UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE

University of CINCINNATI

A Message from the Chair

As we close Fiscal Year 2026, our department finds itself at an exciting moment of reflection and momentum. This year has been marked by meaningful growth, outstanding achievements, and important conversations about the future of UC Emergency Medicine. As we prepare to welcome a talented new class of residents, fellows, and faculty members, we are reminded that our greatest strength has always been our people. Their passion, expertise, and commitment to excellence continue to elevate our mission and position us for even greater impact in the years ahead.

Over the past several months, we have also begun the important work of defining our next chapter through a bold strategic planning process. Building on a strong foundation, we challenged ourselves to think beyond incremental progress and envision what it means to be recognized as an international leader in emergency clinical care, education, and research. Through our LEAD pillars—Leadership, Education, Advocacy, and Discovery—we are aligning our efforts around a shared vision that prioritizes innovation, collaboration, mentorship, and measurable outcomes. As we enter FY27, we do so with renewed energy, fresh talent joining our ranks, and a clear roadmap for the future. The opportunities before us are extraordinary, and I am inspired by what we will accomplish together.

With gratitude,
Gregory J. Fermann, MD
Professor
Richard C. Levy Endowed Chair
Department of Emergency Medicine
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

Department Achievements At SAEM 2026

SAEM Society for Academic Emergency Medicine

This year's conference showcased the breadth and impact of UC Emergency Medicine's scholarship, highlighted by the following achievements:

- 15+ UC affiliated presentations across clinical, educational, and advocacy domains
- Resident and student-led projects in leadership, obesity care, and EM career development
- UCEM Recognized for two Top Medical Education Articles of 2025
- Two ultrasound publications received SAEMMIE awards, recognizing them for the best medical education research of the year
- The Ultrasound team earned an additional SAEMMIE nomination and was recognized as a "wave maker" in top ultrasound papers



June 2026 Newsletter



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Department News & Updates

Strategic Plan

OVERVIEW & UPDATE

Last month, the Department of Emergency Medicine held its semiannual Faculty Retreat, bringing faculty together to refine and advance our three-year strategic plan centered on the LEAD pillars: Leadership, Education, Advocacy, and Discovery. Guided by departmental leadership and facilitated through pillar-specific working groups led by our Vice Chairs, faculty engaged in collaborative discussions to align priorities, identify opportunities for growth, and define measurable actions that will support our vision of becoming an international leader in emergency clinical care, education, and research. The retreat built on our department's mission and values while emphasizing cultural alignment, clear accountability, and strategic execution across all mission areas.



LEADERSHIP

The department is focused on faculty recruitment and retention, strengthening mentorship pathways, clarifying organizational structure and reporting relationships, and creating individualized professional development plans.

EDUCATION

Efforts are centered on innovation in teaching, including the exploration of emerging tools such as artificial intelligence, development of lifelong learning opportunities, leadership curricula, and tailored faculty development plans.

ADVOCACY

Teams are leading efforts to advance patient-centered care by improving access, optimizing workforce models, fostering community collaboration, and enhancing operational efficiency and resource management across the health system.

DISCOVERY

The department is fostering a stronger culture of research engagement, encouraging grant and funding applications, integrating public health and Social Emergency Medicine priorities into scholarly work, exploring AI-driven clinical innovation, and expanding industry-sponsored research opportunities.

Meet our new Residency Program Director, Jeffery Hill, MD, MEd



I am humbled and excited to take the reigns of program director from Dr Erin McDonough. After graduating residency here at Cincy in 2012, I finished an Education Fellowship, obtained a Masters of MedEd, founded Taming the SRU, and have used my subsequent time on the RLT to focus on improving our Grand Rounds didactics.

I look forward to the challenge of innovating our residency curriculum in response to the coming ACGME requirements updates while still maintaining a focus on producing phenomenal EM clinicians who use their time in residency to become phenomenal educators, researchers, and future leaders in our field.

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Departmental Highlights

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Leadership Academies Celebrate Emerging Emergency Medicine Leaders

This spring, the Department of Emergency Medicine proudly recognized the graduates of the Operations Leadership Academy (OLA), Education Leadership Academy (ELA), and Population Health Leadership Academy (PLA). These leadership development programs provide residents with dedicated mentorship, structured curriculum, and hands-on project experience designed to build the next generation of departmental and institutional leaders. The academies continue to serve as an important investment in helping residents develop the skills, relationships, and practical experience needed to lead meaningful change within healthcare systems and their communities

The 2026 graduates made meaningful contributions through projects focused on operations, education, and population health. From improving patient flow and developing clinical pathways to advancing educational programming and addressing community health needs, their work reflects the department's commitment to innovation, continuous improvement, and excellence in patient care.

2026 Graduates

Education Leadership Academy
Alessandra C. Della Porta, MD
Sierra A. Hajdu, MD
David A. Wilson, MD

Operations Leadership Academy
Adrian E. Beyde, MD, MS
Isabel R. Lott, MD
Diana M. Rodriguez, MD

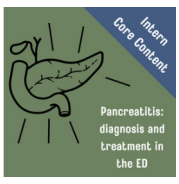
Population Health Leadership Academy
Alessandra C. Della Porta, MD
Sierra A. Hajdu, MD

Taming the SRU - What's new?

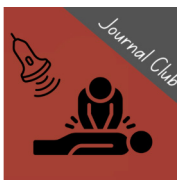
Annals of B-Pod continues to serve as a creative and engaging educational resource for our department. Published throughout the academic year, the journal features clinical insights, educational scholarship, resident contributions, and innovative approaches to emergency medicine education. Click HERE to access the graphic to the right & check out our latest edition!



New Blog Posts!







Follow us on Instagram and other socials to stay connected!

Congratulations to the 12th Annual Levy Cup Champions

Isabel Lott, MD
Anthony Onuzuruike, MD
Allison Zinter, MD
Lauren Huang, MD
Benjamin Jevnikar, MS3
David Furniss, Medical Intern



The Levy Cup is a longstanding interdepartmental tradition that brings together faculty, residents, and learners at all levels for a day of teamwork, skills-based challenges, friendly competition, and plenty of fun. More than just a competition, the event promotes collaboration, camaraderie, and relationship-building while celebrating the spirit of Emergency Medicine.

Congratulations to this year's champions on an outstanding performance and well-earned victory!

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Alumni Spotlight
Jin Han, MD, Class of 2003



Introduction
We are proud to feature Dr. Han as one of our June 2026 Alumni Spotlights. His career reflects a strong commitment to patient care, research, and mentorship in emergency medicine. His path shows how curiosity, flexibility, and meaningful mentorship can shape a rewarding and impactful career.

Path to Emergency Medicine
Dr. Han was drawn to emergency medicine because of the chance to care for patients with a wide range of conditions, from minor concerns to life-threatening emergencies. He was especially interested in the unpredictability of the work and the need to make thoughtful decisions quickly.

He chose the University of Cincinnati for residency because of its strong academic reputation and history of training leaders in emergency medicine. During this time, he discovered a passion for research. One of his earliest projects focused on cardiovascular responses to blood donation, which sparked his interest in using research to improve patient care.

After residency, Dr. Han completed additional training as a cardiovascular fellow and earned a master's degree in epidemiology. He later joined Vanderbilt University, where he helped build a research program. Early on, his work focused on cardiovascular disease in patients with end-stage renal disease. However, he soon realized that building a successful research program required focusing on conditions that are commonly seen in the clinical environment and having strong mentorship to guide that work.

This realization led him to shift his focus to delirium in older adults, a condition frequently encountered in the emergency department. Through strong mentorship and a clear clinical need, Dr. Han developed a sustained research program centered on delirium, cognitive outcomes, and medication-related risk in older patients. This work was supported by a K23 career development award from the National Institute on Aging and has led to leadership roles in several NIH, PCORI, and CDC trials.

Leadership and Mentorship
Serving as chief resident was an important early leadership experience for Dr. Han. It helped shape the way he mentors and teaches today. He learned that people respond best to encouragement, clear expectations, and thoughtful feedback. He also emphasizes the importance of understanding different perspectives and approaching challenges with humility. These lessons continue to guide how he works with residents, students, and junior faculty.

Sustaining Balance
Emergency medicine can be demanding, and Dr. Han believes it is important to protect time outside of work to avoid burnout. He encourages others to find what brings them joy and make space for it.

For him, that meant prioritizing time with his family, especially when his children were young. He learned to set boundaries, focus on what mattered most, and accept that not everything could be done at once. While this approach may have slowed his career progression at times, it allowed him to stay present and involved at home and maintain a sense of balance that supported him both personally and professionally.

Advice for Future Leaders
Dr. Han encourages residents and early-career physicians to seek mentorship early and often, ask for help without hesitation, and stay focused on opportunities that have the greatest impact. Looking back, he recognizes that waiting too long to ask for help made some challenges harder than they needed to be.

"Seek mentorship early and often, and don't be afraid to ask for help when you are stuck on a specific problem or when you are thinking through your career development. It will save you time and help you make better decisions in the long run."

Outside of Medicine
Dr. Han enjoys cooking as a way to recharge. Whether he is using the stove, grill, or smoker, he values the creativity and the process of preparing meals. Cooking also gives him time to connect with his family. Sharing meals creates space for meaningful conversations and time together, which has remained important as his children have grown.

Closing Reflection
Dr. Han's journey highlights the importance of staying adaptable, building strong mentorship relationships, and making intentional choices about balance. His story offers valuable insight and encouragement for those building their own careers in emergency medicine

Thank you, Dr. Han, for sharing your journey and the lessons you've learned along the way!

Philanthropy & Giving Back

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55 YEARS OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE RESIDENCY

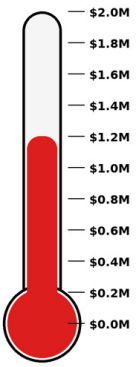
We are honored to celebrate and recognize Dr. Jerris Hedges, MD, a distinguished former UC Emergency Medicine faculty member and steadfast supporter of our residency program. Through his commitment to advancing emergency medicine education and his continued investment in the department's future, Dr. Hedges has made a lasting impact on generations of learners and clinicians. We recently had the privilege of speaking with Dr. Hedges about his career, his time at UC, and why he remains passionate about supporting the next generation of emergency medicine leaders.

I have had the good fortune to train and practice at multiple institutions as emergency medicine was being born as an academic clinical discipline and subsequently growing toward maturity throughout the world. As a young faculty member at the University of Cincinnati, I had the opportunity to work with an all-star team of faculty members, fellows and residents. I was learning and creating the discipline of emergency medicine with the smartest physicians I have met, each and every day.

Being a part of the University of Cincinnati Department of Emergency Medicine kept me on my toes and striving to be a valuable contributor. Taking part in the reunion event last fall, I decided it was time to again invest in the Department's ongoing efforts to lead the field into the future. Emergency medicine is very systems oriented, collaborative, entrepreneurial, and eclectic. The answers to better community health will begin in the emergency department of the future and I expect that vision will be largely developed at the University of Cincinnati.

-Dr. Jerris Hedges, MD

Celebrate Our Legacy & Help Support Our Future



With our goal now in sight, we are in the final sprint to fully endow Department of Emergency Medicine Residency Training Endowment Fund (EMREEF).

Join us in investing in the next generation of leaders! The fund provides resources that expand opportunities for residents to attend conferences, present scholarly work, pursue professional development, and develop the skills necessary to lead and innovate throughout their careers.

Every gift brings us closer to ensuring that the University of Cincinnati Department of Emergency Medicine continues to LEAD – through Leadership, Education, Advocacy and Discovery, and ensures our residents are equipped to shape the future of emergency medicine for decades to come. Click the EMREEF Foundation link or scan the QR Code to make your donation today!

EMREEF Foundation

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