

UC Irvine Emergency Medicine Interest Group: A President's Message on our Upcoming Year

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The 2014-2015 UC Irvine Emergency Medicine Interest Group (EMIG) Executive Board met for the first time in late August to prepare for the upcoming year. New and returning members were all eager and motivated to continue the excellent reputation EMIG has in the student interest group world. We are the largest and most active medical student interest group on the UC Irvine campus and have already hosted a few events this year. We welcomed the first-year medical students with the annual "Introduction to Emergency Medicine" event where Dr. Mark Langdorf gave a pep talk to spur interest in the field. Enthusiasm about the specialty is already evident, as over half of the incoming class attended. As we welcomed our new students we also prepared our more senior students with an application workshop for those applying to emergency medicine residencies. Our students' passion for subspecialties of emergency medicine is also very apparent this year already. Many traveled abroad this past summer, where they used their ultrasound skills to teach and serve in Panama, Brazil, Tanzania, Turkey, India and Australia. We also had an event where Dr. Robert Katzer gave a lecture on wilderness medicine to our students. Disaster medicine interest was on the rise last year and will be an official position on the EMIG Board this year for the first time in our history as an organization. Our year is already off to an excellent start and we look forward to all of our upcoming events that focus on developing interest in the field and preparing students to succeed as they enter a career in emergency medicine.

One of our biggest events is the Western Regional Emergency Medicine Student Symposium (WREMSS). The yearly WREMSS has been co-hosted by UC Irvine School of Medicine and Keck School of Medicine of USC since 2006. It gives medical students a closer look at emergency medicine so they can make an informed decision before choosing the specialty while simultaneously allowing them to learn skills and knowledge applicable to the field. The symposium has a variety of workshops and lectures focused on different stages of medical education. First- and second-year students take part in simulation and ultrasound workshops, while third- and fourth-year students have the

opportunity to participate in mock interviews and speed mentoring with residency directors from programs across California. The symposium is always a great opportunity to bring medical students together from across the country. Other events that we are excited to hold this year include a lifeguard safety workshop, where we team up with Newport Beach Fire Department, Lifeguards and Marine Operations to learn onsite life-saving EMS procedures. Further, we are teaming up with our Wilderness Medicine Interest Group to plan a wilderness camping trip. This year, for the first time, we have allied forces with the Emergency Medicine Research Associates Program (EMRAP), our undergraduate emergency medicine counterpart at UC Irvine, and created a pre-med mentorship program. Our goal is to provide EMRAP students with guidance and advice on the medical school application process and further expose them to the world of emergency medicine. We hope this new collaboration will spark many future projects between EMIG and EMRAP.

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.



Figure 1. At the first UCI EMIG Executive Board meeting the group discussed the plans for the upcoming year and how to get more involve in the world of emergency medicine.