EM PROGRAM FAQS

Any elective time available?
Given the limited time available, no elective time is permitted with the current structure of the program. However this last year’s cohort was given some flexibility in choosing certain rotations such as ortho and general surgery, based on whether they completed these rotations in their family medicine training. If both had been completed, the option was given to substitute more emergency medicine rotations in Red Deer or Lethbridge.

What procedural workshops are available?
The first month includes procedural workshops on certain academic days involving the airway, chest tube placement, transvenous pacemaker, central lines and pericardiocentesis (done on mannequins). Additional high fidelity procedures are being added on an annual basis.

How does the program prepare residents for the exam?
The entire year is truly a preparation for the final Toronto exam. Specifically, monthly tintinalli rounds are hosted by ER physicians, some who have been involved in the creation of the final exam. Each resident is responsible for reading ~30 chapters a month which are then tested over dinner on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Practice oral exams are distributed throughout the year on academic days with faculty. However it is also highly encouraged for the cohort to arrange for oral exams to be practiced amongst the group. The program also includes a midterm in December and final exam in June - all examinations are structured similar to those for EM certification in Toronto.

Is there an integrated ultrasound curriculum? Will residents receive IP certification?
Although not mandatory, IP certification is highly encouraged throughout the year. Most have either completed the EDE1 course prior to starting or will complete it within the first month of the program. After this, you are responsible to set up appointments with faculty who are IP certified to finish your scans. There are faculty members who kindly volunteer their time to help out and there are ultrasound facilitators who will help connect you to these IP certified faculty members. The trauma block also includes time specifically for ultrasound scanning.

Is there a formalized mentorship program?
Yes! We pride ourselves on our faculty mentors! Each resident is paired with a faculty advisor (mentors) with whom you will be required to do longitudinal shifts throughout the year and check-in/ eval every 4 months. The residents from the previous year usually make themselves available as well for guidance and overall help.