

## **Journal Club Format for Edmonton FRCP and CCFP-EM program.**

### **Objectives**

- 1) Retain (from prior journal club format) the core critical appraisal techniques for analysis of primary journal articles and meta-analyses
- 2) Expand the breadth of literature relevant to emergency medicine covered at each monthly meeting
- 3) Increase the non-resident attendance to journal club meetings, as the new format is designed to keep emergency medicine practitioners (staff/resident physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, educators) up to date with the latest literature.

### **Background**

Historically for journal club, program residents will meet 11 times per year on the last Wednesday of the month. The meeting takes place at a volunteering staff physician's home residence, and has variable attendance by staff. In current structure of our journal club, 2 or 3 residents choose journal articles to critically appraise and discuss. The goal is for articles to be relevant to emergency medicine, and related to each other.

While this format has its benefits, there are certainly aspects, which make it less appealing. For example, one article may be good for review, while any related articles may be of poor quality, out-dated, or not related/ relevant as desired. Many residents have commented of the monotony of this format, especially as you go through the 5-year program.

The staff pediatric emergency physicians use a "journal watch" format for their journal club. Each member is assigned 2 journals, from which he/she will discuss articles of his/her choice. Although each article is not discussed as extensively at the meeting, a larger breadth of literature is covered each month. In this round table format, the responsibility is to appraise, summarize and facilitate discussion.

### **New Journal Watch Format**

The University of Alberta FRCP and CCFP-EM Emergency Medicine Program will be moving to the Journal Watch format, starting July 2010. The responsibilities of the residents assigned to that month are as follows.

- 1) Review and select a minimum of 7 articles (max 9) relevant to Emergency Medicine. The residents will be responsible for screening 5 of 10 most relevant journals, covering the previous 2 months. These journals will be assigned at the beginning of the year with the group of 5 journals alternating every month.  
The residents may find important articles from other non-assigned journals, and encouraged to include them if they are deemed relevant. Articles from the previous month's group may also be used if they were not covered at the prior journal club meeting.

Group A	Group B
Academic Emergency Medicine	Annals of Emergency Medicine
Emergency Medicine Journal	Journal of Emergency Medicine
CJEM	NEJM
JAMA	Lancet
Journal of Trauma	CMAJ
BMJ (main journal)	

Group A will present in July, September, November, February, April, and June.  
Group B will present in August, October, January, March, and May.

- 2) Create the Journal Club “Splash” page no later than the Monday, a week prior to the Journal Club meeting (i.e. 9 days) for distribution. The “Splash” page should contain a teaser question for each article, as well as the full citation. (See attached sample). This should be emailed to Colleen, cryan@ualberta.ca
- 3) Critically appraise the selected articles in the PICO format and facilitate discussion at the Journal Club meeting. The discussion on each article should be approximately 5 minutes (maximum 10 min).
- 4) Create a handout summarizing the critical analysis. Copies should be brought and distributed to everyone in attendance at the meeting. Electronic copies should also be e-mailed out to the “majordomo” listserv prior to Journal Club. The analysis should be in the PICO format, and include the full citation of the articles appraised. (See attached sample).
- 5) Copyright rules at the University of Alberta prevent the distribution of copies of the articles. This is why submitting the Splash page well ahead of time is important – it allows those that would like to read the articles ahead of time to find them and do so.