Message from the Chair

The holidays are here!

Over the holiday season, the true spirit of our department comes shining through. Things slow down slightly (allegedly), and people have a bit more time to relax, reflect, and enjoy their families and friends. At Presby, our holiday party was a great chance to enjoy our colleagues in a setting that did not involve multiple gunshot wounds or multi-organ transplantation. Thanks so much to Sarah Robison for planning and making this event such a success! The feeling was one of warmth, friendliness, and fun all around. I hope those of you at the other sites also enjoyed your holiday events.

We truly have a wonderful group of colleagues, and reflecting over our accomplishments over the past several months shows that we have much to be proud of and a great deal to be thankful for. The ASA meeting was a major success, with over 65 presentations and 42 residents in attendance. The Pitt presence was duly noted by many of our colleagues across the country! The Nemacolin meeting (“Redesigning the Perioperative Process: Prehabilitation, ERAS, and Acute Pain Management”) in November was a major success, drawing attention and involvement from luminaries at UPMC and nationwide. Dr. Jonathan Waters and his team have set the bar extremely high – I can’t wait to see what they have planned for an encore! Our educational activities continue to showcase the outstanding talents of our trainees. However, last weekend was an event that I find bittersweet, the Pitt School of Nursing’s SRNA graduation. It has been a privilege for all of us to work with these outstanding students and watch them grow and develop. We will miss them, but fortunately we have been able to recruit a significant number into our department! We are looking forward to welcoming these new colleagues as they begin working with us in January and February.

I wish all of you the happiest of holiday seasons, as well as happiness, health, and many successes in 2017!

News

The 2016 American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Annual Meeting was held from October 22-26 in Chicago, IL. Department members delivered 65 presentations and 20 faculty members and three residents served on ASA and ASA-related committees.

Chad Artman and Lynette Sikora were named 2016 Cameos of Caring Award Winners. Click here to read more and see more photos from the gala.

Douglas Bentley, MD; Erica Coffin, MD; Adam D’Souza, MD; Sean A. DeChancie, DO; Brian Gierl, MD; John J. Hache, MD; Patrick Hackett, MD; Gregory Halenda, MD; William Scott Jones, MD; Charles Lin, MD; Tran Nguyen, MD; Raj Padalia, MD; Kelly Peretich, MD; Eric Ponte, MD; Faith Ross, MD; and Hazel Werlhof, MD all passed the National Board of Echocardiography (NBE) basic perioperative transesophageal echocardiography examination. Read more
Robert Boretsky, MD was an instructor at the Harvard Point of Care Ultrasound Workshop held at Boston Children’s Hospital on October 1-2, 2016.

Scott A. Brancolini, MD, MPH was invited to speak at the Association of Anesthesiology Subspecialty Program Directors Pain Medicine Breakout session at the 2016 Society of Academic Anesthesiology Associations meeting, November 11-12 in Chicago, IL. The title of his lecture was “Introducing a Pain Medicine Fellowship Educational Resource: The Association of Pain Program Directors’ New Website.” Dr. Brancolini was also elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Association of Pain Program Directors (APPD). He was elected to the AAPD Board of Directors earlier this year and will be shifting from board member to Secretary/Treasurer.

Jacques E. Chelly, MD, PhD, MBA was invited to present the lecture “Auriculotherapy for Anesthesia” on December 10 as part of the Paris XIII Medical School Auriculotherapy Certificate program. He also won a GlobalPittsburgh Immigrant Entrepreneur Award in the category of Affiliates of Middle and Large Companies. GlobalPittsburgh recognized the local immigrant entrepreneur and professional nominees and awardees at a ceremony on December 14, 2016 at the Rivers Club in downtown Pittsburgh.

We welcome Joseph Dailey, CRNA, MSN to the position of CRNA Assistant Clinical Director of Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC. Joe graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing Nurse Anesthesia Program in 2010. He has held positions at Allegheny General Hospital, Lourdes Hospital – Paducah KY, and UPMC Presbyterian. Joe brings a myriad of both clinical and professional experience to this leadership role. Congratulations to Joe in this new endeavor.

Tomas Drabek, MD PhD will serve on the ASA Abstract Review Subcommittee on Experimental Neurosciences and on the ASA Abstract Review Subcommittee on Experimental Circulation for the 2017 Governance Year (October 2016-October 2017).

Trent D. Emerick, MD, MBA was elected to the University of Pittsburgh Physicians (UPP) Board of Directors for the January 2017-December 2018 term.

The WTAE TV news story “No Drugs or Devices Needed for Surgery Recovery Method Sparked in Pittsburgh” features UPMC’s Enhanced Recovery after Surgery (ERAS) program, led by Stephen A. Esper, MD, MBA and colorectal surgeon Jennifer M. Holder-Murray, MD, FACS.

Theresa A. Gelzinis, MD was appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anesthesia for a three-year term, effective January 1, 2017.

The article “Stepping off the Path to Hell” in the Fall 2016 issue of PittMed magazine features interviews and quotes from department faculty members Stephen A. Esper, MD, MBA; Howard B. Gutstein, MD; Michael P. Mangione, MD; and Ajay D. Wasan, MD, MSc.
Tammy Flemming, CRNP (Chronic Pain Services) was nominated for a Cameos of Caring Award (Advanced Practice Nurse-Clinical) at UPMC Passavant. Read more

Carolyn Garver, RN, CRNP, MSN received the Penn State College of Nursing Shirley Novosel Distinguished Alumni Award. The award is presented annually by the Penn State Nursing Alumni Society to those who exemplify the spirit of nursing and the ideals and philosophy of the college. Carolyn was presented with the award at a presentation and brunch at Penn State on September 24, 2016.

Gregg E. Homanics, PhD was appointed an Associate Editor of the journal Genes, Brain and Behavior. The journal was launched in 2002 with the aim of publishing top quality research in behavioral and neural genetics in their broadest sense. The emphasis is on the analysis of the behavioral and neural phenotypes under consideration, the unifying theme being the genetic approach as a tool to increase our understanding of these phenotypes. Genes, Brain and Behavior is the official journal of IBANGS (International Behavioural and Neural Genetics Society).

R. Scott Lang, MD and Monique Saxon MSN, CRNA were presented with excellence awards at the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program graduation ceremony from the fall Class of 2016 on December 17, 2016 at The University Club. Dr. Lang received the Stephen C. Finestone Memorial Award for Excellence in Clinical Instruction and Ms. Saxon received the Mary DePaolis-Lutso Award for Excellence in Clinical Instruction.

Sanford M. Littwin, MD was invited to present grand rounds at Rutgers-New Jersey Medical School on April 19, 2017. The title of his lecture will be “Perioperative Management: Efficiency and Enterprise vs. Patient Care and Quality.”

Michael P. Mangione, MD received the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Chief of Staff’s Award for Clinical Excellence. Read more

Rita M. Patel, MD received the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award. The award celebrates Designated Institutional Officials/Associate Deans for Graduate Medical Education (GME) who demonstrate excellence in leading their institution's graduate medical education enterprise. Dr. Patel was nominated for this award by the GME community at UPMC. The award will be presented formally in March 2017 at the ACGME Annual Educational Meeting. Dr. Patel also received the 2016 Society for Education in Anesthesia (SEA)/Duke Award for Excellence and Innovation in Anesthesia Education. The award was presented to Dr. Patel at the 2016 SEA Fall Meeting in Chicago on Friday, October 21, 2016 in recognition of her significant contributions to advancing anesthesiology education over the course of her career.
Raymond M. Planinsic, MD was invited to present at the Starzl Transplant Institute Internal Grand Rounds on Friday, November 18. The title of his talk was “Anesthesiology Concerns in Liver Transplantation.”

Gregory Rompala received a grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism for the project “Epigenetic Mechanisms of Intergenerational Alcohol Drinking Behavior.”

Anthony T. Silipo, DO was elected to the Society for Airway Management membership committee.

William Simmons, MD received the 2016 Humanitarian Award from Allen Place Community Services, Inc. Read more

Education News

The UPMC anesthesiology residents, led by our very proactive PGY-1 class, organized a department team for the 7th Annual American Society of Anesthesiology (ASA)-sponsored “Run for The Warriors,” which took place Sunday October 23, 2016 as part of the ASA 2016 annual meeting. The race was a fundraiser for the charity Hope for the Warriors, which benefits military members and their families who have suffered a loss. This year, the event collectively raised $25,682 for Hope for the Warriors.

Richard Hubbard, MD was featured in an article in the November 2016 edition of the UPMC publication First Friday. The story highlights Dr. Hubbard’s impressive charity work in Bangladesh (read more). Also, The Daily Star, the largest English-language newspaper in Bangladesh, published an article written by Dr. Hubbard about his research with Dr. Kamal Choudhury at the Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation in Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders on Respiratory Distress Syndrome in premature babies.

Work by Drs. Nicole Verdecchia, Vladyslav Melnyk, and Steven L. Orebaugh, “The Physical Relationship of the Sciatic Nerve and its Paraneural Sheath,” was not only chosen as a “top 5” abstract, but also won the first prize best abstract award at the Annual New York School of Regional Anesthesia Symposium on Regional Anesthesia, Pain, and Perioperative Medicine on Sept. 24, 2016.
Recent Publications


The textbook Anesthesia and Perioperative Care for Organ Transplantation (1st edition, 2017) was published. The book was edited by department faculty members Kathirvel Subramaniam, MD, MPH and Tetsuro Sakai, MD, PhD and contains chapters written by the following current and former department members: Wendy A. Haft, Andrew Walter Murray, Michael L. Boisen, Andréa R. Xavier, J. Mauricio Del Rio, Soheyla Nazarnia, Ali R. Abdullah, Charles D. Boucek, Daniela Damian, and Raymond M. Plansinic. Read more


The textbook Anesthesia and Perioperative Care for Organ Transplantation (1st edition, 2017) was published. The book was edited by department faculty members Kathirvel Subramaniam, MD, MPH and Tetsuro Sakai, MD, PhD and contains chapters written by the following current and former department members: Wendy A. Haft, Andrew Walter Murray, Michael L. Boisen, Andréa R. Xavier, J. Mauricio Del Rio, Soheyla Nazarnia, Justin N. Tawil, Joseph S. Goode Jr., Ibtesam A. Hilmi, Ali R. Abdullah, Charles D. Boucek, Daniela Damian, and Raymond M. Plansinic. Read more

Photos from the UPMC Presbyterian CRNA Holiday Breakfast
hosted by Presby CRNA directors Helen Defranco, Dale Fleck, and Debbie Weimer.

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 was recently approved for AANA continuing education credits!

Reserve your space and book your hotel room now! More info

Have News to Share? Please e-mail us!

University of Pittsburgh Department of Anesthesiology
A-1305 Scaife Hall, 3550 Terrace Street
Pittsburgh, PA, 15261
(412) 647-2994

www.anesthesiology.pitt.edu
https://www.facebook.com/PittAnesthesiology (Department Page)
https://www.facebook.com/UPMCAesthesiology (Residency Page)

Give to the department

To unsubscribe, please e-mail us.