Research Spotlight

Sarah Volz, D.O., 2016 Neonatology Fellowship Graduate

Video Laryngoscopy Improves Teaching and Success of Neonatal Intubations

Residents’ exposure to intubations can be limited and according to the Journal of Resuscitation, residents have a success rate of less than 50%. Sarah Volz, DO, 2016 neonatology fellowship graduate, recognized that there is an opportunity to improve training in neonatal intubations and conducted a randomized controlled trial to explore the use of video laryngoscopy (VL) as a teaching mechanism.

Dr. Volz hypothesized that using VL in comparison with traditional laryngoscopy (TL) will enhance the ability to teach and allow residents to achieve higher success rates in neonatal intubations. With VL, supervisors have an internal view of neonates’ airways allowing them to provide more detailed guidance. Dr. Volz divided 48 residents into two groups; a VL group and a TL group. There was an overall success rate of 57% using VL compared to a 33% success rate using TL. Novice first year residents’ success rate of 58% using VL was substantially greater than the TL group’s success rate of 23%. First time intubators showed a significant difference in their ability to perform a successful intubation using VL. They had a 50% success rate using VL versus 17% using TL. The VL proved to provide a more in-depth training allowing for greater success rates.

Dr. Volz recommends incorporating VL into residency training in particular for first time and novice intubators. This will maximize the educational opportunity to achieve competency in neonatal intubations given the limited exposure. As a result of her study, pediatric residents are currently using this method when rotating in the NICU at Golisano Children’s Hospital. Dr. Volz was awarded the Thomas Jefferson Honorarium and Speakership for Research in Neonatology at the AAP Mid-Atlantic Conference on Perinatal Research in recognition of her study. After graduating from fellowship in June 2016, Dr. Volz accepted a neonatologist position at Providence Hospital in her hometown of Anchorage, Alaska.

Congratulations To Our 2016 Fellow Graduates!

On Friday, June 17th, fellows, faculty and family members traveled from near and far to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating fellows. Our annual fellowship graduation dinner was held at Ballroom 384, located in Rochester’s historic East Avenue district. Visit our Facebook page to view more photos from graduation. We wish each of our graduates the best of luck in their careers!

Pediatric Critical Care
Jennifer DeMichele, M.D.
Pediatric Intensivist
Welcome To Our Newest Fellows!

The Department of Pediatrics welcomed ten new fellows in the divisions of adolescent medicine, critical care, gastroenterology/nutrition, hematology/oncology, neonatology, and nephrology.
2016-2017 Bradford and Clausen Fellowship Awards

Each year, the Department of Pediatrics offers competitive Clausen and Bradford Fellowship Awards to support fellows’ research. Congratulations to the 2016-2017 recipients!

Walaa Elfar, M.B.Ch.B.
Third Year
Gastroenterology/ Nutrition

Alicia Lieberman, M.D.
Second Year
Med/Peds Combined Rheumatology

Shanley Sifain, M.D.
Third Year
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine

URMC Named Leader in National Graduate Medical Education Initiative to Improve Resident Training

The University of Rochester Medical Center was one of only eight teaching hospitals across the country selected to be a leader in a national ACGME initiative aimed at improving residency and fellowship training. Over 50 medical schools and teaching hospitals applied, and after a competitive selection process, Rochester was chosen to participate and help lead the initiative. This four-year effort has the ultimate goal to improve the clinical learning environment of training programs to ensure physicians are equipped to achieve better patient outcomes once they complete training. Rochester’s participation will undoubtedly have a tremendous impact on our trainees and the education they receive.

URMC’s unique proposal involved the integration of trainees into its existing innovative quality and safety model, which was established in 2013 and has been highly successful. This model is comprised of Unit-based Performance Program (UPP) teams on 42 patient care units throughout the hospital, which work to translate institutional quality and safety, patient- and family-centered care, and efficiency priorities into projects that improve patient outcomes and satisfaction. Embedding residents into these UPP teams in every specialty across the hospital will provide hands on experience and allow trainees to become key participants in revolutionizing the incorporation of quality improvement into resident training. Through this involvement, Rochester has the opportunity to pave the way for future residency/fellowship training, ultimately improving health care quality and patient safety in our community and on a national scale.

To learn more about the ACGME’s “Pursuing Excellence in Clinical Learning Environments” initiative, visit the ACGME website.

Did You Know?

Fellows are eligible for a number of training grants, which can go towards their research, travel, etc. Check out opportunities through the AAP, Gerber Foundation, PAS, and subspecialty national organizations.

Current and Graduated Fellows – Please send us your news!
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