
Specialty Training in Emergency Medicine: The Icelandic Perspective

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Scandinavian Update

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The Beginning of EM in Iceland



- Acute care physicians during WW II



- Casualty ward 1955



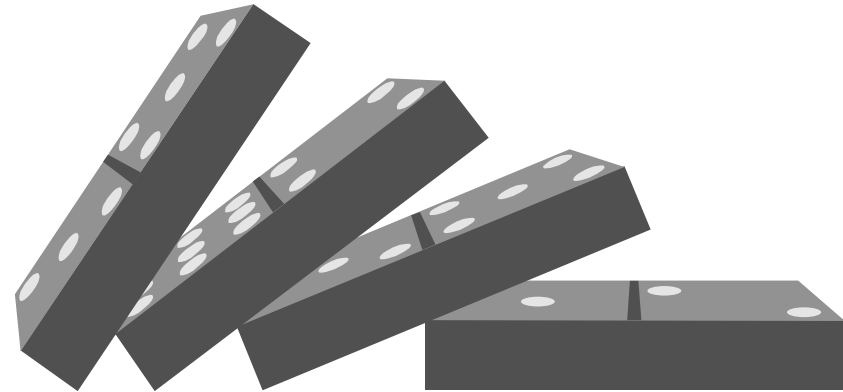
- Dedicated group of MDs

A Changing Model

- Casualty Department 1968
- Evolved into a multispecialty model ED
 - Orthopedics + Traumatology 1985
 - Internal Medicine
 - Surgery
- Coverage
 - by interns!



The Results



- Multiple complaints
 - Patients and colleagues
 - Committees to review emergency care
 - Ministry of Health
 - Hospital Board of Medical Directors
 - A demand for improvements in quality of care
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EM Becomes a Specialty in Iceland

- 1991 Attending coverage in ED 24/7
- 1992 Official recognition of EM
 - Ministry of Health
 - 4½ years of training
 - Post-internship
 - Incl. anesthesia



Subsequent Changes

- 1994 EM takes over 80% of ED visits
 - IM / surgery track 20%
- Staff reinforcements
 - Senior doctors



A National Society for EM

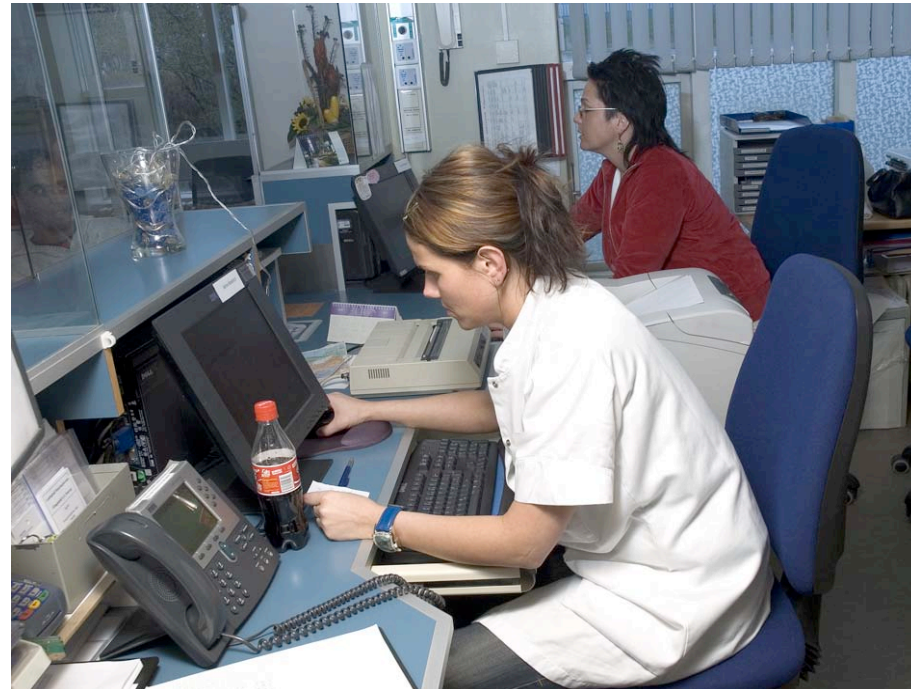
- ISAEM founded
 - December 2000



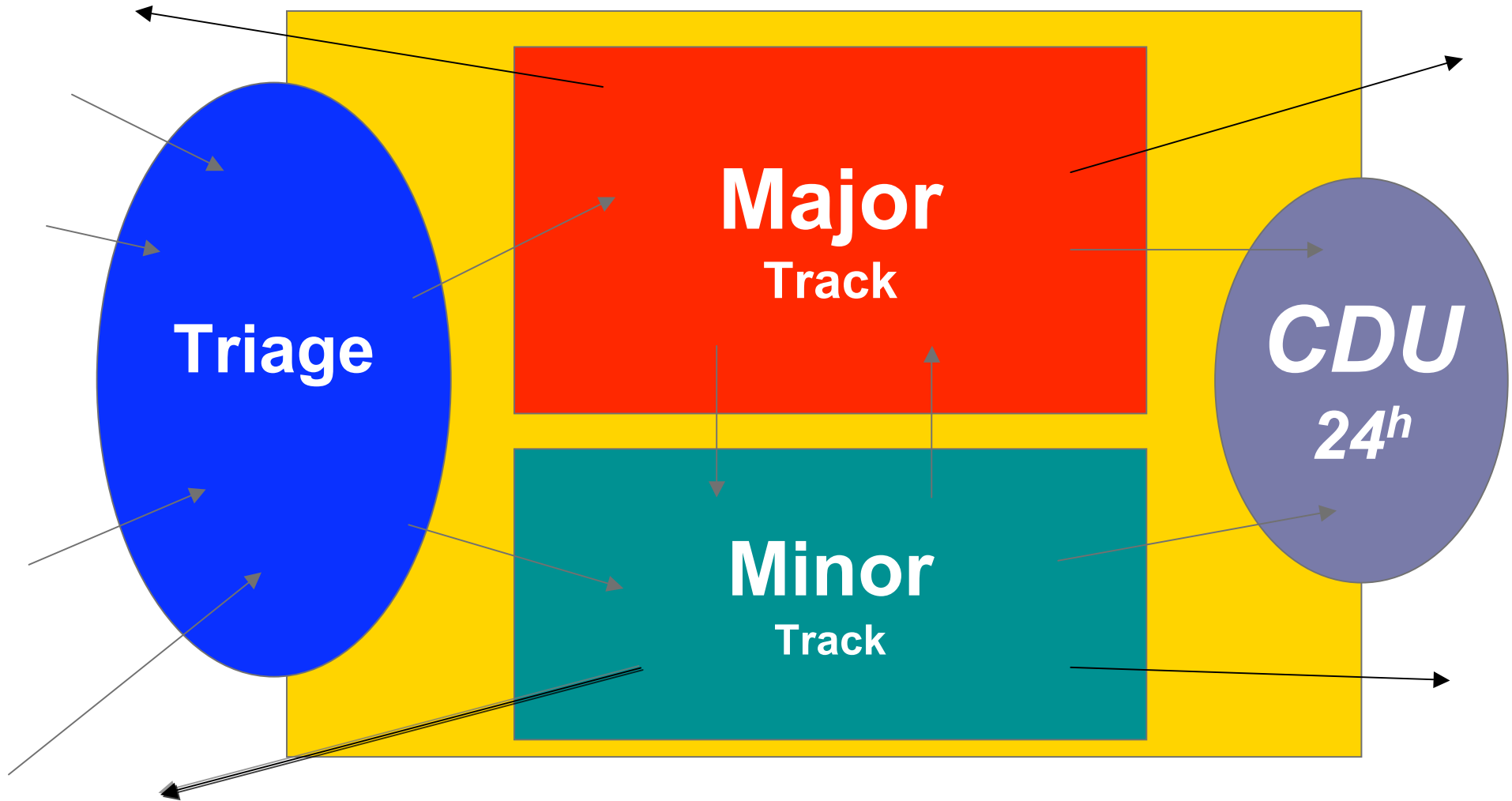
- International conference
 - Emergency Medicine Between Continents
 - June 2002
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LUH Emergency Services

- Main ED
 - 55,000 visits
- Separate units
 - Specialty ED
 - Pediatrics
 - Psychiatry
 - OB / Gyn



Main ED Reorganized 2002



Emergency Medicine Model



- The right clinical forum
 - for specialty training in EM
 - Still with multidisciplinary staff
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EM Specialty Training in Iceland

- ISAEM Curriculum January 2002
 - Residents in EM
 - 2 years
 - Completion abroad
 - Other specialties
 - 6-12 months



- EuSEM Curriculum December 2002
 - Problem orientation
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Teaching Format

- Clinical
 - On the “shop floor”
 - In the field
- Didactic
- Standard courses
 - ALS
 - BTLS
 - etc.
- Study visits abroad
 - 1 week / year



EM Resident Clinical Experience

- ED major + minor
- Prehospital
 - Reykjavík EMS
 - Helicopter
- Off-service rotations
 - Anesthesiology 6 mo.
 - Other specialties



Protected Teaching Time

- Morning report 30 min x 3-4 / week
 - Case presentations
 - Practical skills
- Lecture 1 hr / week
- Textbook Review 2 hrs / week
- Journal Club 1 hr / month
- M & M 1 hr / month



Reaching out

- Prehospital Emergency Medicine for MDs
 - 4-5 days
- Emergency Nursing
- EMT
 - Basic
 - Intermediate
- SAR-volunteers
- Disaster drills



Questions?

