

**Resident Program Updates – Winter 2010**  
**University of Alberta Residents Program**  
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	Program Description
<b>Protected Academic Learning</b> (Half-day)	We are working on reorganizing our academic half day. There is an academic half day working group with resident advisors. Senior residents have an additional session for exam preparation.
<b>Call or Night-float system</b>	Night float (4 weeks a year for juniors, 3 weeks a year for seniors) and Call system which is variable depending on the service. Maximum 1:7 call in NICU, ER, PICU, Surgery. Otherwise usually >1:7 while off-service. During the H1N1 Pandemic we have managed to stay within our PARA contract.
<b>Vascular Access</b> (opportunities, vascular access team)	Senior residents have the ability to do a critical care rotation where they can act as IV team, resuscitation, anaesthesia. Many opportunities on the ward, ER, PICU, NICU.
<b>Resident Retreat</b> (protected, in our out of hospital, length)	Protected annual resident weekend retreat usually in Jan/Feb in Banff, AB. Extenders cover the weekend wards and call. The focus is on wellness and bonding with new residents. We do usually discuss strategies for improvement of the Program. Free time for outdoor activities!
<b>Advocacy Projects</b>	We are hoping to broaden the scope of our scholarly project description to include an option for advocacy work.
<b>International Electives</b>	Stollery Children's has an affiliation with Ghana, Africa. We had 2 senior residents rotate through Ghana and another 2 senior residents arrange an elective in India.
<b>Rural Experiences</b>	Juniors have a mandatory community rotation through Camrose, AB (one paediatrician for large rural catchment area).  Senior residents are encouraged to choose from Red Deer and Yellowknife which offers diverse consultations, resuscitations, transport, outreach clinics.

<p><b>Observed History and Physicals</b></p>	<p>Juniors have between 2-3 observed history and physicals per year which are evaluated based on the RCPSC marking scheme.</p> <p>Seniors in their final year, are assigned to a mentor who must arrange as many H&amp;P as are necessary for preparation (at least one must be a selected outpatient).</p>
<p><b>Resident Research</b> (support, protected time, publications, presentations)</p>	<p>First year residents all have a mandatory research block in September to review basic research methodology and to identify a research mentor and topic.</p> <p>All residents are required to fulfill a scholarly work, with the expectation of completing an ethics and grant application and present at our annual WCHRI research conference. Additional funding is available for those who present their work at a conference (poster or oral).</p>
<p><b>Mock Codes</b> (frequency, use of simulators)</p>	<p>The PICU team has worked very hard to ensure that each senior has at least a few opportunities to run a mock (videotaped) surprise code on the ward during CTU. We also have a few mock code half days in a state of the art simulation lab each year.</p>
<p><b>Procedural Skills</b> (workshops, opportunities)</p>	<p>Procedural skills opportunities including IV, NG, Foleys, LP, Intubations and suturing skills are available during ER, CTU, Anaesthesia, PICU and NICU rotations.</p>
<p><b>OTHER AREAS OF NOTE</b></p>	<p>The Professional Association of Residents of Alberta (PARA) will be negotiating a new contract in 2010!</p> <p>We have two additional first year residency spots in 2009 (total 10 R1, 8 R2, 8R3, 5R4)</p> <p>The majority of senior residents are deciding to pursue a pediatric subspecialty for 2010</p>