

Dr. Milne and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad **ER Shift**

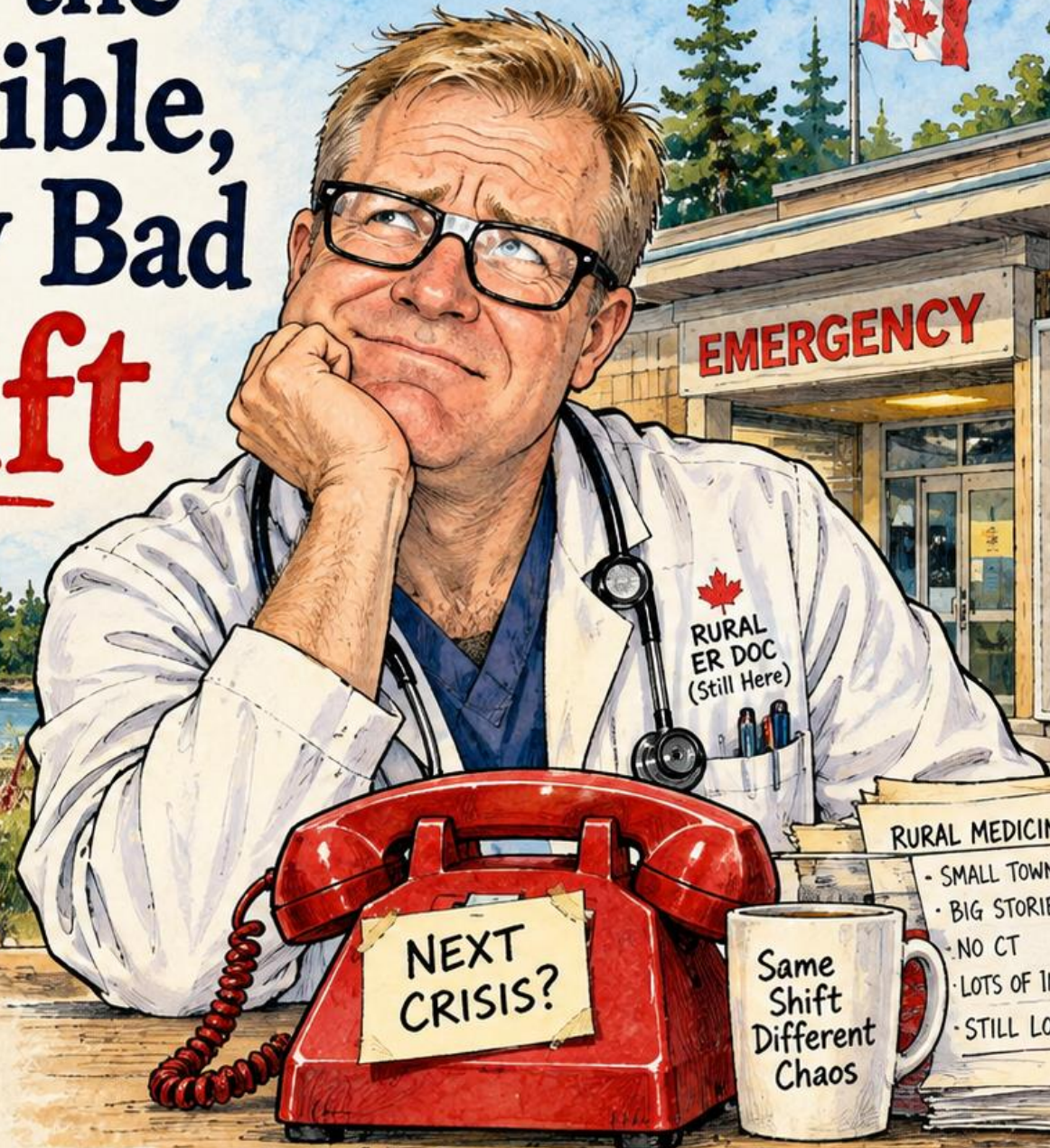
acep Scientific Assembly **CHICAGO 26**

WELCOME TO
OUR LITTLE PIECE
OF PARADISE

GREAT LAKES
SUNSHINE
COTTAGES
GOOD PEOPLE
... UNTIL TODAY

Ken Milne • The SGEM

Worst Shift Ever • ACEP 2026



5 BEDS
2 NURSES
1 DOC
NO CT
>300 km
TO TRAUMA
STILL HERE.

EMERGENCY

RURAL
ER DOC
(Still Here)

RURAL MEDICINE:

- SMALL TOWN
- BIG STORIES
- NO CT
- LOTS OF IMPROVISING
- STILL LOVE IT ✓

Disclosures & Disclaimer

No pharma/device industry funding

CME + EMRAP faculty

Malpractice reviews. Resuscitation patent.

Educational case discussion

A beautiful day at the beach

- 5 beds/2 RNs/1 MD
- No CT. Point-of-care labs. 2U O-Neg
- Trauma centre >300 km away



Case#1

14-year-old girl
No vital signs
CPR
29 °C

Next step?



5 Min Later: Case#2

35-years-old male
Status epilepticus
In the hallway

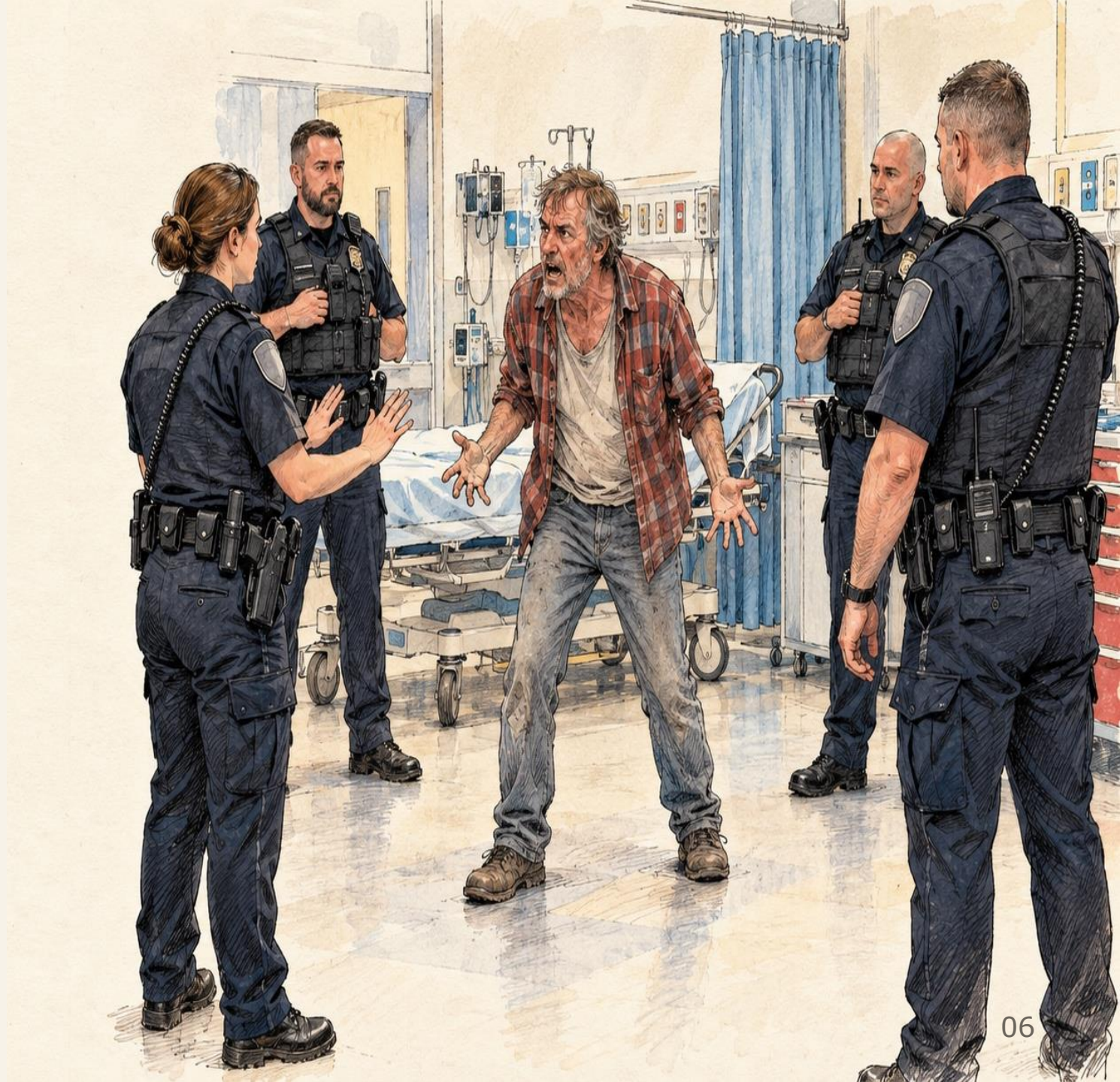
Next step?



5 Min Later: Case#3

59 years old
Severe agitation
Four police officers

Next step?



5 Min Later: Case#4

92-years-old woman
More confused
HR 120, BP 78/56
Full code

Next step?



5 Min Later: Case#5

8-years-old boy
"Gastroenteritis"
Collapses in the
waiting room

Next step?



Five patients One of you

Who gets your next
60 seconds and
why?



Time to phone a friend

GP on the floor
Backup ER Doc
Floor nurses (NP)
CNO from home



A little breathing room

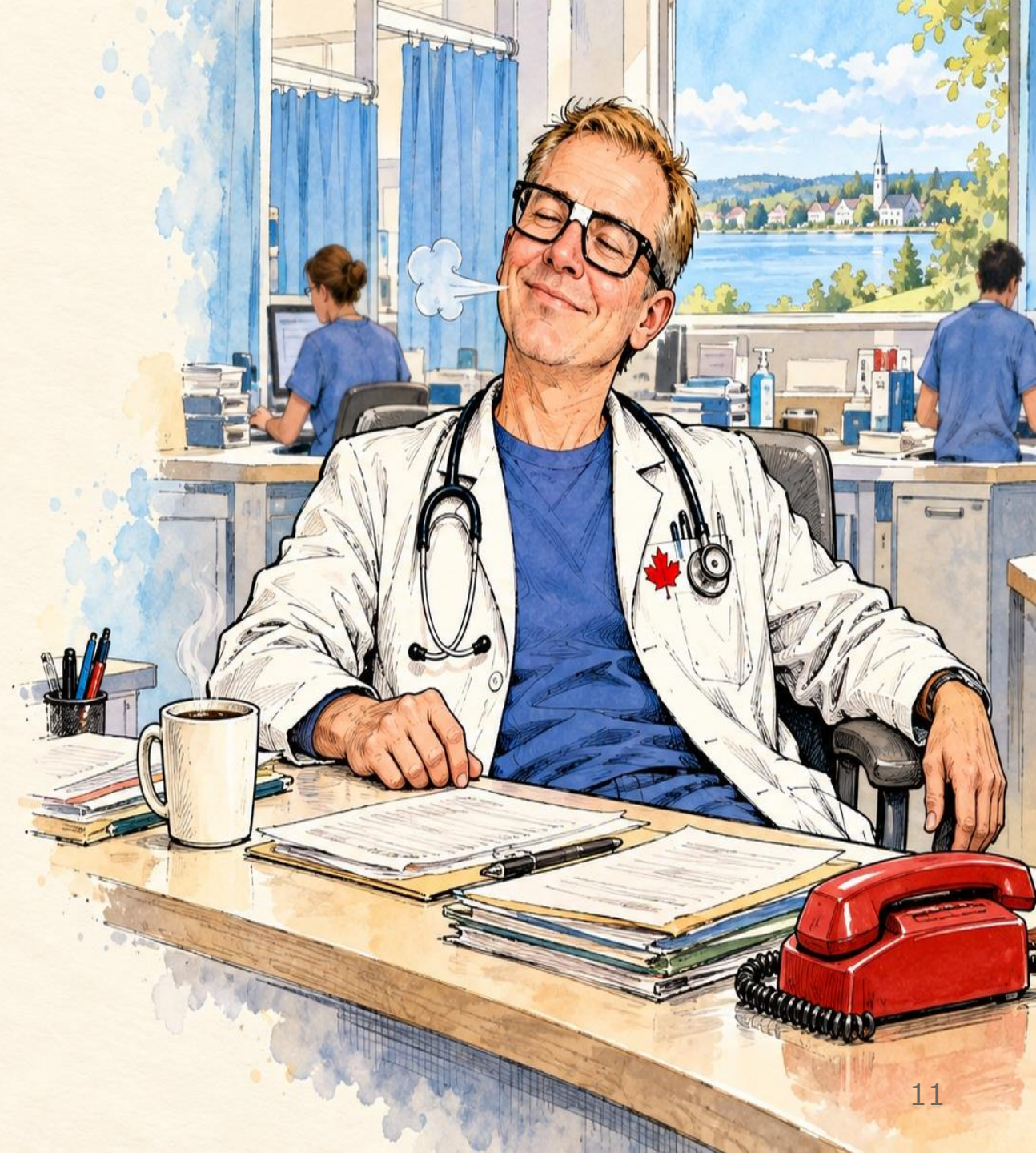
Teenager: ROSC

Seizure: Stopped

Agitation: Sedated

Senior: Sepsis Tx

Boy: Dx DKA, IV fluids



Then the Bat Phone Rings!

One minivan
5 trauma patients
5 minutes out

Next step?



Code Orange

IMG and the GP
Off-duty nurses called
Everyone else is out of
town



Trauma#1

6-year-old girl
Head. Chest. Pelvis.
GCS 15

Next step?



2 Min Later: Trauma#2

Four-year-old boy
Head injury. C-
collar.

Open tibia–fibula#

Next step?



2 Min Later: Trauma#3

The Mother
Head injury. C-collar.
R wrist deformity.
"Where is the baby?"

Next step?



Help took the back roads

Three rural GPs.
Highway closed.
They came anyway.



2 Min Later: Trauma#4

The infant
Crying in the car seat
No obvious injuries

Next step?



2 Min Later: Trauma#5

The Father
Polytrauma
No vital signs

Next step?



10 patients 5 beds

Who leads?

Who gets which resources?

Who speaks to the family?



After the worst shift

Check on the team
Take care of you

**Write a note to the
CEO, CNO, CMO,
Police Chief, &
EMS Director**

