Caggiano, MD,* Whitney Tse, MD,† Cecily Swinburne, MD,‡ Nicholas Lang, MD,§ Sara Till, MD,|| Sean Donovan, MD,¶ Mary Clare C. Woodson, MEng,# and Michael W. Dailey, MD¶



EM RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Sean Geary, MD
Program Director Emergency Medicine
Clerkship Director MSIV Critical Care
Assistant Professor, Department of
Emergency Medicine & Surgical Critical Care

The Education team went to New Orleans, LA to attend the 35th Annual Council of Residency Directors in Emergency Medicine National Assembly, and returned victorious. Congratulations to Dr. Noonan on winning the Speak Up New Speakers forum with her lecture on ROPE IN: Wrapping Up Your Clinical Teaching Shift. The upcoming chief residents Drs. Caffrey, Doyle, Mclenithan, and Uzun attended the Chief residents retreat and Drs. Furlano and Palmieri picked up lots of great approaches for our upcoming year. Kara Giglia and Dr. Sean Geary had a successful lecture and look forward to bringing back tons of ideas to AMC's EM Residency program.

Associate Program Director:
Dr. Jessica Noonan
Assistant PDs: Dr. Alexander
Bracey, Dr. Geoffry Gillespie,
Dr. Alexander Bracey
Program Coordinator: Kara
Giglia

- · David Bittner. MD
 - West Virginia Acute Resource
 Group Community Medicine
- Melissa Gerfin, DO
 - Sports Medicine Fellowship -Albany Medical Center
- · Rebekah Guthman, MD
 - Mayo Clinic Community
 Medicine Eau Claire. Wisconsin
- Caleb Herrick, MD
 - Emergency Physicians
 Integrated Care Salt Lake City,
 UT
- Erica Kris, MD
 - Banner UMC Phoenix, AZ
- Zachary Landau, DO
 - Community St. Mary's Hospital Westerly, CT
- Rachel Leavitt. DO
 - Resuscitation Fellowship -Albany Medical Center
- Benjamin Nance, DO
 - Community Medicine Fairbanks, Alaska
- Diana Padilla, MD
 - Community Med Houston Methodist
- Chirag Patel, DO
 - Community Medicine Dallas,
 TX
- Domenica Scalia, MD
 - Med ED Fellowship Christiana
 Care. Delaware
- Paul St. Clair, MD
 - Community Ellis Hospital, Schenectady, NY
- Caleb Watkins, MD
 - Ultrasound Fellowship Albany
 Medical Center



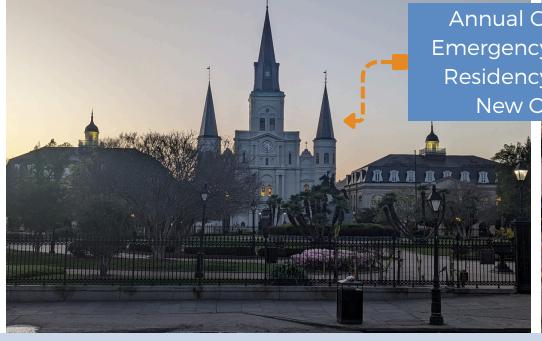


Recipient: David Bittner, MD



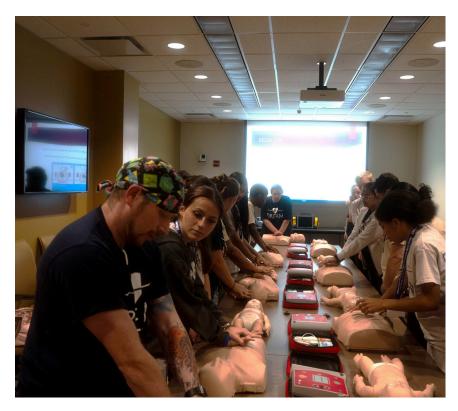
Resident Teaching Award Recipients: Domenica (Mia) Scalia, MD + Zachary LanDau, DO





Annual Council of **Emergency Medicine** Residency Director **New Orleans**

SIMULATION MEDICINE



Annette Grajny, MD, MS
Professor of Emergency Medicine
Medical Director, Patient Safety + Clinical
Competency Center
Associate Dean for Simulation Medicine

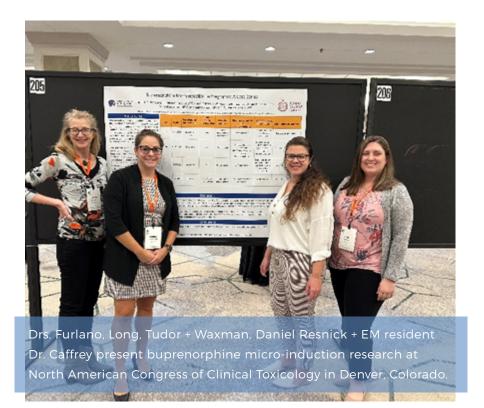
Annette Grajny, MD, MS continues in her role as the medical director of the Patient Safety and Clinical Competency Center and Oversees the educational content and delivery of didactic material to all learners associated with the Albany Medical Center.

- Dr. Greg Wu: the critical care clerkship director
- Dr. Bohema Pinto and Pam Young, PA-C, ED DREAM
 TEAM
- Anthony Parenti, PA-C, and Patrick Fontaine, PA-C: fellowship program





- Dr. Kelsie Phelan appointed to Clerkship Director of the 4th year medical student simulation-based Capstone Course: Transition to Residency
- Dr. Tim Palmieri, fellowship trained in Health Professions Simulation-based Education, continued to oversee the simulation curriculum for Emed residents
- Dr. Emma Furlano continued in her role as the clerkship director and supervised the simulation didactics for students in the emergency medicine clerkship.
- Continued advancement of in-situ simulation as a successful simulation modality for challenging cases in the clinical environment
- Interprofessional teams use of simulated cases during EPIC EMR training prior to "Go-live".
- Robust scholarship in simulation including research presentations at AAEM, SAEM, and WAEM in Rome, Italy
- Oral presentations in simulationbased topics at both the local and national level
- Successful accreditation update with the Society for Simulation in Healthcare for next five-year cycle



DIVISION OF MEDICAL TOXICOLOGY AND ADDICTION MEDICINE

Heather Long*, MD Clinical Director

Chief, Division of Medical Toxicology and Addiction Medicine

Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine

Research/Grants:

- Dr. Rowden oversees AMC Division of Medical Toxicology's entry into ToxIC, an international data registry.
- Dr. Waxman, principle investigator, continues work on his \$1.5
 million grant on Alternatives to Opioids assisted by Dr Furlano and
 Daniel Resnick.

Medical Oversight:

- Drs. Boyd-Smith, Long, Rowden and Tudor are volunteer faculty with the Upstate Poison Control Center, Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY providing medical backup and teleconsults to all of upstate New York.
- Dr. Emma Furlano leads teaching rounds monthly at New York
 City Poison Control Center.
- Dr. Adam Rowden is the physician liaison for the Niskayuna Police
 Department and the Alplaus Fire Department.

- Dr. Molly Boyd Smith*
- Dr. Emma Furlano*
- Dr. Adam Rowden*
- Dr. Alicia Tudor*
- Dr. Michael Waxman
- Daniel Resnick, NP
- Tracy Cusack, Case Manager
- * Board certified in Medical Toxicology + Addiction Medicine

Highlights

- Dr. Emma Furlano becomes board certified in Addiction Medicine.
- Dr. Andrew Chang of the Division of Research was awarded a \$175,000 grant the the Albany.
 County Opioid Fund, enabling us to hire a case manager, Tracy
 Cusack, to improve retention in our addiction medicine clinic.

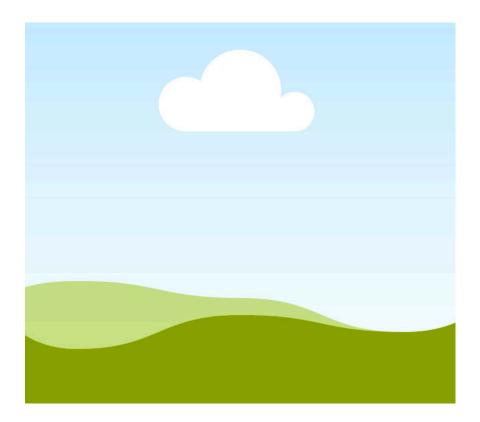
Hidden danger at Colonie Center in 1966

by Liz Bishop | Tue, December 17th 2024 at 8:03 PM Updated Wed, December 18th 2024 at 10:58 AM



Media Apparences:

- Dr. Long gives interview with WRGB CBS 6 "Hidden danger at Colonie Center in 1966" on jequirity beads (poisonous beads sold as jewelry).
- Dr. Tudor gives interview with WRGB CBS 6 "Raising awareness about Kratom use".



DIVISION OF EMERGENCY TRAUMA SERVICES

Howard Snyder, MD Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine Chief, Division of Emergency Trauma Services

An elderly patient presents with a penetrating neck injury after a fall. EMS physician Dr. David Afienko is at the scene and directly communicates with the ED facilitating rapid transport. A Level 1 Trauma Alert is activated, and the Trauma/Emergency Medicine teams meet her immediately on arrival. An x-ray shows the impaled object is directed inferiorly into the chest dangerously close to her aorta, the major blood vessel coming out of the heart delivering blood to the brain and the entire body. Within 20 minutes, CT scan confirms that the object likely has penetrated the aorta. Eleven minutes later, our patient enters the operating room where surgeons operate to remove the object and simultaneously control the bleeding that would invariably result. An emergent tracheostomy (surgical incision directly into the trachea or airway in the front of the neck) is performed as a breathing tube is unable to be placed in the standard fashion. A graft is placed inside the aorta emergently to prevent bleeding and the object is successfully removed. The patient leaves the hospital neurologically intact 19 days later.

Albany Med is New York State's Busiest Trauma Center

- American College of Surgeons Level 1 Adult and Pedatric Trauma Center
- Busiest Trauma Center in New York State since 2003
- Lifestar Regional Trauma System includes 400 EMS organizations, 25 nontrauma center hospitals and two Level 2 trauma centers
- LifeNet aeromedical program (7 rotary wing/1 fixed wing aircraft) flew 1159 missions in 2024 including 437 scene and 722 interhospital transports
- Monthly Emergency Medicine/Trauma case based conference
- Monthly Regional
 Emergency
 Medicine/Trauma topic
 based conference broadcast
 to entire region including
 ED providers, nurses and
 EMS professionals
- Division Chief with 37 years' experience managing trauma patients



DIVISION OF ULTRASOUND

Beth Cadigan, MD Chief Division of Ultrasound Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine

Ultrasounds are now routinely performed as part of a patient's arrival to our department. They are performed at the patient's bedside by the primary treating physician to treat patients faster and more accurately. This includes many critical scenarios where trips to traditional imaging departments are not feasible or safe.

Our ultrasound division has six faculty members who have completed specialized training fellowships in Advanced Emergency Medicine Ultrasound, becoming true experts in this boarded subspecialty. This investment in the skills of our faculty directly enables the innovative care and training we provide for our community and region.

In the last year, we performed 3,493 documented point-of-care ultrasounds. On average, one life is saved each week that might not have otherwise been saved. These ultrasounds also allow for the immediate diagnoses and stabilization of countless others.



Associate Division Chief:

Dr. Boahema Pinto

- Dr. Christopher Hanowitz
- Dr. Thomas Holman
- Dr. Jessica Noonan
- Dr. Caleb Watkins
- Dr. Michael Zampi

Educational Mission:

- EM Ultrasound Fellowship (est. 2015 + trained 8 fellows)
- EM Residency Program in Point of Care Ultrasound (est. 2002)
- · Medical Student CLinical Ultrasound Training (est. 2022 + 2024 SOSA Award)
- EM PA Training
- Institutional offerings in Point of Care Ultrasound

Continued Advancement:

- All faculty nerve block training in the fall of 2024
- Drs. Pinto + Cadigan received SOSA Awards at the medical school graduation
- Dr. Holman holds a monthly echo contest to highlight key saves and pathology from the department
- Continually working on upgrading the department's ultrasound infrastructure

What we do matters:

A middle age gentleman presented to the emergency department with partial loss of his vision. A bedside ultrasound soon after arrival revealed a detached retina. This information expedited an ophthalmology consultation, enabling retinal stabilization within hours by our specialist.

27



UNDERGRAD EDUCATION

Lorraine Thibodeau, MD Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine

- The EM Clerkship continues to be highly rated among medical students as evidenced by the Graduation Questionnaire responses.
- Our robust Simulation program for the EM Clerkship exposes learners to use critical thinking to investigate undifferentiated patients
- The Road to Residency Series provides guidance and advice to students interested in EM, providing faculty mentors and dedicated educational sessions over a rotating 16-month period. Many changes occurred due to the pandemic and students received up to date information on all recommendations and requirements as they developed. Ongoing.
- The Learning to Teach and Teaching to Learn required 4th year clerkship is now one of the most well-respected clerkships and teaches clinical reasoning through small group and simulation techniques.

New Curricular Advances:

- Phase one Clinical Skills Course
 - Under the direction of Dr. Hogan, her team has successfully completed the inaugural 18-month cycle of a re-imagined Clinical Skills course in the new Phase 1 curriculum for medical students.
- Medical Student Critical THinking Through Simulation
 - Dr. Grajny, the Director of the Simulation and Patient Safety Center, has designed and oversees the Capstone course, a mandatory course designed to prepare them for internship.
- Ultrasound in Undergraduate Medical Education

Pictured left: Dr. Thibodeau has created a three-phase teaching approach spanning all four years to incorporate climate health education into the medical school curriculum.

Required Clerkships + Education:

- Dr. Emma Furlano
 - Emergency Medicine Clerkship;
 Advanced Emergency Medicine
 Elective
- Dr. Annette Grajny
 - AMC Capstone Course, CLinical Skills 4, Learning to Teach/Teaching to Learn, 4th Year Longitudinal Course
- Dr. Katie Hogan
 - o Clinical Skills I and II
- Dr. Greg Wu
 - ICU Clerkship
- Dr. Beth Cadigan + Dr. Bo Pinto
 - Phase One Ultrasound

Electives:

- Dr. Beth Cadigan
 - EM Ultrasound Elective
- Dr. Michael Dailey
 - EMS Elective
- Dr. Alicia Tudor
 - Emergency Toxicology Elective,
 Assistant Clerkship Director for EM
 Clerkship
- Dr. Kirsten Morrissey
 - Pediatric EM Elective
- Dr. Mike Waxman
 - Evidenced Based Health Care
 Theme
- Dr. Kelsie Phelan
 - EM Interest Group Faculty Advisor

Advising & Mentorship:

- Dr. Laurie Thibodeau + Dr. Emma Furlano
 - EM bound student applicant Faculty Advising Directors
- Other student advisors:
 - Drs. Geary. Asher, Grajny, Noonan,
 Tudor, Hogan, Pinto



URGENT CARE/COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Alison Spear, MD

Division Chief

Emergency Medicine, EmUrgent Care

Jacqueline Weaver, MD

Associate Division Chief

Emergency Medicine, EmUrgent Care

Operational Goal "Wheel" Values: Fiscal Accountability

Occupational Medicine Expansion

- <u>Intention</u>: From mom & pop to on the top
- Mission: Provide the support + care out clients need to achieve occupational safety in their workplace
- Vision: Exceptional Service, Expedited Care
- Goals: TBD

Telehealth

- Intention: Acces, Access, Access
- Mission: Maintain our highest quality of care through technology
- <u>Vision</u>: Be the local choice for modern. quality, and quick care Goals: TBD

Pediatric Choice Urgent

- Intention: Find Our Place
- Mission: Dedication to training + continuous improvement in pediatric care
- Vision: Aligned with the children's hospital + Pediatric ED; we are the right choice to care for local families
- Goals: TBD

Services

- Intention: Be Nimble Mission: Constantly review + offer new
- services Vision: Understand + meet the needs of our communities
- Goals: TBD

System Referrals & Direct Scheduling

- <u>Intention</u>: From Urgent Care to Expert Care
- Mission: Constantly support continuity of care
- Vision: Keep care local
- Goals: TBD

Revenue/Charge Integrity

- Intention: No dollar left untouched
- Mission: Support the fiscal responsibilities of our division by continuously auditing revenue + charges
- <u>Vision</u>: Every dollar earned is accounted for
- Goals: TBD



aid tent at the Girls on the Run 5k in November, 2024

- EMUC saw over 100,000 patients in 2024
 - o 23% Under 18
 - o 74% 18-74
 - o 3% 75+
- We saw over 17,000 Occupational **Medicine Clients**
- Contributed over \$1,000,000 in recorded downstream charges to the outpatient practice
- We launched our school telehealth program in the fall of 2024
- We set some significant goals for 2025 with big projects such as
 - School-Based Video Visits
 - Occupational Health Expansion
 - Pediatric-Choice Urgent Care
 - System Referrals **Improvements**



EmUrgent Care had a table at the **Burnt Hills Health Day**



Pictured to the left:
Women in Emergency
Medicine

WELL-BEING

Jessica M. Noonan, MD FACEP
Associate Professor of
Emergency Medicine
Associate Residency Program
Director
Director of Well Being
Department of Emergency
Medicine

2024 Well-Being Initiative Summary – Emergency Medicine Department

In 2024, our Emergency Medicine Department launched a comprehensive well-being initiative in response to the growing national concern around physician burnout, particularly in high-intensity specialties like emergency medicine. With support from Dean Boulos, the appointment of a dedicated Director of Well-Being and alignment with a hospital-level wellness strategy, we focused on systemic, cultural, and individual interventions to support our clinicians.

Why This Matters:

Emergency medicine continues to face some of the highest rates of burnout across all medical specialties, driven by unpredictable workloads, high patient acuity, overcrowding, and moral distress. Burnout not only affects physician mental health and career longevity, but it also impacts patient safety, team morale, employee turnover, and departmental performance. By targeting the root causes of burnout—inefficient systems, lack of autonomy, poor communication, and emotional exhaustion—our initiative aims to create a sustainable work environment where physicians can thrive.

Systems-Based Practice:

Led by our department chair Dr Pauze, we implemented a robust effort to improve ED throughput and operational efficiency. Barriers were identified and rapidly addressed, leading to significant improvements in length of stay and patient care. These changes not only enhanced patient care but directly boosted ED staff satisfaction, allowing more meaningful clinical work and reducing daily frustration.

Culture of Wellness:

We restructured meeting formats and improved information flow to foster transparency and faculty engagement. A key innovation was the launch of "Grit Groups," which empowered our staff to identify and lead solutions to departmental challenges. This fostered a culture of shared ownership and proactive problem-solving, helping combat feelings of helplessness and disconnection—core contributors to burnout.

Individual Wellness and Support:

We launched a Peer Support Team, trained using a Harvard-based model, to provide confidential, timely support to colleagues after emotionally difficult cases or events. We also expanded peer coaching to support career development and personal growth. To strengthen interpersonal bonds and create opportunities for community, we hosted multiple social events, including a Women in Medicine gathering, a new hire welcome event, and our first-ever department-wide boat cruise.

Conclusion:

This multi-pronged initiative represents a sustained commitment to addressing burnout through actionable, meaningful change. By tackling systemic inefficiencies, fostering a culture of wellness, and investing in individual support, we are building a more resilient, connected, and fulfilled emergency medicine team.



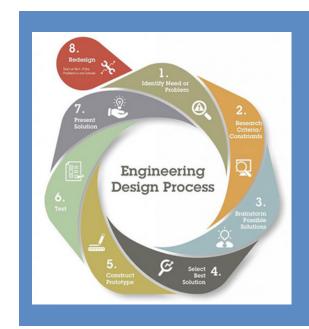


Stephanie Dosiek, Ph.D.

BACC Director

Center Operations-Office of Translational Research

Over the 6-week period, 8 biomedical engineering students from Union College spent time in 16 different clinical environments making observations, speaking with various clinical teams, and investigating medical equipment. Their goal was to Identify areas of potential improvement in patient care delivery and efficiency in physician's tasks. The students identified 322 clinical needs, then narrowed them down to 12 projects which they actively worked on developing as part of their senior Capstone design project at Union.



- 8 Union Biomedical Engineering Students
- 6 week Summer
 Clinical Immersion
 Program
- Fall 2024: first term of Capstone experience
 - 10 design teams
- Winter 2025: second term of Capstone
 - Prototype creation/testing

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Daniel Pauzé, MD, Vice President of Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer, was presented with the Inaugural **Outstanding Faculty Award** at the semiannual meeting of medical staff. Dr. Pauzé was the first to receive this recognition, which is given to a faculty member who is nominated by their peers for exhibiting professionalism, empathy, teamwork, and fostering a positive work culture. - The Page

The **Town of Schodack Police Department** posted on their Facebook about the care on of their injured officers received at Albany Med:

"Emergency Medicine recruitment and retention continues to be a struggle. I can say I understand and appreciate these difficulties as law enforcement is experiencing the same.

Why am I bringing this up? Recently one of our officers was injured while on duty and required medical attention. He was transported to the Albany Medical Center for evaluation and treatment. I accompanied him there and encountered an immensely courteous staff, prompt treatment, and excellent care. The ER, as usual, was completely overwhelmed with people requiring care.

It must be exhausting working in environments as busy and as hectic as these. Providing care for people and their loved ones on their worst days in such a dynamic environment. It's easy to criticize. It's also easy to compliment. Take care of those that take care of you.

Special thanks to **Dr. M. Boyd** and the rest of the staff working that night that cared for our officer. I apologize that I did not have the wherewithal to get all of their names. "

Assistant Chief Ralph Southworth



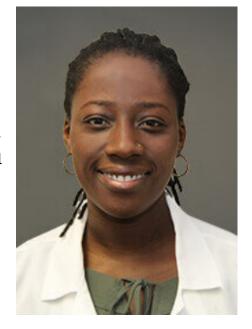
Thirty faculty members (including our own **Dr. Jessica Noonan & Dr. Bo Pinto**) who are part of the new Peer Support Program met this month with Jo Shapiro, MD, director of the Center for Professionalism and Peer Support and a surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. The program allows faculty to develop skills that they can use to support other colleagues during challenging times. - The Page

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Boahema Pinto, MD was featured in the Albany Med System 2024 Annual Report.

How do you see your efforts impacting the community?

I am a physician, and professor, and a Black woman. We are the largest hospital system in the northeast, and we inherently serve patients from everywhere, far and wide, with a range of backgrounds...Representation matters..."I'm proud to have someone that looks like me as my doctor." I've heard that many times in many variations...At the College, I focus on how was can assure that everyone feels welcome – our staff, our faculty members, our different learners and students, and our patients...together we can work to foster an environment where everyone can thrive and feel that they belong."



Why did you choose to study at Albany Medical College?

I came to Albany Med for my residency because I knew I was going to be exposed to all types of pathology. High-acuity volume, and I was going to be prepared for anything. I stayed because I really enjoyed my workplace climate and feeling like I belonged as they helped me maneuver my career pathway.

How does having a College in our system impact patient care?

...when you're an institution that is built around a teaching hospital, there is also a sense of innovation and groundbreaking research and techniques going on, being on the leading-edge if diagnoses and treatments.

The 109th Airlift Wing provides support to the National Science Foundation in its arctic operations, including studies on climate change. As the only Military Physician in the country, **Dr. Kevin Collins** provided medical coverage for 225 military members and National Science Foundation personnel. In addition, Dr. Collins worked with the Danish military to provide support for their arctic basic military training course.

Dr. Kevin Collins, THANK YOU for your service to our country!

Pictured is an LC-130 parked on the ramp of Kangerlussuaq, Greenland.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

"Sunday evening (2/11/24), we received word of a possible mass casualty incident involving a car driving off the Crossgates overpass onto I-87. The initial word was that there were multiple "red tags" on scene, and that we would be receiving an unclear amount of critically ill patients. We quickly worked with Sasha (Charge), Amanda Strock (Flow), and the rest of the nursing team; Abbegale Krug, Mia Flanagan, Olivia Afienko and Caitlyn Dorn to clear out rooms A1-A5 in anticipation of receiving patients. Our ancillary staff and residents did an excellent job of ensuring that all of the rooms had appropriate equipment ready. The trauma surgery team was contacted, and in a short while **Dr. Edwards** was in the A zone with several senior residents ready to assist with receiving patients. Dr. Caleb Watkins and I split the available A zone rooms, while Dr. Alicia Tudor took on the role of triaging ambulances as they arrived. Additionally, Dr. Warren Hayashi headed to the scene, and contacted me as soon as he arrived to give live updates. Prior to the first ambulance pulling in, we were prepared to care for multiple simultaneously arriving critically ill trauma patients. Thankfully, the patients were not nearly as seriously injured as we had anticipated. Nevertheless, I was extremely impressed by how well everyone worked together, including environmental support, techs, nurses, residents, and attendings. It made me proud to be a part of such an amazing team!

"Hi Denis, I just wanted to let you know that Dr. Bo Pinto was at triage this evening and did an outstanding job that probably saved a woman's life. There was a very healthy appearing 75-year-old, who looked like she was 50 who apparently had some back pain and dizziness. Bo was concerned for dissection and very quickly. (Within 15 minutes) Got her IV placed and into the CT scanner which showed an enormous dissection all the way down to her aortic root. Thanks to her excellent judgement She was in the OR an hour and a half after presentation. I want to thank everyone for their outstanding work and her care but especially Dr. Pinto for her clinical acumen and work to expedite her case " Dr. Laurie Thibodeau



Dr. Tim Palmieri

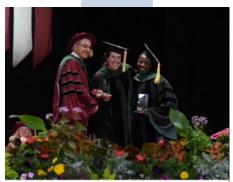
2024 SOSA SWEEP

Dr. Beth Cadigan & Dr. Bo Pinto

Educational Development and Innovation Award

Awarded for:

- The development of new modalities of teaching or presentation of curricular material
- The ability to establish the innovative process within an educational program
- Documentation that the new modality or innovation has advantages over previous systems or processes used in an educational program



Dr. Laurie Thibodeau

Outstanding Clinical Mentor Award

Awarded for:

- Evidence of a track record of graduates who achieve success
- Demonstration of the passion, energy, and commitment to learners
- Evidence of noteworthy dedication to learners' personal and professional development
- The ability to connect learners to opportunities where they can progress



Dr. Luke DuncanMultidisciplinary Team Award

Awarded for:

- Demonstration of the use of multidisciplinary approach to address either a clinical management, educational or research question
- The integration of the teaching of medical students, residents, faculty, etc. into the multidisciplinary team
- The use of Clinical Quality data/Research data as an integral part of the assessment and demonstration of the team approach
- The demonstration of leadership and innovation in reaching team goals



AWARDS &



Beth Cadigan, MD FACEP: A 2024 Unsung Hero

Albany Med's Emergency Department is incredibly fortunate to have Dr. Beth Cadigan.

Dr. Cadigan came to Albany Med in 2006 and most fortunately, has been with us ever since. She has been our Ultrasound Division Chief and US "guru" for 18 years. Dr. Cadigan started our Ultrasound program and single-handedly created, developed and implemented a vast range of US training programs for our Medical Students, Residents, Advanced Practice Providers, and Faculty. In addition, she successfully started our Emergency Medicine Ultrasound Fellowship.

Dr. Cadigan works endlessly and tirelessly to train and educate our team, always looking for ways to advance our ultrasound skills. She has spent countless hours training our faculty in point of care ultrasound, including hands on specialized sessions for nerve blocks and POC echocardiography. Dr. Cadigan innovated a new way to teach ultrasound to our medical students, and subsequently received an Albany Medical College "SOSA Award" for Educational Development and Innovation.

She has been our trailblazer in the field of emergency ultrasound. Dr. Cadigan's dedication to providing outstanding patient care inspires all of us. Dr. Beth Cadigan is a dedicated and fully devoted academic emergency medicine physician. She has single-handedly elevated our department as our ultrasound champion. Dr. Cadigan is a leader, a mentor, an educator, an author, and a first-class clinician. And for Albany Med, Dr. Beth Cadigan is our Unsung Hero.

Dr. Cadigan is without a doubt one of the most conscientious physicians one could ever meet. We all admire Dr. Cadigan for her unparalleled dedication to patient care. She always listens to the patient and leaves no stone unturned.

Dear Dr. Cadigan,

I wanted to write you a note of thanks for the excellent care I received from you in the ER and the hospital overall. I was at Albany Medical on *** with chest pains andyou brought in your ultrasound machine. You discovered I had fluid around my heart and brought the cardiologist to me. I had successful surgery on Saturday and returned home to (State) to recover. Thank you for insisting on "one last test" before I left!

Thank you for the important work you do



Emma Furlano, MD was given the **Sean Donovan Attending of the Year Award** at the 2024 Resident Graduation.



Warren Hayashi, MD was given the **Attending of the Year Award** at the 2024 Resident Graduation.

RECOGNITIONS

The Glens Falls Hospital Emergency Department was honored by the Warren County Board of Supervisors for their response to the January 5th bus crash on the Northway.

Dr. Jessica Noonan won Best Speaker for her lecture on ROPE IN: Wrapping Up Your Clinical Teaching Shift at the 35th Annual Council of Residency Directors in Emergency Medicine National Assembly in New Orleans, Louisiana.



The staff of the Department of Emergency Medicine was given the distinction of being a Champion of Albany Medical Center in December 2023 by Dr. McKenna

Dr. Jeremy Kaswer won the 2024 Best Abstract Competition Winner and **Dr. Zekhster** won the 2024 Open Mic Competition Winner at the American Academy of Emergency Medicine in Austin, Texas.













PRESENTATIONS













Kara Giglia and Dr. Sean Geary

Watch Gonna Do When They Come To You

CORD 2024

Dr. Carrie Danziger

Challenging Parent Encounters: Skills in

Communication and De-escalation

Pediatric Academic Societies in Toronto Canada

Dr. Luke Duncan

Drop the Beat: Current Trends in Post ROSC Care
Transfusion Practice in Trauma: How Contemporary Literature
Can and Should Change What We Do!
American Academy of Emergency Medicine in Austin Texas

Dr. Sean Geary

The Awake Fiberoptic Intubation American Academy of Emergency Medicine in Austin. Texas

Dr. Gregory Wu

Old Drugs, New Tricks: Mastering Delirium Tremens

Vent Management

American Academy of Emergency Medicine in Austin. Texas

Dr. Annette Grajny

Delivering Bad News: Unexpected Death American Academy of Emergency Medicine in Austin, Texas

& MEDIA APPEARANCES

Drs. Boyd-Smith, Long and Tudor

Upstate Poison Center Tox Teaching Day Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse NY



Dr. Long

Fourth Generation Nerve Agents: Overview & Decontamination Vermont Hospital HAZMAT/WMD Preparedness Seminar in South Burlington, VT



Dr. Furlano

Panelist on "Emergency Department Management of Opioid Use Disorder: Best Practices 2025"

American Academy of Emergency Medicine 2025 April 6-10,

Miami. FL



Dr. Matthew Johnson

Utility of the Delta Shock Index in Patients with Upper Gastrointestinal Bleeding
Society of Critical Care Medicine, Phoenix, AZ



Dr. Annette Grajny

Waiting Room Overcrowding Risks and Safety Threats: An Interprofessional In-Situ Simulation Quality Improvement Exercise
Society of Critical Care Medicine, Phoenix, AZ



Dr. Denis Pauzé

Guest speaker on Ask a Chair Podcast by SAEM Podcasts



Dr. Alexander Bracey

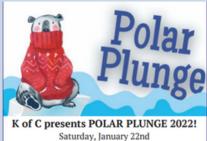
Guest speaker on EMCrit Podcast, Episode: AVAPS (Average Volume Assured Pressure Support) NIPPV



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Briana and Peter Caban towel off during the Polar Bear Plunge, sponsored by The Knights of Columbus Council 14164 of Our Lady of Victory Church.



Saturday, January 22nd
Registration on olvols.org under upcoming or at the link below

YOU DON'T HAVE TO JUMP IN THE LAKE to participate in the POLAR PLUNGE you can give to the OLV-OLS food pantry by giving a donat to the Knights of Columbus polar plunge fundraiser by sending a check to "K of C Polar Plunge c/o R Dozois 210 Keefe Rd. Troy NY 12180" until Jan 22, 2022.



Team Zimmerman worked the Radiothon that was May 2nd-3rd, 2024.





The ED D.R.E.A.M. Team went to Green Tech High School to inspire today's students to be tomorrow's health care leaders



SAFE Program Manager Kaylin Dawson and Forensic Medicine Coordinator Elizabeth Heaphy visited South Colonie High School to teach forensic students about their work. Students learned about our SAFE program and how we utilize forensic evidence to support victims of violence. "We brought along some of the tools we use, which helped put into perspective the recovery of evidence in such cases," said Dawson. "I loved their engagement, their questions, and their enthusiasm for evidence collection."- From The Page



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our own **Dr. Woll** is the Medical Director for the Double H Ranch. Plus other EM providers spend time volunteering throughout the summer. The Double H Ranch was featured in the System 2024 Annual Report.

"A partnership between the System and the Double H Ranch in Lake Luzern, Warren County, allows children with medically complex conditions the opportunity to have a summer experience similar to other youth by blending medical care into a camp environment safe for these children to enjoy activities, making it a physically safe and medically sound environment.

The Double H Ranch was co-founded by Charles R. Wood + Paul Newman in 1993 to provide specialized programs for children and their families dealing with life-threatening and chronic illnesses. The system's doctors, nurses, and other health care volunteers provide year-round on-sire medical support while Double H Ranch enriches lives by providing adaptive experiences and "medically safe fun."

The week-long Adirondack experience includes fishing, boating, swimming, and ziplining in summer, and skiing and snowboarding in winter. All activities are adaptive. Campers develop a sense of connection with one another, resulting in life-changing resilience and a support structure that helps in their emotional, physical and mental health development. "- System 2024 Annual Report

VOLUNTEER WORK:

- Dr. Molly Boyd donates food from her farm to the Stillwater Food Pantry
- Drs. Heather Long and Adam Rowden volunteer at Double H Ranch
- Dr. Adam Rowden is the Medical Director of the Adaptive Winter Sports Program at Double H Ranch, Assistant Medical Director of the summer camp and serves on their Medical Advisory Committee
- Dr. Adam Rowden is a National Ski Patrol Physician Partner





May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
May the rains fall softly upon your fields,
And, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.



Sean studied and practiced in Ireland before completing his residency and fellowships in both ultrasound and EMS here at Albany.

He stayed at
Albany to join the
Division of EMS
faculty and would
regularly buy
breakfast
sandwiches for
our EM Residents



Sean worked with the Schenectady Fire Department and the Urban Search and Rescue Team through the Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

In 2017, Albany
Med sent a team
to Puerto Rico
after a hurricane.
His humor,
practical jokes
and teaching
endeared other
volunteers to him







LIGHT UP THE NIGHT



Hosted at the 1863 Club at the Saratoga Race Course





400+ supporters attended





A Signature
Summer
Event















Making the World a Better Place With...

Altamont Enterprise - Thursday, May 17, 2018

Opinion

Kindness, Compassion

ngels helped Bette Cowley to her beloved home to die

To the Editor: My mom, Bette Cowley, passed yay on May 6. For the two days ior to her passing, we had e assistance of the Altamont scue Squad. The morning of e fifth, on Cinco de Mayo, they ked her up and brought her to e hospital.

Upon arriving at the hospi-I, the doctors saw her x-rays lowed extensive fluid in her ngs, so we were told that her assing was going to be very on. She made her wishes very ar to the doctors - that she anted to go home to pass away the home that she built with er husband, Edward Cowley, 58 ars ago and he passed away ere as well, four years ago.

The doctors and nurses were illing to do whatever needed be done to make my mother's ishes come true. They personly called the Altamont Rescue guad and asked them to please elp us in returning Bette to her ome so that she could pass at ome with my husband, Dave albert, and myself, Dory Jaibert, aring for her.

They then arranged to have a special oxygen system provided in the ambulance so that she could make the trip home. We were so lucky to have had the doctors and all the rescue people that were involved.

We just ran into one angel after another, Dr. Duncan and Dr. Daily in the emergency room took care of us with such tender loving care and consideration for

my mother and her wishes.

We were only in the hospital for six hours or so. It was the toughest six hours, learning everything that we were learning about my mother's condition, but all the people that we came in contact with actually made it a wonderful experience

I am forever grateful for all of the love and kindness everyone demonstrated. The ambulance driver, Warren, and emergency medical technicians (including Dan who made both runs with Bette) were volunteers on a Saturday morning, out of the kindness of their hearts, and volunteered their time to bring my mother back home.

We did get her to her home Township Road. Once home, put on the Irish music, I picl lots of daffodils so that her fle ers were everywhere around and she passed away peacefu

I wrote the names of many the people who helped us an can't find my paper that I wr everything on while in the bulance.

One of the EMTs said, "Y mom must be one import person, as I've worked here four-and-a-half years and ne saw someone escorted back ho so that they could pass av peacefully."

I wish I could personally the every single angel who helped mother's passing to be a beaut experience. I never thought would happen and so I th you all great people of Altam fire and rescue; Guilderland rescue, and police; and Alb Medical Center emergency r staff.

Thank you. Dory Jalbert Coventry, Rhode Island



KATHY HOCHUL



STEVEN G. JAMES

November 22, 2024

Dr. Dennis P. McKenna President and CEO Albany Med Health System 43 New Scotland Avenue, MC-114 Albany, NY 12208

Dear Dr. McKenna,

On behalf of the New York State Police and Troop G, I would like to express our deepest gratitude for the exceptional care and support provided to one of our troopers following a critical incident that occurred on November 2, 2024.

During a traffic stop, the trooper and a tow truck operator were severely injured after being struck by a passing motorist. The professionalism, dedication, and expertise demonstrated by your emergency team during such a chaotic time was truly remarkable. The quality of care and the compassionate nature of everyone involved has made a profound impact on his recovery and has provided comfort to his family and colleagues.

We are grateful for the tireless work of your doctors, nurses, and all healthcare professionals who worked to save our trooper's life and guide him on the road to recovery. Please extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who played a part.

Patient Centered Care!



ADULT ED OPERATIONS

Heather Long. MD **Medical Director** Chief, Division of Medical Toxicology + Addiction Medicine **Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine**

Highlights 2024-25

Faced with challenges of extreme overcrowding in the ED and some of the longest reported waiting room times in New York State, we TURNED IT AROUND!

Dr Luke Duncan, aka our "Chief Architect" along with Bri Caban led our Team with a complete overhaul in workflow called "split flow" that assigned patients to teams upon arrival and:

- Dramatically reducing waits to be seen by physicians/APPs
- Reducing patients who left without being seen by more than 50%
- Shortening length of stay for patients being discharged
- IMPROVING PATIENT CARE and STAFF MORALE

team to less than 10 minutes.

Reduced median time EMS spends waiting to handoff patients to ED

Pictured to the left: Dr. Gretchen Gunn-Konduru was awarded Quality Leader efforts.

- Adult ED's adherence to sepsis best practices improves 133% through intensive education efforts by Dr Gretchen Gunn-Konduru
- **Dr. Denis Pauzé** introduces **GRIT** - Great Rapid Improvement Teams in Adult & Pediatric EDs to tackle small and mediumsized problems with ideas generated by staff leading to numerous improvements in the department.
- Pictured below: Our ED operationalized a state of the art Weapons Detection System on December 19th, 2024. Albany Med is truly fortunate to have a premier group of Security Officers. AMC Security is led by Charles Day, Angela Alessi and Bob Leary.

Our ED operationalized a state of the art Weapons Detection System on December 19th, 2024. Albany Med is truly fortunate to have a premier group of Security Officers. AMC Security is led by Charles Day, Angela Alessi and Bob Leary.







ED Operations

One Line Service Model September 6th

Dr. McKenna's Cabinet Meeting September 6th One Line Service Model

ED Tier Plan September 16th ED Safety &
Operations Huddle
September 16th

Celebration of EM Nurses Day; APP Week; Dutch Apple Cruise; 2023 Annual Summary

EM GRIT & PEM GRIT Rapid Improvement Teams ED Renovations
CT scanner
Family Waiting Room

Kindness,
Compassion &
Patient Centered
Care

ED Cleaning & Decluttering

Hospital Violence
Debriefs
Zero for ED
November 14th

ED Split Flow Model
October 29th

ED Tier Plan Heat Map PEDs ED Cove opens
November 5th

"It's Our Ship" Slogan Split Flow Trial
October 4th
Data Analysis
ED Town Hall

"It's Our Ship" Tshirts

Our ED Culture:

Our Work is Just Beginning!

Consistency
Dependability
Adaptability
Honesty

"Restore our ED Greatness" Alacrity

Data Driven

Kindness

Compassion

Patient Centered
Care

Clinical & Academic Excellence

Compassion
Accountability
Respect
Engagement

Accountability

ED Tier Plan Heat Map ED Safety Huddle GRIT Teams

The Patient Experience

Every Patient Matters

"It's Our Ship" Slogan One Line Service
Model

Set Goals Plan Act Accomplish

GREAT RAPID IMPROVEMENT TEAM

EM GRIT and PEM GRIT were introduced to the department mid-October of 2024

What does EM GRIT & PEM GRIT stand for?

- Emergency Medicine Great RAPID IMPROVEMENT TEAM.
- Pediatric Emergency Medicine Great RAPID IMPROVEMENT TEAM.

What does a rapid improvement team do?

• A GRIT teams tackle a small-moderate size problem and fixes it. Consider this akin to "Fix the Broken Windows" or "There is a pebble in my shoe I want to get rid of"

Who makes up the GRIT teams?

What is the timing for a rapid improvement project?

• GRIT teams tackle a small-moderate size problem and fixes it within 1-3 weeks.

What is the vision here?

- To have multiple EM and PEM GRIT Teams working simultaneously to make OUR department better. Staff can come up with ideas or volunteer to be on a team to help.
- In 4-8 weeks, our goal is to have a multitude of departmental improvements!

Why are we forming EM GRIT and PEM GRIT teams?

 Because it is OUR SHIP! We are improving OUR ED and the care we provide for OUR PATIENTS.

How are we forming the ED GRIT and PEM GRIT teams?

We have several EM GRIT & PEM GRIT
Team Opportunities, such as bed
assigned to get patients upstairs, how to
d/c patients faster, fix the suture carts, and
any other ideas you can think of!

What if I have my own idea for a GRIT team?

- Anyone of us can come up with their own EM/PEM GRIT ideas and discuss with ED Leadership for the "green light" (to make sure projects do not overlap too much).
 - Nurses & Techs: please reach out to Bri or Nicole
 - Patient Access: please reach out to Meg, Stacey, Karen
 - Providers: please reach out to Heather, Gretchen, or Carrie



B15 with shiny new floors!

AT ALL PLANTS AND ALL

Completed in 2024:

- Floors cleaned. Halls decluttered
- We improved the family waiting room and added new furniture.
- PEDs ED painted .
- Suture cart re-done

Ongoing into 2025:

- Airway cart re-do
- Placement of sharps containers in hallways/Fzone
- Automation of doors from waiting room to Ezone hallway

Christ Malewicz re-dsigned our suture carts

NEW ED TIER PLAN

Albany Medical Center Hospital Adult Emergency Department Tier Plan

Tier Parameters:

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	Tier 5 >4hrs
Waiting Room	0-25	26-35	36-45	46-60	>61	Tier 5 >4hrs
Total ED Pt	0-59	60-99	100-119	120-139	>140	Tier 5 >4hrs
Boarders (All observation or inpatient)	0-25	26-35	36-45	46-60	>61	Tier 5 >4hrs
Response	Normal Operations	Internal ED Response	ED Leadership Alert	Hospital Leadership Alert	Hospital Response	Incident Command Activation

We instituted an ED Tier Plan to assist with ED overcrowding.

10/28/2024 10/29/2024 10/30/2024 10/31/2024 11/1/2024 11/2/2024 11/3/2024

Each tier is based upon objective criteria.

Each tier activates a departmental and hospital wide response to improve patient flow

Goal to relieve ED overcrowding.

	10/28/2024	10/29/2024	10/30/2024	10/31/2024	11/1/2024	11/2/2024	11/3/2024
Days	3	2	1	1	2	1	1
Evenings	3	2	1	1	2	1	1
Nights	3	1	1	1	2	1	1
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	11/4/2024	11/5/2024	11/6/2024	11/7/2024	11/8/2024	11/9/2024	11/10/2024
Days	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Evenings	2	2	1	2	2	1	1
Nights	1	1	2	2	2	1	1
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	11/11/2024	11/12/2024	11/13/2024	11/14/2024	11/15/2024	11/16/2024	11/17/2024
Days	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Evenings	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Nights	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	11/18/2024	11/19/2024	11/20/2024	11/21/2024	11/22/2024	11/23/2024	11/24/2024
Days	1	2	4	1	1	2	1
Evenings	2	2	3	2	2	2	2
Nights	3	4	2	1	2	2	1
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	11/25/2024	11/26/2024	11/27/2024	11/28/2024	11/29/2024	11/30/2024	12/1/2024
Days	1	2	2	1	1	1	2
Evenings	2	2	2	1	2	1	1
Nights	2	2	1	1	1	1	1



Color coded "Tier Plan Heat Map" giving an immediate overview of the month's Tier history. Pictures id November 2024.

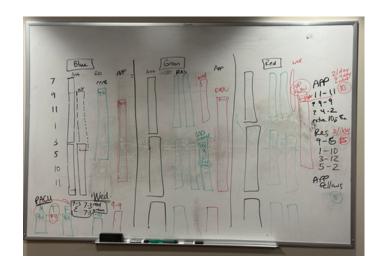
NEW SPLIT FLOW MODEL





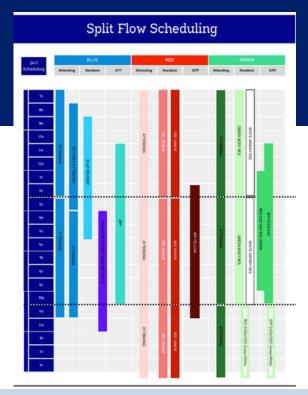
Top: ED leadership team strategizing the optimal staffing schedule to care for patients.

Bottom: Dr. Carrie Danziger leading the discussion of staffing strategies.



Our new Split Flow Model assigns patients to Red, Green or Blue Team upon arrival.

BLUE	RED	GREEN
Attending 7-3p 9-5p (M/T) 3p-12 4p-12	Attending 7-3p 3-11p 11-7a	Attending 7-3p 3-11p 11-7a
Resident 9-6p (excluding Wed) 4p-1a (M/F)	Resident 7-4p 7-4p 2:30-11:30 2:30-11:30 10:30-7:30	Resident 7-4p 7-4p 2:30-11:30 2:30-11:30 10:30-7:30 1-10 Odd days and W
APP 11-11 (excluding Wed) 4p-2a (T)	APP 2-12p APP Fellow	APP 11-11 even days (excluding W) 10:30-7:30a





ED Safety Huddle

Everyone Has a Voice

9am Daily Leadership Huddle

- Metrics: # of patients seen yesterday, LWBS # or percentage, EMS metrics
- Current State: Total # in ED, WR total, # of Boarders, ICU Boarders, Longest WR LOS, Longest Main LOS w/o dispo, Peds ED status
- BBSS: # of patients, open rooms
- Staffing
- ED zone plan for the day: E zone, F zone, PACU, etc.
- Department Challenges: ex. CT scanner down, tech shortage etc.
- Logistics Center: State of the house, open beds, ICU status, # of possible discharges in house etc.
- Barriers to ED flow
- Non-working equipment/IT
- **Staff Kudos/Shout Outs
- "Anything else anyone else"



WHAT WE DO MATTERS

Ultrasound:

- An infant was referred by their pediatrician to the pediatric emergency department due to lack of weight gain since their 9-month check-up. The mom noted the child had increased fatigue and was sleeping and feeding less. The child had also not started to walk as expected. After observing that the heart appeared slightly enlarged on the chest x-ray, a bedside ultrasound performed by the emergency physician revealed severely reduced function of the left side of the child's heart, identified as left ventricular cardiomyopathy. Blood work confirmed the diagnosis, and the patient was admitted to the pediatric intensive care unit with cardiologists promptly involved. The patient began heart medications and was discharged safely. Their heart condition was determined to be a complication of influenza. The emergency physician's rapid diagnosis by ultrasound allowed the child to get lifesaving therapy before their condition worsened.
- An elderly-year-old gentleman presented to the emergency department after a fainting event while eating breakfast. EMS reported he had low blood pressure on scene. He stated that 3 days ago he had left leg pain that was sharp and radiated down his leg but went away with no chest or abdominal pain. Upon his arrival, a bedside ultrasound was conducted to ascertain potential causes for his syncope. It showed an unstable abdominal aortic aneurysm. Following this unexpected ultrasound finding, our vascular team was immediately mobilized to address his condition.
- A young 20's year old was found on their apartment floor, confused and unable to communicate. Evaluation by emergency services found the patient with fever, respiratory failure, and low blood pressure. Within minutes of arriving at our emergency department, the patient had an ultrasound performed at bedside which demonstrated a multi-lobar pneumonia with associated inflammatory fluid in the chest. It also diagnosed infected heart valves that were now leaking and sending clots to their brain contributing to both shortness of breath and confusion (endocarditis). The ultrasound alone allowed for the rapid identification of the patient's heart infection. This led to the subsequent mobilization of our heart surgeons and the cardiac life support team (ECMO).
- A teenager, with a history of COVID -19 earlier that month presented to the emergency department with 5 days of worsening fever, chills, shortness of breath, nausea, and abdominal pain. The presentation raised concern for post-covid multi-system inflammatory syndrome (MIS C). A bedside ultrasound showed fluid around the patient's heart, verifying heart involvement and favoring the MIS C concern. The physician was also able to further assess the degree to which the heart was impaired, guiding further support measures like cardiac life support (ECMO).

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