Carolyn Garver, RN, CRNP, MSN received the 2018 American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) State Award for Excellence. This prestigious award is given annually to a dedicated nurse practitioner in each state who demonstrates excellence in their area of practice. Carolyn will be recognized for this achievement during the 2018 AANP National Conference at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, June 26–July 1.

Drs. Andrew Herlich, David G. Metro, William R. McIvor, Rita M. Patel, Raymond M Planinsic, Tetsuro Sakai, William Simmons, Kathirvel Subramaniam, Erin A. Sullivan, John P. Williams, and Yan Xu were honored for their accomplishments during 2017 at the University of Pittsburgh 42nd annual Honors Convocation on February 23, 2018. Read more

Charles Luke, MD, MBA was appointed as Director of the Acute Interventional Perioperative Pain and Regional Anesthesiology Division for the Department of Anesthesiology, effective January 1, 2018. Read more

Research Team Wins Awards for the Seventh Consecutive Year at ASA Practice Management

The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Practice Management meeting is considered the premier business event for physician anesthesiologists and practice administrators and among ASA-sponsored events is second only in attendance to the ASA’s Annual Meeting. This year’s ASA Practice Management meeting was held January 26-28, 2018 in New Orleans, LA.

One again, our department had a strong presence at the meeting. Six residents, five of whom participated in the poster session, and three faculty members (Mark E. Hudson, MD, MBA; Trent D. Emerick, MD, MBA; Sanford M. Littwin, MD) participated. A total of 20 posters were exhibited at the meeting, seven of which were selected for presentation. Of the seven selected, three were from our department:

• Evan E. Lebovitz, MD; Mark E. Hudson, MD, MBA; Sanford Littwin, MD: Mandatory Environmental Savings Initiative (MESI): Cost Comparison of Anesthetic Techniques in a Large University Hospital System
• Andrius Giedraitis, MD, MBA; Jamie Artman, CRNA, MSN; Brandon Stewart; Susan Mammarella; Mark E. Hudson, MD, MBA: Developing an Operating Room Scorecard for a Large, Multi-hospital Health System
• Neal Shah, MD; Sanford M. Littwin, MD; Jamie Artman, CRNA, MSN; Mark E. Hudson, MD, MBA: Utilizing a “Value” Incentive to Rapidly Introduce Evidence Based Practice Across a Large Multihospital Health Care System

For the seventh year in a row, work presented by the “Hudson Research Team,” a group of residents, faculty, and CRNAs investigating healthcare business and management led by Dr. Hudson, won awards at the conference and garnered national attention. The above presentation by resident Dr. Neal Shah won both the 3rd Place FAER Research Award as well as the award for Best Poster by a Resident or Fellow. Dr. Shah’s other poster, “Using an Anesthesiology Trained Chronic Pain Physician for Perioperative Inpatient and Outpatient Pain Management as Part of the Perioperative Surgical Home” (authors: Shah N and Emerick TD) was featured in a news release on EurekAlert! “Surgery patients in enhanced recovery program leave hospital sooner, take fewer opioids,” Dr. Emerick was quoted in the press release.

Dr. Hudson also moderated a conference session and presented the following invited lectures:

• Friday, January 26, 1 – 1:20 p.m. Active Operating Room Cap Management for Efficiency and Cost Savings
• Saturday, January 27, 7:30 – 8 a.m. Understanding Different Types of Anesthesiology Practices
Kristin M. Ondecko Ligda, MD and Tetsuro Sakai, MD, PhD, MHA were appointed Fellows of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (FASA™). FASA identifies and promotes ASA members exhibiting the highest standards in professionalism/leadership, advocacy for the profession and patient safety, and education. Becoming a FASA is a prestigious honor in the specialty, setting its designees apart from their peers. The criteria required for earning the FASA designation demonstrates a candidate's commitment to advancing the practice and securing the future of anesthesiology. Drs. Ondecko Ligda and Sakai joined our growing list of FASA designees (currently Drs. Andrew Herlich, William R. McIvor, David G. Metro, Rita M. Patel, Raymond M. Planinsic, and Erin A. Sullivan).

Grace Lim, MD, MS was invited to serve as a Moderator for the Best Poster Session at the 49th Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology Annual Meeting, May 10-14, 2017, Bellevue, Washington.

David G. Metro, MD, FASA was appointed to the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Affiliated Faculty Promotions and Appointments (AFPA) Committee for a three-year term effective March 1, 2016. The AFPA Committee rigorously applies the criteria and standards of the University and the School of Medicine to all Clinical Prefix faculty who are candidates for appointment or promotion.

The UPMC Careers video “Why I Love Being a CRNA” features three of our nurse anesthetists, Derek Reckard, Jason Bauer, and Michelene Jeter Ogagan. Watch the video online.

Gregory R. Romapala presented and successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on January 29, 2018. Greg was a graduate student in the Center for Neuroscience at the University of Pittsburgh. The title of his thesis was “Role of paternal preconception environment in ethanol- and stress-related phenotypes.” This research was conducted in the laboratory of Gregg E. Homanics, PhD.

Tetsuro Sakai, MD, PhD, MHA completed his studies to earn the Master of Health Administration degree from Pennsylvania State University. He was also appointed Secretary of the Society for the Advancement of Transplant Anesthesia (SATA).

Kathirvel Subramaniam, MD, MPH, FASE was appointed as SATA’s Cardiothoracic Committee Chair.

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute recently authorized funding for the project “Implementing Contextual Factors Assessment in Clinical and Research Settings,” co-PI Ajay D. Wasan, MD, MSc. Read more

NPR’s Ari Shapiro interviewed Dr. Wasan for the segment “Questions and Answers About Opioids and Chronic Pain.” Read more

Finally, two recent articles in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review described efforts to develop medical marijuana guidelines led by Dr. Wasan. Read more

Kimberly B. Wysocki received a “You Are A Star” Award from UPMC Physician Services Division. The award recognizes staff members who consistently assist with difficult problems both inside or outside the scope of their regular job duties, pitch in to help others achieve UPMC’s goals, and maintain high morale through kind words or a positive outlook. Read more

UPMC Mercy CRNAs and other members of the department donated $1,500 to Pittsburgh FOCUS, and organization offering numerous free services to help local people in need. Read more

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Opioid Charity Event Raises Over $8,000

For the first time, our physicians and CRNAs united to celebrate both National CRNA Week and National Physician Anesthesiologists Week by supporting a charity event to raise awareness of the opioid epidemic and raise funds for Light of Life Rescue Mission, an organization that helps

UPMC Nurse Anesthetists Celebrate National CRNA Week 2018

January 21-27, 2018 marked the 19th annual National CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists) Week. Established by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), National CRNA Week was created to encourage CRNAs to educate the public about anesthesia safety, questions to ask prior to undergoing surgery, and the benefits of receiving anesthesia care from nurse anesthetists.

Our student nurse anesthetists (SRNAs) and CRNAs staffed tables throughout the various UPMC hospitals to educate visitors about their profession. Our CRNAs also marked this annual occasion by giving back to the community, launching several initiatives:

- For the third year, our CRNAs at UPMC St. Margaret began coordinating efforts to help the Wounded Warrior Patrol Family Outing, which brought 13 wounded warrior families to Seven Spring Ski Resort for a week of winter fun and relaxation on February 25- March 1, 2018. They collected donations and sold merchandise to help financially, as well as coordinated volunteers to help at the event.
- The UPMC Mercy CRNAs “gave back” by donating to FOCUS Pittsburgh, a local organization that provides less fortunate children with lunch for each school day. They also provided each child with a meal for the weekend.
- Our UPMC Shadyside CRNAs volunteered their time to host an Italian-themed dinner for the families staying at Family House across the street from the hospital. Family House provides affordable accommodations for families with loved ones in surgery/extended recovery in Pittsburgh-area hospitals. Every year, the Shadyside CRNAs host a dinner to support these families and answer questions about nurse anesthesia, CRNAs, and how they impact the care team for patients undergoing surgery. Special thanks to our CRNAs Sam Baldwin and Tera Thomas for organizing this year’s event!
- A group of Pitt SRNAs cooked dinner for the residents at Family House in Oakland, near UPMC Presbyterian hospital. The families were very excited by the group’s gesture and enjoyed some great conversations about anesthesia.
- On Friday, January 26th, the UPMC Presbyterian/Montefiore CRNAs sponsored a “Donut Day” for their annual Peer Appreciation Reception for the entire Surgical Services Division and all staff in the Gastrointestinal, Radiology, Cardiac Catheterization, Psychiatric, Electrophysiology, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Gamma Knife, Environmental Services, Interventional Radiology, and Bronchoscopy Labs. The attendees enjoyed 500 donuts in appreciation for their hard work. Donations were also collected for a charity and Jen Coates, CRNA, MSN and SRNAs volunteered time at our anesthesia booth on the 11th floor of UPMC Presbyterian. Many students and nurses attended the demonstration and displayed an interest in nurse anesthesia.
- The CRNAs at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC celebrated the week with an appreciation breakfast on Tuesday and a Surgical Services Luncheon on Friday.
- CRNAs at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC (CHP) came together to cook a dinner for the patients and families staying in the Ronald McDonald house, which is attached to CHP and provides housing to patients and families who require frequent and/or chronic care.

This is just a sampling of the many community service projects our CRNAs champion both throughout the year, as well as during countless prior National CRNA Weeks. Check out our online photo album of CRNA week activities.
New Staff Join Department

Please join us in welcome the following new staff who recently joined our department or will be starting soon:

**Faculty**
- Ricky S. Harika, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor, UPMC Presbyterian
- Bradley K. Taylor, PhD, Professor, Research
- Ghanshyam Sinha PhD, Research Assistant Professor, Taylor Lab
- Suzanne Doolen PhD, Visiting Research Associate Professor, Taylor Lab
- Stephanie Puig, PhD, Research Assistant Professor, Gutstein Lab
- Kathryn K. Walker, Clinical Assistant Professor, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC
- Nishanti Kandiah, Clinical Assistant Professor, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC
- Jafri Syed, Clinical Assistant Professor, UPMC Mercy

**CRNAs**
- Leigh A. Clark, UPMC Presbyterian
- Sarah Copanzzi, UPMC Shadyside
- Destin Difrischia, UPMC Horizon
- Elise K. Bochkoris, Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC
- Josiah T. Brice, UPMC Presbyterian
- Jessica J. Davis, UPMC Presbyterian
- Shane Hodapp, UPMC Presbyterian
- Michael Okolish, UPMC Shadyside
- Alyssa B. Kelly, UPMC Presbyterian
- Joseph Manilla, UPMC Presbyterian
- Arley Nahas, Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC
- Katie M. Hauser, Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC
- Michael J. Hurley, UPMC Presbyterian
- Melanie Tucker, UPMC Presbyterian
- Jessica L. Griffin, Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC
- Antoine S. Orsino, ANES Administration
- Donald D. Carl, Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC

**Staff**
- Matthew Owrey, OR Service Technician
- Naomi Hedden, Research, Taylor Lab

**Chronic Pain Medicine Retreats Focus on Staff Education and Appreciation**

Our UPMC Pain Medicine Division recently held two staff retreats focusing on clinician education as well as staff appreciation and wellness.

On January 19, 2018, for the first time, the division held a four-hour staff retreat entitled “Teamwork Makes the Dream Work,” encompassing well-being and acknowledgement of homeless people and those who often suffer from addiction. The event, “Medical Providers Against Opioid Addiction,” was organized by resident physician Philip Carullo, MD and was sponsored by UPMC Health Plan, the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and the Pennsylvania Society of Anesthesiologists.

Over 250 guests enjoyed a night of good music, drinks, food, and networking with colleagues from around the city at the Pittsburgh Aquarium, raising $8,200 money for the Light of Life Charity. The article “Health care providers unite for opioid event” published in the January 15, 2018 edition of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette spotlighted the event.

In follow up to these efforts, Dr. Carullo attended the opening day/press release of the Prescribed to Death Memorial, developed by the National Safety Council for the victims of the opioid epidemic on display at the William Pitt Union on the University of Pittsburgh Oakland campus. On tour from Chicago, the memorial contains a wall of 22,000 pills individually carved with the faces of those who lost their lives to prescription opioid overdose last year. At the event, Dr. Carullo had the chance to talk with Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto about the recent charity event as well as an example of medical provider involvement and collaboration with community organizations.
Ibarra AJ, Meng L, Serotonin Syndrome in the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit after Remifentanil Infusion and Ondansetron: A Case Report and Literature Review. J Anest & Inten Care Med, Volume 5 Issue 3- February 2018 DOI: 10.19080/JAIICM.2018.05.55663


The website OpenAnesthesia (OA) featured the paper “In Vitro Evaluation of a Novel Image Processing Device to Estimate Surgical Blood Loss in Suction Canisters” by Gerhardt Konig, MD et al. (Konig G, Waters JH, Hsieh E, Philip B, Ting V; Abbi G, Javidroozi M, Tully GW, Adams G. Anesth Analg. 2018 Feb) as their February 2018 “Article of the Month.” As part of the feature, the site posted a podcast/interview with Dr. Konig discussing the work.

The Winter 2018 Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology (SOAP) Newsletter contained several contributions from our obstetric anesthesiology faculty members Patricia Dalby, MD and Grace Lim, MD, MS:

- Dalby PL, Lim G, Education Committee: Obstetric Anesthesiology Self-Education Resources (page 4)
- Touririne M, Education Committee: Perspectives on Implementing Enhanced Recovery (ERAS) Pathways for Cesarean Delivery (Editor: Grace Lim, MD, MS) (page 6)
- Kromah F, Broughton K, Education Committee: Programmed Intermittent Epidural Bolus: Practical Considerations (Editor: Grace Lim, MD, MS) (page 6)

Also, the article “Cost-effectiveness Analysis of Intraoperative Cell Salvage for Obstetric Hemorrhage” (Lim G, Melnyk V, Facco FL, Waters JH, Smith KJ. Anesthesiology. 2018 Feb;128(2):328-337) was selected to be featured among the leading articles on the web and in print in a feature called “This Month in Anesthesiology” in the February 2018 issue of the journal. The feature included a “visual abstract” that graphically presented the article’s key points.


Upcoming Events

UPMC Update in Anesthesia, Pain, and Intensive Care
April 27-29, 2018
Nemacolin Woodlands Resort, Farmington, PA
Registration now open! The early registration deadline is April 1, 2018. Please note: a block of 15 additional rooms have been secured at the historic Summit Inn, 10 Skyline Drive, Farmington, PA, as Nemacolin Woodlands Resort now has limited availability. Please visit www.anesthesiology.pitt.edu/events for details.

To Space and Beyond: What Space Travel Can Teach Us About Patient Safety
May 5, 2018, 8:00AM-12PM
Passavant Hospital Foundation Conference Center & Legacy Theatre
Conference is FREE of charge. To register and view the course brochure, please visit ccehs.upmc.com. Online registration is required.


2018 Safar Symposium and Multi-departmental Trainees’ Research Day
May 31, 2018 - 7:30am to June 1, 2018 - 11:30am

This yearly event honors the late Dr. Peter Safar (founding Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine) and his wife Eva for their contributions to the scientific community and highlights current research in areas spanning Dr. Safar’s interests.

Symposium Focus: The Opioid Epidemic: Implications for Resuscitation Medicine

2018 Peter & Eva Safar Lecture: “The Newest Opium War: Insights into the Current Opioid Crisis,” Lewis S. Nelson, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Emergency Medicine; Director, Division of Medical Toxicology, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School; Chief of Service, Emergency Department, University Hospital of Newark, New Jersey Poison Information & Education System

Location
Day 1: University Club
Day 2: The Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation, Education, and Research (WISER)

Please visit www.anesthesiology.pitt.edu/events to view the preliminary program and call for abstracts. The abstract submission deadline is 5pm, April 16, 2018.

Boot Camp for Basic TEE Boards and Focused Cardiac Ultrasound Workshop
June 9, 2018
UPMC Shadyside, Herberman Conference Center

This program is intended to provide a comprehensive review of Basic Echocardiography used in current anesthesia, perioperative and critical care practice using concise didactic lectures, problem-based case presentations, and hands on workshops.

Please visit www.anesthesiology.pitt.edu/events to view the save the date flyer and link to the online conference registration.

2018 Anesthesiology Residency Match Results

With great pleasure, we announce the results of our 2018 Anesthesiology Residency Program match. This was an extremely strong year, with 15 of our top 30 candidates choosing to match with us. These included nine students from the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society, designating them as top medical students within their respective schools (AOA students are marked with an asterisk (*) below). Thanks to Drs. Pat Forte (Chair of the Selection Committee), Ted Sakai (Associate Program Director), Bill Simmons (who interviewed almost every candidate), and our entire Education Office staff (Shana Heald, Cynthia Kral, Barb Chisman, Kathy Lee Foon, Risa Panichelle, and Monique Dowdy) for all their help with the interview process. Also, a special thanks to our residents for their active participation in the selection and our faculty who work with and teach our residents every day and make us one of the top residency programs in the country!

NEW RESIDENTS – PGY-1s
Beginning June 15, 2018

Samuel Atherton, MD*
Med School: University of Kansas School of Medicine

Michael DeWitt, MD
Med School: University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine

Julian Broad, MD
Med School: Stanford University School of Medicine

Stephen Fishel, MD*
Med School: University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine

Amanda Deis, MD*
Med School: University of Washington School of Medicine

Tyrone Gillman, DO
Med School: University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

Zachary Denham, MD
Med School: Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Kevin Hansen, MD
Med School: University of Texas Medical School at Houston

Anthony Parnamuthu, MD
Med School: Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Felicia Nip, MD*
Med School: University of Michigan, Division of Anesthesiology

Elizabeth Pickle, MD
Med School: Georgetown University School of Medicine

Holly Tundis, MD*
Med School: Temple University School of Medicine

Elissa Lin, MD
Med School: Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Wu Yin (Watt), MD*
Med School: University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine

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Our UPMC Regional Anesthesiology and Acute Pain Medicine Fellowship Program has one position remaining for August 2018 and 10 positions available for 2019-2020. Applicants currently enrolled in an ACGME-accredited residency program are welcome to apply via our website.

Department Members to Participate in Upcoming Meetings

Phillip S. Adams, DO; Franklyn P. Cladis, MD; Luke Davanzo, MD; Jerome Parness, MD, PhD; Lieu Tran, MD; Nicole Verdecchia, MD; and Mihaela Visoiu, MD will participate in the meeting of the Society for Pediatric Anesthesia (SPA) and the American Academy of Pediatrics, March 23-25, 2018, Phoenix, AZ. Read more

Jessica M. Albasha, DO; Héctor Casiano-Pagán, MD; Jacques E. Chelly, MD, PhD; Younguen Cho, MD; Samuel Goldstein, MD; Maria A. Hernandez Malauina, MD; Nicole Hollis, DO; Sharad Khetarpal MD; Kevin King, DO; Charles Lin MD; Steven L. Orebaugh, MD; Nicole Verdecchia, MD; Wayne Wang, MD; and Brian Williams, MD, MBA will participate in the 43rd annual meeting of the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine (ASRA), which will be held in conjunction with the 2018 World Congress on Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine April 19-21, 2018 in New York, NY. Read more

Jonah Abraham, MD; Ezeldeen Abuelkasem, MBBS, MSc; Franklyn P. Cladis, MD; Luke Doney, DO; Tomas Drabek, MD, PhD; Andrea Ibarra, MD; James W. Eibason, MD, PhD; Grace Lim, MD, MS; Raymond Planinsic, MD, FASA; Marsha Ritter Jones, MD, PhD; Michael Schnetz, MD, PhD; Tetsuro Sakai, MD, PhD, MHA, FASA; Christopher (Tyler) Smith, MD; Kathirvel Subramaniam, MD, MPH; Pei Tang, PhD; and Liora Yehushua, MD will participate in several upcoming interconnected meetings:

- Association of University Anesthesiologists (AUA) 2018 Annual Meeting, Thursday, April 26 – Friday, April 27, 2018, Hosted by Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and The University of Chicago Medicine, Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel, Chicago, Illinois
- The Society for the Advancement of Transplant Anesthesia (SATA) Annual Meeting, May 1, 2018, Chicago, Illinois
- Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists (SCA) 40th Annual Meeting and Workshops, April 28-May 2, 2018, Phoenix, AZ

Read more
Daniel Springer, MD; Shawn Palomeri, MD; Grace Lim, MD, MS; David L. Seng, DO; and Kathleen Coy, MD will participate in the Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology (SOAP) 50th Annual Meeting, May 9-13, 2018, Miami, Florida. Read more.