Message from the Chair

Our department certainly has been busy since our last newsletter was published in December... so busy that it’s been difficult to pause long enough to publish this newsletter! Finally, with the release of this issue, we can reflect upon where we’ve been and where we are going since our last update. Thank you for coming along with us for the journey.

Soon after the holidays, we celebrated National CRNA Week and Physician Anesthesiologists Week at the end of January/beginning of February. It was fantastic to witness the outpouring of philanthropy from our CRNAs and anesthesiologists for the community and their appreciation for one another. A summary and photos from these activities is provided within this issue.

The winter and early spring months flew by as we successfully executed many department-sponsored events. Our UPMC CRNA Conference, MedTASS, the 2019 Safar Symposium and Multidisciplinary Trainees’ Research Day, and the UPMC Update in Anesthesia, Pain, and Intensive Care at Nemacolin all took place in March and April, and this year we hosted the 14th Annual Pennsylvania Anesthesiology Resident Research Conference (PARRC) in May. Our faculty and trainees were also busy presenting and winning awards at the ASA Practice Management, ASRA, SEA, SOAP, SCA, and IARS/AUA annual meetings. Two publications from authors in our department were featured on journal covers. UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital was designated a SOAP OB Anesthesia Center of Excellence and we also opened a new AIPPS site there. Our education office successfully completed the Anesthesiology Match for the 2019-2020 academic year. These are just some of the highlights from the whirlwind of activity since December.

We continue to make progress with some of the new initiatives introduced in the last issue of this newsletter – namely, with the Center for Perioperative Care (CPC) and building our Perioperative Data and Analytics team, efforts aimed at improving patient safety and satisfaction and cost savings. The CPC is a team-based, multidisciplinary “prehabilitation” clinic facilitated by anesthesiologists specializing in perioperative medicine. The clinic screens patients prior to non-emergency surgeries and identifies those at high risk for poor outcomes. The CPC team then works to reduce those patients’ risks and optimize their health before surgery to improve outcomes or refer patients to safer non-surgical approaches if warranted. The first CPC opened in June 2016 at UPMC Shadyside, a second site opened at UPMC Presbyterian in August 2017, and on April 1, 2019, UPMC Presbyterian’s Preoperative Evaluation Center (PEC) and CPC services were integrated into a single service. Early data shows an approximate one-day reduction in post-surgery length of hospital stay and positive responses from both patients and surgeons. Plans are underway to continue to expand CPC cites to additional UPMC hospitals. Regarding our Perioperative Data and Analytics team to improve patient care, quality, and operating room efficiency and explore new research topics, we successfully recruited a Senior Clinical Data Analyst and are starting to build out dashboards that meaningfully display relevant patient data that could be analyzed to work towards these goals.

We added two new department-supported resources to advance our academic missions. We formed a Clinical and Translational Research Committee (CTRC) to provide support, mentorship, and resources for faculty and trainees participating in scholarly endeavors. We also recruited two statisticians with time dedicated exclusively to departmental projects. Our research efforts have begun to yield great results, with new funding from both the NIH and industry.

In conjunction with these recent improvements, we’re looking for a new name for this newsletter...something a little more creative and catchy than “Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine News.” Do you have any ideas for a better name for this newsletter? If so, please e-mail them to heinerc@upmc.edu. We will review all suggestions at the beginning of August and see if we can rename this newsletter by the time our next issue comes out in the fall.

Thank you again to all our newsletter readers, which includes members of the department, alumni, supporters, and colleagues, for your interest in what we do. 
Phillip S. Adams, DO was invited to join the editorial board of the Journal of Education in Perioperative Medicine as Associate Editor.

Lauri J. Adler, MD and Kevin I. Dom, MSN, CRNA were presented with excellence awards at the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program Fall Class of 2018 graduation ceremony. Kevin received the Mary DePaolis-Lutsu Award for Excellence in Clinical Instruction and Dr. Adler received the Stephen C. Finestone Memorial Award for Excellence in Clinical Instruction.

Drs. Ben Alter and Jim Ibinson received department seed grant funding for the period of March 1, 2019 – February 28, 2020 for their projects:

- **Ben Alter, MD, PhD (T32 Scholar):** “Neural and Physiological Correlates of Endogenous Analgesia”
- **James Ibinson, MD, PhD (Assistant Professor):** “Neural Correlates of Auriculotherapy”

A project by Benedict Alter, MD, PhD; Hendrick Santosa, PhD (Dept. of Radiology); Ajay Wasan, MD, MSc; and Ted Huppert, PhD (Dept. of Radiology), “Predicting Analgesia with a Brain Biomarker” was chosen as a $50,000 Award Winner in the University of Pittsburgh Clinical and Translational Science Institute 2019 Pain Research Challenge. Read more

Shawn T. Beaman, MD, Charles D. Boucek, MD, and Tomas Drabek, MD, PhD were appointed as Fellows of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (FASA™). The FASA designation is the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ highest acknowledgment that recognizes years of dedication to exceptional education, leadership and commitment to the specialty.

Cheryl D. Bernstein, MD; Franklyn P. Cladis, MD; Peter J. Davis, MD; Steven L. Orebaugh, MD; Doreen E. Soliman, MD; Erin Sullivan, MD; and Ajay D. Wasan, MD were named in Pittsburgh Magazine’s 2019 “Best Doctors” list. Read more

The University of Pittsburgh paid tribute to the outstanding achievements of its faculty and students during their 43rd annual Honors Convocation on Friday, February 22, 2019 at the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh Music Hall in Oakland. Drs. Scott A. Brancolini, Tomas Drabek, Andrew Herlich, Mark Hudson, Kristin Ondockey Ligda, Rita Patel, and Tetsuro Sakai and CRNAs Josiah Brice, Jennifer Davis, Bettina Dixon, Richard A. Henker, Shane Hodapp, Nicole Nowe, John M. O’Donnell, and Brendan Weaver were honored at the event for their accomplishments during 2018. Read more

Jacques E. Chelly, MD, PhD, MBA; Bradley K. Taylor, PhD; Michael Gold, PhD (Dept. of Neurobiology); Sarah Ross, PhD (Dept. of Neurobiology); and Marianne Seney, PhD (Dept. of Psychiatry) were awarded $100,000 from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine to collect pilot data to apply for NIH Program Project (P01) funding for their study “Long-lasting Effects of Ketamine on Chronic Pain, Opioid Tolerance, and Depression.” Read more
Peter Davis, MD and the Anesthesiology Department at UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP) were featured in an Employee Spotlight article in the March 19 issue of the online magazine CHP Cares for their philanthropy efforts.

Thomas Dongilli AT, CHSOS, John M. O'Donnell, MSN, DiPH, CRNA, and Richard H. Riley, MBBS, FANZCA were inducted as Fellows of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare Academy at their 2019 national meeting in San Antonio, TX. Read more

Brett M. Fadgen, MSN, CFNR, CRNA was spotlighted on the UPMC Careers blog in a feature titled “Overcoming Obstacles to Care: My Career as a CRNA.”

Joseph S. Goode, Jr., MSN, PhD, CRNA earned his PhD in Nursing from the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing. The title of his doctoral dissertation was “Simulation in Nursing: Historical Analysis and Theoretical Modeling in Support of a Targeted Clinical Training Intervention.” Read more

Mark E. Hudson, MD, MBA was one of the presenting faculty members at the 2019 Association of Anesthesia Clinical Directors Perioperative Leadership Summit on March 8-10, 2019 in San Antonio, TX, presenting on the topic “Improving Surgical Services Efficiency Through Cost and Productivity Surveillance and Active Resource Management.”


Grace Lim, MD, MS will receive funding for her research proposal “Quantifying Genetic Variation in Postpartum Women for Pain and Depression” from the Institute for Precision Medicine. Dr. Lim was also invited for a visiting professorship with both the Departments of Obstetrics/Gynecology and Anesthesiology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota on October 7, 2019. During her visit, Dr. Lim will present on the topic of postpartum depression at Mayo’s combined anesthesia and OB/GYN grand rounds. She was also invited to join the SOAP/SMFM Task Force on Peridelivery Pain Management in Women with Opioid Use Disorders. Read more

Robert K. Lorah, MSN, CRNA was nominated to receive a 2019 UPMC Shadyside Cameo of Caring Advanced Practice Nurse Manager Award. Bob was honored with the other award nominees at a dinner at Herberman Conference Center at the hospital on May 6, 2019. Read more

Aman Mahajan, MD, PhD, MBA was the keynote speaker at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Scholar’s Day, April 24, 2019 in the O’Hara Student Center. Dr. Mahajan’s keynote address was “Translating Knowledge from Clinical Practices and Laboratorios: Ideas from the Fringes.”

Kelly Malone, MSN, DNAP, CRNA completed studies to earn her Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) on December 15, 2018 from Saint Vincent College/Excela Health School of Anesthesia. Read more
David G. Metro, MS, FASA was appointed Chair of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Affiliated Faculty Promotions and Appointments Committee for the upcoming year, effective March 1, 2019. Read more

Rich Morton, CRNA was honored at the 45th Annual Pittsburgh Symposium for Nurse Anesthetists on Saturday, February 16, 2019 at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital. Rich was presented with a plaque to commemorate his many years of service as program director of the symposium and recognize his dedication to enhancing continuing education for all anesthesia providers. Read more

Paul Phrampus, MD was awarded the John P. Pryan, MD Street Medicine Society Award by the Journal of Emergency Medical Services at the EMS Today conference on February 20, 2019. Read more

Tetsuro Sakai, MD, PhD, MHA, FASA was invited to present at the International Liver Transplantation Society (ILTS) 25th International Congress on Liver Transplantation, May 16-18, 2019 in Toronto, Canada. He also participated in the Society for the Advancement of Transplant Anesthesia-endorsed Tristate Regional Liver Transplant Anesthesiology Conference on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, NY, presenting the lecture “Veno-venous Bypass: When Should I be Using It?”

William Simmons, MD received the 2019 Distinguished Service Award from the National Medical Association in recognition of his teaching and mentorship efforts. Read more

Kathirvel Subramaniam, MD, MPH, FASE was invited to serve as Member at Large on the American Society of Echocardiography Finance Committee. His appointment term will begin immediately following the ASE’s 2019 Scientific Sessions in June and extend for two years.

David A. Snyder, MSN, CRNA and Robert K. Lorah, MSN, CRNA were featured in articles in the Winter 2018-2019 issue of The Voice of Shadyside magazine. Read more

Kathirvel Subramaniam, MD, MPH, FASE was invited to serve as Member at Large on the American Society of Echocardiography Finance Committee. His appointment term will begin immediately following the ASE’s 2019 Scientific Sessions in June and extend for two years.

Ajay D. Wasan, MD, MSc was interviewed for two news stories on the opioid epidemic:

- “States Move to Substitute Opioids with Medical Marijuana to Quell Epidemic,” Medical News & Perspectives, JAMA, December 18, 2018
- “Guideline Group Turns Gaze to Opioid Epidemic,” Reuters Health, December 18, 2018

Also, an app co-developed by Dr. Wasan was chosen as one of the top 64 scientific innovations of 2018 to compete in STAT Madness, a bracket-style tournament where the best innovations in science and medicine compete to win via online votes.

Jonathan H. Waters, MD was quoted in the Healthline news article “Why Daily Cannabis Users May Need More Than Double the Dosage for Sedation.”

The UPMC St. Margaret (STM) anesthesia team, led by chief anesthesiologist Jay Roskoph, MD, MBA won the 2019 STM Patient Safety Award for their success in decreasing the length of time patients getting knee replacement surgery spent in the hospital over a one-year period. Read more
In Memoriam

Daniel Mikuta

Daniel Edward Mikuta, a former CRNA at UPMC Presbyterian, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 65 on Friday March 22, 2019 at his home in Pittsburgh. Dan earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in biology at Clarion University and graduated from Washington Hospital School of Nursing. He later continued his education at Washington Hospital School of Anesthesia, becoming a licensed Nurse Anesthetist. He worked for many years as a CRNA at Forbes Regional Hospital and later UPMC Presbyterian. He also worked for over a year at UPMC ISMETT in Palermo, Sicily, contributing significantly to the success of the transplant center when it was first established there.

We send our deepest condolences to Dan’s family and friends for their loss. Dan’s full obituary and a tribute wall where people can express messages of sympathy and share memories are available online.

Domenico Falcone, MD

Domenico Falcone, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor and Chief Anesthesiologist at UPMC Altoona, passed away on May 13, 2019. Dr. Falcone had been a member of the Medical Staff and Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology at Altoona for the past 17 years. He was a tremendous colleague and provided exemplary leadership and service to our department.

After graduating from Villanova University with a BS in biology, Dr. Falcone earned his MD from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and finished his medical training at the University of Pennsylvania, completing his internship at Philadelphia General Hospital and Hospital University of Pennsylvania, where he also completed his residency training in anesthesiology. He began his career as a staff anesthesiologist at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown, PA in 1977 and worked there until 2002. During his time at Lehigh, he served in many leadership roles, including Operating Room Medical Director of Pre-admission Processing and Same Day Admissions, Chair of the Department of Anesthesia at the hospital’s Muhlenberg Campus in Bethlehem, PA, and Vice-Chairman of the Department of Anesthesia for Lehigh Valley Health Network. From 1994-2004, he held a Clinical Assistant Professor appointment at Penn State University / Hershey Medical Center.
Medical Center. In 2002, Dr. Falcone joined the medical staff at Altoona Hospital as Chair of the Department of Anesthesia, a position he stayed in as the hospital became Altoona Regional Health System in 2004 and UPMC Altoona in 2013. Dr. Falcone was elected to and served as President of Lehigh County Medical Society in 2002. Since 1977, he was a Delegate to the Pennsylvania Medical Society. He was a member of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the Pennsylvania Society of Anesthesiologists, the American Medical Association, the International Anesthesia Research Society, and the American Academy of Medical Acupuncture. We extend our sympathy to Dr. Falcone’s family and friends, as well as everyone who worked closely with him over his long and accomplished career, as he will be missed by many.

Dr. Falcone’s obituary

Miroslav Klain, MD

Miroslav Klain, MD, Professor Emeritus and a respected and accomplished faculty member of our department for over 40 years, passed away on May 18, 2019. Miroslav Klain was born on 25 August 1927 in Czechoslovakia. Dr. Klain trained as a physician at Charles University (MUDr., 1951) and earned a PhD as well. He began his medical career as a cardiac surgeon. Miro met his wife Eva at a hospital in Czechoslovakia where he was working as a doctor and Eva as an X-ray technician. Miro first came to the U.S. in 1965 when he completed a one-year research fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic. At the end of that year, he returned to Prague, but when the Soviets invaded, they moved to Austria and soon found refuge in the US, moving to Texas with their two children and all the possessions they could carry. They returned to Cleveland, where Miro was hired to direct artificial heart development at the Cleveland Clinic. He eventually shifted his research and clinical focus to anesthesiology. A lecture Dr. Klain gave in 1972 resulted in a job offer at the University of Pittsburgh Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine/UPMC Presbyterian, thus beginning his long relationship with our department. Dr. Klain contributed to numerous projects over the years he spent working with us, particularly in his many collaborations with our founding Chair, the renowned Dr. Peter Safar. Most notable among these was his early work with high frequency ventilation and his contributions as a co-inventor on seven US patents awarded between 1990 and 2002 related to portable cardiopulmonary bypass apparatuses and aortic balloon catheters. Miro was a member of an interdisciplinary team of researchers known as the University of Pittsburgh Disaster Reanimatology Study Group (DRSG). This research team, in partnership with a team of Russian and Armenian physicians, conducted the first international interdisciplinary disaster evaluation research field survey study of the 1988 earthquake in Armenia. The Armenia study led to a series of post-disaster field studies by the DRSG in Costa Rica (1991), Turkey (1993), and Japan (1994). These studies helped to establish the "Golden 24 Hours" of emergency response in disasters and inspired Norwegian anesthesiologist and humanitarian Dr. Knut Ole Sundnes to establish the Task Force of Quality Control of Disaster Management under the auspices of the Nordic Society of Disaster Medicine and World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine. In 2006, Dr. Klain retired from the University of Pittsburgh/UPMC but remained engaged with our department, serving on our Resident Education Committee for several years. Upon retiring, he was awarded Professor Emeritus status. This very prestigious title is not automatically granted to all retirees. This specific designation is bestowed by the Provost and Chancellor for a faculty member’s meritorious contributions to the educational mission and programs of the University. Miro was a polyglot, speaking English, German, Czech, Russian, Latin, and several other languages. In addition to his wife Eva, he is survived by three children and six grandchildren who live in Prague, Washington, DC, and Philadelphia. Those of us who had the privilege of working with Dr. Klain and knowing him personally will fondly remember him not only as an accomplished scholar and physician, but also a true gentleman, kind person, and amusing storyteller. A Memorial Service will be held at 1pm on Sunday, July 28, 2019 at Providence Point Chapel, 500 Providence Point Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15243.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CRNAs Host Holiday Dinner at Family House

On December 12, our CRNAs at UPMC Presbyterian hosted a dinner for the guests at University Place Family House. Family House provides affordable and accessible housing for patients seeking medical treatment in Pittsburgh and/or their families. The Presbyterian CRNAs also delivered cookies to four Family Houses, Fisher House at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, and UPMC Presbyterian’s Same Day Services, surgical family waiting room, and family waiting rooms for several intensive care units. Read more

Department Celebrates 2019 CRNA Week and Physician Anesthesiologists Week

The department celebrated the 20th annual National CRNA Week (January 20-26, 2019) and the fifth annual Physician Anesthesiologists Week (January 27-February 2, 2019) by giving back to the community and hosting activities to show appreciation for their colleagues:

• For the second year in a row, our physicians and CRNAs united to celebrate both weeks 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 homeless people and provides services to people who often suffer from addiction.
• Our SRNAs and CRNAs staffed tables throughout the various UPMC hospitals to educate visitors about their profession.
• UPMC Presbyterian CRNAs brought cake to their break rooms to extend their appreciation to their anesthesiologist colleagues. They also sponsored their 7th Annual "Donut Day"/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. Also, Holly Broadbent-Horvat and Karen Florian visited Pine Richland High School to discuss nurse anesthesia.
• UPMC Shadyside CRNAs volunteered to host a dinner at Family House, located across the street from the hospital. Additionally, they hosted a happy hour/dinner at Rock Bottom Brewery.
• At UPMC Mercy, the anesthesiologists provided a luncheon for the CRNAs and the CRNAs planned a luncheon for the anesthesiologists. The Mercy CRNAs also "gave back" by again donating to FOCUS Pittsburgh, a local organization that provides less fortunate children with lunch for each school day.
• The UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP) CRNAs cooked a Mexican dinner for the patients and families staying at Ronald McDonald house, which is attached to CHP and provides housing to patients and families who require frequent and/or chronic care. The CHP physician anesthesiologists showed their appreciation for the CHP CRNAs with gift cards and a cake.

UPMC Presbyterian CRNAs Hold Ninth Annual “Souper Bowl”

On February 7, for the ninth consecutive year, CRNA volunteers from UPMC Presbyterian coordinated their annual “Souper Bowl” by preparing and serving food to the guests at the Neville Family House, which provides affordable and accessible housing for patients and/or their families seeking medical treatment in Pittsburgh. Read more

Department Members Attend Family House Black & White Gala

Several members of our department attended the Family House Black & White Gala on April 6, 2018 at J. Verno Studio. CRNAs Karen Florian, Debra Weimer, Helen DeFranco, and Tera Thomas, as well as John P. Williams, MD from our department attended the event. Overall, supporters raised $165,000+ to support the Family House mission to provide a "home away from home" for patients and families who travel to Pittsburgh for medical care.
Recent Publications


Two Department Papers Make Journal Covers

The cover of the March 2019 issue of Pediatric Anesthesia was based on a publication by Mihaela Visoiu, MD, et al. published in the same issue. Dr. Visoiu and the article co-authors were directly credited for the photo.


This was the second time the journal highlighted her work on their cover; their October 2018 issue also featured artwork based on a paper by Dr. Visoiu and co-authors.

The cover of the March 2019 issue of Brain Sciences featured a publication by the research team of Gregg E. Homanics, PhD published in the same issue:


The article was published in the journal’s Special Issue on the Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms Mediating the Behavioral Effects of Alcohol. Read more


Muehlischegel JD, Burrage PS, Quijano K, Methangkool E, Scovotti JC, Mazor E, Grogan TR, Kratzert WB, Mahajan A. Identification of a Functional Non-synaptic α1 glycine receptors on ethanol consumption and place preference. Addict Biol. 2019 Sep 17;149(19)30052.


Taylor BK, Sinha GP, Donahue RR, Grachen CM, Morin JA, Doolen S. Opioid receptors inhibit the spinal AMPA receptor Ca(2+)+ permeability that mediates latent pain sensitization. Exp Neurol. 2019 Jan 17;314:58-66 [Epub ahead of print].


Education Highlights

Dr. K. Karisa Walker Invited to Serve on ACGME Milestones Workgroup

K. Karisa Walker, MD, FAAP was invited to serve on the ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education) Anesthesiology Milestones 2.0 Working Group. The group is tasked with reviewing and revising the current Milestones used by all ACGME-accredited anesthesiology education programs and developing a Supplemental Guide to provide additional insight into the Milestones. Milestones are competency-based developmental outcomes (e.g., knowledge, skills, attitudes, and performance) that can be demonstrated progressively by residents/fellows from the beginning of their education through graduation to the unsupervised practice of their specialties. The Working Group includes only 10-15 appointed members who are experts in anesthesiology within graduate medical education. This important milestone revision will help shape anesthesiology graduate medical education for residency programs across the nation over the next era.

2019 Anesthesiology Match Results

The 2019 Anesthesiology match for our department successfully concluded. It was an extremely strong year, with 12 of our top 25 candidates choosing to match with us. Read more

2019-2020 Chief Residents Selected

The department’s Recruitment and Selection Committee is pleased to announce the Chief Residents for the 2019-2020 academic year:

- Michael Gemma, MD - Chief Resident
- Kate Petty, MD - Associate Chief Resident
- Michael Sypert, DO - Associate Chief Resident

Read more

Regional /Acute Pain Fellows Gather at ASRA Spring 2019

Current, future, and past trainees of our Regional Anesthesiology / Acute Pain Fellowship united for a luncheon at the 44th Annual Regional Anesthesiology & Acute Pain Medicine Meeting, April 11-13, 2019 in Las Vegas. A total of 41 people attended. Read more

The Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine and the Center for Neuroscience present:

“Integrative Neurogenomics for Alcohol Use Disorder”

Sean Farris, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research
Institute for Neuroscience and Institute for Cell & Molecular Biology
The University of Texas at Austin

Wednesday, June 5, 2019
4:00 – 5:00 pm
1495 BSTWR

Read more
ASA Practice Management 2019

The 2015 American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Practice Management was held January 18-20 in Las Vegas, NV. Five of our residents presented posters at the meeting and received departmental sponsorship to attend. Of the 28 abstracts accepted, seven were from our department. Further, two were selected for presentation in the FAER Poster Competition and received recognition, marking the eighth year in a row that work presented by the “Hudson Research Team,” a group of residents, faculty, and CRNAs investigating healthcare business and management led by Mark E. Hudson, MD, MBA, won awards at the conference and garnered national attention:

- Riding the Winds of Change: Evolution of an Anesthesiology Value Metrics Incentive Program within a Large Academic Medical System: Neal Shah, Evan Lebovitz, Jamie Artman, Sanford Littwin, Mark Hudson (2nd Place Best of Meeting Poster Presentation, FAER Award)
- Effects on Operating Room Costs Due to Inefficient Scheduling: Neal Shah, Sara Straesser, Sanford Littwin (selected as one of the top eight posters, FAER Award Competition)

Read more

Spring 2019 ASRA Meeting

Department members presented 13 abstracts at the 44th Annual Regional Anesthesiology & Acute Pain Medicine Meeting on April 11-13 in Las Vegas Nevada. In addition, faculty members participated as workshop faculty, moderated poster sessions, and presented lectures.

Read more

Spring 2019 SEA Meeting

The Society for Education in Anesthesia (SEA) Spring Meeting was held April 26-28, 2019 in Denver, Colorado. Many department members served on committees, gave poster and oral presentations, presented workshops, and moderated presentations. Two oral presentations from our department were among the selected top three for the meeting and qualified for the Philip Liu Award for Innovations in Anesthesia Education:

- Phillip Adams, DO: Variation in career and anesthesiology specialty choice regret based on burnout and stage of career (Adams PS, Huettner D, Abdullah L, Metro DG, McHugh S)
- Kevin Pardo, MD: Poor sleep quality correlates with impaired wellness in junior anesthesiology residents (Pardo KJ, Ungerman EA, Metro DG, Adams PS)

Read more

SOAP 2019

Grace Lim, MD, MS; Chad Dean, MD; Laura Gershon, MD; and Kelsea Lasorda, MPH participated and presented at the Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology (SOAP) 51st Annual Meeting, May 1-5, 2019, Phoenix, AZ (Read more). Congratulations to Chad Dean, MD (obstetric anesthesiology fellow), whose poster “Successful Perinatal Management of a Woman with McArdle Disease” was recognized as a Best Case Report at the meeting.

IARS/AUA/SOCCA/SATA 2019

The 2019 International Anesthesia Research Society (IARS) Annual Meeting and International Science Symposium was aligned with the Society of Critical Care Anesthesiologists (SOCCA) and Association of University Anesthesiologists (AUA) Annual Meetings from May 16-20, 2019 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The 3rd Society for the Advancement of Transplant Anesthesia (SATA) Annual Meeting was also held in Montreal after the IARS/AUA/SOCCA meetings. Many faculty members, residents, fellows from our department will participate as abstract reviewers, moderators, presenters, and committee members at the meetings. Read more

An abstract by our T32 Postdoctoral Scholar Michael Schnetz, MD, PhD was selected as a Kosaka Best of Meeting Top Finalist at the 2019 IARS Annual Meeting and International Science Symposium:
“Response to Inhaled Anesthetics Measured by the Triple Variable Index Reveals Population-specific Patterns of Intraoperative Hypotension Exposure.” Authors: Michael Schnetz, Pritika Dasgupta, Douglas Landsittel, Harry Hochheiser, Keith M. Vogt, James W. Ibison, Steven Whitehurst, Aman Mahajan, #David Danks and #A. Murat Kaynar (#Contributed equally)

Michael also won an Association of University Anesthesiologists (AUA) Resident Travel Award for his abstract.

Read more

SCA 2019

Many faculty, fellows, and residents participated in the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists 41st Annual Meeting and Workshops, May 18-21, 2019 in Chicago, IL. Read more

DEPARTMENT-SPONSORED EVENT RECAP

2019 UPMC CRNA Conference

Our 2019 UPMC CRNA Conference held March 22 -March 24, 2019 at Nemacolin Woodlands Resort was a huge success. The event promoted professional collegiality and provided the opportunity for CRNAs to share techniques, review principles, learn about new changes within the field of nurse anesthesia, and earn continuing education credits. The conference “sold out” – every available seat was filled. The activities kicked off with opening remarks from Senior CRNA Director Toni Orsino, CRNA, MBA on days one and two and Executive Vice Chair/Vice Chair for Clinical Operations Mark E. Hudson, MD, MBA on day three. The conference speakers, including 17 CRNAs from our department, presented 18 lectures. Read more

MedTASS 2019

The department, in collaboration with our colleagues at the Mediterranean Institute for Transplantation and Advanced Specialized Therapies (IsMeTT), completed another successful MedTASS conference on April 5-6 in Palermo, Sicily. The biannual MedTASS (Mediterranean Transplant Anesthesia and Simulation Symposium) began in 2009, and 2019 marked the sixth symposium. The meeting was another great success. Over 120 people attended the event, overseen by Course Directors Antonio Arcadipane, MD and Raymond M. Planinsic, MD, FASA. Our Chair Aman Mahajan, MD, PhD, MBA delivered the Keynote Address and Drs. Planinsic, David Metro, and Shawn Beaman presented lectures. Simulation sessions and hands-on workshops were conducted with participation from IsMeTT and UPMC faculty. This meeting marked yet another great collaboration of our faculty from Pittsburgh and Palermo, strengthening our relationship for the exchange of education and research. Read more

2019 Safar Symposium and Multidepartmental Trainees’ Research Day

The 17th annual Safar Symposium and seventh annual Multi-Departmental Trainees’ Research Day was held on April 22-23, 2019. This yearly event honors the late Dr. Peter Safar and his wife Eva for their contributions to the scientific community and highlights current research in areas spanning Dr. Safar’s interests. The research day event is a collaboration between the Departments of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, Critical Care Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Neurological Surgery, and Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, as well as WISER. This year, we are proud to report that five trainees from our department won awards at the event!
The first place oral presentation award was given to Michael Schnetz, MD, PhD, a T32 postdoctoral scholar working with mentor Murat Kaynar, MD, MPH, presenting “Response to inhaled anesthetics as measured by the Triple Variable Index reveals population-level patterns of intraoperative hypotension exposure.” Joel Caporoso, PhD, a T32 postdoctoral scholar working with mentor Yan Xu, PhD won the second-place prize oral presentation award for his presentation “Non-Opioid Analgesics for the Treatment of Chronic Pain Targeting the Cannabinoid-Binding Site in Glycine Receptors.”

Andrew H. Cooper, PhD, postdoctoral associate in Dr. Bradley Taylor’s lab, won the Best Overall Poster Award among all the posters at the symposium for “Latent Pain Sensitization is Masked by u-Opioid Receptor Signaling in the Rostral Ventromedial Medulla and is Driven by Descending Serotonergic Facilitation.” Two trainees tied for the top Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine poster award. Shuai Liu, a visiting postdoctoral scholar working with mentor Li-Ming Zhang, MD, presented “Mechanical Ventilation with Moderate Tidal Volumes Aggravates Extrapulmonary Sepsis-induced Lung Injury via IL33-WISP1 Signaling Pathway” and Tyler Nelson, a graduate student in the Taylor lab, presented a poster titled “Facilitation of Neuropathic Pain Via NPY Y1 Receptor Activation in the Dorsal Horn.”

PARRC 2019

Along with the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Center for Continuing Education in the Health Sciences, we hosted the 14th Annual Pennsylvania Anesthesiology Resident Research Conference (PARRC) on May 4, 2019 at UPMC Passavant Cumberland Woods Village Legacy Theater Conference Center. PARRC is an annual forum for residents from programs across the state of Pennsylvania to present original research and case reports and win awards for the top presentations. This year marked the second time our department hosted the event after hosting PARRC 2014 at UPMC Shadyside. Read more

On Wednesday, April 17, 2019 Jan D. Smith, MBChB, FRCP(Lon) DTM&H, FACP presented a lecture about the history of the specialty of anesthesiology to our first-year residents in our classroom that was named and dedicated in his honor in 2013. The title of his lecture was “Anesthesia, Prominent Names, The Pittsburgh Connection, and Damn Lies - A Journey.” Bottom right photo: Dr. Smith with A. Murat Kaynar, MD, MPH
NEWSLETTER TO BE RENAMED

We want to hear your ideas!

We’re brainstorming to find a creative name for this newsletter and are soliciting ideas from department members, alumni, and supporters. Ideally, we would like the newsletter name to be related to the fields of anesthesiology and perioperative medicine. For inspiration, think about common phrases, names, places, and slang used in our industry. Memorable publication names sometimes also make use of rhyming, alliteration, and puns.

To submit a newsletter name idea for consideration, e-mail your suggestions to heinerc@upmc.edu by August 1, 2019.

Examples—other departments' publication names

Other Anesthesiology Departments
- UCLA - Open Circuit
- Duke - BluePrint

Other Departments/Programs at the University of Pittsburgh
- Dept. of Biomedical Informatics - Informatics Today
- Dept. of English - The Fifth Floor
- Dept. of Physical Medicine & Rehab - Rehab Progress
- Alzheimer Disease Research Center - ARDC Pathways

New Staff Join Department

Please join us in welcoming the following new staff joining our department since our last newsletter that went out in December 2018:

Faculty
Siamak Salavatian, PhD, Research Assistant Professor, Mahajan Lab

CRNAs
Julia Dixon-Ernst, UPMC Presbyterian
Amanda Ford, UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh
Anna Gombar, UPMC Presbyterian
Ashley Lynn Graff, UPMC St. Margaret
Carol Hundley, UPMC Mercy
Natalie Kerr, UPMC Passavant
Deborah A. Metzger, UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital
Lindsey McCormack, UPMC Presbyterian
Bradley Oglino, UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital
Stephanie Reim, UPMC Presbyterian
Abby L. Roach, UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh
Stephen A. Roach, UPMC Presbyterian
Gregory Romano, UPMC Passavant
Brianna G. Rompala, UPMC Presbyterian
Jeffrey C. Rompala, UPMC Presbyterian
Kyle Sheerin, UPMC Presbyterian
Whitney L. Simmons, UPMC Altoona
Chan M. Skiba, UPMC Presbyterian
Andrea St. Clair, UPMC Presbyterian
Michael J. Triglia, UPMC Jameson
Danielle Vincent, UPMC Presbyterian
Sarah J. Valor, UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh
Shawn M. West, UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh

Staff
Sunshine Barron, CRNP, Senior (Center for Perioperative Medicine)
Jessica Brown, CRNP, Chronic Pain (starting May 26)
Kim Dautrich, CRNP, Chronic Pain
Donna Flaherty, PA-C, Chronic Pain
Fei Gao, Lab Manager, Research IV (Mahajan Lab)
Michelle Herrem, Physician Assistant, Senior (Center for Perioperative Medicine)
Andrew Ho, Administrative Fellow, Surgical Services & Perioperative Medicine & Operations Manager, Center for Perioperative Care & Pre-Admissions at UPMC Presbyterian
Britni Kess, Business Analyst II (starting May 30)
Matthew Lacko, Financial Assistant (Research Administration)
Nicole Lukaszewicz, CRNP, Chronic Pain
Annmarie Lyons, MHA, Executive Administrator
Jennifer Seward, CRNP, Senior (Center for Perioperative Medicine)
Dane Sink, PA-C (Chronic Pain)
Dynelle Smith, Physician Assistant, Staff (Center for Perioperative Medicine)
Todd Wilkinson, Senior Clinical Data Analyst
Amy Witherspoon, Administrator III, Research Administration

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