Emergency Medicine

Chair

• Andrew Nugent

Faculty: https://medicine.uiowa.edu/emergencymedicine/profile

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The Department of Emergency Medicine prepares new physicians to recognize and treat a variety of urgent and emergent conditions. The program fosters basic science and clinical research relevant to emergency medicine and is dedicated to the education and training of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel through the Emergency Medical Services Learning Resources Center (EMSLRC).

Research

Research in the department is built on four research pillars: clinical, injury prevention, medical education, and health systems. Faculty members, graduate students, emergency medicine residents, medical students, and undergraduates are involved in research in a variety of projects and programs. Specific research interests include:

• rural regionalization and telemedicine;
• quality of care, efficiency, and cost effectiveness of interhospital transport;
• prevention, diagnosis, and care of traumatic brain injury;
• off-road injury prevention;
• highway motor vehicle crash scene analysis;
• safe driving advocacy;
• simulation in medical education;
• improving access and quality of emergency care;
• decision-making processes for optimal drug selection in the emergency department;
• addiction medicine and harm reduction;
• toxicology;
• global health care access;
• interpersonal violence; and
• early risk stratification and prophylaxis in critical illness.

Patient Care

The Department of Emergency Medicine at University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics and University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital provides care for the most critically ill adults and children in a patient- and family-centered atmosphere. The department handles emergency cases in Iowa and from surrounding states.

Resources

The Emergency Department, located on the first floor of Roy J. Carver Pavilion, is a Level I Adult and Pediatric Trauma Center. It serves as a referral center for communities across Iowa.

M.D. Training

Elective rotations for Doctor of Medicine students are available at University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics and at several other sites throughout Iowa, including St. Luke’s Hospital, Cedar Rapids; Great River Health, Burlington; MercyOne Waterloo Medical Center, Waterloo; Broadlawns Medical Center, Des Moines; UnityPoint Health, Des Moines; and Genesis Health Group, Davenport. Students also may arrange an off-service elective independently with established residency programs throughout the United States.

The program offers an annual introductory month to emergency medicine; advanced life support; Wilderness Medicine, a rotation that includes scenario and didactic training in wilderness medicinal skills with travel to areas such as Colorado; and a two- or four-week toxicoLOGY elective.

Residency

The emergency medicine faculty directs the Emergency Medicine Residency, Iowa’s only emergency medicine residency. The residency is a three-year program that prepares residents for careers in diverse areas of emergency medicine, from rural practice to academics. The program emphasizes critical care training and rotations in a wide variety of specialties. Part of the clinical component is spent at St. Luke’s Hospital, Cedar Rapids.

Courses

Emergency Medicine Courses

EM:8301 Core Emergency Medicine 2 s.h.
Participation in direct patient care as part of a care team during emergency medicine clinical shifts; opportunity to perform supervised bedside procedures and call consults. Requirements: M.D. enrollment.

EM:8401 Advanced Life Support 4 s.h.
Experience managing acute threats to life—including trauma, respiratory failure, poisoning, sepsis, stupor/coma, and acute myocardial infarction (MI)—using Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) courses and clinical manikin work with EMS staff. Requirements: completion of M.D. core clerkship year.

EM:8402 Emergency Medicine UIHC arr.
Preceptorship with residents and faculty; emphasis on principles of acute medicine; clinical shifts, case conferences, simulations, exams.

EM:8403 Wilderness Medicine 4 s.h.
Didactic and scenario training in physiology, diagnosis, and emergency treatment of heat- and cold-related illnesses, high altitude disorders, wilderness trauma, envenomations, and immersion injuries. Taught in wilderness areas. Requirements: completion of M.D. third year.

EM:8404 Emergency Medicine: St. Luke’s, Cedar Rapids 4 s.h.
Preceptorship with full-time emergency department physicians; clinical shifts, case conferences, simulations, exams.

EM:8405 Rural Emergency Medicine at Burlington, Iowa 4 s.h.
In-depth clinical experience in a busy rural hospital emergency department under supervision of residency-trained emergency physicians; lectures, skill labs, projects.

EM:8406 Emergency Medicine Des Moines 4 s.h.
Participation in acute emergency care, management of acute illnesses, follow-up care when possible; Broadlawns Hospital, Des Moines.

EM:8407 Emergency Medicine Waterloo 4 s.h.
Participation in acute emergency care, management of acute illnesses, follow-up care when possible; Covenant Medical Center, Waterloo.
EM:8409 Introduction to Advanced Life Support  2 s.h.
Intensive program providing basic training in life support
skills, experience in procedures common to inpatient hospital
environment, and practice with simulated critical care
scenarios; lectures, small group discussions, procedure labs,
high-fidelity simulations, and self-directed online learning;
students become certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support
(ACLS).

EM:8410 Medical Toxicology Sioux City  2,4 s.h.
Clerkship at the Iowa Poison Control Center; intense
introduction to breadth and depth of medical toxicology;
students work independently and concentrate on many
different areas and interests; work with a multidisciplinary
team of nurses, pharmacists, and physicians; activities may
include reviewing and presenting active poisoned patient
cases during daily rounds and opportunities to see toxicology
patients at bedside; preparation and short presentation in any
area of medical toxicology. Requirements: M.D. enrollment.

EM:8411 Medical Toxicology UIHC  2,4 s.h.
In-depth introduction to medical toxicology; how to recognize
and treat various toxidromes and the most common
toxicologic exposures; initial management steps for life-
threatening toxicologic exposures; focus on basics of
pathophysiology and pharmacology to understand how drugs
affect patients, and critical assessment of laboratory and
other data obtained on the poisoned patient.

EM:8412 Emergency Medicine Unity Point Des
Moines  4 s.h.
Clinical shifts in emergency department and emergency
medicine related didactics; advanced cardiovascular life
support (ACLS), airway management, calling a consult/
communication, chest pain, toxicology, trauma, sepsis,
ultrasound, febrile infant, headache, and psychobehavioral
disorders.

EM:8413 Emergency Medicine Genesis Davenport  4 s.h.
Clinical shifts in emergency department and emergency
medicine related didactics; advanced cardiovascular life
support (ACLS), airway management, calling a consult/
communication, chest pain, toxicology, trauma, sepsis,
ultrasound, febrile infant, headache, and psychobehavioral
disorders.

Medical research, clinical or laboratory projects; individual
study.

EM:8498 Emergency Medicine On Campus  arr.
Clinical research experience with a mentor in the Emergency
Treatment Center and the Department of Emergency
Medicine; principles of design, methodology, basic statistics.

EM:8499 Emergency Medicine Off Campus  arr.
Preceptorship with residents and faculty; emphasis on
principles of acute medicine; Liaison Committee on Medical
Education (LCME) accredited off-campus site. Requirements:
completion of M.D. third year and approval from UIHC
Emergency Medicine clerkship director.