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Western Regional Emergency Medicine Student Symposium

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The Western Regional Emergency Medicine Student Symposium occurred September 12, 2009, hosted by the University of Southern California (USC) Keck School of Medicine's Emergency Medicine (EM) Student Interest Group in collaboration with University of California, Irvine's (UCI) EM Interest Group. The California Chapter of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine (CAL/AAEM) sponsored the event, which included a lecture series, a residency fair with representatives from nearly every program in California, and workshops on emergency ultrasound, advanced airway techniques, and computed tomography picture archiving computer systems, taught by USC and UCI attending and resident physicians.

The event was a tremendous success: over 225 faculty, residents, and students participated, from institutions as far as Boston University, Chicago Medical School, and Hawaii. The event was held at USC's Health Sciences Campus in downtown Los Angeles. Keynote speakers included Drs. Stuart Swadron, Mel Herbert, Diane Birnbaumer, Christian Fox, Shahram Lotfipour, Swaminatha V. Mahadevian, Charlotte Page Wills, David Duong, Leslie Oyama, Binh Ly, Dustin Smith, James Comes, Scott Votey, Mark Morocco,

Sean Henderson, Jorge Fernandez, Jan Shoenberger, and William Mallon.

Topics of discussion were diverse, ranging from "Choosing the Right EM Residency" to "International EM". Melissa Kennedy, MS2 at USC, reflected, "I thought the lectures gave valuable insight into the residency application process and really strengthened my interest in emergency medicine."

The workshops were also highly popular, particularly Dr. Christian Fox's CT workshop, in which Dr. Fox navigated students through a series of abnormal CT findings on 10 different monitors. The ultrasound and advanced airway workshops were also very well reviewed and attended.

Dr. Jorge Fernandez, the director of the event and of medical student education at USC's department of EM, commented: "CAL/AAEM's generous support has been essential for the success of this and last year's symposiums. Through events such as these, program and clerkship directors are able to inspire a significant number of interested students, many of whom will be future members and leaders of CAL/AAEM and our specialty."

