

Hi Everyone

Hearing a Code Orange called overhead is a stirring call for action. I can remember my heart skipping a beat when such a call went out after the Dawson College shooting. The need for preparedness was brought home very personally a few minutes later when I got a call from my daughter who was at that moment under a desk in her classroom adjacent to the atrium hearing the sound of repeated gunfire echoing outside.

After months and indeed years of preparation our institution participated in a Code Orange simulation last week. This involved an enormous amount of planning and from a departmental perspective the brunt of the action as expected was in our ER. Collectively those present; doctors, nurses, technical and administrative staff responded with the highest degree of professionalism and competency. Over a 3 hour period they handled over 40 complex simulated patients effectively triaging and responding to the challenge.

While this was a collective response for which credit belongs to the ER team I am sure that the ER group would agree in my singling out Elene Khalil and Ilana Bank. Elene has worked in a leadership capacity in disaster readiness in the ER and Ilana brought her content expertise so that the exercise has an educational and research component as well. In this way all elements of our academic mission are met. Congrats to Elene and Ilana on their leadership.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the dynamic passionate leadership of the ER by Harley Eisman that puts in place a team that is up to such challenges.

I urge in this context each of us to review our Divisional and personal responsibilities in case of a Code Orange call.

Have a good weekend everyone.

Michael