CAEP ACADEMIC CONSULTING SERVICE

Mission: To improve emergency care of patients by enhancing academic EM at Canadian medical schools and teaching hospitals

In order to address the variability and tap into the growing expertise of the Academic Section, the CAEP Academic Section is providing an Academic Consultation Service.

The consultant will provide in-depth analysis and best practices to those institutions seeking assistance to improve their performance across any of the three areas of Academic Section expertise. Financial support is available.

CAEP ACADEMIC SECTION
180 Elgin Street Suite 808
Ottawa, ON K2P 2K3
http://caep.ca/ConsultationService
Contact:
Ian Stiell (istiell@ohri.ca)
Jennifer Artz (jartz@caep.ca)
ACADEMIC CONSULTATION SERVICE

CAEP Academic Section Vision: to promote high-quality emergency patient care by conducting world-leading education and research in emergency medicine.

In order to address the variability across Canada’s academic emergency medicine departments and tap into the expertise of CAEP academic leaders, the Academic Section is providing an Academic Consultation Service.

At your department’s (or division/section/unit) request, the consultant will visit, meet with members of your department and university administration, and provide an in-depth analysis and best practices to improve your department’s performance across any of the three areas of Academic Section expertise:

- leadership/administration
- education
- research

Financial support is available from CAEP.

1. BACKGROUND

The Terms of Reference for the CAEP Academic Section state that its mission is “to improve emergency care of patients by enhancing academic emergency medicine primarily at Canadian medical schools and teaching hospitals; to foster and develop education, research and academic leadership amongst Canadian emergency physicians, residents and students; and to provide mentorship in academic emergency medicine (EM).”

The CAEP Academic Section has completed an Environmental Scan of the EM units of all 17 Canadian medical schools (which was accepted for publication in the Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine (CJEM). The scan covered areas from leadership/administration, education (from undergraduate to graduate and continuing professional development), research, and funding. The information was gathered from the heads of the academic units and experts at each institution. The common finding in each domain is the remarkable disparity across the country. Some institutions are clearly thriving, while others are struggling to meet the needs of their faculty and students.
In order to address the variability and tap into the growing expertise of the Academic Section, a **CAEP Academic Consultation Service** has been created and is supported by CAEP to provide in-depth analysis and best practices to those institutions seeking assistance to improve their performance across any of the three areas of Academic Section expertise. This service is available to all academic EM units in Canada, but it is left to individual units to apply for or request assistance (i.e., we will not actively “target” sites for assistance).

2. **OBJECTIVE**

By allowing an experienced consultant to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of a requesting institution, opportunities for improvement and threats to their development can be identified. Since holding the annual Academic Symposia, best models and practices have been characterized from across the country in the areas of Research, Education, and Leadership (in which the latter includes best Governance, Funding, and Leadership).

This service rests on their expertise and ability to give guidance to Canadian EM units that are struggling in a particular area. Consultants are available to those institutions in need to do a preliminary analysis and site visit to offer recommendations in one of three domains, based on currently known best practices in Canada:

1. Governance, Funding, and Leadership
2. Education Scholarship (excluding residency programs)
3. Research Scholarship

3. **SCOPE OF SERVICES: ANALYSIS, SITE VISIT & REPORT**

Interested EM units can contact the Academic Section to set up a site visit for:

- Governance, Funding, and Leadership
- Education Scholarship
- Research Scholarship
- An integrated analysis across multiple areas can also be requested (e.g., research and education).
- A more focused consultation on a specific area under the main categories can be requested (e.g., curriculum development under education scholarship).

The **Academic Section Expert** (or two experts, if multiple diverse areas are requested for review) will review the proposed site through the Environmental Scan data and further information provided by the site. Ian Stiell, Jim Christenson, Jonathan Sherbino, and Jeff Perry have agreed to be consultants. Additional consultants may include active senior Academic Section Members from the three working groups and those who have led Academic Symposium Panels. A site visit will be arranged and will entail interviews with key people.

**Costs** incurred for the site visits would normally be the responsibility of the site (travel expenses and $1,500 honorarium to each consultant physician). However, each site is entitled to have the $1,500 honorarium subsidized by CAEP once every three years.
A **report** will be sent to the site within a month of the visit, detailing the current state (strengths and weaknesses), identifying areas for development, and including recommendations to achieve it.

**On-going support** will be provided for three years through biannual updates (via e-mail or phone).

### 4. SITE RESPONSIBILITIES

- The site will confidentially disclose information relevant to the site visit.
- Costs incurred for the site visits would normally be the responsibility of the site (travel expenses and $1,500 honorarium to the consultant physician).
- The site will be transparent about their goals and measures of success.
- The site will provide an administrative contact and support to set the on-site meetings.

### 5. BENEFITS

By providing support to the EM units in need of further development in their (1) Governance, Funding, and Leadership, (2) Education Scholarship, or (3) Research Scholarship, EM for all Canadians will be strengthened by starting from the core.

Strong academic departments provide support for their faculty and promote excellence in teaching and learning. These strengths will further stimulate EM research, because of the strong educational core.

Holding each of these elements together is a network of administration and leadership that will allow the further growth of education and research across Canada.

There will be no more “have-nots” in academic EM.

Stronger academic departments will provide the best training for EM physicians to improve care for patients.

### 6. CLOSING

Improving the academic side of EM will ultimately improve the care of patients. Canadians will enter the emergency departments employing emergency physicians who have had the best possible training.

For inquiries, please contact Jennifer Artz ([jartz@caep.ca](mailto:jartz@caep.ca)) at 613-523-3343 x18.