Chairman’s Corner

Berend Mets, MB, ChB, PhD, FRCA, FFA(SA)

Eric A. Walker Professor and Chair of Anesthesiology

With this third issue of Anesthesiology News, we are entering the second year of publication of this bulletin. This effort is a credit to our Founding Editor, Dr. Sonia Vaida, and to all the faculty and staff that give of their valuable time to write sections for this newspaper.

Next year, we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Department of Anesthesiology’s founding, on July 1, 1970. On this day, Dr. Alan Yaekel took on the position as the first Chair of the Department and started work to recruit the first faculty for the department as well as establish anesthetic practice in the newly fitted operating rooms.

We plan to hold 40th year celebratory events on Saturday October 9, 2010, centered in the Department, with an evening dinner at the Hershey Lodge which is conveniently close to the Hershey Medical Center. With the 40 year existence of the department, there are all told approximately 440 resident and faculty alumni across the country. If you count yourself as an alumnus, this is an open invitation for you to attend. We have established an organizing committee comprising Dr. Joan Ruffle, Dr. Joe Answine, Dr. Don Martin as well as Dr. Sonia Vaida, Kent Eckerd and I to publicize and organize this event. We will establish a page on our website maintained by Tavenner Bonsall (www.pennstatehershey.org/anesthesia), which will give more information about the planned events as they develop. We will be reaching out to all alumni in due course to invite participants to the event. In the meantime, if you have not made recent contact with the department, please email us (PSUAnesthesiaAlumni@yahoo.com) and leave your forwarding details so that we may contact you.

A few other major events are also worthy of mentioning: in early August, we moved to the new recovery rooms, vacating the “old” recovery room space, where 6 OR’s are planned, at least four of which will be opened by July 1, 2010.

On December 5th, the long anticipated Anesthesia Electronic Medical Record was inaugurated. A great deal of background work has been performed by Dr. David Fehr and others in preparation for this go-live.

Of further long-term importance to the department: November 13th heralded the ground breaking of the new Children’s Hospital which will also have at least 6 operating rooms when opened.

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New Operating Rooms

Kathleen Donahue, DO, FAAP
Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Pediatrics; Associate Vice Chair of OR Management; Medical Director of OR

Over the last few months the face of perioperative services has been changing. The relocation of Adult Psychiatry resulted in the much needed ability for perioperative services to expand. The first step in our expansion was the re-creation of the recovery areas in September 2009, to allow the creation of six new operating rooms.

All six operating rooms will be built out, and four are planned to open by May of 2010. All of these rooms will be outfitted with the latest technology to provide patient care. These rooms will serve as a new “home base” for HVI (Heart and Vascular Institute) surgical cases. The additional two operating rooms will be opened at a later date, but at least one is slated to be an endovascular suite, where minimally invasive vascular cases would occur.

Also of note, the groundbreaking for the Children’s Hospital was on November 13th. In the Children’s Hospital there will be 5 OR’s, a cath lab, and 2 additional rooms that will be shelled for future use. A tentative opening is planned for 2012.
Message from the Chairman

This has also been a banner year for our residency program with now 63 residents in training, with Dr. Jill Eckert as the new Program Director and Dr. Arne Budde as the Associate Program Director. Jenn Swierczynski has taken over as Residency Coordinator, and together they have moved to a newly acquired office suite adjacent to the Residents' Lounge.

Congratulations are in order to Dr. Don Martin who has been named Associate Dean of Administrative Affairs, while Dr. Lisa Sinz has become an elected member to the Association of University Anesthesiologists as well as a Distinguished Educator in the institution, both in the same year.

Further congratulations go to Dr. Victor Ruiz-Velasco for his recent NIH grant renewal as well as promotion to Associate Professor of Anesthesiology with tenure. Similarly, Dr. Srikantha Rao is to be congratulated on his promotion to Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Dr. Marilyn Larach on her promotion to Professor of Anesthesiology.

In closing, I express my gratitude for the work of our dedicated administrative staff, CRNA’s, residents, faculty and researchers who together contribute to the ongoing success and growth of this department.

Berend Mets

Janet Zeager Retirement

After 33 years of service, Janet Zeager retired in September, 2009. Janet had a distinguished career at the Medical Center. In 1975, Janet joined the hospital as a Ward Clerk on the Medicine ward. In 1987, she joined the Pre-Admissions Clinic as a Secretary and was later promoted to a Staff Assistant V. In 1995, Janet joined the department as a Staff Assistant VI and has since supported the Education and Pediatric Divisions. Now, after years of hard work and dedication, it’s time to take a permanent vacation. Janet is looking forward to traveling and spending more time with her family. Please join us in congratulating Janet on her career and wish her well in her retirement years.

Fred Martin Retirement

Fred Martin began his career with the Penn State College of Medicine on October 25, 1971, as an Inhalation Therapy Technician. In 1973, he became an Inhalation Therapy Technician II after successfully completing the certification process. In February, 1975, Fred became a Respiratory Therapy Technician II and continued in his personal development to become a Cardiac Anesthesia Technician in January, 1977. Fred was promoted to his position of Anesthesia Equipment Specialist on September 12, 1977. Please join us in congratulating Fred on his many years of service and wish him well in his retirement years.

Best Doctors in America

Congratulations to the following members of our department who were selected for inclusion in the Best Doctors in America 2008 database: Joseph Answine, Charles Kingsley, Stephen Longo, Donald Martin, Elizabeth Sinz, John Stene, Patrick McQuillan, Vitaly Gordin.

In total, 155 Penn State Hershey Medical Center physicians were selected.
Please Welcome Our Fellows for 2009-2010

Bassem Asaad, MD
Pain Medicine Fellow

Dmitriy Fuzaylov, MD
Pain Medicine Fellow

Marek Kurowski, MD, MBA, MPT
Pain Medicine Fellow

Jansie Prozesky, MB, ChB
Pediatric Fellow

John Termini, MD
Cardiothoracic Fellow & Instructor

April Bauguess, DO
Michael Deardeuff, MD
Michael Fortunato, MD
Din Kagalwala, DO
Revati Kanekar, MD
Ravish Kapoor, MD
Sara Miller, DO
Erik Nielson, MD
David Owen, DO
Mitchell Parrish, MD
Amit Prasad, MD
Cameron Richards, MD
Stephen Sardino, MD
Malgorzata Sidor, MD
Matthew Uhlenkott, MD
Lauren Welsh, MD

Please Welcome Our New Residents for 2009-2010


Bigeleisen, P. Ultrasound-Guided Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine. Lippincott, Williams, and Wilkins; 2009 Nov. Adhikary S is listed as contributor.


Janicki PK, Quraishi SA, Schuler HG. Effect of 5 HT3-Receptor Antagonists on QTc Interval Prolongation in Patients with Common NOS1AP Variant. The Internet Journal of Anesthesiology. 2009 Apr 20(1).


In Memoriam: Bonnie Smith
1954 ~ 2009

Sadly, Bonnie Smith passed away on November 2, 2009 due to complications from a short but devastating disease. She dedicated 21 years to the department and 35 years to the hospital. A kind, gentle, and wonderful person, she always dedicated her efforts to help others. She was blessed with a beautiful smile and had a great sense of humor.

Bonnie is survived by her son Matthew and her sister Wendy. Matthew and his wife Ashley’s first daughter, Olivia Paige Merlino, Bonnie’s granddaughter, was born December 2nd. Bonnie will always be in our hearts and we will sorely miss her.

New Faculty

Dr. Sanjib Adhikary joined the department in August, 2009, after completing a regional anesthesia and acute pain fellowship in London, Ontario, Canada. His main interest is acute pain management using ultrasound to facilitate peripheral neural blockade. Dr. Adhikary also has a fellowship in neuroanesthesia from the University of Toronto. His experience in anesthesia for robotic (da Vinci) surgery came in handy as we just started robotic surgery in our institution. Sanjib is married to Pratibha Samantroy, a clinical microbiologist. They have one son, Sreyansh, 5 years old.

Dr. Jonathan Anson completed his residency at the University of Pennsylvania and joined our department July 1, 2009. He graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 2005. His clinical interests include obstetrics and regional anesthesia. He is married to Jennifer Anson, a physician assistant in the neonatal intensive care unit at the hospital. They have one daughter, Abigail, and have one on the way.

Dr. Verghese T. Cherian joined the department in April, 2009. He received his medical training in Delhi, India, and his postgraduate training in anesthesiology from Christian Medical College at Vellore, India. He joined the faculty of Christian Medical College in 1992. His interests are in neuroanesthesia, pediatric anesthesia, and anesthesia for hepato-biliary and tracheal surgery. He went to the UK on sabbatical for three years and completed a fellowship in anesthesia at the Irish College. He is married to Rekha Cherian, a radiologist, who has joined the Radiology Department at the hospital. They have two children, a daughter (Aditi) studying law, and a son (Akhil) studying engineering.

Dr. Wayne Pearce joined the department in March, 2009. He graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. He obtained a specialist degree from the University of Pretoria with a Masters degree in Anesthesia and from the College of Anaesthesiology of the Colleges of Medicine of Southern Africa, in 2000. His interests are: scientific evidence in the history of anesthesia; multi-organ, multi-scale complexity analysis of autonomic cardiovascular regulation and the implications of evolutionary and systems (network) biology for the practice and teaching of anesthesiology.

In Memoriam: Bonnie Smith


Do you have a submission or topic of interest for the next edition?

July 2010 marks the 40th Anniversary of the Department of Anesthesiology at Penn State Hershey!

We are planning a celebration on **Saturday, October 9, 2010** in Hershey for all of our alumni, including former faculty, residents, and fellows.

“Save the Date!”

Check out our website and our Facebook page for more details!

**Website:**
www.pennstatehershey.com/anesthesia

**Facebook:**
Penn State Department of Anesthesiology Alumni

**PSUAnesthesiaAlumni@yahoo.com**

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From the Editor...

“Wishing everyone a safe and happy New Year!”

“**We are Penn State**”