

Emergency Medicine International Ambassador Report 2007-2008

1. Name of Country:

Taiwan

2. Brief history of the development of EM

The Society of Emergency Medicine and Critical Care Medicine of Taiwan, created in 1990, began to promote emergency medicine as a specialty in 1991 and held board examinations for emergency medicine in 1994. In 1994, another society, the Taiwan Society of Emergency Medicine was created and gradually became the mainstream for all emergency physicians in Taiwan.

Emergency medicine was formally recognized as a specialty by the Taiwanese Department of Health in 1998. Regulations for hospital accreditation in emergency medicine residency training passed in 1999, and formal training began in 2002.

3. Emergency Medicine

<p>A recognized specialty</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Subspecialty after another residency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Anesthesia <input type="checkbox"/> Surgery <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship</p>
<p>Specialty society(s)</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>Society name: Taiwan Society of Emergency Medicine</p> <p>Society president: Cheng, Wei-Gong, MD</p> <p>Email:</p> <p>Website: http://www.sem.org.tw/tsem/</p>
<p>EM residency</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>Location of residencies, residency director and hospital/university name:</p> <p>32 hospitals can provide EM training. The locations and numbers of residents are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keelung, Chang-Gong Memorial Hospital, Keelung Branch.(2) 2. Taipei City, National Taiwan University Hospital. (9) 3. Taipei City, Tri-services Hospital. (4)

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Taipei City, Mackay Memorial Hospital. (3) 5. Taipei City, Taipei Wan-Fang Municipal Hospital. (2) 6. Taipei City, Cathay General Hospital. (2) 7. Taipei City, Taipei Veteran General Hospital. (5) 8. Taipei City, Taipei Medical University Hospital. (2) 9. Taipei City, Shin Kong Wu Fo-Su Memorial Hospital. (6) 10. Taipei City, Taipei City Hospital. Chung-Shao Branch. (1) 11. Taipei County, Far Eastern Memorial Hospital. (1) 12. Tao-Yuan County, Li-Shin Hospital. (2) 13. Tao-Yuan County, Chang-Gong Memorial Hospital, Lin-Ko Branch.(13) 14. Shin-Chu County, Mackay Memorial Hospital, Shin-Chu Branch. (2) 15. Taichung City, Chung Shan Medical University Hospital. (3) 16. Taichung City, China Medical University Hospital. (6) 17. Taichung City, Taichung Veteran General Hospital. (5) 18. Taichung City, Cheng Ching Hospital. (1) 19. Chang-Hua County, Show Chwan Hospital. (3) 20. Chang-Hua County, Changhua Christian Hospital. (5) 21. Yun-Lin County. National Taiwan University Hospital, Yun-Lin Branch. (1) 22. Chia-Yi City, Chiayi Christian Hospital. (3) 23. Chia-Yi County, Chang-Gong Memorial Hospital, Chia-Yi Branch.(2) 24. Chia-Yi County, Buddhist Tzu Chi General Hospital, Da-Lin Branch. (2) 25. Tainan City. National Chung-Gong University Hospital. (5) 26. Tainan County, Chi Mei Memorial Hospital. (7) 27. Kaohsiung City, Kaohsiung Veteran General Hospital. (4) 28. Kaohsiung City, Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital. (3) 29. Kaohsiung County, Chang-Gong Memorial Hospital, Kaohsiung Branch. (4) 30. Kaohsiung County, E-Dah Hospital, (1)
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	31. I-Lan County, Po-Ai Hospital. (3) Hua-Lien County, Buddhist Tzu Chi General Hospital. (5)
Specialty journals	Names and websites:
Yes	Journal of Emergency Medicine, Taiwan. http://www.sem.org.tw/tsem/?menuID=1185346616

4. What is the scope of practice of Emergency Physicians (i.e., do they ride on ambulances, do they intubate, do they care for pediatrics/OB/cardiac patients, etc)?

EM physicians provide emergency care for trauma and non-trauma pediatric and adult patients in emergency departments. They perform tracheal intubation, chest tube insertion, CVP, and wound suturing, but not surgeries. Their scope of practice also includes medical oversight for emergency medical services, field medical care in multiple casualty incidents, disasters, and hazmat situations. In Taiwan, emergency physicians can be summoned to the scene of disasters or difficult rescue situations.

In recent years, more emergency physicians are involved in clinical toxicology, travel medicine, environmental emergencies, and air-medical transportation.

5. Please list contact names/emails for the EM residency directors

Please contact the hospitals directly, or contact the Taiwan Society of Emergency Medicine (<http://www.sem.org.tw/tsem/?menuID=1179037832>).

6. Would there be use for academic faculty mentors? Which specific areas would be helpful?

The residency training programs are required to assign mentors for every resident emergency physician. The system is under development and has not been implemented.

Many emergency department training programs' mentors are focused on internal medicine, pediatrics, and trauma. Others focus on emergency medical services, disaster preparedness and toxicology.

7. RESIDENT/STUDENT ROTATIONS: Please list any hospitals/individuals that may be willing to host visiting EM residents, and contact information.

Please contact the universities or the hospitals directly. Most university hospitals are willing to host visiting EM scholars and residents from abroad. For example, the Emergency Department of National Taiwan University Hospital received several medical students and resident doctors for short-course teaching or training from the U.S., Australia, Canada, and Europe. While the charting is done in English and most of the medical personnel have the ability to communicate in English, most patients speak only Mandarin or Taiwanese.

8. May we list a contact email for you (as country ambassador) on the website allowing residents or individuals interested in EM there to contact you?

Yes (Kristi L. Koenig, MD; KKoenig@uci.edu)

9. Summary of EM activities in the past year

There was the two-day annual conference for lectures, oral and poster presentations, and administrative issues. In addition, there was a quarterly one-day conference. The focus of these seasonal conferences is case presentation and resident education.

In the past year, there were several teaching activities supported by the Society, including disaster medical preparedness, clinical toxicology training, medical ethics and legal issues, emergency medical services medical director training, trauma care, ACLS, ATLS, APLS, and PALS.

Ambassador Activities

Visit to Taiwan to participate in the International Conference for Chemical Disasters and Medical Preparedness, the Taiwan Society of Emergency Medicine Annual Conference, and multiple university meetings and conferences including at National Taiwan University, Taiwan University Medical Center, Wan Fang Medical Center, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, and the National Aeromedical Approval Center.

Lectures delivered:

- "Systems Management of Hazardous Material Events: The U.S. Perspective" 2007 International Conference for Chemical Disasters and Medical Preparedness, Taipei, Taiwan, Jun 23, 2007.
- "Bioterrorism: Threat Analysis, Identification, and Clinical Management" 2007 International Conference for Chemical Disasters and Medical Preparedness, Taipei, Taiwan, Jun 23, 2007.
- "Medical Strategies for WMD at Mass Gatherings" Taiwan Society of Emergency Medicine 2007 Annual Conference, Taipei, Taiwan, Jun 24, 2007.
- "Surge Capacity - a Conceptual Framework" Taiwan Society of Emergency Medicine 2007 Annual Conference, Taipei, Taiwan, Jun 24, 2007.
- "Selected Presentations of Recent Disasters in Taiwan: Roundtable Discussion" Taiwan Society of Emergency Medicine 2007 Annual Conference, Taipei, Taiwan, Jun 24, 2007.
- "The Development of Emergency Medicine in the United States" Taiwan University Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan, Jun 25, 2007.
- "Surge Capacity: A Conceptual Framework" Taiwan University Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan, Jun 25, 2007.
- "Emergency Medicine Systems Development in the United States and Europe" National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, Jun 28, 2007.

Other Collaborative Meetings:

- World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine Meeting, Amsterdam, Netherlands, May 2007
- Facilitated invitations and hosted Drs. Tsai and Shih at Internationalen Kongress zum Thema Terror und Disaster, Hamburg, Germany, Sept 2007
- Facilitated invitations and hosted Drs. Tsai and Shih to The Fourth Mediterranean Emergency Medicine Congress (MEMC IV), Sorrento, Italy, Sept 2007
- Han River Summit at the Korean Association of Disaster and Emergency Medical Care (KADEM), Seoul, Korea, Nov 2007 (with Dr. Chen, President of the Taiwanese Medical Society)
- ICEM 2008, 12th International Conference on Emergency Medicine, San Francisco, CA, Apr 2008

Other Joint Projects and Publications:

- Shih F, **Koenig KL**. Improving Surge Capacity for Biothreats: Experience from Taiwan. *Acad Emerg Med* 2006 Nov; 13(11):1114-17.
- **Koenig KL**, Bey T. Emergency Medicine in Taiwan – Public Health Preparedness as a Positive Influence on an Emerging Specialty, *ACEP News*, Nov 2007.
- Klein K, Shih F. Hurricanes in **Koenig & Schultz Disaster Medicine**, Cambridge University Press, in press.

9. Needs for EM in this geographic area

Because the National Health Insurance Program has no restrictions on ED visits and the co-payment is low (about 10-20 US dollars depending on hospital size/level), ED utilization is very common for minor illnesses. Many ED see more than 200 patients per one day and some more than 300. The workload for ED physicians is usually very high. Therefore, well-trained emergency medicine physicians are in high demand, especially in the rural areas of Taiwan.

10. Plans for the future

The Emergency Medicine specialty is rapidly growing and playing a more important role in the health care system. In the past, emergency physicians came from other medical specialties like internal medicine, general surgery and pediatrics, but now they are trying to define their own identities and explore new territories, like resuscitation, EMS, disaster preparedness and toxicology. The training programs are also becoming well-structured. There is also greater international collaboration with other parts of Asia (including Japan), Europe (including Germany and Italy) and the U.S.

During the Chi-Chi Earthquake in 1999, and the SARS epidemic in 2003, emergency physicians played a key role in the emergency response. Emergency physicians have evolved from being pure clinicians to addressing health policy and management issues including social networks, public health and disaster medicine.

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