



## Six-Time EMF Grantee Mentors Others



John Younger, MD, MS, FACEP

When it comes to Emergency Medicine Foundation grants, John Younger, MD, MS, FACEP knows what he is talking about. He's had six of them since 1995.

"EMF grants get young investigators started," says Dr. Younger, Associate Professor and Associate Chair for Research at the University of Michigan's Department of Emergency Medicine. "The grant amounts are small in comparison to federal grants, but important things happen because of them."

Grantees use the money to generate preliminary data before they can qualify for more significant amounts from other sources, he explains. Receiving an EMF grant also proves to other agencies that a researcher has an intelligent question and can produce results.

"These grants help pay for a year of work while offering them a chance to compete in the world of research," he explains. "EMF grants don't do things like cure cancer...they help find and develop the people who will."

His own research has led to a focus on sepsis questions, specifically the mechanics of what happens to the bacteria, which requires a lot of engineering and mathematics. "I enjoy being around people who are smarter than me in something I don't know as much about. It elevates our game."

Dr. Younger's work may have been inspired by his great-grandfather's untimely death from septic shock at the age of 25. "I have the records. Though taking blood pressure was a procedure that had been around for 30 years, it was not standard back in 1917."

The slow pace of medical advancements demonstrates the need for constant support of emergency medicine research, Dr. Younger says. "I donate every year, and believe the research is enormously influential — though usually it takes decades rather than a couple of years."

Just as personally satisfying as his ongoing research, is the work Dr. Younger is doing as a mentor to other EMF grantees. "Right now I work with two residents and three students. And though working with students brings a lot more work, I don't mind."

EMF provides an opportunity to have an impact that can last for decades. And to someone considering a career in emergency medicine research, Dr. Younger advises, "Be patient and work hard. There is no overnight success, no fame and part of the process includes getting your heart broken every once in a while."