



VCU EM Education News

September 2025

VCU EM Mourns the Loss of Impactful Leaders



Mary Alice O'Donnell, former DIO at VCU Health died peacefully on July 18, 2025. Mary Alice spent her entire career in higher education administration, culminating with over 31 years of service at VCU/ VCU Health. She served as Director of Graduate Medical Education, a position she often described as the best job at the Health System. During her over 20 years as DIO, she supported the founding of the EM and EMIM residencies, multiple program directors, and countless learners. Her impact and mentorship was far reaching and continues to be felt. She continued to mentor many after retirement until her passing. Shown in picture Left, she was honored at EM graduation upon retiring in 2018. She enjoyed friends, family, traveling, reading, gardening, and volunteering at the Hopewell Food Pantry.



Frank Zwemer, longtime faculty at the Richmond McGuire Veterans Administration Hospital and VCU Medical Center passed in early August. Frank had a long and distinguished career in emergency medicine, including years at the University of Rochester before becoming EM Chief at the Richmond VA. Frank was instrumental in the establishment of the EMIM residency program at VCU. He will long be remembered by many for his kind heart, mentorship, and impact on their lives. Above middle with EMIM founding PD Pawan Suri, and his wife Laura, above right recognized by the EM Residency for his educational contributions in 2019 after stepping down as Chief at the McGuire VA. He is survived by his wife Linda, daughter Catherine, son Jonathan, and numerous EM and EMIM residents who benefited from knowing him.

Woleben Named Associate Dean for VCU SOM Admissions



Chris Woleben (faculty), long time Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Hugo R Seibel Endowed Teaching Professor, will transition from his role in Student Affairs in the School of Medicine to lead the admissions process for the VCU School of Medicine as Associate Dean of Admissions.

VCU EM Residency Alum Receives ACEP Teaching Award

Drew Clare (EM Res '18) received a National Emergency Medicine Junior Faculty Teaching Award at ACEP. Drew is an Associate Professor at the University of Florida Jacksonville. Another alumnus making us proud!



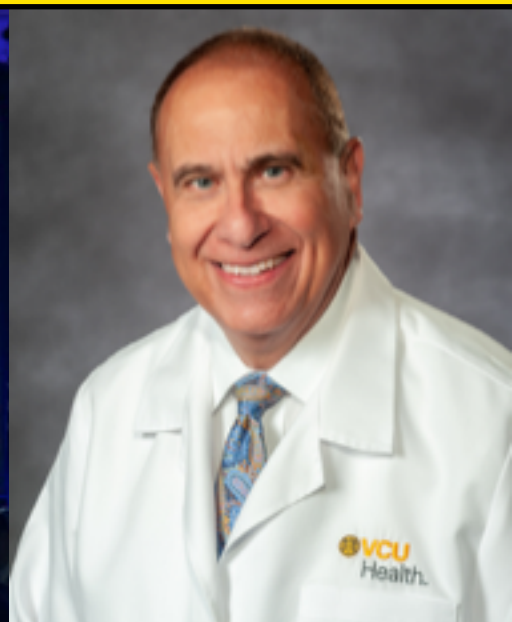
VCU Resident Departs for Vegas



VCU EM resident **Dylan Jacobsen** has left the program after completing his intern year to pursue Family Medicine training in the US Air Force in Las Vegas. Dylan will always be part of the VCU EM family and we wish him the best in his new endeavors. He will be missed at VCU.



ACEP Recognizes Dr Ornato's Legacy in Research

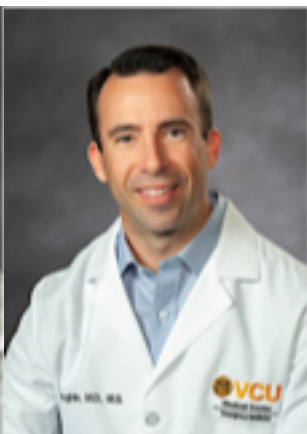


Joe Ornato (faculty, former chair) is recognized at national ACEP25 meeting for his pioneering contributions to research in Emergency Medicine

Faculty Receive Education Awards



Rashida Woods (faculty) was recognized with the GME Leadership in Medical Education Award as Outstanding VCU Health Fellowship Program Director. Several other EM faculty were also recognized for their education achievements



Erin Dunbar and Patrick McLaughlin
PCM Small Group Leader Awards Class of 2028



Megan Donohue
Charting New Direction Award

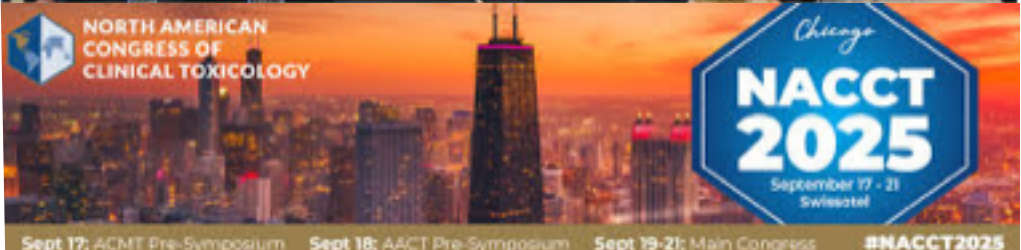


Michael Jones
Completed VCUHS Teaching in Medical Education Course

Cumpston Honored, Toxicology Excels at National Conference!



Above Left, Toxicology Division at the North American Clinical Congress of Toxicology in Chicago. Above Right, **Joe Testa** (2nd year fellow) delivered 3 platform presentations. First year fellows **Madison Bompard** and **Taylor Wahrenbrock** each presented two posters. **Taylor Wharenbrock** also won a sponsored trip from America's Poison Center leadership meeting in Albuquerque. **Michelle Troendle** (faculty) presented two medical education case studies for the ToxLab Science Fair. **Kirk Cumpston** (faculty) was presented with the Distinguished Service Award by American Academy of Toxicology, one of their highest honors. He was on the board for over ten years and past President of AACT.



Residencies at ACEP25!



Top Center, senior residents enjoy dinner with faculty in Salt Lake City. Above Left, **Rebecca Pilkington** (EM3), **Abigail Stanley** (EM3) and **Eric Donley** (EM3) participate in wilderness medicine competition in Utah. Above Right, **Ramana Feeser** (faculty) and **Pete Moffett** (EM PD) attend the opening ceremony at ACEP25.

VCU EM Family Additions!



Above Left, **Randy Hilleary** (EM1) and wife Emily are proud parents of baby Carson, their first. Above Right, **Maggie McAndrew** (EM Res '25) is engaged to fiancé Brandon. Below Left, **Noah Levy** (EM Res '25) marries now wife Doah in South Korea. Below Right, **Peter Bolaji** (EM Res '21), his wife Leah, and family welcome baby Naomi Wynn Folasade Bolaji.



Challenge Discovery 2025



EM and EMIM residents participate in the tradition of Challenge Discovery teambuilding during July.

New Residents EMS Day



EM and EM/IM residents participate in EMS training in July, a tradition led by **Allen Yee** (faculty) and the EMS Division.

Upcoming VCU EM Grand Rounds



Cynthia Price, MD

Associate Residency Program Director
Assistant Professor
Department of Emergency Medicine
University of Connecticut

Caring for Sickle Cell Patients in ED

October 8, 2025 10am

<https://vcuhealth.zoom.us/j/757236839>



Lloyd Tannenbaum, MD

Assitant Residency Program Director
Department of Emergency Medicine
Geisinger Wyoming Valley

November 12, 2024 10am

Join the meeting now



Justin Myers, DO MPH

Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine
Co-Director Health Equity and Global EM
University of North Carolina SOM

VCU Residency Class of 2008

Evans Lecture

December 10, 2025 10am

Join the meeting now

Grand Rounds Live or Virtual



Location

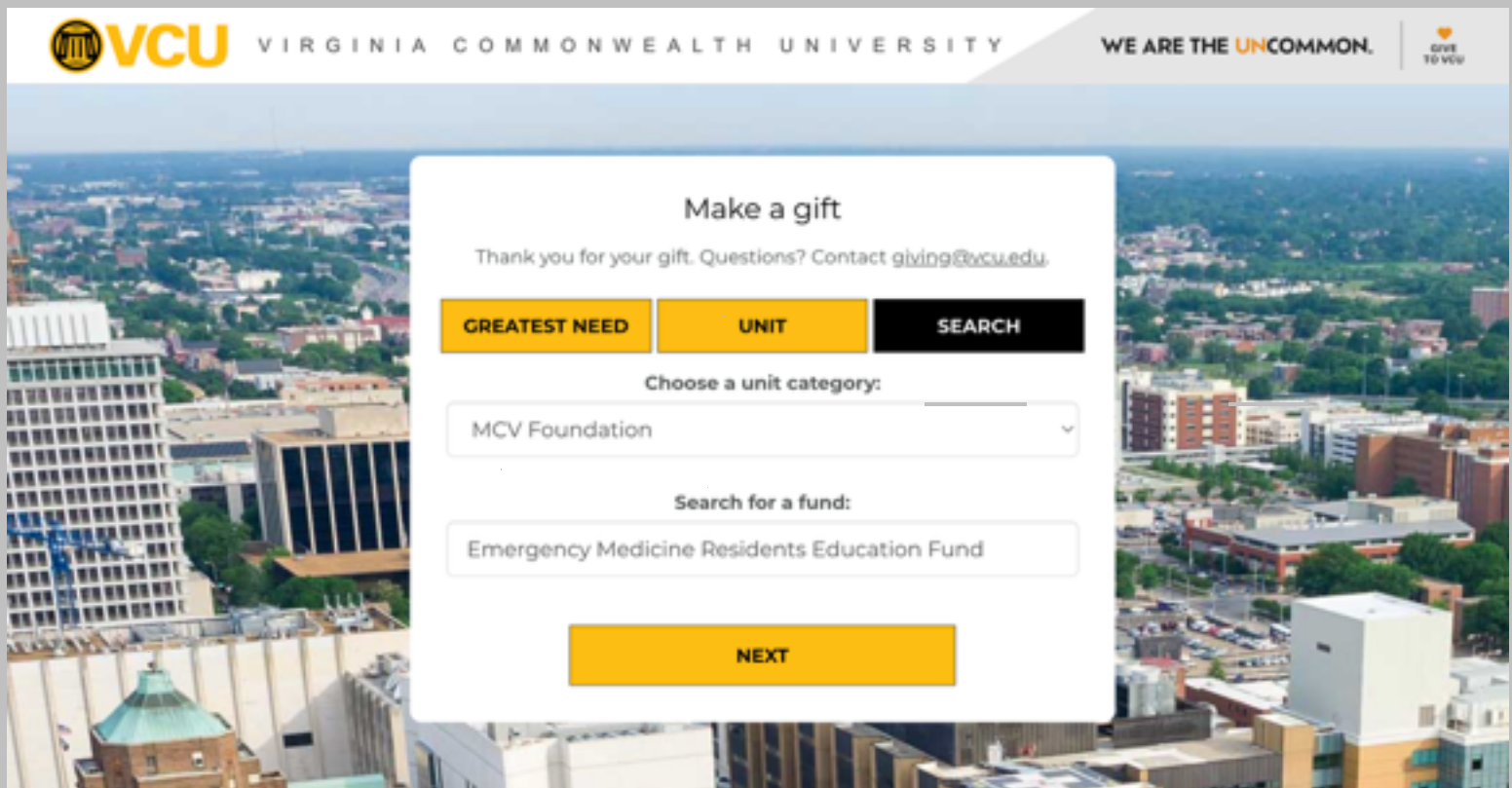
Ben Johnson Auditorium, MCV Campus of VCU
305 N 12th Street, Richmond, Virginia



Please Support VCU EM Resident Education!

You can donate to support VCU EM residents through the MCV Foundation. We have established an ongoing fund to support the residents and residency for things that VCUHS does not fund. Please consider supporting the future of emergency medicine!

1. Go to <https://www.mcvfoundation.org/give>
2. Click on "Give Now"
3. Under Choose a Fund dropdown select "Search by key word"
4. Type in "emergency" and select **"Emergency Medicine Residents Education Fund"**

A screenshot of the VCU Give Now donation form. The background is a cityscape. The form is white with a yellow header bar. The header bar contains the VCU logo, the text "VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY", and the slogan "WE ARE THE UNCOMMON." with a small "GIVE TO VCU" icon. The form itself has a title "Make a gift" and a thank you message "Thank you for your gift. Questions? Contact giving@vcu.edu." Below this are three buttons: "GREATEST NEED" (yellow), "UNIT" (yellow), and "SEARCH" (black). Under the "UNIT" button is a dropdown menu labeled "Choose a unit category:" with "MCV Foundation" selected. Below the dropdown is a text input field labeled "Search for a fund:" containing the text "Emergency Medicine Residents Education Fund". At the bottom of the form is a large yellow button labeled "NEXT".