

# Conference Objectives

EEPA's "High-Five" Symposium, May 12, 2026



## Topic

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### Overall Objectives

1. Review the assessment and treatment of relevant medical conditions in the Emergency Department
2. Apply practice-changing evidence, guidelines, and local expert opinion to current Emergency Medicine care
3. Promote clinical collaboration between Edmonton Zone Emergency Medicine professionals and expert consultants
4. Foster an inclusive environment between emergency medicine colleagues and allied health care professionals to discuss ideas and challenges within the field of emergency medicine

### Topic 1: Ophthalmology Pearls in the ED

Dr. Heather Burnett

*At the end of this session, participants will be able to:*

1. Understand the appropriateness and safety concerns for the outpatient use of tetracaine drops
2. Appreciate why suspected retinal detachment often does not need emergent care and can be seen the following day
3. Confirm if/when consultation to Ophthalmology is needed when concerned about Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus.

### Topic 2: Phenobarbital for acute alcohol withdrawal

Dr. Kathryn Dong

*At the end of this session, participants will be able to:*

1. Appreciate how phenobarbital works differently from benzodiazepines in alcohol withdrawal
2. Understand when to consider using phenobarbital
3. Identify dosing, frequency, and route for prescribing phenobarbital use in the ED
4. Appreciate monitoring and disposition challenges when treating patients with phenobarbital
5. Appreciate the need for a local phenobarbital pathway

**Topic 3:** Radiology “hot button” topics, 2026

*Dr. Anu Kumar*

*At the end of this session, participants will be able to:*

1. Given the current lack of ultrasound technicians in the zone, the participants should be able to understand the differences in sensitivity, specificity, cost, and radiation for assessing acute cholecystitis and choledocholithiasis when considering U/S vs CT imaging.
2. Appreciate why, despite mounting evidence against contrast-induced nephropathy, that imaging studies are still delayed while we wait for the GFR.
3. Determine the role of ultrasound in the workup of appendicitis in 2026. Is CT imaging simply more efficient for patient care?
4. Sudden onset headache; why can't we order both a CT head and a CT-angiogram after initial patient assessment?

**Topic 4:** Homelessness in Edmonton, 2026

*Dr. Rob Wittmeier*

*At the end of this session, participants will be able to:*

1. Understand the current situation of homelessness in Edmonton.
2. Appreciate the concept of a “homelessness ICU” with a multidisciplinary approach.
3. Understand the current state of the Bridge Healing project and disposition options for homeless ED patients.
4. Recognize future work in this area and the role of government, physicians, and society.
5. Introduction of Frequent Visitors Program

**Topic 5:** Novel Serum Biomarker for Traumatic Brain Injury

Dr. Kevin Skoblenick

*At the end of this session, participants will be able to:*

1. Understand the new serum assay for detecting traumatic brain injury (TBI) in the ED.
2. Appreciate inclusion and exclusion criteria for appropriate assay use.
3. Understand the evidence behind this assay as well as the sensitivity and specificity for use.
4. Appreciate the role of this assay in conjunction with the Canadian CT head rules and how it can be used to safely avoid CT imaging.
5. Acknowledge future directions for this assay in clinical practice.

**Topic 6:** Pediatric Emergency Medicine

Dr. Stevi Golden-Plotnik

*At the end of this session, participants will be able to:*

1. Identify 5 common RAAPID North calls to the Stollery ED
2. Understand up-to-date management strategies for common pediatric patient presentations
3. Appreciate disposition options for concerning pediatric patient presentations; discharge home, further care & monitoring, or transfer to Stollery.
4. Identify pediatric analgesia do's and don'ts

**Topic 7:** Journal Club, 2026

Dr. Connor O'Rielly

*At the end of this session, participants will be able to summarize recent advances in the ED literature:*

1. Ketamine or Etomidate for Tracheal Intubation of Critically Ill Adults
2. Retrospective Comparison between 0.3mg and 0.5mg dosing of intramuscular epinephrine for anaphylaxis
3. Male partner treatment to prevent recurrence of bacterial vaginosis
4. AHA Scientific Statement on the Management of Elevated Blood Pressure in the Acute Care Setting
5. Early intensive blood pressure reduction after intracerebral hemorrhage is associated with worse functional outcome: the risk of overshooting blood pressure goals

**Topic 8:** Cardio-Renal-Metabolic Medications for Diabetes: An update for Emergency Physicians

Dr. Darren Lau

*At the end of this session, participants will be able to:*

1. Review the benefits of sodium-glucose co-transporter-2 inhibitor (SGLT2i), glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1RA), and non-steroidal mineralocorticoid receptor agonists (nsMRA) for patients with diabetes; why your internal medicine colleagues are so excited about these agents.
2. Describe the pertinent side effects of these agents, how they may present in the ED, and the management of these adverse events (including euglycemic DKA, acute kidney injury, infections, falls, vision changes, hyperkalemia, and GI distress).

**Topic 9:** Brain Injury Guidelines (BIG). How validated new evidence can improve efficiency in the ED

Dr. Matt Strickland

Dr. Vivek Mehta

*At the end of this session, participants will be able to:*

1. Understand the results of recent research supporting the Brain Injury Guidelines (BIG).
2. Determine if validation of the BIG results is adequate to incorporate these recommendations into clinical practice.
3. Appreciate how these recommendations can avoid unnecessary calls/consultations to neurosurgery, which delay patient care.
4. Appreciate how this data can reduce unnecessary repeat CT head imaging.
5. Determine what is needed to implement these recommendations in Edmonton's emergency departments.

**Topic 10:** Top Five Connect Care Hacks

Dr. Alkarim Velji

*At the end of this session, participants will be able to:*

1. Understand customization basics in Connect Care
2. Appreciate strategies for improving your daily workflow
3. Discover one new way to 'level-up' your use of Connect Care

**Topic 11: ACLS update, 2026**

*Dr. Elfreide Cross*

*At the end of this session, participants will be able to:*

1. Review the major Heart & Stroke Foundation (HSF) ACLS updates and the clinical rationale underlying each change
2. Identify practice-changing decision points introduced by the 2025 HSF updates in cardiac arrest and peri-arrest care
3. Integrate updated resuscitation strategies and approaches beyond standard ACLS algorithms
4. Anticipate future directions in resuscitation care by critically appraising emerging literature likely to inform the next ACLS guideline cycle.

**Topic 12: Embolectomy in Pulmonary Embolism**

*Dr. Arabesque Parker*

*At the end of this session, participants will be able to:*

1. Define an Intermediate-High Risk Pulmonary Embolism
2. Review reperfusion strategies currently available in the Edmonton Zone
3. Discuss who (might) benefit most from reperfusion therapy

**Topic 13: Pharmacy Update: Pearls for ordering Antibiotics**

*Shemanti Barua, Pharm D*

*Michail Tiet, Pharm D*

*At the end of this session, participants will be able to:*

1. Understand vancomycin dosing for loading and non-loading indications.
2. Recognize when to order 1g vs 2g for Ceftriaxone IV.
3. Understand Ceftriaxone dosing for Gonorrhoea management
4. Appreciate current antibiotic duration recommendations for outpatient care of common ED presentations.
5. Understand indications and dosing of piperacillin-tazobactam.

**Topic 14:** Practical Tips on Common Plastic Surgery Presentations

*Dr. Taylor Onysyk*

*Dr. Jay Zhu*

*At the end of this session, participants will be able to:*

1. Understand how to give local anesthesia with minimal pain.
2. Recognize when lidocaine + epinephrine is appropriate for wound anesthesia.
3. Appreciate techniques for more efficient wound closure
4. Recognize ocular muscular entrapment (clinically and radiographically) in the setting of orbital trauma.
5. Manage wrist or forearm pulsatile bleeding.

**Topic 15:** Pediatric Wrist Fractures. Recognizing diagnostic challenges and management decisions

*Dr. Warren Thirsk*

*At the end of this session, participants will be able to:*

1. Identify buckle fractures.
2. Identify greenstick fractures.
3. Discuss the clinical and radiographic differences of these two types of fractures.
4. Optimize management of both fracture patterns.