

# Population Health Section – Newsletter

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## Welcome

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The Department of Emergency Medicine, Section of Population Health is proud to share the first edition of our quarterly newsletter.

The Section was formed in August 2018, bringing together the Department's efforts around vulnerable populations, both locally and globally. Since then, we've made a lot of progress:

- Our education program has evolved beyond global health, to include rural and underserved populations in our own community.
- Clinically, we have made progress in areas of opioids and HIV detection, with much more work in the pipeline.
- We have developed strong relationships with [Public Health – Seattle & King County](#) around issues of opioid use disorder (OUD), firearms, and other key initiatives.
- We've become increasingly involved in the Medicaid Transformation Project in King County, HealthierHere.
- Finally, our research has already started to grow, with funding for programs related to hepatitis C virus (HCV) and OUD among others.



**Dr. Herbie Duber**  
Section Head

These quarterly updates will provide information on clinical, research and educational endeavors within the Section. We look forward to sharing our progress, and the progress made by the communities we serve, in future issues.

Sincerely,

Herbie Duber, MD, MPH

Head, Section of Population Health

## Research News/Grants/Publications

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Dr. **Callan Fockele**, Resident, third year (mentor: Dr. **Lauren Whiteside**, Assistant Professor) received a grant from SAEME for NIDA Mentor-Facilitated Training Award in Substance Use Disorders Science Dissemination Solicitation, RF2019-016, Title: *Creating a Safety Net in Washington: Establishing a Regional Program for the Initiation of Buprenorphine for Opioid Use Disorder from the Emergency Departments in King County*

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Dr. **Sachita Shah**, Associate Professor, will present her abstract *Current Utilization and Perceptions of Ultrasound at Labor Triage: Initial Findings from a Baseline Survey in Eastern Uganda* at CUGH in March 2019 on behalf of our collaboration with the East Africa Preterm Birth Initiative.

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Dr. **Herbie Duber**, Associate Professor, and Dr. **Lauren Whiteside**, Assistant Professor, published [Identification, Management, and Transition of Care for Patients with Opioid Use Disorder in the Emergency Department](#), *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, October 2018.

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Dr. **Amber Sabbatini**, Acting Assistant Professor, and Dr. **Fiona Gallahue**, Associate Professor, published [Capturing Emergency Department Discharge Quality with the Care Transitions Measure: A Pilot Study](#), *Academic Emergency Medicine*, September 2018

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Dr. **Jeremy Hess**, Associate Professor, published a number of studies, including:

[Preparing the next generation of health professionals to tackle climate change: Are China's medical students ready?](#) *Environmental Research*, January 2019.

[The 2018 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: shaping the health of nations for centuries to come](#), November 2018.

[Building Resilience to Climate Change: Pilot Evaluation of the Impact of India's First Heat Action Plan on All-Cause Mortality](#), *Journal of Environmental and Public Health*, November 2018.

[Climate Change and Health: An Urgent Call to Academic Emergency Medicine](#), *Academic Emergency Medicine*, November 2018.

[Stress Testing the Capacity of Health Systems to Manage Climate Change-Related Shocks and Stresses](#), *International Journal of Environmental and Public Health*, October 2018.

## News: Fellowship

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### Congratulations Dr. Jodie Totten (New Assistant Fellowship Director)

*Joins the leadership team*

Our very first program graduate, Dr. **Jodie Totten**, joined our leadership team in the position of Assistant Fellowship Director, in the Global Emergency Medicine and Rural Health Fellowship Program.

Dr. Totten has accepted a position with clinical work in Alaska in both Anchorage (ANMC) and Juneau, and will assist with curriculum development specific to Alaskan Native Culture, Rural Emergency Medicine, and Wellness, further develop the village outreach experience for the fellows, and continue to build our connection and partnership with the ANTHC.



Dr. Totten recently completed a training course in Emergency Care Skills for clinical officers in rural Malawi

## Dr. Daniel Ballew (Senior Fellow)

Attended a Social Medicine "Boot Camp" in Haiti and worked in Nome, AK (Oct./Nov. 2018)



Dr. Ballew in Haiti

**Haiti:** Dr. **Daniel Ballew** attended the Partners in Health (PIH) annual Social Medicine "Boot Camp" for global health fellows and residents, which was held in Haiti. Participants retraced the footsteps of the beginning of PIH and toured the areas in which PIH is currently working.

**Nome:** Last fall, Dr. Ballew worked in the Emergency Department of the Norton Sound Regional Hospital in Nome, AK, which is the main facility of the Norton Sound Health Corporation, serving the communities and areas of the Bering Strait Region in Northwest Alaska. It's similar to most EDs, but the covering physician is also responsible for village calls from community health aids or advanced practitioners in one of the many villages in the Norton Sound Region.

The *telemedicine platform* was an invaluable resource, helping guide decision making and disposition regarding patient care. Being able to see the patient and the in-person caregiver "face to face" made a huge difference.

## Dr. Scott Owens (Senior Fellow)

Worked in South Sudan with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)

During the past six months, Dr. **Scott Owens** spent time at two projects in South Sudan, training clinical officers, midwives, and doctors in point-of-care ultrasound.

They implemented an evaluation of the surgical abdomen in pediatric patients, and diagnosed several patients with intussusception and appendicitis.

Dr. Owens is helping MSF run its first international *training of trainers* for national staff to become ultrasound trainers in their projects. One of Dr. Owens students in Malakal [describes his experience](#).



Dr. Owens taught an International Training of Trainers course for Doctors without Borders in Juba, South Sudan (Dec 2018)

## News: Residents

### Dr. Nicole Chicoine Mooney (Resident, fourth year)

Provided medical care to the underserved in Haiti (Oct. 2018)



Children of Castillon sitting outside the GHT clinic

Dr. **Kathy Jobe**, Associate Professor, is the Medical Director of a small NGO, [Global Health Teams](#) (GHT) that has been providing care in the Grand'Anse province of Western Haiti since 1998. She volunteers in Haiti several times yearly.

Last October, she was joined by Dr. **Nicole Chicoine Mooney**, who called the experience "life-changing." She said that striving to provide care in a very resource-limited environment made her a more resourceful and creative provider.

GHT served the people of Castillon and surrounding villages, whose only access to medical care is when GHT visits the area twice per year. Patients travel hours by foot over rugged terrain to see GHT, some waiting many hours in unrelenting heat. Their medical conditions range from hypertension, anemia, malaria, diabetes, sepsis, HIV, trauma, to heart disease.

### **Dr. David Murphy (Resident, fourth year)**

*Completed a Population/Global Health elective in the Dominican Republic (Nov. 2018)*

Last fall, Dr. **David Murphy** visited the Dominican Republic to provide care and to teach. He spent time in the ED at Hospital General de la Plaza de la Salud in Santo Domingo, which has 30 beds and sees 58K patients per year, with an admission rate of 20% among adult population.

Compared to what is offered in the US, there are several diagnostic (e.g. CT/MRI) and treatment (e.g. stroke care) limitations. However, one area of opportunity is *bedside ultrasound*.

Dr. Murphy taught bedside ED echocardiography to the residents. They performed over a hundred studies, discovering, solidifying, or discarding etiologies for patients presenting complaints.

During this rotation, Dr. **Sachita Shah**, Associate Professor, and Dr. Murphy were able to utilize the Philips Reacts software to provide real-time education to residents performing ultrasound studies. In conjunction with ICU fellows, they reviewed bedside echocardiography, e-FAST, IVC, B-lines, and 2-point compression studies. The live-stream function allowed both sides to see real-time images as well as probe placement.



**Dr. Murphy teaching ED echocardiography**

To complete his rotation, Dr. Murphy prepared and delivered two lectures (*Use of bedside ultrasonography in undifferentiated shock patients* and *Emerging airway management techniques and use of airway checklist*) targeting his observations at the Plaza de Salud ED.



**Dr. Murphy delivering a lecture**

In response to the airway checklist lecture, departmental leadership will adapt/implement our own *HMC Airway Checklist* for tracheal intubation (thanks to Dr. **Tak Watase**, Assistant Professor, for sharing!).

During the course of the elective, Dr. Murphy visited the nascent 9-1-1 EMS system headquarters in Santo Domingo. Currently, the public EMS system has approximately 75% of geographic capture providing

both inter-facility and scene responses. Similar to our system, there is a tiered response with a few interesting adaptations:

1. Physicians receive calls at the dispatch center and determine the appropriate level of response for each medical call.
2. There are no advanced practice paramedics, rather EMTs, RNs, and MDs, the latter two paired in as advanced prehospital units.
3. To offset the massive traffic jams, motorcycle units are employed as advance units ahead of ambulance arrival which, when equipped with AEDs, may be a lifesaving difference.