



CDEM Faculty Highlight



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Bio: I attended the University of Cincinnati for medical school and was heavily influenced by the awesome EM program. I Spent 4 years training at the University of Michigan (now a lifetime Wolverine fan...go blue!). Upon graduation in 2010, I joined the faculty at Michigan and worked for two years as a clinical instructor at Hurley Hospital in Flint, Michigan. In 2012 I came back home to California (where I was born and raised) by joining UC Davis. In 2013 I took over the medical student clerkship and advising from Erik Laurin and have been enjoying it ever since. I also joined the residency administration as one of the Assistant Program Directors last year. In addition to education administration for the Department of EM, I also help oversee the fourth-year curriculum of the UC Davis School of Medicine.

Highlight of being a student educator

As a new attending I was able to walk a medical student through her first intubation and resuscitation. She was a particularly outgoing student so her excitement was overt and very rewarding. At that time I

wasn't sure about an academic career. It sealed the deal. Intubation can get routine but getting a student their first experience like this is never boring.

Teaching Mentors

I got my teaching style from Ken Vanderhave and Marcia Perry at the University of Michigan. Dr. Vanderhave had a poker face when you presented to him and he never really let you know if he agreed or not with almost every patient. He would intervene if I was way off but didn't bother with the management decisions that were reasonable and let me find my way. If there was a question in management many times he would come back later with a teaching principle or article. I thought at the time that was to allow me to think about it myself and look for a solution. Now, as an attending, I realize this also may have allowed him to look it up! Either way it gave me that uncertain feeling and made me try to solve my own questions rather than just provide an answer. Dr. Perry told me once to "have a small arsenal of things you can teach well" rather than pretend to be a master of everything. I realized a long time ago that my brain cannot readily spit out obscure evidence or even remember how to draw the Krebs cycle (got rid of that a long time ago). Dr. Perry's teaching style is much more manageable with my brainpower.

Advice for Other Student Educators

Pace yourself. It's better to slowly incorporate ideas and last longer than burn out the first two years.

A Reason to be an Educator

Graduation ceremony. Seeing the students walk across the stage makes everything worth it. I try to go every year.

Fun Fact About Me

I was a competitive swimmer for 17 years. Not extremely good but persistent. Now dabbling in amateur triathlon and definitely not very good. It's important to have a hobby whether you suck at it or not. Otherwise work can take over your every moment and thought.