March 30, 2012

WELCOME ALUMNI!

I am so glad you could join us in our Inaugural Emergency Medicine Residency Alumni Reunion.

We have almost thirty years of graduates for our residency program. The first class started in 1982 with six world class physicians in a two-year program. The original “ER” had 12 beds, four attendings, two 12-hour attending shifts each day, no paramedics, and less than 20,000 patients a year. Office space was hidden on the fourth floor of the AHSC and we were a Section of the Department of Surgery.

We became the Department of Emergency Medicine (DEM) in July 2001, with Dr. Harvey Meislin forging the way as department head along with 12 faculty members. We occupied three houses on Elm Street and offices in the Faculty Office Building (FOB).

Some may remember when we upgraded to the 30-bed “ED” and a new Level I trauma center. We were certain we would not outgrow that 50,000 patient volume capacity ED for many years and that hallway beds would no longer be necessary. Of course, we found that to be wrong within the first year!

Fast forward to July 2010 when we moved to the current ED at University Campus, with 60 beds, seven major trauma suites, a Pediatric Emergency Department. Guess what? We’ve almost outgrown this one, too! Expected volume this year is ~75,000.

And who would have thought we would be running the ED at Kino? There is a brand new Emergency Department that includes its own separate three-year EM residency program, Level 3 trauma center status, a fast track, and an adjacent new acute Behavioral Health/Psychiatric hospital. Kino is now known as The University of Arizona Medical Center–South Campus.

Today the DEM hosts three residency programs and 70 residents in:

- The original Emergency Medicine categorical program based at University Campus with 43 residents.
- The five-year combined EM/Pediatrics program with 11 residents.
- The South Campus program with 22 residents as of this July (emphasis on rural EM and global/international medicine).
- Faculty work float between all sites.
We surely have grown. In fiscal year 2013, we will have 53 faculty members, including six fellows and three research faculty members. Fifteen alumni are within this group! We have over 53,000 annual clinical hours to fill for 14 daily shifts. We offer fellowships in Medical Toxicology, EMS, Critical Care (Medicine), Sports Medicine (FCM), Ultrasound and Research, along with a two-year Clinician Scientist Program.

Throughout our thirty-year history, our mission remains the same:

- Excellence in the care of all patients needing emergent or urgent care services under the direction of Emergency Medicine.
- Excellence in Emergency Medicine educational programs at the undergraduate and graduate level, especially the medical student and residency programs.
- Excellence in research in the areas of pre-hospital care, acute injury and illness, translational research, preparedness, prevention, and resuscitation.
- Advance the unique biology of Emergency Medicine through service, research, and educational opportunities.
- Align the DEM and the AEMRC to provide a vehicle for faculty development, extramural funding, and discovery of new knowledge.

Sincerely,

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Department of Emergency Medicine
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