

*These are the gardens of the Desert, these the unshorn fields, boundless and beautiful, for which the speech of England has no name. The Prairies- William Cullen Bryant Poems*

As we prepare to complete our 7th year of the emergency medicine residency, it is gratifying to note another milestone in the Department of Emergency Medicine this year. We have been awarded external grant funding for both the basic science and clinical research programs. Dr. Yulong Li was awarded an RO1 for his work in the area of baro-receptor modulation in diabetics. Dr. T. Paul Tran will be working with Dr. Li in this effort. The award will amount to about \$1.8 million over 5 years. We were also selected as one of 8 national study sites investigating suicide evaluation and intervention in the emergency department. Dr. Wesley Zeger will be leading this effort and will amount to about half a million dollars over 5 years. Hopefully this will help springboard us to further external grant funding in the future. These awards are important developments for the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. (The other goal of establishing an endowment in the department is running a little behind schedule....)

Another reflection of the strides we have made in research is that we will be hosting the SAEM Great Plains regional research conference to be held on September 17, 2010 at UNMC. There are 19 residency programs in the 9 states in the Great Plains region. We are looking forward to having emergency medicine faculty from across the region present their latest research. I hope many of the local emergency physicians will plan on attending.

As you know, the main geographic feature of the Great Plains is the prairie. While most people would consider the prairie rather boring as compared to the mountains or oceans, I think it makes for a much better metaphor of emergency medicine. I believe two of its greatest features are diversity and adaptability. From a distance, the prairie seems monotonous, but up close the variety in grasses and wildflowers is amazing. One of the greatest features of the practice of emergency medicine is the variety of diseases, situations and people we encounter. The ability of the prairie to adapt to temperatures from -20° to 110° Fahrenheit, and intermittent fire, is also remarkable. Part of that is due to the deep root systems evolved in the plants. In the ED, we can be either too busy or too slow, but our specialty is one that can adapt to the situation at hand better than any other.

Soon, another six residents will be graduating and seeking greener pastures. They will be going to Indiana, South Carolina, Missouri and South Dakota. Two of our graduates will be starting fellowships in Ultrasound.

We had another successful match. The new residents will be coming from Nebraska, Oregon, Iowa, Michigan and Ireland.

We are sad to say goodbye to Dr. Srikar Adhikari. He helped develop our ultrasound program and we appreciate all his contributions to the department. Fortunately, Dr. Charles Schmier, a 2009 Emergency Medicine residency graduate, will be returning after completing his ultrasound fellowship in June. We are looking forward to his return to Omaha. Dr. Chad Branecki, Lucas VanOeveren, and David Dean all welcomed new members to their families, and new chief resident Todd Crum got married.

If you are looking to establish roots next year, consider training with us. I can't guarantee there won't be a prairie fire or two during your training. But if there is, it will make your bloom that much brighter.

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