

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH / UPMC DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY NEWS

February 2017

Message from the Chair

Anesthesia Awesomeness!



Howard B. Gutstein, MD
Peter and Eva Safar
Professor and Chair

The new year has started off with a bang - fun celebrations, major achievements, and tremendous opportunities for all of us. We just completed our two-week celebration of Anesthesia Care Team Awesomeness. Donut Day and happy hour at the Porch highlighted CRNA week. The Awesomeness party on January 29 at the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex was a major success. Families and friends enjoyed ice-skating, the hockey shot trainer, outstanding food and drink, and a surprise guest appearance by Penguins goalie Matt Murray! Many thanks to Jennifer Branik for arranging another amazing event. I can't wait to see what she will come up with for the next event! Physician Anesthesiologist week was highlighted by Jeopardy Grand Rounds (featuring the inimitable Dr. Theresa Gelzinis) and happy hour at the University Club library.

Our faculty meeting on January 29th was highlighted by the celebration of more awesome milestones. Dr. Charles Buffington was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus by the university in recognition of his substantial clinical, academic, and educational achievements during his almost 30 year tenure in our department. A well-deserved honor for Dr. Buffington! We look forward to his ongoing academic and clinical involvement in between his travels to exotic locales. Dr. Dick McHugh was honored by UPP with the title of Clinician Emeritus, the first person in our department to be so recognized. This award recognizes Dr. McHugh's clinical, administrative, and educational excellence throughout his long career. He has run the OR at Presby with grace and aplomb. We are all better for having worked with Dick, and wish him well should he ever decide to "really" retire!

Over the past year, we have been discussing our desire to collectively establish a vision and goals for the department, determining what we want to look like in the future, and perhaps more importantly, how we are going to get there. We are fortunate to have received a substantial commitment from the institution to accomplish these goals. At the department faculty meeting, we announced the initial stages of the processes of team engagement and optimization. Dr. Rex Gatto, an outside consultant, in conjunction with Tony Gigliotti from HR, will be leading this process. Dr. Gatto is an organizational psychologist and executive coach with over 30 years of experience. The first project we will undertake is surveying the attitudes and views of *all* department members toward the department. The results gathered will serve to identify opportunities and areas of focus to be explored in more detail in smaller group discussions. All staff have received or will be receiving email links to the survey, which is open until Feb. 15.

The reason I came to Pittsburgh was because of the awesome people that make up our department. We are now being presented with an opportunity to build upon this strong foundation to create a department that is even stronger, more accomplished, and most importantly, supports the ambitions, hopes, and dreams of the entire group. It is abundantly clear that we are one of the finest anesthesiology departments in the country and have the potential to accomplish even greater things. We owe it to each other to take maximal advantage of this opportunity to define who we are, how we want to work together, and what we want our future to look like. I promise you that the journey will be challenging, but well worth the effort. Our success in this endeavor will only be in proportion to the degree that everyone is engaged and committed to the process and each other. I look forward to traveling with all of you on this exciting journey.

News



Drs. Trent Emerick, Andrius Giedraitis, Mark Hudson,
Mitch Tsai (University of Vermont), Dave Nelson, and Hayden Hundley

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 27-29,

2017 in Grapevine, TX.

Our department was well represented in the event's poster and poster presentation sessions, representing seven of the 24 posters accepted to the program and three of the six posters selected for presentation. Once again, the UPMC team was successful in the award portion of the program, receiving the FIRST place award in the poster session for "Benchmarking Clinical Productivity for Non-Operating Room Anesthesia Cases" and the SECOND place award for "Creating a System-wide Room Running Cap in a Large Multi-Hospital System," with David Nelson receiving recognition for Best Poster by a Resident or Fellow.

Posters selected for the program included:

- Giedraitis A, Fleming T, Hudson M, Nelson D, Emerick T, "Reconsultation of Chronic Pain Patients at a Large, University-based Hospital" (poster)
- Hundley H, Hudson M, Emerick T, "Outpatient Chronic Pain Clinic Scheduling Efficiency Analysis" (poster)
- Hundley H, Hudson M, Emerick T, "Development of a Personalized Smart Schedule in an Outpatient Chronic Pain Clinic Through Use of a Gantt Diagram" (poster)
- Muller IR, Stelzer SR, Adams DC, Hudson ME, Tsai MH, "A Potential Association Between Burnout Rates and Operating Margins for Anesthesiologists" (poster)
- Nelson D, Boretsky R, Emerick T, Giedraitis A, Hudson M, "Creating a System-wide Room Running Cap in a Large Multi-Hospital System" (poster presentation & second place FAER Award and first place Resident/Fellow Award winner)
- Giedraitis A, Emerick T, Nelson D, Hudson M, "Anesthesia Labor Costs at Different Hospitals within a Large Multi-Hospital Health System (poster presentation)
- Tsai MH, Breidenstein MW, Marnanides AP, Hudson ME, Maktabi MA, "Benchmarking Clinical Productivity for Non-Operating Room Anesthesia Cases" – Poster Presentation" (first place FAER Award, collaboration with the University of Vermont)

This marks the sixth consecutive year that presenters from our department have won awards at this conference. Congratulations to all!



Charles A. Buffington, MD was appointed to the esteemed title of Professor Emeritus in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. [read more](#)



Jacques E. Chelly, MD, PhD, MBA was invited to present his work on perioperative pain management and auriculotherapy at the 9th International Auriculotherapy Symposium to be held August 10 - 12, 2017 in Singapore. Dr. Chelly was also reappointed to the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Committee for Tenured Faculty Promotions and Appointments for a second three-year term of service beginning January 1, 2017.



Kristin Ondeko Ligda, MD was named as one of the "Top 40 Physicians Under 40" by the Pennsylvania Medical Society. She was one of only two anesthesiologists in the state and one of only three physicians in the entire UPMC Health System who were nominated for this award. Dr. Ondeko Ligda will be honored for this distinction at the Allegheny County Medical Society Foundation's Celebration of Excellence Awards Gala on March 4, 2017.



Richard McHugh, MD was appointed to the rarely bestowed and renowned title of "Clinician Emeritus." [read more](#)



Brian A. Williams, MD, MBA was accepted into the 2017 Advanced Faculty Leadership Academy. This year-long professional development program offered by the University of Pittsburgh Office of Academic Career Development is designed for mid-career and senior faculty members to cultivate transformative academic leaders through shared leadership training.



John P. Williams, MD was elected to the Royal Society of Medicine in London, UK in December 2016. The Royal Society of Medicine, one of the oldest of the medical societies, is one of the UK's major providers of postgraduate medical education and promotes an exchange of information and ideas on the science, practice and organization of medicine.



The National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded a third five-year term of a National Research Service Award Institutional Research Training Grant (T32 grant) to our department. The program, entitled "Research Training in Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine," is directed by Professor **Yan Xu, PhD**, Vice Chair of Basic Sciences. The training faculty consists of 35 leading scientists in anesthesiology and related disciplines, including critical care medicine, surgery, computational & systems biology, neurobiology, and cognitive neuroscience. By providing rigorous and programmed training, with an emphasis on hypothesis-driven basic or clinical research, the training program aims to train clinician scientists to become future academic leaders of our specialty. The program will support three trainee positions per year beginning July 1, 2017.

CRNAs Celebrate Nurse Anesthetists Week with Community Service



National Nurse Anesthetists Week was celebrated from Jan. 22-28, 2017. Our CRNAs, who mark this annual occasion by giving back to the community, kicked off several charity initiatives:

- Our **UPMC Presbyterian CRNAs** are collecting gently used jeans for their annual "Jeans for Teens" charity drive. They also hosted their fifth annual Peer Appreciation Reception, providing donuts and coffee to thank all their colleagues – everyone ranging from anesthesia techs, residents, faculty, and administrative and housekeeping staff.
- Our **CRNAs at St. Margaret** will be donating their time and money to the Wounded Warrior Patrol Family Outing at Seven Springs Ski Resort being held February 26-March 3, 2017 and have begun recruiting volunteers from our department.
- **CRNA volunteers at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC (CHP)** coordinated a Mexican dinner at CHP's Ronald McDonald House, which is adjacent to the hospital. Ronald McDonald House provides housing to families with critically ill children. Patients and their families were treated to a dinner including a taco/fajita bar, a nacho bar, and an ice cream sundae bar, all of which was funded and prepared by the CHP nurse anesthetists. They also hosted an ice cream social for all members of the care team in the OR and PACU.

This is just a sampling of the many community service projects our CRNAs dedicate themselves to every year during a week that is meant to celebrate themselves! Student nurse anesthetists and CRNAs also staffed tables throughout the various UPMC hospitals to educate visitors about their profession.



Our CRNAs at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC hosted a Mexican dinner for patients and families at Ronald McDonald House

Annual Jeans for Teens Charity Drive



The Problem

Over a million of our nation's youth experience homelessness in the US every year. That means, approximately 65,000 children and teens a day have no place to call home. At homeless shelters across America, their most requested essential item is simply.....a pair of jeans.

The Solution

We are running our annual "gently-used jeans drive" in our hospitals, and personally donating them to a local Pittsburgh shelter. Your donation will directly provide an essential clothing item for a local youth in need. Jeans are the perfect item to donate. They can be worn multiple times between washes, can be dressed up or dressed down, and provide a sense of normalcy to the person wearing them. Chances are, you have two or three pairs in the back of your closet or in your drawers that you haven't worn in months... or even YEARS. Your discards can help to brighten the life of a local child or teen in need!

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I donate colored jeans?

Yes! We will take them!

Where and when do I drop off the jeans I collect?

Drop off the jeans you collect at the designated donation sites within UPMC Presbyterian/Montefiore Hospitals:

- Presbyterian Nurse Anesthesia office, 2nd floor, suite B-213, near the women's OR locker rooms
- Presbyterian Surgical Recovery Room, (PACU), 2nd floor

We will be accepting your donations for the entire months of January and February. Deadline for donation is Friday, February 24th, 2017.

Can I donate other items of clothing?

Jeans for Teens only collects jeans, but other types of clothing are generally helpful for people experiencing homelessness. Our partner shelter will accept other items of clothing as well.

What size jeans can I donate?

Feel free to donate any and all sizes! As a note, larger sizes are typically very helpful for shelters.

Can I hold a drive at my specific work site in collaboration with UPMC Presbyterian Anesthesiology?

Absolutely! The drive at your work site can function independently. Credit will be given to your department for the amount collected. You or a representative from your department can arrange pick-up or drop off with UPMC Presbyterian Anesthesiology for donation to a local Pittsburgh homeless shelter.

Who can I contact with other questions?

Jennifer Coates, CRNA - coatesj12@upmc.edu

Wounded Warrior Patrol

CRNAs at UPMC St. Margaret will be donating their time and money to the Wounded Warrior Patrol Family Outing at Seven Springs Ski Resort being held February 26- March 3, 2017. The event provides soldiers and their families a chance for rest, relaxation, and fun in the snow. The Seven Springs Ski Patrol sponsors the event through volunteer hours and private donations. The Wounded Warrior Patrol is separate from the Wounded Warrior Project and receives no government funding. Federal security clearance is required for all volunteers. Donations are tax deductible.

Now in its fifth year, the Wounded Warrior Patrol is one small way we can give back to these brave warriors and their families for the sacrifices they have made securing our freedom. We hope to exceed last year's total donations of a little over \$2,200. Yes, that's right - over two thousand dollars and hours of volunteer time on the slopes. Last year, we helped 12 families. This year we are helping 15 families.

We hope you will join us in this worthwhile cause. Volunteer. Donate. Your support will be greatly appreciated. Learn more from Imy Rosenblatt (rosenblatti@upmc.edu), an experienced member of the Seven Springs Ski Patrol. Contact her for the Federal clearance form. Imy guarantees helping these families will do your heart good!



Education News



Our resident band Bropofol (Josh Knight, Andrew Robert, and David Nelson) helped raise nearly \$1000 for UPMC Mercy Hospital's Pediatric Burn Unit at a show on Saturday, Jan 7th at Pittsburgh's Smiling Moose. Funds will go towards providing toys, books, and clothing.



In December, another group of residents gave back by doing a little painting with Habitat for Humanity



The University of Pittsburgh Center for Medical Innovation (CMI) recently awarded a grant to resident Philip Carullo, MD and Youngjae Chun, PhD, Assistant Professor in Pitt's Department of Industrial Engineering, for the project "The Esophocclude - Medical Device for Temporary Occlusion of the Esophagus in Patients Requiring Emergent Intubation."

CMI, housed in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, supports applied technology projects in the early stages of development with "kickstart" funding toward the goal of transitioning the research to clinical adoption.

Photos from the Celebration of Anesthesia Care Awesomeness



Our Celebration of Anesthesia Care Team Awesomeness took place on Sunday, January 29, 2017 from 2:00-5:00 pm at the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex, in Cranberry Township, PA.

Clinical, administrative, and research staff from all sites gathered together to enjoy delicious food and beverages, fun on the ice skating rink, and even a surprise appearance from Penguins goalie Matt Murray!

All are welcome to view photos from the party in our Google photo album at <https://goo.gl/photos/7PZXWhSmhCAq12PJA>.

The photo album is open for other employees to share their photos from the event as well.



Recent Publications

Abuelkasem E, Mazzeffi MA, Lu SY, Planinsic RM, Sakai T, Tanaka KA. Ex vivo evaluation of 4 different viscoelastic assays for detecting moderate to severe coagulopathy during liver transplantation. *Liver Transpl.* 2016 Apr;22(4):468-75. doi: 10.1002/lt.24379.

Bakalov V, Amathieu R, Triba M, Clément M-J, Reyes Uribe L, Le Moyec L, Kaynar A. Metabolomics with Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy in a *Drosophila melanogaster* Model of Surviving Sepsis. *Metabolites.* 2016;6(4):47. [Open access link](#)

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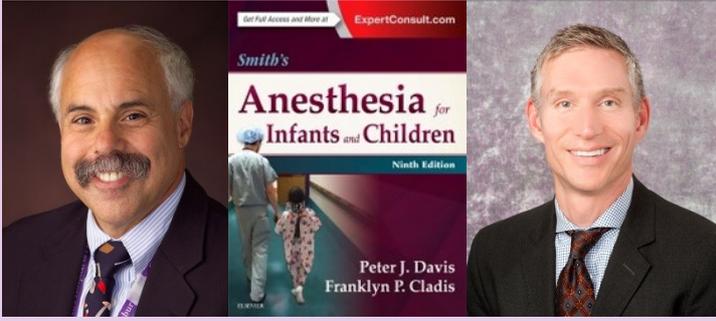
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The ninth edition of *Smith's Anesthesia for Infants and Children* by **Peter J. Davis, MD** and **Franklyn P. Cladis, MD** was published. The book, originally written by distinguished pediatric anesthesia pioneer Dr. Robert Smith, is referred to as “the bible” of pediatric anesthesia. Etsuro K. Motoyama, MD maintained the legacy and spirit of the book when he edited and co-edited the book’s fifth through eighth editions. Drs. Davis and Cladis dedicated the ninth edition to Dr. Motoyama.

The following department authors contributed to the textbook. Congratulations to all!

Brian Blasiole MD, PhD
 Barbara W. Brandom MD
 James G. Cain MBA, MD
 Thomas M. Chalifoux MD
 Denise M. Hall-Burton MD, FAAP
 Andrew Herlich DMD, MD, FAAP

James W. Ibinson MD, PhD
 Robert Scott Lang MD
 Etsuro K. Motoyama MD, FAAP
 Erica L. Sivak MD
 Keith M. Vogt MD, PhD
 Susan Woelfel MD

UPCOMING EVENTS



The University of Pittsburgh Physicians Department of Anesthesiology will sponsor the **St. Thomas Anesthesiology Legal Education Symposium** on **March 8-11, 2017** at the beautiful Frenchman’s Reef Marriott, St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands. This distinctive program is designed to bring together experts in anesthesiology, medical malpractice defense law, medical malpractice plaintiff law, risk management, and malpractice insurance in a collaborative educational program.

The symposium has been approved for AANA continuing education credits!

Reserve your space and book your hotel room now! [More info](#)



UPMC CRNA Conference 2017
 April 28-30, 2017
 Nemacolin Woodlands, Farmington, PA

For more information and to register, please visit <https://ccehs.upmc.com/liveFormalCourses.jsf>

UPMC Acute Pain Medicine and Regional Anesthesia Fellows Conference
 June 3, 2017
 Herberman Auditorium, Herberman Conference Center, 5230 Centre Ave, Pittsburgh

This free program is for anesthesiologists, trainees, CRNAs, and SRNAs both inside and outside of UPMC. CME credits will be available for attendees.

Please visit [our website](#) for more details.

Have News to Share? Please [e-mail us!](#)

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