The Department remains very busy clinically. At MSH, we have admitted 400 more patients this year to date compared to last year. Peak registrations and admissions are reported at all of our sites. The problems of urban overcrowding and lack of in-patient resources have never been more acute and the RSV and flu seasons have not hit us as yet. It is clear, however, that our CEOs and COOs understand that the situation will not simply go away and that these patients waiting for beds are the difference between red ink and solvency. Of course, there are the overriding issues of the delivery of high quality humanistic medicine, which is very difficult to attain during gridlock situations.

At these times, it is key that the institutions accept that these patients are their responsibility as well as ours and work to decrease length of stay and increase hospital resources to accommodate the increased work-load on the in-patient side of the Hospital. This is also a time when our leadership skills and depth of understanding of hospital operations can help to develop options that the hospital can use to decrease throughput times and open access to in-patient beds. We believe that Emergency Physicians have the requisite interpersonal skills, energy and talent to pursue highly successful careers in academic administration. These managerial opportunities have never been so available to us. These new career ladders are examples of a basic EM tenet- if they give you lemons, make lemonade.

The spirituality of our work continues to inspire us and buoy up our spirits in spite of the dismal international scene, domestic problems and the local issues. This is another unexpected gift of our profession. Posttraumatic stress be damned -there are patients waiting to be seen.

As the size of our faculty, residency and staffs continues to grow, it is key that we maintain a warm therapeutic and supportive work environment. It is illogical to expect our caregivers to provide the utmost to our patients in an environment that is not giving support back to them. We may not always be able to reward extraordinary team members financially but there are the rewards of professional recognition by colleagues and co-workers and the gratification of knowing that we make a major difference in the lives of our patients and their families.

Thanks for all your efforts under difficult conditions!

---

**RESIDENCY UPDATE**

The residency has begun the new academic year under the leadership of Andy Jagoda, Peter Shearer, and Jessica Freedman. Its truly inspiring to reflect on how much the residency has matured since 1995. Our resident complement has grown to 12 in each year, our faculty to over 100 emergency medicine board eligible / certified members, over 10 productive divisions including toxicology, EMS/disaster medicine, informatics, pediatrics, research, and administrative/business.

Our three chief residents, Haru Okuda, Marie-Carmelle Elie, and Douglas Lee are setting a new standard of excellence while all the EM-3’s are demonstrating a commitment to clinical practice and academics that is noteworthy. Starting this past July, the EM-3’s assumed new administrative responsibilities in the Sinai ED, allowing us to provide a true progressive responsibility format in the residency. Other new changes in the residency format include a shortened NICU experiences as the result of feedback from residents on the rotation, a shortened psychiatric ED experience, and a new administration curriculum.

**A summary of the CORD meeting at Scientific Assembly**

For the first time in history, the RRC has approached CORD to collaborate in setting the benchmarks for residency training. It is anticipated that this collaboration will help to define and quantify the standards that residency programs are evaluated on including “academic productivity”, “number of procedures”, “competency”, and “protected time”.

At the present time, peer reviewed publications are the benchmark used to define academic productivity for faculty.

Send us your news! Please report news, updates, and events to the editor, at: meemee.lahman@mssm.edu
Consequently, faculty are reminded that the minimum requirement in our Department is two peer reviewed publications per year.

The RRC has released the results of the “Number’s Project” defining the minimum number of procedures which must be performed by an emergency medicine resident in order for them to be qualified for graduation. The Project notes that the absolute number does not equal competency and competency assessment tools will be forthcoming.

### Resident News

**Marie Carmelle Elie** and **Ramona Snipes** were each awarded $500 scholarships to attend an echocardiography course.

**Scott Weingart** and **Bill Wang** have both been awarded a $400 scholarship to attend the National Airway Course in Atlanta.

**JD Collins** went to Guatemala for a Spanish Intensive Language Course. JD is also planning on taking the new St. Luke’s US elective.

**Josh Wallenstein** has signed up to write an issue of *ACEP Foresight* on “Headache in the Emergency Department: Avoiding the Pitfalls”; publication date Winter 2003. . . stay tuned. Josh is also doing a Pediatric Anesthesia elective this month and we are looking forward to his assessment of the experience.

**Philip Chung** has just returned from Brazil and has discovered the allure of the Copa Cabana: he is now looking into setting up an elective south of the equator and seeking a faculty sponsor to help finance the elective (!).

**Elin Ringstrom** is officially “visafied” and practicing clinically: Congratulations!!! Even better, she found an apartment with a bird’s eye view of the city.

**Doug Lee** and **Rhett Silver** participated in THE New York City Scavenger Hunt and came in #17 which is an impressive accomplishment. NOTE: **Bill Wang** is really the winner since he was the man in the back giving directions and advice.

### Career Night

September 17, the good Peter Shearer hosted the senior residents at his apartment for an evening devoted to exploring career pathways and interviewing for jobs. The evening began with an insightful analysis by Dr. Jacobson on the intangibles in career decision making and ended with a presentation by Dr. Richardson on the nuts and bolts of the process of finding a job. Inbetween there was a lot of good food and even more good beer (Chamay). By the end of the evening, everyone decided to take the GREs . . .
RESEARCH & GRANTS UPDATE

ACEP NATIONAL CONFERENCE

This year’s survey booth in the Exhibition Hall at ACEP studied the practice patterns of emergency physician’s treatment of MTBI. The survey was supported by a grant from the International Brain Injury Association and will provide complimentary information to the MTBI Clinical Policy published in the August 2002 issue of the Annals of Emergency Medicine. The booth was coordinated by Maggi Rodriguez who set a new standard of excellence in survey booth operations. With the help of Mike Roberson, residents, faculty, and $100 worth of gummy brains, the booth recruited over 820 participants capturing approximately 20% of all ACEP physician registrants. OUTSTANDING!

ACTIVE RESEARCH STUDIES

East Harlem Partnership study of Prostate Cancer in African-Americans.
Denise Nassisi MD, Cancer Center

The Epidemiology of Traumatic Brain Injury In Hudson County, New Jersey.
John Bruns, Jr., MD, Steve Gottesfeld, DO

Early Access to Defibrillation for Victims of Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest, PAD.
Lynne Richardson, MD, Jennifer Holohan, MPH

Outpatient Prescription Errors: A Time and Cost Analysis.
Michael Bessette MD, Sheldon Jacobson MD

Reza Keshevarez, MD

Brain Attack: An Educational Tool for Communities.
Lynne D. Richardson, MD, Kevin Baumlin, MD, Jennifer Holohan, MS, Joanna Shen

Impact of International Electives on Medical School and Professional Medical Careers.
MeeMee Lahman, BA, Dan Pallin, MD, Andy Jagoda, MD

An Emergency Department-based Educational Intervention and Referral Program to Increase Screening for Colorectal and Prostate Cancers.
Denise Nassisi, MD, Lina Jandorf, MA, Ilene Wilets, PhD, Steven Itzkowitz, MD, Simon Hall.

MTBI Survey for ACEP Scientific Assembly
Andy Jagoda, MD, John Bruns, JR, Steven Gottesfeld, MD

Minority Medical Student Career Selections
Lynne D. Richardson, MD Deborah Fish Ragin, PhD, Gary Butts, MD.

AWARDS

On July 10th, Barbara Richardson was given an achievement award from the Department in recognition of her commitment to the development of emergency medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Richardson was the Clinical Director of the Department from 1998 until 2001 during which time the Department advanced from a division of the Department of Medicine to a full academic department within the medical school.

In July, Jill Zaheer was promoted to Vice Chair for Administrative Affairs in our Department. This promotion reflects the outstanding contribution Jill has made to the financial and administrative operations and is greatly deserved.

On August 24th, Andy Jagoda was awarded the first annual George Washington University / Ronald Reagan Institute for Emergency Medicine Career Achievement Award “for outstanding contribution toward the advancement of academic emergency medicine”. The award was given in Washington, D. C. at the opening of GW’s new emergency department.

Kevin Baumlin was appointed to the NINDS Task Force on “Acute Stroke Care: Creating a Standard”.

National Affiliations

Carol Barsky, MD: AAEM, Board of Directors
Sheldon Jacobson, MD: SAEM, Program Committee
National Board of Medical Examiners
Acute Care Committee, Chairman

Lynne Richardson, MD: AAWEP, Board of Directors
ABEM, Oral Board Examiner
ACEP, Public Health Committee
American Heart Assoc., Board of Directors
NY Public Health Committee, Board of Directors

Andy Jagoda, MD: ACCP, Co-chair
Clinical Policy Committee
Brain Attack Committee

Stuart Kessler, MD: ACEP, NY Board of Directors

Our Department's Recent Arrivals:
Jessica Nieto’s baby girl
Denise Nassisi’s baby girl
Deborah Nazarian’s baby girl
Ula Wang’s baby boy
Doug Barnaby’s baby boy
Ilene Wilet’s baby boy
Jessica Spector’s baby girl
Carol Barsky’s baby girl
Debbie Dean’s baby girl
Beth Yagoda’s baby boy
Jim Shashaty’s twin baby boys
UPDATES FROM THE EM WORLD

Mount Sinai Update

The Mount Sinai Hospital ED Operations Leadership Team has been nominated for the Recognition of Excellence 2002 Team Award. The ED Operations Leadership team includes Dr. Carol Barsky (Medical Director), Dr. Abe Warshaw (Associate Director), Dr. Scot Hill (Assistant Director), Dr. Kevin Bauml (Director of Informatics), Dr. Kevin Chason (Director of Emergency Management), Dr. Tamara Dildy (Director of Urgent Care), Laura Giles (Nurse Manager), Anne Marie McDonald, Mairead O’Regan, & Carol Peltz (Nursing Clinical Coordinators), Sherrie Howey, Luis Justiano, Abbe Toussaint (Administrators), Michael Roberson (IT Specialist), and Jessica Spector (Business Manager). The nomination is in recognition of the many challenges they faced during the past year, (September 11th, anthrax, the Hunter Group and substantial budget cuts - to name just a few), while introducing "an organizational culture based upon the competence and professionalism of physician and nurse specialists in emergency medicine.” Congratulations to this dedicated and talented team!

Mount Sinai-Queens Update

Both the Mount Sinai Manhattan (MSM) and Mount Sinai Queens (MSQ) have faculty practice groups that are thriving. At MSM, under the stewardship of Dr. Abe Warshaw, and with the support of Sherrie Howie, Jessica Spector (Business Manager), the charts process has become more efficient and accurate to make them financially viable and meet the standards of the medical and legal requirements. The enthusiasm of the faculty to participate in these efforts, particularly in chart documentation, has been rewarding. We are seeing an increase in monthly charges.

The faculty practice at MSQ, known as Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens Emergency Care Associates, has completed the 2nd year of operation with very encouraging revenues. A new chart system was introduced by Dr. Anthony Boutin early in the spring and has made the documentation process more streamlined and efficient. There are still many more opportunities for continued growth and we are looking forwards to the start of the third year with enthusiasm.

In early September, the faculty successfully completed their first lecture day for the residents at Elmhurst Hospital Center. Our next lecture day is scheduled for December 2002.

Welcome to our new faculty: Meika Neblett, MD, Abbe Lindsey, MD and Rajiv Prasad, MD.

Nurses Update

2002 NURSES’ WEEK: Caring, Healing, Educating ….one life at a time.

Penny Ajero, Sande Barker-Powell, Janet Dickson, Erica Dixon, Laura Giles and Ann Marie McDonald all gave talks on various emergency nursing related topics from trauma to rapid sequence intubation.

Dr Jacobson and Dr Barsky graciously hosted a cocktail party on Thursday evening, awards and gifts were given for:

Lola N. Award for Nurse Congeniality – Catherine Diaz & Suzanne Duffy
Frank G. Award for Best Attendance – Kamla Kapoor
Frank G. Award Honorable Mention for Attendance – Lisa Menotti & Frederick Shields
The EMS Award for Best Triage Nurse – Sande Barker-Powell & Robin Kahn
The EMS Award Honorable Mention – Shirley De Los Santos
The EMS Award Honorable Mention – Lisa Menotti & Fred Shields
The Tastha J. Award for Most Continuing Education – Kathleen Beirne
The Weirdo Magnet Award – Kathy Nanry-Mathieu

Welcome to our new full-time night staff:
Cynthia Mendez
Selena Hunter
Eugene Cauvin
Amancio Maniago
Anthonia Imudia

Jersey City Update

We were honored in a ceremony by NJ Governor McGreevey for developing a new state-wide hospital emergency communications system. This system connects all acute care hospitals in New Jersey for matters of mass casualty, disasters, and emergency notifications.

Jersey City Medical Center’s Emergency Department and EMS were also presented “EMS Providers of the Year” by Governor McGreevey for our continued dedication to quality care, prompt response, and professionalism, most notable during the September 11th events. We are proud for both these recognitions, and thank all our emergency staff for their integrity and hardwork!
**Pediatrics Update**

The Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine is proud to announce the addition of a second child life specialist, Anna Eckhardt, B.A., to our program. Anna will join Kevin Brooks, M.S., CCLS, as the second Child Life specialist in the emergency department.

Child Life is an important program that promotes psychosocial health in children and their families. Child Life Specialists assess patients’ individual needs to provide emotional support, psychological preparation for upcoming procedures, and coping techniques for pain management.

Anna and Kevin provide essential therapeutic support during a crucial time in a child’s hospital visit. They have been working to promote a child-friendly environment by giving honest, developmentally appropriate explanations to children providing opportunities to express themselves and aesthetically enhancing the environment. Child Life staff provide children opportunities for gaining a sense of mastery, for therapeutic art and play, for learning, for self-expression, for family involvement and for peer interaction.

The division strives to offer emergency services in a compassionate, child friendly and developmentally appropriate manner. Child Life is integral to that mission.

**Elmhurst Update**

The ED team at Elmhurst has been selected for the Seaport Study for acute MI’s. This demonstration process will allow Elmhurst to provide invasive cardiac cathorization procedures without the usual cardio-thoracic back-up. With the States’ waiver, Mount Sinai in Manhattan can act as the cathorization lab back-up.

Welcome to our new attending: Sonia Su-Jin Chung from Brown University!

**EVENTS UPDATE**

**July 10  Affiliates Meeting**

Kristi Koenig, MD, and Mik Pietrzak, MD, were guest speakers in a program focused on Disaster Preparedness. The evening was moderated by Kevin Chason, the Director of Disaster Planning for Mount Sinai. Dr. Koenig is a Mount Sinai alumni of ‘86, and the Director of Strategic Planning for the Veteran’s Administration. Her talk provided an excellent overview of the VA’s role in our National Disaster Preparedness Plan. Dr. Pietrzak is an emergency physician and retired Colonel, U.S. Air Force, who is currently the Director of the ER-1 Program. ER-1 is a federally funded program that is providing “think tank” resources for hospital designers in order to prepare for future disasters. The evening was a great success with a record turnout of residents, faculty, and guests.

**September The Fifth Annual First Aid Course**

Lisa Raacke organized another successful First Aid Course for the new medical students of ‘06. The course is small group, case-based with hands-on experience, and no small feat to pull off. Lisa is congratulated for her organizational skills and commitment to this important departmental activity.

**Sept. 28  Chief Residents’ Retreat**

Dr. Jagoda organized a metro-area forum for all of the area

**VISITING PROFESSOR SERIES**

August 14 - Author Kellermann, MD, Professor and Chair from Emory University made quite the impression on everyone. He is one of only three emergency physicians who is a member of the Institute of Medicine. Dr. Kellermann is also a member of the ACEP board of directors. He began the morning discussing a case about a child who accidentally injured himself while playing with a handgun owned by a friend’s parent. Next, he held “town hall meeting” to discuss ACEP’s role in the healthcare community, and then ended the morning with a discussion of the issues confronting access to care and the growing number of uninsured.

October 30 - John Marx, MD, Chief and Chair from the Carolinas Medical Center will facilitate our first joint Surgery / Emergency Medicine M&M and will then give grand rounds on “Abdominal Trauma: Avoiding Errors and Maximizing Outcomes”. He is the current editor-in-chief of the Rosen’s Textbook of Emergency Medicine, and co-editor of the “Trauma: An Emergency Medicine Approach”. He will also hold a forum with the residents on career development and share his vision on the future of emergency medicine.

November 27 - Nathan Shapiro, MD, from Beth Israel Deconess, has been scheduled for grand rounds 10:30 to 11:30 on “Sepsis: Staying on the cutting edge of diagnosis and management” followed by an all hour forum with residents on "The academic project in EM Residency training".

December 11 - Robert Barish, MD, Professor and Chair of University of Maryland, recently published a review article in the NE journal on snake bites and will give grand rounds on that topic. He is a recognized leader in ED administration; he became one of the youngest chairs of emergency medicine right out of residency in 1986. He will also provide an analysis of his experience and “Lessons Learned in ED Administration”.

January 8 - Ed Sloan, MD, president of FERNE, and Brad Bunney, MD, a basic scientist at the University of Illinois, will provide a double hitter on “Neurotrauma: Bench to Clinical Practice”.

...continued on page 6
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Mount Sinai School of Medicine  
1425 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10029  

Phone: 212.659.1660  
Fax: 212.426.1946  

VISIT US ONLINE!  
WWW.MSSM.EDU/EMERGAMED/  

EVENTS UPDATE CONT. FROM PAGE 5

EM residencies participated in a productive exchange of ideas and lessons learned. Jim Adams, MD, Professor and Chair at Northwestern University, facilitated the day. Dr. Adams’ presented talks on “leadership” and “professionalism”; Dr. Jagoda presented on “The Lecture”; and, Dr. Shearer of Mt. Sinai presented on “Bedside Teaching.” After lunch, there were panels on “Organizing journal club and conference”, “The ethics of working with the pharmaceutical industry”, and “Moonlighting”. It was a great day and we hope to organize similar forums on a regular basis.

October 23 Issues in Medical Ethics  
The Department of Emergency Medicine and the Division of Medical Ethics planned the 17th NY Regional Conference. In the morning session, Heather Gert, Ph.D., a philosopher from Texas A & M University, discussed how emergencies are different from other kinds of ethical situations. Lynne Richardson, M.D., from our own faculty, discussed the ethics of emergency research without consent. Arthur R. Derse, M.D., J.D., a noted medical ethicist from the Medical College of Wisconsin presented a talk entitled "What Part of "No" Don’t You Understand?: Capacity to Refuse Treatment”. Drs. Marc Grossman and Reza Keshavarz, both members of our department, presented cases that involve surrogate decision-making in the ED. Each session was followed by a panel discussion and Q&A from the audience.

CALENDAR

Nov. 13, 27, Dec. 11 Roche Infectious Disease Lecture Series  
Doug Lee, MD, chief resident of Mount Sinai EM, has arranged with Roche Pharmaceuticals a 3-part series on pharmacokinetics of antibiotics, updates in ID, and sepsis, respectively.

This is a great faculty development opportunity and faculty who have never attended this event are strongly encouraged to register. A limited amount of money is available to help support interested faculty attend. Conference held in Arlington, Virginia. For more information: 517-485-0801.

June 19-22, 2003 Ponte Vedra CME Conference  
After a huge success in 2002, we will continue to partner with the University of Florida, George Washington University, and Mayo Clinic. For $165 per night p.p., you will get an ocean front room, unlimited golf, unlimited tennis, unlimited fitness center, and one spa treatment per room (based on dbl occupancy). Rooms with no sports available for $120. The CME program will follow a case-based format with lecture in the a.m. and sports in the afternoon.

For more information on any of these events, contact MeeMee Lahman at meemee.lahman@mountsinai.org