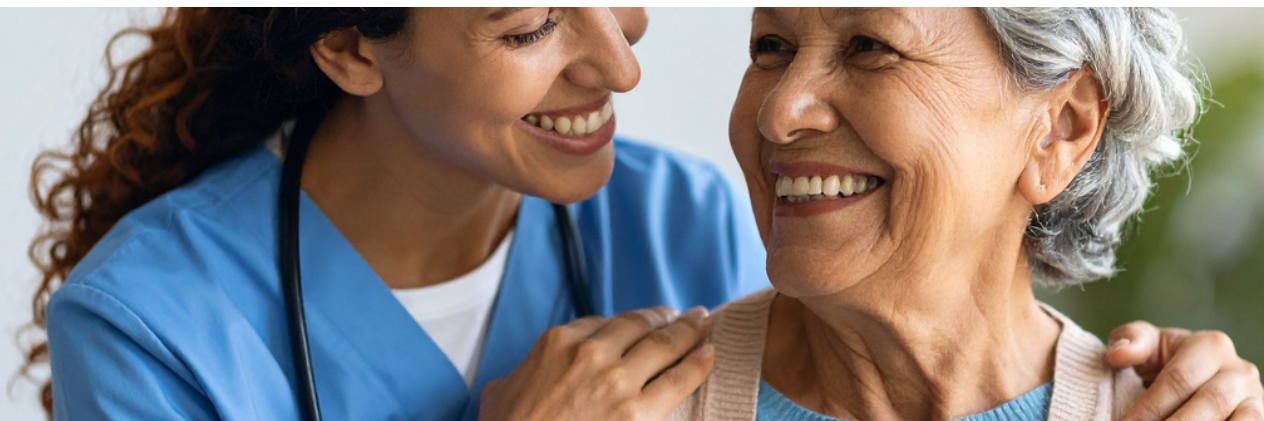




IFEM - CAEP GEMSIG NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2025



Welcome to Our Joint IFEM–CAEP GEMSIG Newsletter: Celebrating Geriatric EM at ICEM 2025

What an extraordinary gathering! ICEM 2025 in Montréal marked a landmark moment for Geriatric Emergency Medicine (GEM), thanks to a dynamic and inspiring collaboration between the IFEM and CAEP GEM Special Interest Groups. Together, we were proud to deliver one of the most comprehensive and engaging GEM experiences in ICEM history.

Across three packed GEM tracks, Marketplace stalls, and multiple cross-cutting sessions with allied EM specialties, the commitment to improving emergency care for older adults was evident at every turn. This year's programme showcased the very best of global innovation and collaboration, and this newsletter issue captures some of these excellent presentations.

A highlight of the congress was the prestigious George P. Podgorny Lecture, delivered by Dr. Don Melady—a trailblazer in Geriatric Emergency Medicine and one of the driving forces behind this year's GEM programming. Dr. Melady's lecture reflected not only his deep expertise but also the international momentum building around equitable, compassionate care for older people in the ED. From practical bedside tips to high-impact research and immersive learning experiences, ICEM 2025 demonstrated what's possible when passionate clinicians, researchers, educators, and learners come together with a shared purpose to improve care for older people in our EDs. We hope this joint newsletter captures just a fraction of the energy, ideas, and global connections made in Montréal—and inspires continued collaboration as we look toward [ICEM 2026](#) and beyond.

Rosa McNamara
Chair, IFEM GEM Special Interest Group

Rebecca Schonnop
Membership & Communications Lead, CAEP Geriatric
Emergency Medicine Committee



Emergency Departments on an Aging Planet: What EM Has to Offer

In his George Podgorny lecture at ICEM 2025, **Dr. Don Melady** reflects on his journey in emergency medicine and the urgent challenge of caring for older adults in a rapidly aging world. [Read Full Lecture](#)

"Our ability to provide care for and support the most vulnerable and frail is what defines us as human beings. It's what makes us civilized. And in the emergency department, it's what turns a good doctor into a great one..."



SREMI: Leading the Way in GEM Research

Dr. Jacques Lee, Canada
From groundbreaking delirium research to addressing loneliness and training the next generation of leaders, At SREMI, Dr. Jacques Lee is setting new standards for improving care for older adults in emergency departments. [Read Full Article](#)

Launching India's First Geriatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship

A groundbreaking fellowship in geriatric emergency medicine is being launched in India, marking a major step forward in specialized training and care for an ageing population.

[Read More on Our Website](#)

GEM Shines at ICEM 2025 Educational Marketplace

Jacky Lee, Canada

CAEP and IFEM were proud to host ICEM 2025 in the vibrant city of Montreal. One of the conference highlights was the return of the Educational Marketplace, led by Dr. Don Melady and Dr. Audrey-Anne Brousseau. This year's Marketplace featured excellent GEM content led by EM experts around the world:

- Dr. Christina Shenvi and Dr. Erin Simon used a dynamic Jeopardy-style game format to explore best practices for managing psychological symptoms of dementia in the ED
- Dr. Marie-Pier Lanoue, Dr. Ana Garcia Martinez, and Dr. Jamie Vander Ende shed light on the risks and impacts of commonly prescribed pain and sleep medications, highlighting safer alternatives for older adults in the ED
- Dr. Patrick Van de Voorde, Dr. Rodrick Lim, and Dr. Priyank Bhatnagar dropped some pointers on how to clear the C-spine across all ages
- Dr. Whitney Bryant, Dr. Ankur Verma, Dr. Jiraporn Sri-on, and Dr. Paulo Roberto Figueroa Junior demonstrated the power of ultrasound-guided regional nerve blocks in managing traumatic pain in older adults
- Dr. Jacques Lee and Dr. Juliana Poh walked through some high-yield pearls on recognizing and preventing delirium in the ED at their Delirium Café
- Dr. Alice Gray showcased geriatric immersive simulation activities, allowing participants to experience firsthand the sensory and mobility changes people face as they age

The Educational Marketplace was a remarkable and enriching experience. Along with geriatric emergency medicine, this learning and networking event covered a wide range of other topics such as Point of Care Ultrasound (PoCUS), airway management, resuscitation, and pediatric emergency medicine. Bringing together EM physicians and learners around the globe, it was another success.

Thank you to all the fantastic speakers, volunteers, and attendees who made the ICEM 2025 Educational Marketplace unforgettable!



How to Set Up a Geriatric Emergency Medicine Special Interest Group (GEM SIG)

[Download Resource](#)



Age is But a Number: Why Frailty Matters More than Chronological Age

Dr. Priyank Bhatnagar challenges the idea that chronological age defines patient outcomes. By focusing on frailty, clinicians can better predict risks and deliver more equitable care for older adults. [Read Full Article](#)

Personal Reflection of ICEM 2025

Jacky Lee, Canada

ICEM 2025 was an unforgettable experience. As a third-year medical student, I immersed myself in cutting-edge research and best practices shared by emergency medicine physicians from across the globe. Our team presented a moderated poster, delivered by Dr. Jacques Lee, exploring the experiences of social isolation and loneliness among older adults needing ED care. This work was part of a randomized controlled trial evaluating a peer-support program for older adults comprising of weekly telephone or video conversations with hospital volunteers.

The GEM track was packed with high-impact, practical takeaways I can use immediately in my clerkship. Simple actions—like ensuring a patient has their hearing aids in or glasses on—can dramatically improve care. I also refined my approach to recognizing delirium, learning to identify both hyperactive and hypoactive subtypes, which will be invaluable throughout my rotations. Beyond the sessions, connecting with EM physicians and learners from around the world was energizing. The passion for improving care for older adults was evident and left me confident that the future of emergency medicine is brighter than ever!



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From Bedside to Podium to Marketplace: Sharing Solutions for Safer Emergency Care in Older Adults

Juliana Poh, Singapore

At the Geriatric Emergency Medicine (GEM) track on Day One of ICEM, I had the pleasure of presenting strategies to help reduce emergency department (ED) revisits among older adults—a persistent challenge in emergency care.

Older adults tend to reattend the ED more frequently, often due to:

- Worsening symptoms of chronic conditions
- Inadequate treatment or assessment during the initial visit
- Lack of appropriate follow-up
- Unmet social and functional needs

To address these issues, Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA) is key. When paired with medication reconciliation by a geriatrics-trained pharmacist, CGA can help uncover both medical and social factors affecting an older person's ability to remain safely at home. This approach is particularly valuable in preventing unnecessary readmissions and supporting independent living.

A well-structured geriatric discharge checklist is another essential tool. It should clearly communicate to the patient and caregiver:

- Diagnosis and relevant findings
- Interventions provided in the ED
- Plans for follow-up care
- Return precautions
- A summary sent to the patient's general practitioner

Where possible, we should leverage the electronic medical record (EMR) system to integrate this checklist using Best Practice Advisories (BPAs) or SmartPhrases, improving consistency and efficiency.

For the severely frail, the ED encounter also presents a critical opportunity to ask "What Matters Most?". With the patient's goals of care in mind, clinicians should explore appropriate alternatives to hospitalisation, aligning care plans with patient values and avoiding low-value interventions.

Another highlight was joining Dr. Jacques Lee at the ICEM Marketplace, where we hosted a stall focused on delirium awareness—a major but often under-recognised issue in geriatric emergency medicine. We spotlighted the SQiD (Single Question in Delirium) screening tool: "Is the patient more confused than before?" This simple question can make a significant difference in early delirium detection—an area where timely recognition can drastically improve outcomes.

It was energising to engage with international colleagues, share ideas, and promote better care for older adults. The conversations and curiosity around this topic were inspiring—and a reminder of how global collaboration can drive local change. I'm already looking forward to the next ICEM, and to continuing these important conversations on how we can better serve our older patients in emergency care.

We're hiring!

Biomedical Discovery Research
(2 positions)



Population Health Data Science
(2 positions)



**Smarter, Not Harder: Practical Tips
for Geriatric Care in the ED**

Dr. Audrey-Anne Brousseau

[Read Full Article](#)

ANGELS 2025: Preparing Emergency Physicians for the Future of Geriatric Care

Dr. M. Sai Surendar, India

Geriatric emergency medicine continues to gain momentum in India, and the upcoming ANGELS 2025 workshop is a testament to this growing movement. Short for Advanced National Geriatric Emergency Life Support, ANGELS is designed to equip emergency physicians with the skills and knowledge needed to manage the complex needs of older patients in the emergency setting.

This year's ANGELS workshop is being conducted with great energy and participation, with over 100 doctors already registered. It will be held as a pre-conference workshop at EMCON 2025, the 26th Annual Conference of the Society for Emergency Medicine India (SEMI)—a flagship event that draws more than 3,000 emergency medicine professionals from across India and around the world.

The ANGELS curriculum includes practical, evidence-based approaches to managing geriatric emergencies, and reflects best practices being shared across the IFEM Geriatric Emergency Medicine Special Interest Group (GEMSIG) network. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of GEMSIG members globally, knowledge and innovations in geriatric emergency care are being shared widely—and ANGELS 2025 continues that mission here in India.