Lars Bjoernsen, MD  
Class of 2010

I am currently working as an attending in the Emergency Department of St. Olavs Hospital-Trondheim University Hospital in Norway. Emergency Medicine is not a specialty in Norway and my position was created as a project; the first full-time emergency physician in Norway.

Norway has a well-organized primary health care system and universal health insurance. EDs in Norway are not designed to provide primary health care services or regular outpatient treatment. The general practitioner is considered the gatekeeper of the Norwegian health care system, and every municipality is required to offer 24-hour urgent care services, which handle most of the low-acuity patients and help to limit ED utilization in Norway.

Despite this the EDs in Norway experience the same challenges as the rest of the western world: Increased patient volume. This forces us to think differently and reorganized the structure and improves the competence of the physicians in the emergency departments.

Sweden has emergency medicine as a subspecialty and Denmark had developed an area of competence. I believe Norway is heading the same direction, but we are approximately 10 years behind the other Scandinavian countries.

As the president of the Norwegian Society of Emergency Medicine, I am working hard to inform the hospital administrations, politicians, and physicians from different specialties about the benefits of emergency medicine as a specialty. My background as a board certified emergency physician and training at UW emergency medicine residency program has given me the crucial experience and knowledge I need to be a pioneer in Norway.

I have been invited as a speaker to national and international conferences, and I have also published articles on the subject. I am lucky to be part of this process towards emergency medicine as a specialty in Norway, even though we still have a long way to go.
Benny Hartshorn  
Class of 2011

I am doing great here in Columbus, OH. I am working with a private group called ESI (Emergency Services, Inc) the 2nd oldest private EM group in the nation (35 years). We staff 2 hospitals in the urban Columbus area: Mount Carmel East and Mount Carmel West. They’re both busy as hell.

I enjoy going to work, and enjoy the freedom of making my own decisions, however crazy they may be! I have very sick patients and am proud of the work that I am doing, and how I am performing.

I feel very comfortable with the wonderful training that I received at UW and, thus far, feel that I can handle just about anything they throw at me (fingers crossed)! I’ve cric’d a guy, cardioverted several emergently, intubate almost daily, and successfully brought back a guy in asystolic arrest-->3rd degree heart block last week!

I cannot thank the staff at UW enough for all that I learned while at UWHC, and for giving me the chance to train in Madison. I am trying to pass this knowledge on to the MS4 OSU students that tail me weekly, which is fun.

In my private life, my girlfriend Megan and I are doing great! She is in the throgs of a difficult 1st year of ophthalmology residency at OSU. She works much more than I, and often wants to quit due to the steep learning curve that ophthalmology demands. Who knew the eyeball was so complex?!?! Words of advice from Megan: “If you don’t have the visual acuity, don’t call me!”

Karen Serrano, MD  
Class of 2011

I am working as an emergency physician for Southern Wisconsin Emergency Associates, and split my time between three hospitals: Beloit Memorial, St. Mary’s Janesville, and Stoughton Hospital.

I enjoy the camaraderie at work and the constant learning that comes with the job. I am also working on a few small writing projects on the side. And of course the kids keep me busy, Emma (7), Sophia (5), and Caleb (2).

Even though I work part-time clinically, life still feels busy. How did we ever do it in residency?! I hope everyone is doing well. Miss you all!

Hence, I am probably the best EM-Ophtho guy in the state!

Best of all, I am reminded daily of why I went to medical school in the first place. I make a significant difference in the lives of those who need help and truly save lives. This makes life in Ohio very sweet, indeed!

I hope to see all of you at some point in the near future.