

Research Fundamentals Year-Specific Breakout Sessions

The PGY2 class gathers one hour each month during the last hour of our Thursday conference for a “year-specific breakout session”. These sessions serve to provide focused education to each class in following topic areas (Ultrasound- PGY1, Research Fundamentals- PGY2, and EMS/Administration- PGY3).

Research is the theme of our second year-specific didactic sessions. During monthly class meetings, Dr. Jeff Jones and Dr. Mike Brown cover various key research elements. The first half of the year focuses on learning the "tools" of research through developing a framework for a "potential" research project.

An original clinical or bench research project is occasionally performed, but always encouraged for those eager research-oriented residents. Ample mentoring and funding also exists through GRMERC (the residency's financial sponsor) for those interested in performing an original research project. Most residents, however, focus their efforts to learn the skill sets needed to perform literature search, grant proposals, and hone evidence based medicine critical analysis.

These skills are applied in the second half of the year by formulating a clinical question that has not been answered clearly in the medical literature. The best evidence about this question is critically appraised and a brief summary of the analysis is written that often results in a published original review- usually on www.bestbets.org/

Examples of past work include a summary of the use d-dimer to rule out an aortic dissection, ED lactate levels as a marker for mortality, use of thrombolytics in massive pulmonary embolism, and comparison of commercial epistaxis nasal packs.