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Western Journal of Emergency Medicine: Integrating Emergency Care with Population Health

Title

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Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2gq5g14h>

Journal

Western Journal of Emergency Medicine: Integrating Emergency Care with Population Health, 13(2)

ISSN

1936-900X

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Publication Date

2012

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University of California Irvine's Ultrafest: Bedside Ultrasound Symposium Riding the Wave of Ultrasound in Medical Education

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Keeping inline with rapid advances in ultrasound education, the University of California, Irvine (UCI) is integrating ultrasound into medical education. UC Irvine will open its doors May 20th to medical students across California at the Bedside Ultrasound Symposium UltraFest led by faculty director Dr. J. Christian Fox. In recent years, the value of physicians in multiple specialties using ultrasound for point of care diagnosis and treatment has become progressively more apparent. Students at UC Irvine School of Medicine now have it heavily integrated into the first and second years of school with 22 hours of didactic and 20 hours of hands-on training. In addition to this ongoing ultrasound curriculum throughout the year, 40 students enrolled in an elective that provided more lectures and hands-on training after hours. These workshops were led by faculty and community physicians from a variety of specialties including obstetrician/gynecologist Dr. Vinita Speir, sports medicine physician Dr. David Kruse, trauma surgeon Dr. Chris Barrios, and critical care specialists Dr. Mark Rosen and Dr. Liz Turner. Furthermore, second-year medical students who participated in the elective were able to serve as small group instructors for first-year medical students in the core curriculum, reinforcing skills and fostering student teaching.

For the year finale, UC Irvine's Ultrasound Interest Group will host a UltraFest on Sunday, May 20, 2012. Designed to target students interested in *any* specialty, symposium workshops will include cardiology, urology, pediatrics, surgery, pulmonary and critical care, sports medicine with heavy emphasis on musculoskeletal ultrasound, obstetrics/gynecology and more. The goal of this conference is to provide every student with optimal hands-on learning experience in hopes every participant will walk away with real improved bedside ultrasound skills they can use on future patients. The symposium will be customized for each individual based on their personal interests, providing small group hands-on workshops, using state-of-the-art phantom technology, the latest ultrasound machines, a variety of models with and without pathology, and expert ultrasound physician instructors. Furthermore, UltraFest is completely free, thanks to volunteering faculty, community physicians and students. With the collaboration from nearby schools and intermingling of medical students across the state, we hope UltraFest will be another step in inspiring the integration of ultrasound training into medical education.