

2023

Annual Report

What's Inside

Who We Are



What We Achieved



What We Envision



Who We Are

The Supplemental Emergency Medicine Experience (SEME) program is pleased to provide a summary report of our program for the year April 2023–2024 to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. We thank the MOHTLC and the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto for their continued support of the program. We would like to especially mention the support of the Head of the Division of EM, Dr. Megan Landes for her mentorship and advocacy.

We are proud of what we have accomplished this year in our goal to use innovative educational approaches to enhance family physicians' knowledge, skills and confidence in providing high-quality and accessible emergency care to Ontario's rural and remote communities.

Transition in Leadership

After 7 years as the SEME Program Director, Dr. Yasmine Mawji has transitioned from the role. Drs. Eileen Cheung and Michelle Yee stepped into the role as Program Co-Directors in June of 2023, with big shoes to fill. We thank Dr. Mawji for her exceptional dedication to making the SEME program the best learning experience possible. Under her leadership, the SEME program expanded to accommodate 24 fellows in Toronto per year, and to a new site in Thunder Bay, which accommodates an additional 3 fellows per year. Dr. Mawji also secured funding renewal for the SEME program for its current funding cycle, for 2020–2025. In addition to her administrative duties, Dr. Mawji has and continues to serve as an advisor and mentor to both graduates of the program and to Eileen and Michelle in their new roles. We wish Yasmine the best in her future endeavours.

What We Achieved

Our Year in Pictures



At work and play in the simulation lab.



Practicing central line insertions, lumbar punctures and chest tube placements

Our Impact in Numbers

13

U of T-affiliated sites

13 U of T-affiliated sites provided clinical experiences to this year’s SEME fellows. These included numerous emergency departments, intensive care units, and anesthesia departments.

Emergency Medicine Rotation Markham Stouffville Hospital North York General Hospital St. Joseph’s Health Centre Scarborough Health Network Mount Sinai Hospital Michael Garron Hospital Credit Valley Hospital Brampton Civic Hospital Etobicoke General Hospital Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre – Barrie Lake of the Woods District Hospital – Kenora	ICU Rotations Credit Valley Hospital Humber River Hospital North York General Hospital Anesthesia Rotations Credit Valley Hospital St. Joseph’s Health Centre	Trauma Rotation St. Michael’s Hospital Pediatric EM Rotation Hospital for Sick Children
---	---	--

In 2023/24, we trained 27 family physicians in the SEME program, bringing the total number to 221 SEME graduates since the program’s inception. SEME has also supported a total of 44 SEME graduates in successfully obtaining their CCFP Certification of Added Competence in Emergency Medicine.

221

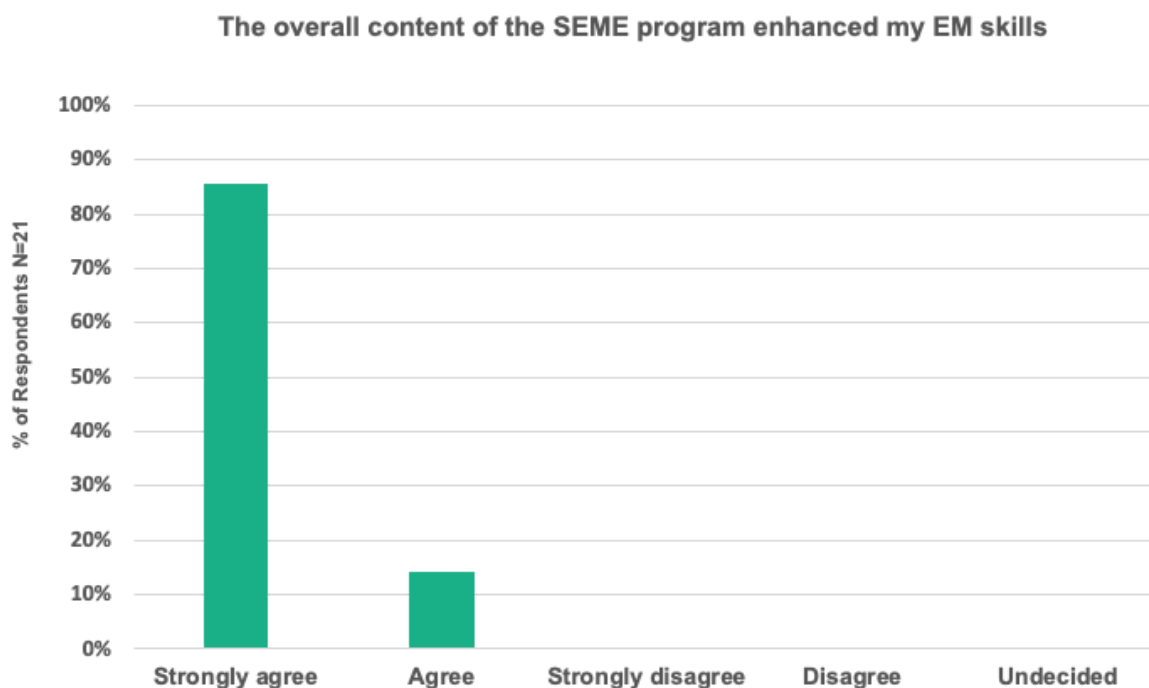
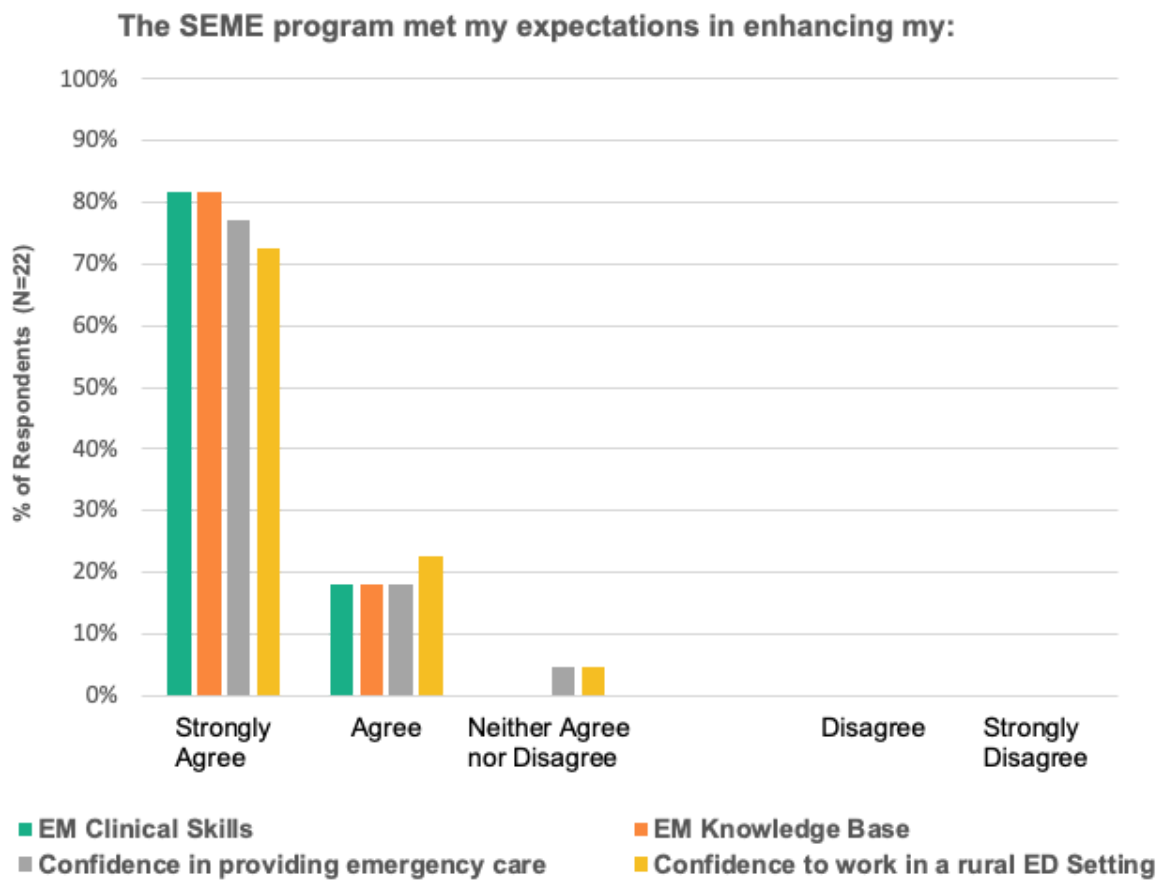
Family physicians trained

>75%

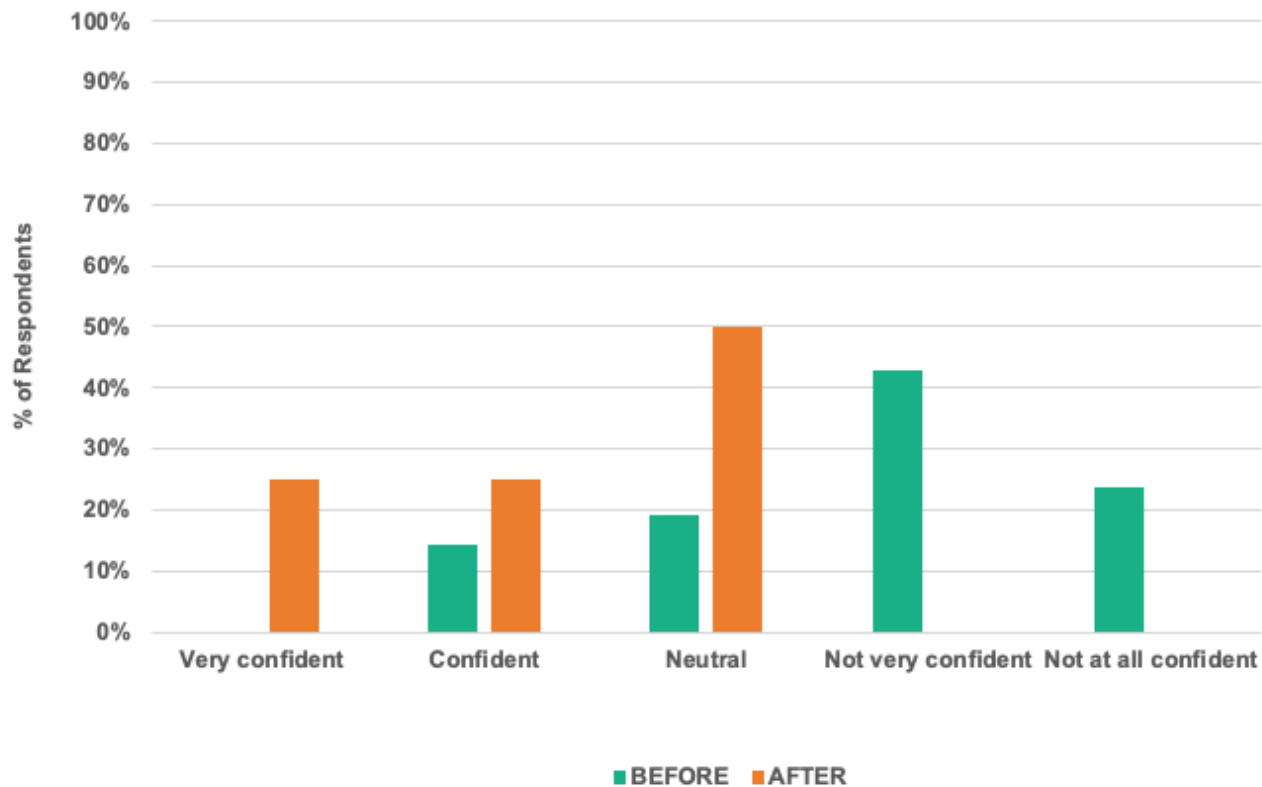
The percentage of this year’s SEME graduates who report they are “very likely” to work ER shifts in a rural setting in the next 12 months.

Course Evaluation from SEME Fellows

SEME fellows continue to self-report enhanced emergency medicine knowledge, skills and overall confidence in addition to confidence in providing emergency care in a rural ED setting after participation in the program.

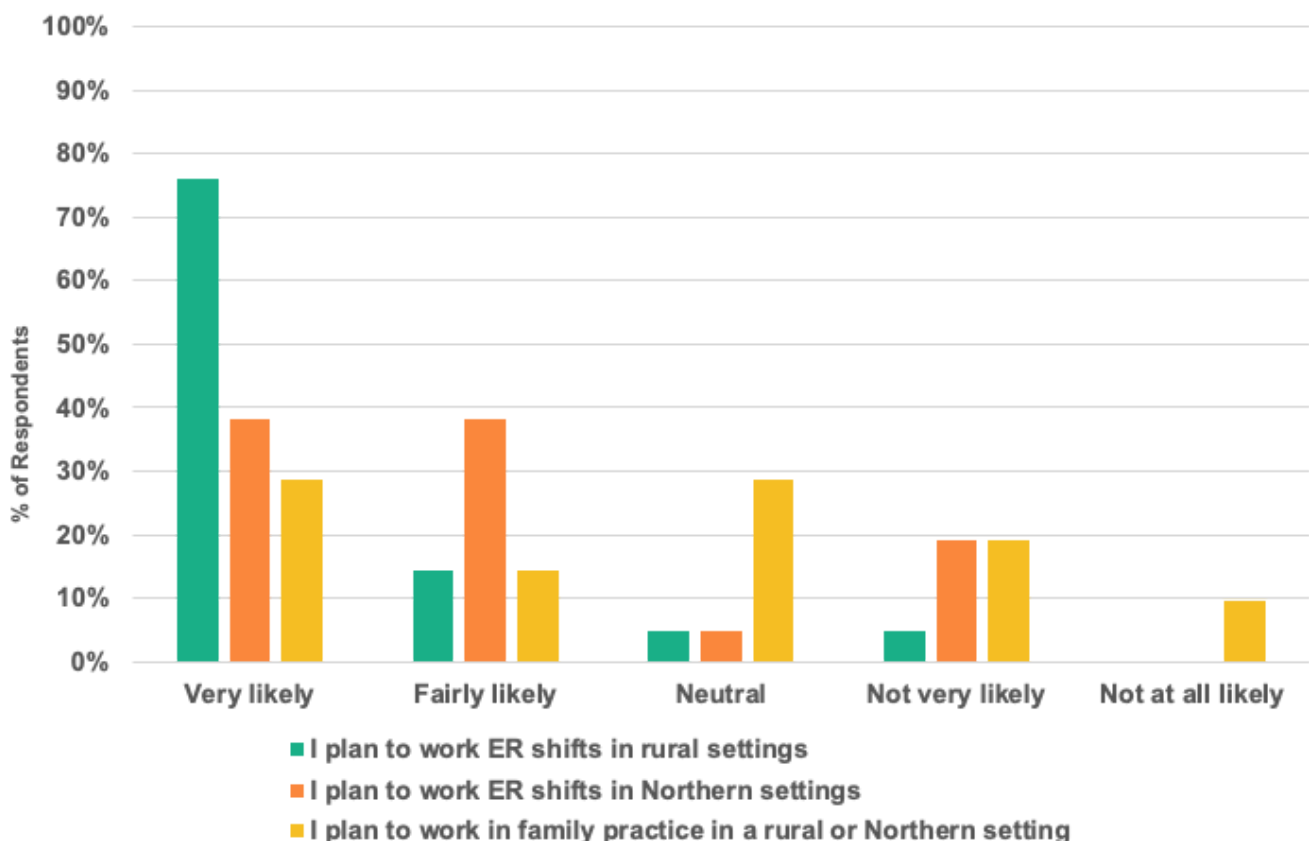


Confidence level BEFORE and AFTER the SEME Program to practice in rural and northern areas



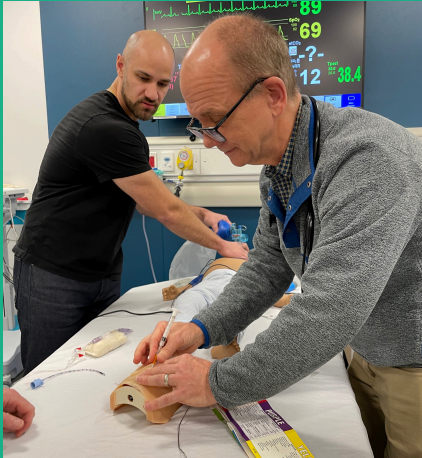
Over 75% of this year's SEME graduates self-report that they are "very likely" to work ER shifts in rural settings in the next 12 months while almost 80% of this year's SEME graduates self-report that they are "fairly likely" or "very likely" to work ER shifts in Northern settings in the next 12 months.

Rate the likelihood of you doing the following in the next 12 mths.



Our Impact in Words

Here is what some of this year's SEME graduates had to say about the impact of the program:



"Having done the SEME Fellowship at 60yrs of age, I wish I had the opportunity to do it sooner...ATLS, ACLS, PALS, NRP, are SIM type courses that resemble parts of the SEME curriculum...However, there is so much more to cover, and SEME does that. SEME provides SIMS, small group learning, and individual mentorship that facilitated both my general ED knowledge and goal specific learning...SEME's comprehensive program design provided the structure and resources to fill gaps in my ED knowledge and strengthened my existing ED knowledge and skills. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to participate in this exceptional program. I look forward to continued involvement with SEME as a graduate!"



"I finished family medicine residency this year and knew I had to either start working in Emerg right away and build those acute care skills or give it up altogether. I chose the former option, taking a position this summer in a rural community. I felt overwhelmed by being the sole physician in the hospital and not having access to advanced imaging and had some really tough cases that made me question my ability to do this work. Having completed the SEME program, I feel much better prepared to approach these tough clinical situations. I have a stronger knowledge base, more experience with acuity in simulation and in practice, and a community of people in the same position to share my learning and experiences with. I am so grateful to have been part of this program."



"The SEME program provided me with confidence in my ability to practice in rural ED settings, while also helping me to recognize when to call for backup. It encouraged me to continue to practice evidence based medicine. It also provided a strong foundation for various procedural skills."

Highlights from this year

Highlights from the SEME Toronto program

New clinical electives

A number of new clinical elective options were created for this year's SEME program, in response to growing interest and feedback from past SEME learners. These included a point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) elective, a pediatric emergency medicine elective, and an extra emergency medicine rotation in Kenora.

Over the past decade, POCUS has evolved to become a core skill for EM providers. Nowhere is the use of POCUS more critical to decision-making and patient care than in rural emergency departments, where access to other decision-making tools (lab work and imaging) can be difficult. At the same time, POCUS skills-training programs are notoriously expensive. The two-week SEME POCUS elective, administered at the Mount Sinai Hospital emergency department and piloted with the Fall 2023 cohort, was created to meet a need for SEME fellows wishing to improve their POCUS skills. This elective consists of dedicated scanning time with POCUS fellowship-trained EM physicians, image review and additional academic teaching. So far, six SEME physicians have taken advantage of this opportunity and have found it very valuable.

A two-week pediatric emergency medicine elective rotation was made possible in collaboration with the emergency department at SickKids. Two fellows in the Fall 2023 cohort rotated through the department, and rated the clinical experience highly.

Over the years, the SEME program has formed relationships with a number of champions involved in EM care in rural and remote communities of the province. This includes several physicians in the emergency department at Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) in Kenora, Ontario. The ED team at LWDH were keen to host SEME fellows for an elective experience. From the personal clinical experiences that both Michelle and Eileen have had working at the LWDH ED, we knew it would be a wonderful learning opportunity for SEME learners in terms of the variety and acuity of patient

presentations to LWDH, and from the mentorship they would experience from the ED physicians there. Two SEME fellows from this year who had expressed especial interest in working in Northern Ontario and with Indigenous communities rotated through the LWDH ED with rave reviews of their experiences.

Visit to Thunder Bay

Drs. Cheung and Yee, along with Nancy Medeiros (SEME Program Coordinator) visited the SEME Thunder Bay program in November 2023 to observe the academic bootcamp held at the Thunder Bay site. The visit served as a wonderful opportunity to build on the relationship between the two sites and exchange ideas on academic programming.

Highlights from the SEME Thunder Bay program (from Site Director, Dr. Jonathan Smith)

This past year, the Thunder Bay SEME program welcomed three fellows into the program. Each fellow brought a different range of experiences and objectives to the program. One fellow has been in practice for twenty years, practices in Northwestern Ontario, and was hoping to return to Emergency Medicine to help support his community. The other two fellows are recent residency graduates who practice in remote communities and were looking to add to their skill sets to feel more confident while providing Emergency Department coverage.

As this is our third year for the program, the Thunder Bay program has continually looked to evolve and improve to deliver the most comprehensive educational experience possible for our learners. Some highlights from the Thunder Bay SEME program this past year include: 1) providing 1:1 preceptor supervision while on clinical shift; 2) participation in a comprehensive Bootcamp where learners are exposed to multiple simulation cases as well as receiving instruction in airway management and procedures; and 3) complete formal training and receipt of certification with CPoCUS for Core and/or Resuscitative Ultrasound. Each learner also completed a full set of online learning modules representative of core Emergency Medicine topics which include Abdominal Pain, Chest Pain, Shortness or Breath, Headache, Sepsis, Trauma, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Emergencies, Orthopaedic Emergencies, and Paediatric Airway Emergencies. Feedback both formally and informally from both learners and staff have been very positive as it is felt that the learners received a robust experience and supervision to ensure their educational objectives were met.

Future goals of the program include further developing educational material through enhanced simulation as well as accessing educational opportunities such as the Virtual Resuscitation Room and formal lectures being offered by the University of Toronto SEME program.

The Thunder Bay Emergency Group is committed to the SEME program and is thankful to be able to participate in this program to help enhance the knowledge and skills of our colleagues in Northern Ontario.

What We Envision

2024-2025 marks the last year of the current funding cycle for SEME. The SEME executive team has therefore been working with the MOHTLC towards a proposal to continue the funding of the program.

To this end, some exciting developments are in the SEME program's future. With SEME's proven success to rapidly enhance the knowledge, skills and confidence of family physicians to be EM-practice ready in rural Ontario, the MOHLTC has encouraged us to not only continue the program, but to expand it, with the next funding cycle.

Therefore, with the next funding cycle, the SEME program will look to expand its size and scope with:

1. an increased number of fellows, and campuses
2. a rural and remote EM provider Community of Practice
3. a larger SEME executive team to support this expansion

Increased number of SEME fellows and number of campuses

From 2024 onwards, the SEME Toronto program will increase its size to accommodate 30 fellows (from 24 fellows) annually in hopes of upskilling current family physicians to meet the great demand for EM providers in rural and semi-rural Ontario. We acknowledge, however, that the human resources needed to train medical providers that any one university could provide is strained in the face of an anticipated increase in the number of medical learners at every level. Therefore, the expansion of the SEME program at a larger scale must include partnerships with other institutions to continue to ensure the quality of the learning experience of the SEME fellowship.

Thus, in Fall 2025, the SEME program will expand into Barrie, to be based at the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH). The SEME team in Toronto will directly mentor the local SEME Barrie team to establish their program, which will host six fellows annually. SEME learners who have previously rotated through the RVH ED through the Rural Ontario Medical Program have always rated their experience highly, both in terms of breadth and acuity of clinical presentations at the site, as well as the teaching and clinical preceptorship they have received. With a family medicine teaching unit from the U of T family medicine program already present, this partnership with the SEME program with direct mentorship from U of T was a natural fit.

Finally, the SEME program is exploring a partnership with another Ontario university to develop a fourth SEME program site within the next few years.

Rural and Remote EM Provider Community of Practice (CoP)

Feedback from SEME alumni has always contained the theme: “I wish the program could continue”. The SEME fellowship experience not only provides an academic program, but also a peer network to learn from and collaborate with. With this in mind, the SEME program of expansion will include establishing a rural and remote EM provider CoP. Ideas for activities for this CoP include: virtual rounds, a hybrid conference, a traveling in-situ simulation and procedural skills program, and physician leadership workshops. To break down silos, SEME will be collaborating with partners within Ontario Health who are similarly working on projects to increase support to rural and remote EM providers.

Expanded SEME executive team at U of T

To support all of this growth, we are proposing an expanded SEME executive, which our partners at the MOHLTC have encouraged. This executive team will continue to reside at the U of T DFCM. With the expanded SEME executive team, we will be able to create new physician leadership opportunities for DFCM faculty, which will include a new lead for Continuing Professional Development (CPD). The CPD lead will lead a portfolio that will include professional development and continuing medical education for both SEME learners as well as DFCM faculty, the latter of whom are vital to continuing the excellent learning experience that the SEME program offers, and thus the program’s success.



Contact Us

For further information, please reach out to us at seme.dfcm@utoronto.ca

SUPPLEMENTAL EMERGENCY MEDICINE EXPERIENCE (SEME)

Program Co-Directors: Dr. Eileen Cheung and Dr. Michelle Yee

Thunder Bay Site Director: Dr. Jonathan Smith

Program Coordinator: Nancy Medeiros

Address: 600 University Avenue, Office 2B-213, Toronto, ON, M5G1X5

Phone: 416-586-5058

Website: www.semedfcm.com