

# Fellowship in Prehospital Emergency Medicine

## Overview

Prehospital Emergency Medicine is becoming an increasingly important part of the health care system. An Institute of Medicine report released in June 2006 highlighted the need for strong physician leadership in EMS to make the system more effective. Post-graduate fellowship training aims to prepare these physician leaders by giving them a broad knowledge base and allowing time to obtain expertise in all aspects of prehospital emergency medicine.

Our fellowship is a collaborative effort between the Saginaw Valley Medical Control Authority (SVMCA), Synergy Medical Education Alliance/Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, and Mobile Medical Response, Inc. It consists of a one-year, post-graduate program designed to provide education and experience in prehospital emergency medical systems and the management of public health emergencies. The fellow will operate as a junior faculty member in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Synergy Medical Education / Michigan State College of Human Medicine, an assistant Medical Director with Saginaw Valley Medical Control Authority and an advisor to Mobile Medical Response, Inc. The fellow will also provide assistance to all agencies in the SVMCA.

The strength of our fellowship is the participation of all involved institutions; this allows the fellow to explore the many aspects of EMS and learn all the skills necessary to become an expert in prehospital emergency medicine. The fellowship director who provides guidance and training is Dr. Noel Wagner. He is an EMS fellowship-trained emergency physician and the EMS Medical Director for the Saginaw Valley Medical Control Authority. The SVMCA is responsible for EMS medical oversight in both Saginaw and Tuscola Counties. As of 2009, there are almost 800 Medical First Responders, Dispatchers, EMTs, and Paramedics who represent 27 separate agencies. These dedicated professionals provide EMS response to nearly 300,000 residents.

Synergy Medical Education Alliance was formed in 1968 to coordinate all of the medical education activities in the Saginaw community. The corporation's primary educational missions include undergraduate medical education (third and fourth year medical students), residency training and continuing medical education for all Saginaw Physicians. Close to 80 resident physicians make up Synergy Medical's house staff. Synergy Medical offers community-based, fully accredited residency training programs in Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, OB/GYN and Surgery. Our residents rotate among our member hospitals, which have a combined bed capacity of nearly 1,000, and feature state-of-the-art facilities and the best in medical care. In addition, the fellows interact with the residents during shifts and also provide didactic lectures.

Michigan State University is a world-renowned university that provides countless educational resources. The fellow works as adjunct faculty as he/she interacts with the emergency medicine residents through Synergy Medical Education Alliance. There are other numerous opportunities to teach physicians, residents, nurses, and pre-hospital personnel. Paramedic training is an important role of EMS medical directors and the fellow will have an integral role in paramedic education.

The Saginaw Valley is home to a number of different provider agencies. The largest transport service in eastern Michigan is Mobile Medical Response, a private ambulance company. The fellow will serve as an advisor to MMR and have an opportunity to experience the operational and business aspects of a state-of-the-art advanced life support agency.

### **Purpose**

The focus of the SVMCA/Synergy Fellowship in Prehospital Emergency Medicine is on medical direction at the local and regional level through mastery of on-scene and direct medical oversight. The purpose of fellowship training in prehospital emergency medicine is to prepare the fellow for a career of expertise and leadership at local, regional, state, and national levels.

The SVMCA/Synergy fellowship provides a unique opportunity to participate in the day-to-day operations of a high performance EMS system. It is the only prehospital emergency medicine fellowship in Michigan sponsored by a regional medical control authority. A vehicle for scene response is provided. The fellow is required to set aside at least one day per week to participate in on-scene and direct medical oversight. Other time is spent with direct contact with the SVMCA full-time medical director in the performance of his duties. Also, the fellow is placed in charge of the Tuscola division of the SVMCA. This provides an opportunity for the fellow to practice the essential skills of system management while still gaining experience as a fellow. Upon completion, the fellow will have familiarity with the operation of prehospital emergency medical systems academically and also through extended active participation in all aspects of the system.

EMS has many aspects, all of which can be explored through our close contact with many providers and agencies. Below are some of the highlights of the fellowship. This list is by no means comprehensive and only represents some of the many opportunities for our fellows.

#### *County*

The structure of the program allows the fellows tremendous insight into how a local EMS system functions. Fellows participate as medical advisors to the agencies and participate in decision-making through involvement in several committees. The agency managers help the fellow learn how the county interacts with the stakeholders.

#### *Regional*

The State of Michigan has regionalization of certain specialty services. As a result, the

Saginaw Valley EMS agencies have started meeting on a regular basis to discuss issues such as trauma care and pediatric specialty care. Dr. Wagner, the fellow and other members of the SVMCA staff will participate in these meetings.

#### *State*

The fellows attend statewide EMS meetings to learn how the different EMS agencies within the state interact and learn from each other.

#### *National*

Membership in NAEMSP is provided. Presenting at the national meeting is also encouraged.

#### *Aeromedical*

Flight Care and Life Net are aeromedical services based at St. Mary's of Michigan and Covenant Healthcare respectively. These services conduct both interfacility transports as well as scene calls. Fellows learn about the management of a provider agency and also get the opportunity to fly along with the helicopter crew.

#### *Disaster Preparedness*

Disaster medicine is an emerging area with many new professional opportunities. Fellows have the opportunity to learn about disaster planning at many different levels. Fellows with additional interest in special operations can participate in the tactical medical team, dive team or regional DMAT team.

### **Clinical**

Clinical coverage is provided through the hospitals in the system. The fellow acts as an attending physician.

### **Funding and Benefits**

A. The position shall be funded by performance of approximately 4 shifts per month by the fellow as an attending physician. The fellow shall then be salaried at the PGY-4 level (\$47,323 in 2008). Additional clinical shifts (at the attending hourly rate) up to a maximum of 4 per month shall be considered as additional income opportunities to supplement the above salary.

B. Benefits include:

Health Insurance (Blue Cross and Blue Shield)

Dental Insurance

Life Insurance

Long-Term Disability Insurance

Pension Plan

Vision Insurance (available)

Malpractice Insurance

Moving Allowance - \$1,000

Membership dues to National Association of EMS Physicians, Michigan State Medical Society, Michigan College of Emergency Physicians, and Saginaw County Medical Society

Free Parking

House Staff Computers (with free LAN and Internet access)

Two Physician Coats

Immunizations

Sick Leave

Vacation Leave at the PGY-4 level

Flexible Benefits Plan (pre-tax deduction for dependent or medical care)

24-hour access to Saginaw Health Sciences Library

State of Michigan Physician License Fee Reimbursement

Housing Loan Program – Loan for down payment

### C. Vehicle

A response-ready sports utility vehicle “MD-2” is assigned to the fellow for use throughout the fellowship. The vehicle shall be fully equipped to respond to calls with controlled medications, advanced intubation tools, and surgical supplies to provide the highest level of prehospital care. On-scene medical direction is emphasized and the fellow will be responsible for direct medical oversight to the medics on-scene and by radio.