



# CLINICAL EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Scott C. Sherman • Joseph M. Weber  
Rahul G. Patwari • Michael A. Schindlbeck

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# Clinical Emergency Medicine

**Scott C. Sherman, MD**

Medical Student Clerkship Director  
PA Residency Director  
Associate Residency Director  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Rush Medical College  
Chicago, Illinois

**Joseph M. Weber, MD**

EMS Medical Director  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Chicago, Illinois



**Michael A. Schindler, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Assistant Residency Director  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Rahul G. Patwari, MD**

Medical Student Clerkship Director  
Assistant Professor  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Chicago, Illinois



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## Clinical Emergency Medicine

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To my parents, for teaching me the meaning of hard work and reminding me when to slow down. To Mason and Colin, you bring me all the joy and happiness that a father could imagine. To Michelle, for your constant love and support.

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**Rahul Patwari, MD**

# Contributors

**Negean Afifi, DO**

Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Steven E. Aks, DO**

Director, The Toxikon Consortium  
Division of Toxicology, Department of Emergency  
Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Associate Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Chicago, Illinois

**Amer Zia Aldeen, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Northwestern Memorial Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Kim L. Askew, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Wake Forest University School of Medicine  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

**John Bailitz, MD, RDMS**

Emergency Ultrasound Director  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Chicago, Illinois

**Jeffery A. Baker, MD**

Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Ochsner Health System  
Clinical Instructor  
University of Queensland, Ochsner Clinical School  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**Jonathan Bankoff, MD, FACEP**

Medical Director  
Emergency Department  
Middlesex Hospital  
Middletown, Connecticut

**Eric H. Beck, DO, NREMT-P**

Assistant Professor  
Section of Emergency Medicine  
The University of Chicago  
EMS Medical Director  
Chicago EMS  
Illinois EMS Region 11, Medical Directors Consortium  
Chicago, Illinois

**Lauren Emily Bence, MD**

Department of Emergency Medicine  
University of Chicago Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Steven H. Bowman, MD, FACEP**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Program Director  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Sean M. Bryant, MD**

Associate Professor  
Emergency Medicine  
Assistant Fellowship Director  
Toxikon Consortium  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Associate Medical Director  
Illinois Poison Center  
Chicago, Illinois

**Ann Buchanan, MD**

Assistant Director/Trauma Medical Director  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
St. David's Medical Center  
Austin, Texas

**Paul E. Casey, MD**

Instructor in Clinical Medicine  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rush University Medical Center  
Chicago, Illinois

**Esther H. Chen, MD**

Associate Professor  
Emergency Medicine  
University of California, San Francisco General Hospital  
San Francisco, California

**George Chiampas, DO**

Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
Team Physician, Northwestern University  
Medical Director, Bank of America Chicago Marathon  
Chicago, Illinois

**Kristine Cieslak, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Pediatrics  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
Chicago, Illinois  
Director, Pediatric Emergency Medicine  
Department of Pediatric Emergency Medicine  
Children's Memorial at Central DuPage Hospital  
Winfield, Illinois

**Michael T. Cudnik, MD, MPH**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
The Ohio State University Medical Center  
Columbus, Ohio

**Joanna Wieczorek Davidson, MD**

Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**John Davis, MD, PhD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Medicine  
The Ohio State University  
Attending Physician  
Department of Medicine  
Wexner Medical Center at The Ohio State University  
Columbus, Ohio

**Alex de la Fuente, MD**

Private Practice  
Everett, Washington

**Nicole M. Deiorio, MD**

Associate Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Director, Medical Student Education  
Oregon Health and Science University  
Portland, Oregon

**E. Paul DeKoning, MD, MS**

Assistant Professor  
Emergency Medicine  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center  
Medical Student Education Director  
Emergency Medicine  
Dartmouth Medical School  
Lebanon, New Hampshire

**Bradley L. Demeter, MD**

EMS Physician  
Emergency Medicine  
University of Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois

**Vinodinee L. Dissanayake, MD**

Global Toxicology Fellow Emergency Medicine  
University of Illinois at Chicago and Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Clinical Instructor  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois

**Marc Doucette, MD**

Associate Professor  
Emergency Medicine  
University of Colorado School of Medicine  
Attending Physician  
Emergency Medicine  
St. Anthony Hospital System  
Denver, Colorado

**Matthew T. Emery, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Emergency Medicine  
Michigan State University College of Human Medicine  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Spectrum Health Hospital-Butterworth Campus  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Rakesh S. Engineer, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Emergency Medicine  
Case School of Medicine  
Attending Physician  
Emergency Services Institute  
Cleveland Clinic  
Cleveland, Ohio

**Jorge Fernandez, MD**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
University of Southern California  
Director of Medical Student Education  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
LA County + USC Medical Center  
Los Angeles, California

**Michael T. Fitch, MD, PhD, FACEP, FAAEM**

Associate Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Wake Forest School of Medicine  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

**Alison R. Foster, MD**

Department of Emergency Medicine  
Northwestern University  
Chicago, Illinois

**Douglas Franzen, MD, M.Ed, FACEP**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center  
Richmond, Virginia

**Casey Glass, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Wake Forest Health Sciences  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

**David C. Gordon, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Division of Emergency Medicine, Department of Surgery  
Duke University  
Durham, North Carolina

**Nihja O. Gordon, MD**

Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Krista A. Grandey, DO**

Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Pilar Guerrero, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Marianne Haughey, MD**

Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Jacobi Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
Bronx, New York

**Tarlan Hedayati, MD**

Assistant Program Director  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Chicago, Illinois

**Corey R. Heitz, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine  
Roanoke, Virginia

**Ross A. Heller, MD, MBA**

Associate Professor  
Department of Surgery/Division of Emergency Medicine  
Saint Louis University School of Medicine  
Saint Louis, Missouri

**Colleen N. Hickey, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Northwestern Memorial Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Katherine M. Hiller, MD, MPH, FACEP**

Associate Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
University of Arizona College of Medicine  
Tucson, Arizona

**Russ Horowitz, MD, RDMS**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Pediatrics  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
Attending Physician, Director Emergency Ultrasound  
Division of Emergency Medicine  
Children's Memorial Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Craig Huston, MD**

Emergency Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Blessing Hospital  
Quincy, Illinois

**Harry C. Karydes, DO**

Assistant Professor  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Chicago, Illinois

**Elizabeth W. Kelly, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Wake Forest School of Medicine  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

**Chad S. Kessler, MD**

Section Chief, Emergency Medicine  
Department of Medicine  
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center  
Chicago, Illinois

**Sorabh Khandelwal, MD**

Associate Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Assistant Dean for Clinical Sciences  
College of Medicine  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, Ohio

**Basem F. Khishfe, MD**

Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Brian C. Kitamura, MD**

Emergency Medicine  
Maricopa Integrated Health System  
Phoenix, Arizona

**Nicholas E. Kman, MD, FACEP**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
The Ohio State University College of Medicine  
Columbus, Ohio

**Amy V. Kontrick, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Emergency Medicine  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
Chicago, Illinois

**Carl M. Kraemer, MD, FAAEM, FACEP**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Saint Louis University School of Medicine  
St. Louis, Missouri

**Brian Krieger, MD**

Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Rashid E. Kysia, MD, MPH**

Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Assistant Professor  
Rush Medical College  
Chicago, Illinois

**Patrick M. Lank, MD**

Fellow  
Division of Medical Toxicology  
Toxikon Consortium  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Northwestern Memorial Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**William B. Lauth, MD, FACEP**

Clinical Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rosalind Franklin University, The Chicago Medical School  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center  
North Chicago, Illinois

**Moses S. Lee, MD, FAAEM, FACEP**

Assistant Professor  
Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Attending Physician  
Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Trevor J. Lewis, MD**

Associate Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Medical Director Emergency Department  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Nathan Lewis, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine  
Richmond, Virginia

**Chuang-yuan Lin, MD**

Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Jenny J. Lu, MD, MS**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine, Division of Medical  
Toxicology  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**David E. Manthey, MD**

Professor  
Emergency Medicine  
Wake Forest School of Medicine  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

**Anitha E. Mathew, MD**

Clinical Instructor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Emory University School of Medicine  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Emory University Hospital and Grady Memorial Hospital  
Atlanta, Georgia

**Alisa A. McQueen, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Pediatrics, Section of Pediatric Emergency  
Medicine  
University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine  
Attending Physician  
Pediatric Emergency Medicine  
University of Chicago Comer's Children Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Biswadev Mitra, MBBS, MHSM, PhD, FACEM**

Emergency & Trauma Centre  
The Alfred Hospital  
Melbourne, Australia

**Brooks L. Moore, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Emory University School of Medicine  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Emory University Hospital and Grady Memorial Hospital  
Atlanta, Georgia

**Tom Morrissey, MD, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Department Emergency Medicine  
University of Florida-Jacksonville  
Jacksonville, Florida

**Jordan B. Moskoff, MD**

Associate Medical Director  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Chicago, Illinois

**Mark B. Mycyk, MD, FACEP, FACMT**

Associate Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Isam F. Nasr, MD, FACEP**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Michael E. Nelson, MD, MS**

Attending Physician, Medical Toxicology Fellow  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Northshore University Health System  
Evanston, Illinois

**Erik K. Nordquist, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Paula E. Oldeg, MD, FACEP**

Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
West Suburban Medical Center  
Oak Park, Illinois  
Adjunct Clinical Instructor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Chicago, Illinois

**S. Margaret Paik, MD**

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
Department of Pediatrics  
Associate Section Chief, Pediatric Emergency Medicine  
The University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Lisa R. Palivos, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Jonathon D. Palmer, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Matthew S. Patton, MD**

Department of Emergency Medicine  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
Chicago, Illinois

**Rahul G. Patwari, MD**

Medical Student Clerkship Director  
Assistant Professor  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Chicago, Illinois

**Monika Pitzele, MD, PhD**

Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Mount Sinai Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Henry Z. Pitzele, MD, FACEP**

Deputy Director  
Emergency Medicine  
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois

**Natalie Radford, MD**

Associate Professor  
Department of Clinical Medicine  
Florida State University  
Attending Physician  
Bixler Emergency Department  
Tallahassee Memorial Hospital  
Tallahassee, Florida

**Christopher Reverte, MD**

Chief Resident  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
LA County + USC Medical Center  
Los Angeles, California  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
St. Luke's-Roosevelt  
New York, New York

**Neil Rifenbark, MD**

Department of Emergency Medicine  
University of Southern California  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
LA County + USC Medical Center  
Los Angeles, California

**Rebecca R. Roberts, MD**

Director, Research Division  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Sarah E. Ronan-Bentle, MD, MS, FACEP**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine  
Attending Physician  
Center for Emergency Care  
University Hospital  
Cincinnati, Ohio

**David H. Rosenbaum, MD, FAAEM**

Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
WakeMed Health and Hospitals  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
Adjunct Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
University of North Carolina School of Medicine  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

**Christopher Ross, MD, FRCPC, FACEP, FAAEM**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Associate Chair  
Planning, Education, and Research  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**John Sarko, MD**

Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Maricopa Medical Center  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
University of Arizona Phoenix School of Medicine  
Phoenix, Arizona

**Shari Schabowski, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Conor D. Schaye, MD, MPH**

Department of Emergency Medicine  
Northwestern Memorial Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Michael A. Schindlbeck, MD, FACEP**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Assistant Residency Director  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Suzanne M. Schmidt, MD, FAAP**

Clinical Instructor  
Department of Pediatrics  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
Attending Physician  
Department of Pediatrics  
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois

**Theresa M. Schwab, MD**

Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Advocate Christ Medical Center  
Oak Lawn, Illinois  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois

**Brian R. Sellers, MD**

Department of Emergency Medicine  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
Chicago, Illinois

**Emily L. Senecal, MD**

Clinical Instructor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Harvard Medical School  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Michelle Sergel, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Scott C. Sherman, MD**

Medical Student Clerkship Director  
PA Residency Director  
Associate Residency Director  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Rush Medical College  
Chicago, Illinois

**Jeffrey N. Siegelman, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Emory University  
Atlanta, Georgia

**Jessica Sime, MD**

Department of Emergency Medicine  
Union Memorial Hospital  
Baltimore, Maryland

**Lauren M. Smith, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**William Thomas Smith, MD**

Emergency Medicine  
Oregon Health and Sciences University  
Portland, Oregon

**Shannon E. Staley, MD**

Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellow  
Department of Pediatrics  
University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Christine R. Stehman, MD**

Clinical Fellow  
Department of Surgery, Division of Trauma, Burn, and  
Surgical Critical Care  
Associate Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Harsh Sule, MD, FAAEM, FACEP**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Thomas Jefferson University & Hospitals  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Gim A. Tan, MBBS, FACEM**

Adjunct Lecturer  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Monash University  
Senior Emergency Physician  
Emergency and Trauma Centre  
The Alfred Hospital  
Melbourne, Australia

**Katie L. Tataris, MD**

Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Matthew C. Tews, DO**

Associate Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**S. Spencer Topp, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
University of Florida Health Science Center-Jacksonville  
Jacksonville, Florida

**Brandon C. Tudor, MD**

Private Practice  
Everett, Washington

**Katrina R. Wade, MD, FAAEM, FAAP**

Associate Professor  
Department of Surgery, Emergency Medicine Division  
Assistant Professor, Pediatrics  
Department of Pediatrics  
Saint Louis University School of Medicine  
St. Louis, Missouri

**David A. Wald, DO**

Professor of Emergency Medicine  
Medical Director, William Maul Measey Institute for Clinical  
Simulation and Patient Safety  
Temple University School of Medicine  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Joseph Walline, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Surgery, Division of Emergency Medicine  
Saint Louis University School of Medicine  
Saint Louis, Missouri

**Joseph M. Weber, MD**

EMS Medical Director  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine  
Rush Medical College  
Chicago, Illinois

**Joanne C. Witsil, PharmD, RN, BCPS**

Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor  
Department of Pharmacy Practice  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Clinical Pharmacist  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Cook County (Stroger) Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

**Kathleen A. Wittels, MD**

Instructor in Medicine  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Harvard Medical School  
Associate Clerkship Director  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Lynne M. Yancey, MD, FACEP**

Associate Professor  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
University of Colorado School of Medicine  
Denver, Colorado  
Attending Physician  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
University of Colorado Hospital  
Aurora, Colorado

**Leslie S. Zun, MD**

Professor  
Emergency Medicine  
Chicago Medical School  
Chair  
Emergency Medicine  
Mount Sinai Hospital  
Chicago, Illinois

# Preface

We wrote this book because we remember our own experiences as medical students and junior residents working in the emergency department (ED). The ED is a unique environment that requires knowledge and skills often not covered in medical or physician assistant school. In this book, we attempt to create a resource for the medical student, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, and junior-level resident to use to get a grasp on the issues and scope of problems that they will confront while working in the ED.

The book's length and format are designed to allow the student and practitioner to begin to digest the broad range of topics inherent to emergency medicine (EM). Each chapter begins with a section on Key Points, followed by an Introduction, Clinical Presentation (History and Physical Examination), Diagnostic Studies, Medical Decision Making, Treatment, and Disposition. Whenever possible, we tried to give practical information regarding drug dosing, medical decision-making thought processes, treatment plans, and dispositions that will actually allow you to function more comfortably in the clinical environment. The diagnostic algorithms are a unique feature that attempt to simplify the problem and point the clinician in the right direction.

The book has 19 sections and 98 chapters that cover the entire contents of the EM clerkship curriculum (*Acad Emerg Med.* 2010;17:638-643). The authors are all practicing emergency physicians and EM educators from throughout the country. For medical student clerkship directors, we believe that this text is the perfect book for the student to pick up and digest during a 4-week rotation.

In summary, we hope this book will enhance the emergency medicine experience of all its users.

Scott C. Sherman, MD  
Joseph M. Weber, MD  
Michael Schindlbeck, MD  
Rahul Patwari, MD

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