



Darnall
Army Community Hospital
 Fort Hood, Texas

Our Mission

To implement an integrated health care system that ensures a healthy and medically protected force at Fort Hood, provides quality managed health care to all beneficiaries, and provides fully educated, trained and deployable medical personnel.



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April 2002 News

Emergency Medicine Residents Score Highest on National Exam

By Amy Stover
 MEDDAC PAO

Residents in Darnall Army Community Hospital's Emergency Medicine Residency Program scored the highest in the nation on the annual In-Training Exam given by the American Board of Emergency Medicine.



This is the third year in a row the program has earned top honors by scoring the highest of the 122 civilian and military emergency medicine residency programs, including programs such as Yale and Harvard, around the country.

"These outstanding scores are a reflection of the excellent training we provide here at Darnall," said Col. Donald J. Kasperik, hospital commander.

Two of Darnall's third year residents scored highest and second highest in the nation. Dr. (Capt.) Sudip Bose scored the highest average of 3,650 residents who took the test by correctly answering 97 percent of the questions. Dr. (Capt.) David Coffin followed closely behind by missing only two more of the 227 questions.

Bose credits his fellow residents and the faculty for helping him earn the top spot. He lives next door to Coffin who said the two have been studying throughout the year for the exam.

"This just shows what a great program we have here. This isn't an exam you can cram for. It takes regular dedication and focus. On any given day, any one of us could be number one; we learn a lot from each other," said Bose.

Bose also helped first and second year residents score the highest in their class by organizing review sessions and spending much of his free time helping them prepare.

"Dr. Bose really helped our class out and he did most of it on his own time," said Dr. (Capt.) Jake Roberts, a first year intern who scored the second highest in the nation on the first-year exam.

Almost all emergency medicine residency programs take the exam, said Dr. (Maj.) Ben Harrison, program coordinator. He said the test scores help Darnall recruit some of the best medical school graduates.

"When we do well year after year, we get a good reputation in the field and this helps us attract talented residents," he said.

The test can be an indication of how well a resident will do on the board certification exam. Studies have shown that if a resident scores above 80 percent on the in-service exam, they have a 90 percent chance of passing their boards, said Roberts.

"Although this is just a test, it's really a reflection of their clinical skills and core knowledge base. Many people think these residents are just trainees, but they are doctors and an integral part of Darnall's health care team. This test shows they're able to translate what they've learned into superior patient care," he said.

Upon graduation from medical school, physicians have the opportunity to enter a residency program to earn specialized training in a certain field of medicine. The three-year-long emergency medicine residency program is one of the more popular programs throughout the nation and physicians wishing to enter the program face stiff competition.

Residents take an in-service exam at the end of each year of their residency testing their knowledge of emergency medicine. The test, administered in the same format as the board certification examination, helps programs determine the quality of their program.

"We have a top-notch residency program because we provide great training and our residents work hard. With the busiest community hospital in the Army, you have to know your stuff and you have to be on your toes," said Harrison.

According to the American Board of Emergency Medicine, the purpose

of the ABEM in-training examination is to "provide one piece of information to Emergency Medicine residents and their faculty to supplement other evaluation information that may be used to determine the residents' degree of preparedness for taking the ABEM written certification examination."

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