EXCELLENCE IN EMS / DISASTER MEDICINE

THE CURRICULUM

The Department of Emergency Medicine offers a fully accredited, one-year fellowship in Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The program provides fellows with opportunities in operations, administration, medical oversight, education/teaching, and clinical care in the pre-hospital environment. The Kalamazoo County EMS system is a high-performance single tier ALS system with countywide BLS first responders. Serving a population of over one million, the EMS system is made up of four ambulance services covering designated areas of the county and sixteen first responder agencies provided through fire and public safety agencies. The fellows are assistant medical directors for the Kalamazoo Medical Control Authority (KCMA) in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The KCMA is the agency responsible for coordinating and overseeing the EMS system and is physically housed within the WMed Department of Emergency Medicine. This partnership allows for very close interaction between residents, faculty, and the EMS system’s staff. Through the hard work and dedication of our EMS personnel and a highly effective EMS system design, cardiac arrest survival in Kalamazoo County is among the highest in the nation.

The educational experience is enhanced by a response vehicle allocated solely for the fellows, which allows for field response and quality improvement activities in the field.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Fellows actively engage in regional and state disaster preparedness activities. They are given the opportunity to help plan, implement, and evaluate disaster preparedness activities with various federal, state, and local agencies, hospital systems, private companies, and volunteer agencies. KCMA serves as the coordinating agency for the 5th District Medical Response Coalition (5DMRC), one of the oldest such coalitions in the nation and previously cited by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a national model. The 5DMRC meets monthly and includes representatives from the nine counties of southwest Michigan (about one million population). Members come from hospitals, EMS, emergency management, public health, and other healthcare and human service organizations. Additionally, WMed serves as the statewide coordinating agency for the National Disaster Life Support (NDLS) Programs in Michigan. Fellows complete NDLS training and serve as instructors in NDLS Courses.

FLIGHT

WMed works closely with West Michigan AirCare, our sole regional air medical service. AirCare brings unique skills and capabilities to patients in need. The medical director for this agency is one of the core faculty for both the residency and fellowship programs. Fellows work with AirCare to gain direct experience in providing air medical care and are actively involved in AirCare’s quality improvement and educational programs.

RESEARCH

The State of Michigan’s EMS Information Systems (EMISIS) program is coordinated by WMed, housing the State EMS Data Manager. With over six million EMS records, fellows have access to a massive amount of data to conduct research under an ongoing State Health Department IRB-approved research project. Fellows have excellent access to bio-statistical services. Our department has successfully secured over $14 million in state and federal grants. It is one of only a handful of institutions to receive multiple EMS for Children Targeted Issues grants.

Fellows are encouraged to attend and present at the annual meeting of the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP). WMed provides financial support for travel costs for presentations at state and national meetings. During your tenure as a fellow, you will participate in ongoing research studies conducted by the faculty. Our goal is to help you develop outstanding research skills by providing opportunities and resources to cultivate these skills.

CLINICAL

Clinically, the fellows work as attending physicians at two regional tertiary care centers (both ACS-verified trauma centers). Together these facilities see approximately 150,000 patients annually. Fellows have teaching opportunities with students, residents, and EMS personnel.

WMed has a new simulation center that opened in the summer of 2014 and is one of the largest in the Midwest. EMS fellows have full access to the center to hone their own skills and to instruct students, residents, and, EMS personnel.

WMed Advantage

A graduate from out program will be well prepared to sit for the EMS subspecialty boards and will have a strong understanding of EMS operations and systems. Our high-functioning EMS system offers unique opportunities for fellows on pre-hospital operations, agency administration, medical oversight and direction, education/teaching, and clinical care in the pre-hospital environment. Additionally, our fellows have an enhanced field experience through the response vehicle and flight program.

Participation at the local, regional, and state level in EMS activities as well as disaster preparedness rounds out the EMS operational, planning, and implementation experience.

THE FACULTY

Our diverse EMS faculty has unique background niche interests and skills. They have experience and interest in air medicine, disaster preparedness, tactical EMS, wilderness medicine, prehospital education, and EMS system operations just to name a few.

- William Fales, MD
  Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and Fellowship Program Director
  Medical Director, Kalamazoo County Medical Control Authority
  Regional Medical Director, 5th District Medical Response Coalition

- Gerald Beirne, DO, MPH
  Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine and Associate Fellowship Program Director
  Associate Medical Director for Operations, Kalamazoo County Medical Control Authority

- Glen Ekdal, DO
  Medical Director, West Michigan AirCare
  Clinical Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine

- John Hoyle, MD
  Professor of Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics
  Assistant Medical Director for Pediatrics, Kalamazoo County Medical Control Authority

- Joshua Mastenbrook, MD
  Clinical Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine
  2014 Graduate of WMed EMS/Disaster Medicine Fellowship

- Dana Smith, MPA, EMTP, IF
  Director, WMed Center for EMS, Disaster, and Operational Medicine
  Administrator, Kalamazoo County Medical Control Authority
  Regional Coordinator, 5th District Medical Response Coalition

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Visit the WMed website: med.wmich.edu
Contact the program coordinator: (269) 337-6600 emergemed@wmich.edu
APPLICATION / INTERVIEW PROCESS

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Please include:

- Three letters of recommendation (including your residency program director)
- Personal statement or letter of interest
- Curriculum vitae

We conduct interviews for our EMS/Disaster Medicine fellowship on a rolling basis. After your application is received and reviewed, you may be contacted to set up an interview. A $250 stipend is provided to help offset air travel costs.