

# EVMS @ ODU Emergency Medicine Quarterly Update

October – November – December 2025

## Message from the Chair: Barry J. Knapp, M.D.

**Happy New Year, everyone!** I hope this newsletter finds you well. We have a few exciting updates from our department!

The American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) has, for the first time, released initial board certification pass-rate data for Emergency Medicine residency programs. I'm excited to report that **EVMS @ ODU Emergency Medicine is tied for #1 nationally**—out of nearly 280 programs—based on combined first-time pass rates on the Qualifying and Oral Certification Exams from 2017–2023. This time period effectively reflects more than a decade of our residency program's performance and serves as a testament to the exceptional dedication to excellence demonstrated by our faculty and residents. It underscores a sustained commitment by both our academic department and Emergency Physicians of Tidewater (EPT) to training the very best emergency medicine residents in the country! Congrats to all!

Second, we selected two outstanding first-year medical students for the EVMS @ ODU Accelerated MD Program (AMP). As a reminder, the AMP is a pathway that allows selected EVMS students to complete their medical degree in three years and, upon graduation, directly enter the EVMS @ ODU Emergency Medicine Residency Program.

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Drs. Christensen, Byrns, Lo, and Butler in Maui, HI while attending the EIM Conference in December 2025

The goal of the program is to retain the best and brightest EVMS students “at home” for residency.

The selected students, **Ian Cordray** and **Cara Breslin** (see photos), both demonstrated a strong interest in and background in emergency medicine. We are thrilled to welcome them into the EVMS @ ODU Emergency Medicine family!



(From left to right) Ian Cordray and Cara Breslin, EVMS @ ODU's first AMP medical students.

## Special Achievements

**Joe Lang, MD**, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, was appointed **Chairman of the Patient Care Committee for the Commonwealth of Virginia**.

**Joe Lang, MD**, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, was appointed to the **Executive Council of the State EMS Advisory Board for the Commonwealth of Virginia**.

**Megan Duggins, MD**, EVMS EM PGY-2, was named [2025 MSV's Salute to Service by a Resident](#) becoming the **first emergency medicine resident** to receive this recognition. Dr. Duggins is also among the few residents nationwide appointed to an **ACEP Committee (Public Health)** outside of EMRA and is only the **second EVMS resident** to do so, following **Grace Gartman, MD**, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine.

**Katherine Schaffer, MD**, Global Health EM Fellow, was named as one of [2025 Business Insider's 40 under 40](#), becoming the **only** physician honored this year!

**Don Byars, MD**, Program Director and Professor of Emergency Medicine, successfully passed the **2025 ABEM Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Certification Examination**.

**Bruce Lo, MD**, Professor of Emergency Medicine, was appointed to the **American College of Cardiology National Cardiovascular Data Registry (NCDR) Chest Pain-MI Registry Research and Publications Subcommittee**.

**Becky Johnson, MD**, graduated from the **EVMS@ODU EMS Fellowship** on November 19, 2025! Congratulations, Dr. Johnson!



Dr. Joe Lang presenting Becky Johnson, MD  
with her EMS Fellowship diploma



(From left to right): Drs. Lang, Ford, Johnson,  
Fox and Hendley

## Academic Department Faculty Appointments and Promotions

On October 1, 2025, Instructor of Emergency Medicine **Shirley Jones, DO**, was promoted to **Assistant Professor** in the Department of Emergency Medicine in the Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences Eastern Virginia Medical School at Old Dominion University.

On November 1, 2025, Instructor of Emergency Medicine **TJ Tzavaras, MD**, was promoted to **Assistant Professor** in the Department of Emergency Medicine in the Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences Eastern Virginia Medical School at Old Dominion University.

On November 10, 2025, **Emmagene Worley, MD**, was appointed the rank of **Assistant Professor** in the Department of Emergency Medicine in the Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences Eastern Virginia Medical School at Old Dominion University.

## Publications

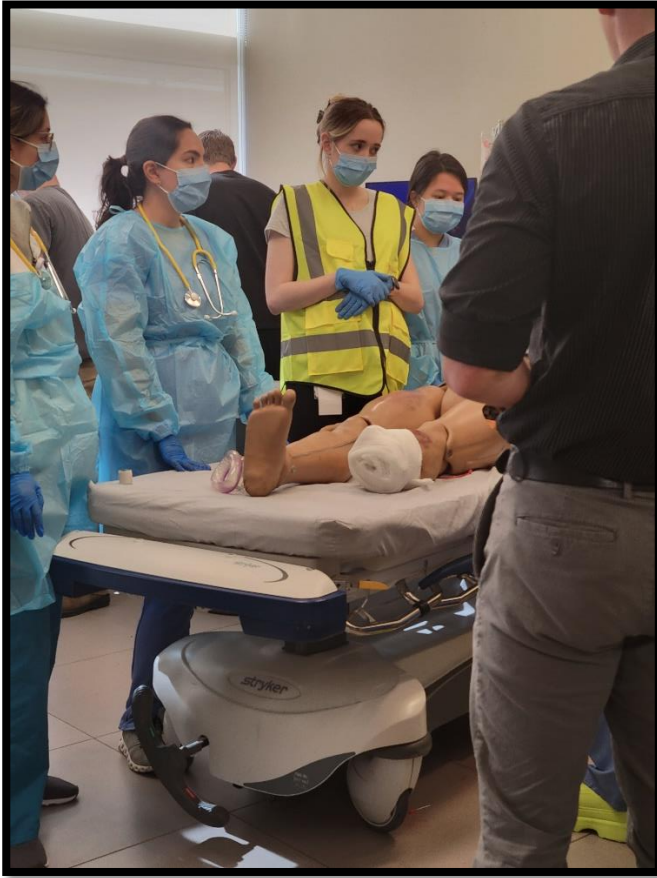
1. **Bono, MJ. "Esophageal Foreign Bodies". In: Roberts and Hedges' Clinical Procedures in Emergency Medicine and Acute Care 8th Edition. Chapter 40, 819-838.e2 (2025)**
2. **Miller R, Cipi A, Pierce E. [Wrongful Migration: A Hidden Culprit Behind Flank Pain](#). JACEP Open. 2025;6:100248.**
3. **Cibrario A, Bhat R, Lo BM, et al. [The Unique Impacts of Implicit Bias on Emergency Medicine](#). AEM Educ Train. 2025 Dec 22;9(6):e70118. PMID: 41446753.**

4. **Graffeo CS, Pettit MJ, Neubauer LE, Steckler GD, Knapp BJ.** [Reversal of a Globus Pallidus Injury in a Severe Carbon Monoxide Poisoned Patient.](#) Undersea Hyperb Med. 2025 Fourth Quarter;52(4):565-569. PMID: 41429033.
5. **Lo BM, Butler K, Kaur N, Pennell K.** [Diffuse Unilateral Leg Swelling.](#) J Am Coll Emerg Physicians Open. 2025 Oct 25;6(6):100270. PMID: 41216216

## Scholarly Activities and Speaking Engagements

1. **Drs. Brooke Lindborg, Joshua Lesko, Bruce Lo, Ben Blackwood, and TJ Tzavaras** served as **Councilors** at the **ACEP Council Meeting** in Salt Lake City, UT.
2. On September 12, 2025, **Anya Cipi, MD**, presented “*Things I wish I knew as Junior Faculty*” at the **EVMS@ODU GME New Faculty Retreat**.
3. On September 12, 2025, **Don Byars, MD**, presented “Optimizing the use of Simulation as a Clinical Educator” at the **EVMS@ODU GME New Faculty Retreat** and at the Program Directors Retreat.
4. On October 1, 2025, **Barry Knapp, MD**, Chidester Endowed Chair of Emergency Medicine, presented “*Your Pathway to ABEM Certification*” and “*Too Much Salt... A Root Cause Analysis*” to the **Albany Medical Center Emergency Medicine Residency Program** in Albany, NY.
5. On October 6, 2025, **Barry Knapp, MD**, attended the **American Board of Medical Specialties Finance Committee** meeting in Chicago, IL.
6. On October 8, 2025, **Joe Lang, MD; JD Landon, MD, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine;** and **Emory Newkirk, MD, EVMS EM PGY-3,** led a **hands-on Tactical Hemorrhage Management session** with IRS Special Agents in Norfolk, VA.





(From left to right): Drs. Chandra, Cervantes, Powers, and Shoemaker during trauma SIM



(From left to right): Drs. Stansbie, Akande, and Butler during trauma SIM

7. On October 7 – 10, 2025, **Barry Knapp, MD; Martin Klinkhammer, MD; Don Byars, MD; and Charles Graffeo, MD** served as **Examiners** for the **American Board of Emergency Medicine Oral Examinations** in Chicago, IL.
8. On October 9, 2025, **Emmagene Worley, MD** led **Grand Rounds** title "Pain out of Proportion: Nightmares from the ED" at West Virginia University.
9. On November 3, 2025, **Anya Cipi, MD**, Associate Program Director and Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, served as a **Mock Examinee** for the new **ABEM Certifying Examination**.
10. On November 3, 2025, the following didactics were given by EVMS Emergency Medicine Faculty at the VBEMS EMS Education Symposium:
  1. **Ashley Fox, DO** – Drowning
  2. **Joe Lang, MD** – Special Populations in EMS

3. **Nella Hendley, MD** - Hypo/Hyperthermia and Pain Management
4. **Becky Johnson, MD** - Abdominal and Thoracic Trauma
11. On November 3, 2025, **Barry Knapp, MD**, as Chair of the **ABEM Disaster Medicine Taskforce**, presented ABEM's **Disaster Medicine** subspecialty application to the **American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Committee on Certification**.
12. On November 5, 2025, **Barry Knapp, MD**, as part of the **ABEM Residency Visitation Program**, presented "*The New ABEM Certifying Exam*" at the **University of Virginia Emergency Medicine Residency Program** in Charlottesville, VA.
13. On November 5, 2025, **Barry Knapp, MD**, as part of the American Board of Emergency Medicine Residency Visitation Program gave, "Too Much Salt... A Root Cause Analysis" at the **University of Virginia Emergency Medicine Residency Program** in Charlottesville, VA.
14. On November 5, 2025, **Bruce Lo, MD**, Professor of Emergency Medicine, delivered an **ACEP webinar** titled "*ACEP Emergency Department Accreditation: Should You Get It?*".
15. On November 14, 2025, **Joe Lang, MD**, presented "Next Level EKG Interpretation" at the Wintergreen EMS symposium in Wintergreen, VA.
16. On November 10, 2025, **Barry Knapp, MD**, participated in the **Dr. L.D. Britt Pre-Medical Scholars Program Health Professions Student Panel**, presenting "*The Specialty of Emergency Medicine.*"
17. On November 11, 2025, **Kean Feyzeau, MD**, presented "*POCUS in Cardiac Tamponade*" to the **Harvard/Mass General Hospital Emergency Ultrasound Fellowship**.
18. On November 12, 2025, **Bruce Lo, MD**, participated in a **Virginia College of Emergency Physicians podcast** on "*EMTALA and Transfers.*"
19. From November 18-21, 2025, Barry Knapp, MD served as a **Team Leader for Prioritization Case Development** for ABEM's new Certifying Exam in Raleigh, NC.
20. On November 19, 2025, **Bruce Lo, MD**, spoke the American College of Emergency Physicians podcast on the topic, "*Respiratory Failure in the ED*".
21. On December 5, 2025, **Joe Lang, MD**, presented "*Toxicology and Weapons of Mass Destruction: A Prehospital Perspective*" at the **Sentara Online Educational Symposium**
22. On December 7, 2025, **Bruce Lo, MD**, presented "*The Psych Pretenders*:"

*Unmasking Medical Imposters"* at the **Emergencies in Medicine Conference** in Maui, HI.

23. From December 9 – 12, 2025, **Barry Knapp, MD** served as **Team Lead** for the final **American Board of Emergency Medicine Virtual Oral Examination**.
24. From December 9 – 12, 2025, **Roland Roberson, MD** served as **an Oral Examiner** for the final **American Board of Emergency Medicine Virtual Oral Examination**.
25. On December 17th, the Ultrasound Fellowship hosted the Sentara Hospitalist group for a point-of-care ultrasound course. The faculty for the course included: **Matthew Jones, MD**, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine; **Kean Feyzeau, MD**, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine; **Lauren Gallion, MD**, Instructor of Emergency Medicine; **Anja Cipi, MD**, Associate Program Director and Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine; and **Matthew Panicker, MD**, Ultrasound Fellow



Chris Rice, EVMS EM PGY-3, presenting his Toxicology lecture during Grand Rounds on December 4, 2025

## Accepted Abstracts and Presentations

1. Two departmental poster presentations were accepted to CORD's Academic Assembly in Orlando 2026:
  1. *Difficult Conversations Made Teachable: Building Resident Confidence in*

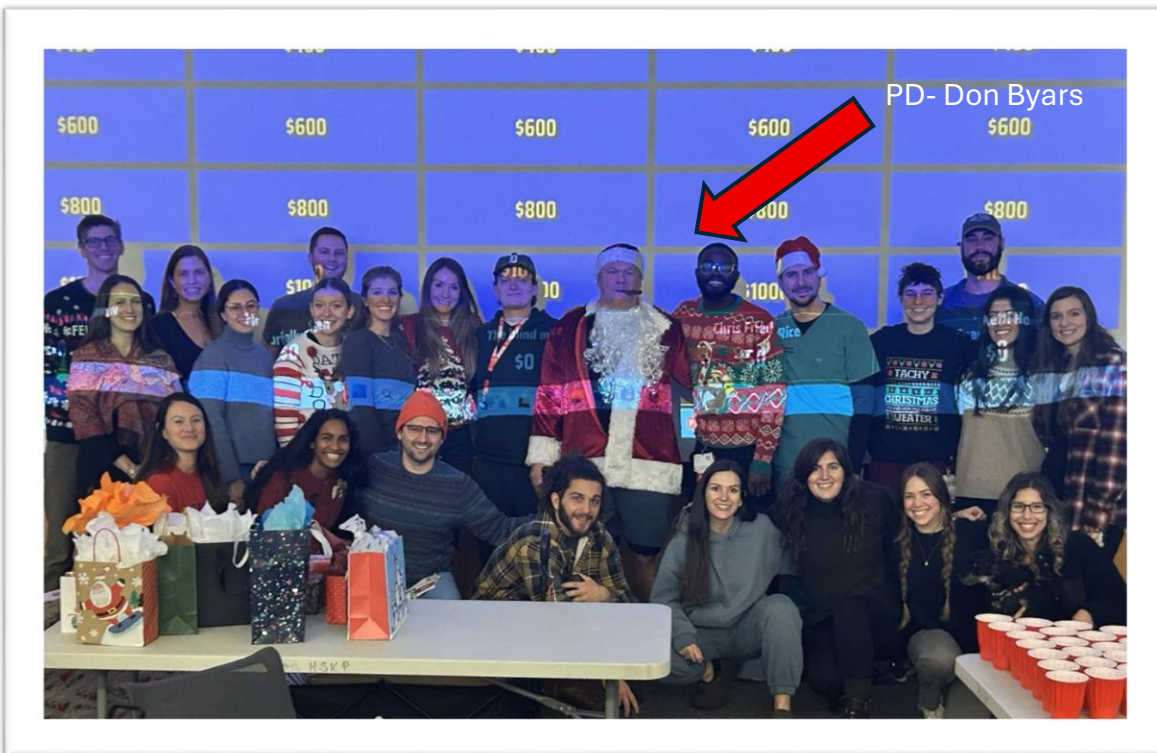


*Delivering Bad News.* **Blackwood B, Cipi A, Ansell S.**

2. *USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge as a Predictor of Emergency Medicine In-Training Examination Performance: A Single-Institution, Ten-Year Retrospective Cohort Study.* **Cipi A, Landon J, Dornstauber A, Vallone M, Shai S, Duggins M.**
2. **Nevin Adamski, MD**, EVMS EM PGY-2, had a case accepted to the **CPC Competition** and will represent the program at **CORD Academic Assembly 2026** in Orlando, FL

## Upcoming Events

- **Journal Club: January 26, 2026, at 6:30 pm – Location TBD**
- **Research Day: May 28, 2026 with guest speaker Dr. Tiffany Murano**
- **Faculty Retreat: April 22, 2026; Resident Retreat: April 23-25, 2026**
- **SonoGames 2026: January 29, 2026**
- **VACEP 2026: February 20-22, 2026 in Hot Springs, VA**
- **CORD 2026: March 26-29, 2026 in Orlando, FL**



Faculty and residents during EM EVMS@ODU Residency Holiday Party