CDEM Faculty Highlight

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What is your most memorable moment of teaching?
There’s not one specific moment, but it’s hearing from a student or a resident that I taught them something. For example, I got a text message from a former resident after he put in a transvenous pacemaker in a patient and he remembered the pacing lab I ran and the pacing simulator I had made. Another resident reminded me of how we did her first central line when she was a rotating medical student in our department.

Who or what is your biggest influence?
From residency, Christopher Doty and Mark Silverberg were big influences in how I teach and how I see Emergency Medicine. Sage Weiner and Rich Sinert were also big influences on me. They taught me a lot and were always excited to do it. I remember sitting down one day in residency after presenting a patient and Mark started to tell me why herniation would present with a blown pupil. Afterwards he advised me to learn a few things that I could teach really well so there was always something to talk about.

Any advice for other clerkship directors?
I’m pretty new to the clerkship game, I feel like I should be the one asking for advice! Coming from the GME side of things, it’s important to make sure that students know what will be expected of them as residents. Not the medical knowledge stuff, but the “adulting” stuff.

What is your favorite part about being an educator/director?
It’s silly, but I get really excited when patients present with classic findings. I like to go and find the students and residents and show them (with the patient’s permission of course!). I also enjoy going through procedures at the bedside.
Any interesting factoids you would like to share?
I spent 5 years before medical school as a software engineer and it’s interesting to see how some of the methodologies have come down to healthcare.