

## Emergency Medicine attains departmental status at University of Ottawa

In December 2002, the Senate of the University of Ottawa approved the creation of a new Department of Emergency Medicine within the Faculty of Medicine. The University of Ottawa joins Queen's University (1996) and Dalhousie University (1999) to become just the third Canadian university to create a full academic Department of Emergency Medicine.

Largely through the efforts of Dr. Ian Stiell, the University of Ottawa has an international reputation of excellence in emergency medicine research. The University of Ottawa faculty and research teams have given birth to and nurtured the Ottawa Ankle Rules, the Ottawa Knee Rules, the Ontario Prehospital Advanced Life Support (OPALS) studies, the Canadian C-Spine Rule and the Canadian CT Head Rule, among many others.

In postgraduate emergency medicine education, the University of Ottawa is home to one of the oldest and most sought after CCFP (EM) programs in the country and to Canada's first combined emergency medicine FRCPC-MSc epidemiology fellowship training program. The faculty at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario has been a national resource for postgraduate pediatric emergency medicine training for over a decade.

Congratulations to all of my colleagues at the University of Ottawa and to Ian Stiell, who has been appointed the Interim Chair for the new Department.

**Garth Dickinson, MD**

Senior Associate Editor, *CJEM*

## CAEP welcomes Medical Students' Section

Last September the CAEP Board approved the establishment of the Medical Students' Section, the purpose of which is to bring together medical students from across Canada to facilitate their involvement and participation in the field of emergency medicine. There has been an increasing interest in EM by medical students over the last few years, and it was felt that the creation of a Medical Students' Section (MSS) would allow students a forum in which to communicate and become involved in this diverse and exciting specialty.

There are several projects currently underway. A comprehensive and informative Web site is being developed. It will offer a variety of features tailored to the interests of medical students, including an in depth look at a career in EM from a variety of EM specialists and subspecialists, strategies for preparing for EM rotations, and more. In addition, a student listserv has been activated and will be used as a tool for communicating and generating discussion among students. Visit the CAEP Web site for a look at the Medical Students' home page and for information on how to subscribe to the student listserv. The

Medical Student Symposium, a huge success in recent years, will continue to be held, along with the first official meeting of the MSS at the CAEP Scientific Meeting in June 2003.

General membership in this committee is open to all CAEP members, and we are urging all students who are considering a career in emergency medicine, whether as a FRCPC-EM, CCFP-EM, Peds-EM, or rural practitioner, to become involved in some way. Our hope is to develop a student group with a diverse range of interests and experiences that wishes to contribute to and learn from the EM community. Please send any questions, comments, or MSS membership requests to [medstudents@caep.ca](mailto:medstudents@caep.ca).

Thank you to the CAEP Board of Directors and the Residents' Section Executive for their continued support.

**Yael Moussadji**

Chair, CAEP Medical Students' Section

MD Programme

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