

## **First NREMT Fellowship is Completed**

*November 18, 2008*

The NREMT is pleased to announce that Jonathan R. Studnek, EMS Research Fellow, recently earned his doctoral degree from the Ohio State University College of Public Health. He is the first to complete the NREMT EMS research fellowship. William E. Brown, Jr., NREMT Executive Director commented, "We are very proud of Jon and his academic accomplishment. We are all looking forward to many years of contribution to EMS research from Dr. Studnek."

Dr. Studnek received his doctorate in Public Health with a focus on Epidemiology. His area of interest was Occupational Health. Dr. Studnek's dissertation was entitled "An Evaluation of Back Problems in Emergency Medical Services Professionals."

Unique to the EMS profession, the EMS Research Fellowship provides an opportunity for practicing EMS professional to pursue a doctoral degree. NREMT Research Fellows are full time employees of the NREMT and receive fully funded tuition towards completion of an approved Doctoral program at The Ohio State University while working in the NREMT research department. According to Dr. Gregg Margolis, NREMT Associate Director, "The NREMT Board of Directors supported this unique fellowship in order to build a cadre of career EMS researchers as recommended in the *EMS Research Agenda for the Future*. Jon has done an extraordinary job of blazing the trail for future Research Fellows and has contributed substantially to the NREMT and the EMS community." He goes on to comment, "Any EMS agency could benefit from developing a similar fellowship program. It is an investment in the future of EMS that pays immediate dividends to the organization."

The decision to focus on an occupational health issue for his dissertation came out of Dr. Studnek's belief that it is important for EMS professionals to be healthy. "We not only need to take care of our patients, we need to also take care of ourselves," Dr. Studnek explains.

Dr. Studnek will take on a joint position in December as EMS Research Director with Carolinas Medical Center and Mecklenburg County EMS in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Dr. Studnek says that for EMS to grow as a profession, more EMS providers need to obtain an advanced education in EMS, research, and research methods.

"I hope other organizations look at the model the National Registry has created," Dr. Studnek says, "and mirror it in some way so we can obtain more EMS researchers."