

# CJEM JCMU

Vol. 11, No. 3,  
May / mai 2009

[cjem-online.ca](http://cjem-online.ca)



#### About the Cover:

This cover picture depicts emergency medicine in action just as *CJEM* is active! As you can see, we have a new look for our journal, and we will have a new look for our website ([www.cjem-online.ca](http://www.cjem-online.ca)) coming soon.

## Table of Contents • Table des matières

### ORIGINAL RESEARCH • RECHERCHE ORIGINALE

#### EM Advances

- 196** Emergency medicine as a career choice: a descriptive study of Canadian medical students  
*I.M. Scott, R.B. Abu-Laban, M.C. Gowans, B.J. Wright, F.R. Brenneis*
- 
- 207** Impact of a nurse practitioner on patient care in a Canadian emergency department  
*I.P. Steiner, D.N. Nichols, S. Blitz, L. Tapper, A.P. Stagg, L. Sharma, C. Policicchio*
- 
- 215** Multicentre evaluation of an emergency department asthma care pathway for adults  
*M.D. Lougheed, J. Olajos-Clow, K. Szpiro, P. Moyse, B. Julien, M. Wang, A.G. Day; Ontario Respiratory Outcomes Research Network*
- 

### EDUCATION • ENSEIGNEMENT

#### Faculty Development

- 230** Self-reported priorities and resources of academic emergency physicians for the maintenance of clinical competence: a pilot study  
*J. Sherbino, S. Upadhye, A. Worster*
- 

#### Student Teaching and Evaluation

- 235** Emergency medicine preclerkship observerships: evaluation of a structured experience  
*R. Penciner*
- 

#### Pedagogical Tools and Methods

- 240** Factor analyze this  
*A. Worster, G. Norman*
- 

### KNOWLEDGE TO PRACTICE • DES CONNAISSANCES À LA PRATIQUE

#### Tips from the Trenches

- 242** The reverse Silfverskiöld test in Achilles tendon rupture  
*D.J. Mayich, A. Younger, F. Krause*
-

**CASE REPORT • RAPPORT DE CAS**

- 244** Erythroderma: a dermatologic emergency  
*T.F. Bruno, P. Grewal*
- 

**RESIDENTS' CORNER • LE COIN DES RÉSIDENTS**

- 247** The impact of hospital overcrowding on postgraduate education: an emergency medicine resident's perspective through the lens of CanMEDS  
*S. Sabbah*
- 

**RADICAL DEPARTURE • VIRAGE RADICAL**

- 316** The radical departure invitational  
*J. Freeman*
- 

**ORIGINAL RESEARCH • RECHERCHE ORIGINALE**

**2009 Scientific Abstracts**

- 251** 2009 CAEP/ACMU Scientific Abstracts, June 6–10, 2009, Calgary, Alta.
- 
- 301** Author Index
- 
- 305** Keyword Index
- 

**239 Service Information**

**241 Services**

**250 Calendar • Calendrier**

**310 Classified Advertising • Annonces classées**

**Instructions for authors • Instructions pour les auteurs**

Visit/Visitez [cjem-online.ca](http://cjem-online.ca)

---



**CAEP** | Canadian Association  
of Emergency Physicians  
**ACMU** | Association canadienne  
des médecins d'urgence

**PRESIDENT / PRÉSIDENT**

Chris Evans, MD

*Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine*  
*Journal canadien de la médecine d'urgence*

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF / RÉDACTEUR EN CHEF**

James Ducharme, MD  
McMaster University, Hamilton, Ont.

**SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITORS / RÉDACTEURS ADJOINT**

Riyad B. Abu-Laban, MD, MHSc  
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC  
Brian Rowe, MD, MSc  
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alta.  
Marco L.A. Sivilotti, MD, MSc  
Queen's University, Kingston, Ont.

**MANAGING EDITOR / RÉDACTRICE ADMINISTRATIVE**

Penelope Gray-Allan, BA, BSc  
Vancouver, BC

**EDITOR EMERITUS / RÉDACTEUR ÉMÉRITE**

Grant Innes, MD  
University of Calgary, Calgary, Alta.

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS / RÉDACTEURS ASSOCIÉS**

EM ADVANCES  
Jacques S. Lee, MD, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ont.  
Heather Murray, MD, MSc, Queen's University, Kingston, Ont.  
Ian G. Stiell, MD, MSc, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ont.

CJEM JOURNAL CLUB  
Michael J. Bullard, MD, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alta.  
Eddy S. Lang, MD CM, McGill University, Montréal, Que.

COMMUNITY EM  
David Mann, MD, Powell River General Hospital, Powell River, BC

DIAGNOSTIC CHALLENGE  
Joseph Finkler, MSc, MD, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

ED ADMINISTRATION  
Christopher M.B. Fernandes, MD, University of Western Ontario,  
London, Ont.  
Marc Afilalo, MD, McGill University, Montréal, Que.

**PUBLISHER / ÉDITEUR**

*CJEM* is owned by the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians (CAEP). *CJEM* is published in January, March, May, July, September and November for CAEP by the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), Ottawa. CAEP, the CMA and its subsidiaries assume no responsibility or liability for damages arising from any error or omission, or from the use of any information or advice contained in the journal, including articles, editorials, case reports, reviews, media reviews, letters and advertisements. All editorial matter in *CJEM* represents the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of CAEP, the CMA or its subsidiaries and their respective directors.

DIRECTOR AND PUBLISHER / DIRECTRICE ET ÉDITRICE  
Glenda Proctor

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PUBLICATIONS / DIRECTRICE ASSOCIÉE, PUBLICATIONS  
Holly Bodger

MANAGING EDITOR / DIRECTRICE DE LA RÉDACTION  
Kate Brown  
800 663-7336 x2114; fax 613 565-2382; kate.brown@cma.ca

EDITORIAL COORDINATOR / COORDINATRICE DE LA RÉDACTION  
Kelly Clarke

PRODUCTION  
Kathryn A. Freamo  
Nicole Barbeau, Clara Walker

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING / ANNONCES CLASSÉES  
Beverley Kirkpatrick  
Laurie McLeod, Deborah Rodd  
613 731-8610 x2127/2314; fax 613 565-7488; advertising@cma.ca

DISPLAY ADVERTISING / ANNONCES PUBLICITAIRES  
Deborah Woodman, 613 731-8610 x2159

EDITORIALS

Jeffrey Freeman, MD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

HUMOUR AND HUMANITY

Jeffrey Freeman, MD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

INTERNATIONAL EM

Garth Dickinson, MD, Christ Church, Barbados

MEDICAL MYTHOLOGY

Mel Herbert, MD, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif.

METHODOLOGY: THE SCIENCE OF EM

Andrew Worster, MD, MSc, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ont.

PEDIATRIC EM

Ran Goldman, MD, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC  
Niranjan Kissoon, MD, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC  
Michael Witt, MD, MPH, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.

PHARMACOTHERAPY

Peter J. Zed, BSc(Pharm), PharmD, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS  
Jeff Eppler, MD, Kelowna General Hospital, Kelowna, BC

RESIDENTS' CORNER

Jatina Lai, MD, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alta.

STATE OF THE ART

Jeffrey R. Brubacher, MD, University of British Columbia,  
Vancouver, BC

TOXICOLOGY

Roy Pursell, MD, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

**EDITORS AT LARGE / RÉDACTEURS OCCASIONNELS**

Lance Brown, MD, Loma Linda, Calif.  
Greta Cummings, BScN, MEd, RN, PhD, Edmonton, Alta.  
Shane Neilson, BSc, MD, Guelph, Ont.  
Michael J. Schull, MD, MSc, Toronto, Ont.  
Andrew H. Travers, BSc, MD, MSc (Epidemiol), Halifax, NS  
Sunee Upadhye, MD, Hamilton, Ont.

**TRANSLATION / TRADUCTION**

Lucie Gagnon, BA, Translation/Traduction

**EDITORIAL INQUIRIES, SUBMISSIONS AND ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

Send to *CJEM*, c/o Penelope Gray-Allan, Managing Editor, *Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine*, Division of Emergency Medicine, Department of Surgery, University of British Columbia, c/o Department of Emergency Medicine, Vancouver General Hospital, 855 West 12th Ave., Vancouver BC V5Z 1M9; cjem@caep.ca

*CJEM* is owned by the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians (CAEP) and printed by Dolco Printing, Ottawa, on acid-free stock.

CAEP Head Office: 1785 Alta Vista Dr., Ste. 104, Ottawa ON K1G 3Y6; tel 613 523-3343; fax 613 523-0190; cjem@caep.ca

Instructions for Authors, Service Information: see Table of Contents. Address changes or requests for permission to reproduce items in *CJEM*: contact cjemsubscriptions@caep.ca

**MARKETING AND ADVERTISING SALES / MARKETING ET PUBLICITÉ**

Keith Communications Inc. info@keithhealthcare.com  
Toronto: 905 278-6700 or 800 661-5004; fax 905 278-4850  
Montréal: 514 624-6979 or 877 761-0447; fax 514 624-6707

Indexed by MEDLINE/PubMed, EMBASE, CINAHL, International Pharmaceutical Abstracts (IPA), BIOME/OMNI, Scirus, Cochrane Prehospital and Emergency Health Field, and PubsHub.com.

Publications mail agreement no. 0344505499. USPS #017-766; periodical postage paid at Champlain, NY. Return undeliverable copies to the CAEP Head Office or to IMS of NY, 100 Walnut St., #1, PO Box 1518 Champlain NY 12919-1518.

ISSN 1481-8035.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Canada Magazine Fund, toward our editorial costs.



All prescription drug advertisements have been cleared by the Pharmaceutical Advertising Advisory Board.

© 2009 Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians  
Association canadienne des médecins d'urgence