

Session 5: Credentialling

Chairs: Geert Seynaeve; P. Patka

Creating a Medical Student Elective in Disaster Medicine

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Traditional elective opportunities for American medical students include international medicine, service to underserved populations, and wilderness medicine. In recent years, interest in disaster medicine has increased among medical students. The University of New Mexico Department of Emergency Medicine has a robust history of involvement in all of these areas. One year ago, a four-week curriculum was developed to introduce senior medical students to both the theory and practice of medicine under austere conditions, with an emphasis on disaster medicine.

Faculty members with experience in disaster, international, prehospital, and wilderness medicine participated. Lectures covered basic topics in their areas of expertise, and a supplementary reading list included seminal chapters and primary research articles addressing more detailed and specific information. Drills were created to give students training in airway management, patient evacuation and splinting, confined space medicine, canine search-and-rescue, and high-angle rescue. Students completed Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Advanced Disaster Life Support, and Incident Command System courses.

Providing an elective in disaster medicine creates a unique forum for exposing medical students to disaster medicine, and increases their interest, which may extend into their post-graduate careers. Students are introduced to current literature and research, gain experience through drills, and investigate areas that usually are not covered in standard medical school curricula. This type of course can be a powerful recruiting tool for Emergency Medicine programs and departments with a Disaster Medicine Fellowship.

Keywords: curricula; disaster medicine; education; medical students; university

Prehosp Disast Med 2007;22(2):s11

Preparing Nurses for Radiation Emergencies: An Evidence-Based Curriculum for Global Clinical and Health Systems Readiness

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The potential for a major radiation emergency, either accidental or the result of a terrorist attack is real and may occur at any time in any country. Historically, nurses have been asked to deal with patients who are contaminated with radioactivity or who have been exposed to damaging levels of radiation and may be again. The possibility of treating patients exposed to radiation creates significant fear and anxiety for most nurses, many of whom have insufficient knowledge about the true effects of radiation, how to recognize radiation injury, or what the appropriate clinical response should be for patients involved in radiological incidents.

A surge of patients presenting to accident and emergency departments as the result of a major radiation event is a terrifying prospect for any hospital or community. Yet we must be prepared for the occurrence of this scenario. Nurses must possess the knowledge and skill-sets required to respond to a radiation emergency in a timely and appropriate manner, and with confidence in their clinical competence and perception of personal safety.

This presentation reports data from an empirical study conducted regarding hospital-based nurses' knowledge and attitudes towards responding to radiation emergencies. It explores the concepts of baseline knowledge, clinical competence, perception of personal safety and willingness to respond. Finally, it provides an evidence-based framework for a comprehensive curriculum for nurses to manage the clinical and health systems' response to a major radiation disaster.

Keywords: curriculum; emergency; nurses; preparedness; radiation

Prehosp Disast Med 2007;22(2):s11

2006 Kocatepe Inferences on Triage and Trauma Suggested by Ankara Triage and Trauma Working Group

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The Ankara Triage Trauma Working Group (ATTTCG) was established by a group of general surgeons following The First National Congress of Disaster Medicine with international participation which convened in 2004 in Antalya, Turkey. Surgeons work in trauma, triage, and evacuation systems especially in the prehospital field. The ATTTCG questioned the practicability of the Congress' suggested theoretical approaches for medical care in the field and developed these suggestions for personnel serving this area particularly regarding the approach to the patient(s) with trauma. The group questioned the utility of some of the underlying medical concepts the Congress suggested, particularly under the circumstances existing in Turkey. In this presentation, the authors want to share their recommendations about a new kind of triage approach to the trauma patient. The authors named these recommendations as the "2006 Kocatepe Inferences".

Keywords: evacuation; inferences; trauma; triage; Turkey

Prehosp Disast Med 2007;22(2):s11

Session 6: Emergency Medical Services Education and Training

Chairs: Geert Seynaeve; G. Patka

TAS-Courses—Interdisciplinary Training for the Community-Based Prehospital Team

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The Norwegian Air Ambulance Foundation (NLA) was established in 1978, has 800,000 members, and is responsible for establishing modern HEMS-operations in Norway.