



Hospital Emergency Room Knowledge Exchange

Proposal of Július Hodosy, MD, MSc

Background

Emergency medicine is a medical specialty that is focused on providing healthcare to people who are exposed to a risk of sudden death or health impairment. It is considered as a basic medical specialty in many developed countries; however, until recently (4 years ago) this was not the case of Slovakia. The training for Emergency medicine (EM) physician lasts 5 years. This means that currently there are no regular EM physicians, nevertheless, the job is done by anesthesiologist, surgeons and internal doctors. Since the new specialty was recognized, new EM departments are being built and equipped, but we can say that EM in Slovakia is still in its beginning.

Since my studies at Medical Faculty I was inspired by the variety of conditions that EM physician must handle, and I have decided to continue my studies to receive board examinations in this specialization. Reason for applying for this program considers the fact, that USA has a long history of EM, thus having a long history of experience in this field of medicine and what is more important with established system, equipment and standards.

I started working at the Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care. This field can be considered an ancestor of EM, then I switched to Emergency Department at the largest hospital in Bratislava. Moreover, I started working as a doctor in one EM Service company and last but not least, I started teaching and my PhD work at Department of Physiology at Medical Faculty under supervision of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Ostatnikova, MD, PhD. She recently became a Vice-dean for foreign affairs, and she was instrumental in setting up the first Department and Clinic of Emergency Medicine and the Medicine of Catastrophes in Slovakia. In addition, she is the Head of the university department dealing with international cooperation. During the last two years, she managed to contact several former medical students who now work in the USA but have Slovak origin and convinced them to come to the Slovak Republic to share their knowledge. Several seminars and workshops took place in Bratislava focused not only on medical students, but also healthcare professionals. One of such workshops was given by the Medical Director of Hospitalist program and adjunct clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Iowa Martin Izakovic, MD, FECP and his colleagues working currently at the Emergency department at MERCY Hospital in Iowa City, Iowa.

American Partners

Myr partners come from the Mercy Hospital, Iowa City, Iowa, USA, namely Martin Izakovic, MD, FECP, and Stephen Sheckel, MD, FA CEP an Emergency Department Medical Director. They came to the Slovak Republic giving lectures on various topics from EM, concerning e.g., ACLS, noninvasive measurement of central venous pressure, building-up EM departments, etc. The EM Department consists of: 1. Emergency Room; 2. Chest Pain Center; 3. Level II Trauma Center; and 4. Pediatric Emergency Department.

Objectives

Objective of a program is to exchange and to learn established guidelines and techniques unique for emergency medicine in both countries, and to transfer this knowledge and experience to my practice in Slovakia.

Detailed Description

The internship program is a 2-month continuous part of a visit in the hospital, where, I am going to have a role of a junior resident in Emergency Department of Iowa hospital under the personal supervision of Martin Izakovic, MD, FECP. The executive training will be held to practically demonstrate critical situation management and will cover topics as airway management, including practicing the rapid sequence intubation, sedation techniques, chest pain and dyspnea management, trauma clearance, adult and pediatric ACLS, etc. Since these topics relate to the EM procedures, which I can come across during my internship, they are tightly connected, and actually cannot be separated. Since I am registered for a 5year study in the field of EM in Slovakia, this program will fit and help to achieve my career objectives. We have a long term partnership with our American partner, and this exchange programs should be first but one of many, indicating future follow-up and cooperation.

Organization and Time Schedule

Planned arrival to the USA is the last week in June, in order to get acquainted with the new environment. The internship itself should last 2 month beginning by 1st of July, 2008, ending 31st of August 2008 in Emergency department of MERCY Hospital Iowa City, in Iowa, USA. Executive training seminars will take place during the internship directly at the place of ED, within two months, once during a 2-week period, and will cover the practical management of emergency life-threatening situations. I am scheduled to return by the first week of September.

Program Benefits

American healthcare professionals with their long history of providing emergency care have established guidelines based on evidence-based medicine and have developed techniques unique in this field of medicine. EM in Slovakia is in its beginning and is only establishing protocols and equipment for EM services. Experience gained from more experienced partners is of great benefit. Implementing new protocols in Slovak EM departments will improve emergency care and help to establish EM specialization in Slovakia.