The Emergency Medicine Interest Group (EMIG) at the University of California, Irvine has had a productive year thus far. We have continued the tradition of both promoting the specialty of emergency medicine throughout the study body while simultaneously preparing emergency medicine-bound students for a successful residency application and career. Our executive board has worked hard to return events that have worked well in the past, as well as introduce new and exciting activities to the mix.

In November, first- and second-year medical students participated in our annual Emergency Medicine Procedures Workshop. They were able to practice skills such as obtaining IV access and placing foley catheters. Senior medical students, residents and faculty were present to instruct at the various stations. It was a great event for students to begin obtaining clinical skills while taking a break from their rigorous academic work. In December, we held our second annual Emergency Medicine Research Meeting. Students interested in participating in emergency medicine research were able to hear our faculty members present on their research interests and current projects. The event served to connect students with faculty members and fostered ideas for new projects.

Our Wilderness Medicine Interest Group (WMIG) coordinated a camping trip to Joshua Tree with the WMIG from the Keck School of Medicine at USC. They practiced their wilderness survival skills while partaking in outdoor activities like rock climbing. Through the Disaster Medicine Interest Group (DMIG), students were able to take part in the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency’s statewide medical and health exercise. They witnessed first hand the behind the scenes execution of a disaster drill.

Mentorship continues to be a strong point of our interest group both among student colleagues and faculty. Emergency medicine faculty members have been graciously hosting our Talk Shop Dinners in their homes where they can more intimately mentor a small group of emergency medicine-interested students. Our senior advisors also have put together an excellent instructional video to help third-year medical students prepare for away rotations and the application process.

We still have more exciting events planned for the remainder of the academic year. As the 2014-2015 UCI EMIG Executive Board co-presidents we welcome your comments, suggestions and interest in getting involved. Please feel free to contact us through our website: uciemig.com.