

Departmental Leadership

As the second emergency medicine program in the nation, the Department of Emergency Medicine at Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) has a rich and colorful history. We have had two Departmental Chiefs since our department began in 1971; Dr. Ernest Ruiz and Dr. Joseph Clinton. Dr. Ruiz retired as Departmental Chief in 1989 but still regularly attends our weekly Stabilization Conference. Dr. Clinton serves as Departmental Chief at HCMC and the Department Head at the University of Minnesota Medical Center. Dr. Clinton has put together a world class emergency medicine faculty who are the heart and soul of the HCMC EM Residency. Dr. Clinton oversees the strategic and operational direction of our Department's academic and clinical activities. He is supported in these responsibilities by two Assistant Chiefs, Dr. Douglas Brunette and Dr. William Heegaard.

Dr. Clinton has served as our Departmental Chief since 1993. He has been a leader in emergency medicine for over 35 years. The longevity of Drs. Ruiz and Clinton as Departmental Chiefs has given our department a unique stability that very few academic medicine programs enjoy. Dr. Clinton was President of the American Board of Emergency Medicine in 1988-1989. During his Presidency, Emergency Medicine became a primary Board recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

The department of emergency medicine is recognized by HCMC as being extraordinarily innovative, well run and crucial to the operational mission of the hospital. As a HCMC EM resident you will be given the highest respect and responsibility during your inpatient and emergency medicine department rotations.