



Chair's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the first 2017 edition of our newsletter. It is hard to believe we are already into the second month of the year. There is lots of news to share and new team members to welcome (pg. 10).

After a robust presence at the American Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting at Chicago in October 2016—where a record number of our residents and faculty presented their scholarly work—we dove right into the applicant interview season for our Residency Program. The rank list will be submitted on February 22nd and we look forward to the match results in March. My sincere thanks to the entire team that contributed to this effort.

Seeking with alignment and synergy with the patient care goals of the clinical system, we have finalized our department quality improvement plan for [this year](#). Many thanks to Dr. Spiro Spanakis for leading this effort – it will certainly be a team effort to achieve the goals we have set for ourselves.

I am delighted to announce the academic promotion of Dr. Shaheen Shaikh to the rank of Associate Professor of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine at the University of Massachusetts medical School-, an honor to be recognized by your peers for academic excellence and consistent scholarly productivity. Please join me in congratulating her for this wonderful achievement

Professional Development activities have been robust; our Department has held both ENLS (Emergency Neurological Life Support) and FATE (Focused Assessed Transthoracic Echocardiography) courses. The next ENLS Course will be April 11 ([info here](#)), and the next FATE course is being planned for November 2017. We have also had several team members participate in both ATLS and Lean White Belt Training.

We continue to build on research infrastructure that will provide the foundation for our ongoing scholarly work. We are proud to share that Dr. Jessica Darnobid, from our HealthAlliance team, had an article published in Advances in Anesthesia ([read here](#)). We are also excited to share that Dr. Matthias Walz had an article published in the Lancet ([read here](#)).

Continued on next page



Welcome New Team Members!

Read More on Pg. #10

Faculty:

Danielle Birmingham

Jessica Cox

Nicole Imbriale-Townsend

CRNA:

Mairead Coleman

Beverly Gonzalez-Arrieta

Artur Rozentsvit

Vladislav Troshin

SRNA:

Brittany Guilmet

Residency Administrator:

Cassie Tortorici (pg. 4)



*The Department of
Anesthesiology &
Perioperative
Medicine wishes you a
happy and healthy
2017!*

Chair's Message Continued

We are looking forward to welcoming on Dr. James Eisenach as the visiting professor to celebrate our graduating residents (visit date June 13/14 2017). Dr. Eisenach is currently the President and CEO of FAER and has just completed a 12 plus year tenure as the Editor-in-Chief of the Anesthesiology Journal.

It would be remiss to not mention two key things with the newsletter being published in the month of February. February is Women's Heart Health month and is also a month that marks Valentine's Day—a chance to thank our family, friends, and colleagues whose support & caring make it possible for us to excel in our professional lives.

Warm wishes for 2017,

Shubi Kaur

Patient Care

New Machines

- A new ultrasound machine for the Memorial Campus with three transducers was approved in December. The old machine was moved to the Hahnmann Campus. This allows us to perform comprehensive Point-Of-Care Ultrasound at all three Worcester campuses.
- We are in the process of acquiring the STIMPOD 450, which is a peripheral nerve stimulator. The plan is to get 3 units each month for each campus: Memorial and University. An in-service will be provided when we start getting these units. There is a unit at Memorial for trial. Please watch the training videos to learn more about the unit.

Radiation Badge Boards

Radiation badge boards were recently installed in the OR across from the CD's office at the University Campus for all Anesthesiology OR personnel. These boards will now house the current radiation badges. You will now pick them up from and return them to the boards at the end of the day so you know where they are at all times.

A box has also been placed in the CD's office for expired badges. Each badge is good for 3 months, so when it expires, place it in the box in the CD's office. Radiation Safety will come to retrieve the old badges from the box and any remaining expired badges from the board and will replace them with the new badges at the same time every 3 months.

The same process has been implemented at the Memorial Campus.

Patient Care Spotlight

Drs. Farajallah Habib and Nate Belt

After a horrific car accident on Christmas Eve, Thomas Reardon of Rutland is lucky to be alive.

After his father lost control of the vehicle due to severe solar glare and hit a tree, Thomas suffered several internal injuries, the worst being a tear in the largest vessel in his heart.

Thomas was taken to UMass Memorial Medical Center where he underwent a very complex surgery.

Drs. Farajallah Habib and Nate Belt were the anesthesiologists on the case. Together with surgeon Dr. Andres Schanzer, they performed the surgery that saved Thomas's life. Dr. Schanzer is one of only a few in the country who can perform this procedure.

For the whole story, visit: <http://cbsloc.al/2ibQuaZ>



Quality Improvement

In an effort to improve the Emergency Department to Operating Room handoff, this pilot study was implemented successfully at the Memorial Campus.

“Improving the Emergency Department to Operating Room Handoff”

University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center: Memorial Campus Departments of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, Surgical Oncology, Emergency Medicine, and Perioperative Nursing.

Thomas Levreault, MD; Laura Dube Cohen, DO; Jennifer LaFemina, MD; Alan Willis, RN MHA CNOR; Brooks Schloss, RN; David Tausevich, RN MSN CCRN CRNA; Jacob Tharpe, RN MSN CRNA

**Background: Emergency Department (ED) patients requiring urgent surgical operations in the Operating Room (OR) require rapid, accurate multidisciplinary assessment to ensure timely surgical intervention. This is critical to support favorable outcomes. Critical data such as laboratory/imaging results, history, allergies, and medication administration summaries are critical to the anesthesia provider in formulating an effective, timely plan of care. It was observed in our institution that frequently: ED patients arriving to the Holding Area (HA) urgently presented the following challenges and inadequacies:*

- 1.) Level A patients were arriving **without** medication administration printed records from the ED. This was noted to cause a **significant** delay in patients entering the OR as the anesthesia provider was then forced to launch a time-consuming inquiry to ascertain this and other important data. This inquiry consisted of trying to track down the ED RN via telephone, often with long hold times. Missing data on arrival included high risk/high impact medication administration records such as antibiotics, antiepileptics, thrombolytics, anticoagulants, beta antagonists, etc. Also, it was often unclear whether the patient had a blood bank sample sent, etc.
- 2.) ED proprietary software, known as PulseCheck, which summarizes critical ED patient data including medication administration records, is **NOT** currently accessible to anesthesia providers. This has been recognized as a serious systems dereliction during this project, however, it is hypothesized that EPIC implementation will solve this issue.
- 3.) **REPORT** from the ED RN, as per current protocol, is called to the OR RN, and was **NOT** consistently communicated to the anesthesia provider.

**(Note: the impetus for this project was initiated after a Dr. Jennifer LaFemina patient with acute abdomen/sepsis requiring urgent surgical intervention experienced a delay getting to the OR. Medication administration summary was not sent up with the patient, and myself and Dr. Laura Cohen spent at least 30 critical minutes trying to track down ED staff to ascertain whether or not antibiotics had been administered)*

Proposal: after discussion with key stakeholders including Mr. Brooks Schloss, ED Nurse Manager and Mr. Alan Willis, Perioperative Director, the following **changes** were proposed:

- 1.) **Report:** ED report will now be **called from the ED RN directly to an anesthesia provider**. The ED can call the OR desk and ask for the assigned anesthesia provider, obtain their mobile#, and give report directly.
- 2.) Such report will include medication administration summary.
- 3.) If continued problems occur in ascertaining ED medication administration summaries, we can explore the avenue of anesthesia providers being granted access to PulseCheck.

Anesthesia Team Appreciation

Ewa Hryniszyn, CRNA



I am writing this note on behalf of ECT team and patients to acknowledge an outstanding job Ewa Hryniszyn, CRNA had been doing. While being very thorough and thoughtful she is very efficient. Her professionalism, confidence and a charming smile comfort our patients immensely. She is a wonderful team player, always

offers support to others. Each morning she is with us is a joy for everybody.

We want to thank Ewa for all she is doing and you for giving us the opportunity to work with her.

*-From Dr. Tatyana Shteinlukht
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry*

Education

Residency Administration Team

Cassie Tortorici & Ben Williams

In the last year, there have been a few changes to our Residency Administration Team. Most recently, Cassie Tortorici has joined our department as the Residency Program Administrator. Before officially joining us, Cassie worked in Emergency Medicine, but spent a lot of time with us assisting with the Residency Program during interview season. Cassie will also be the administrator to our Critical Care Fellowship. She has joined Ben Williams, our Administrative Assistant to the Residency Program. Ben has been with us since the summer of 2016. He is also in charge of the rotating medical students. The two of them are going to work together to improve our program as it continues to grow. Any residency related questions or concerns can be directed to them. You can find them both in S2-713.



NEARC

This year, we are hosting the 11th annual New England Anesthesia Residents Conference (NEARC) here at UMass Medical School.

Important Dates and Deadlines:

Abstract submission deadline: Monday, February 6th, 2017, 5pm
Emails sent to accepted abstracts by: Tuesday, February 21st, 2017, 5pm
Conference Date: Saturday, March 18th 2017, 8 AM – 3:30 PM

[Click here](#) to visit the NEARC page on our website, where you can also find the abstract submission guidelines.

Wellness Curriculum

Chief Resident Jen Evansmith has put a lot of effort into our new Wellness Curriculum. This was something she began working on last year to improve morale and decrease burnout. Jen, along with Dr. Lucas, have had an abstract accepted for presentation at the *Innovations in Medical Education Conference* titled: “Wellness Curriculum and Burnout Study”. Because of Jen’s hard work, wellness has also come to the top of the ACGME's priorities and this year she and Dr. Lucas will have to give a report about our curriculum to Dr. DeMarco's office.

iCELS Simulation

On December 21, our CA-1 and CA-2 residents participated in an Simulation in iCELS. They were learning how to respond to emergency neurological situations, such as a stroke.



GME Approves Anesthesiology Intern Expansion

Dr. Tanya Lucas, Residency Program Director



The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education requires that Anesthesiology residents complete an internship, also known as a post-graduate year-1 (PGY-1), prior to beginning their training in an Anesthesiology department. A full year of Internal Medicine or Surgery will fulfill this requirement but most will complete a Transitional year consisting of rotations on Medicine, Surgery, ICU, Emergency Medicine and one month of Anesthesiology. Most medical students desire a transitional year associated with the Anesthesiology program they will enter. This allows for integration into the institution and the Anesthesiology Department during the internship and only one relocation.

Fortunately, the Anesthesiology Residency Program here at UMass began offering a Transitional Internship in 2009 for 2 of the 8 residents in each class. That increased by 2 each year to our current level of 6 of our 8 residents completing their internship at our institution. A recent goal of the Education Team has been to increase the internship class and get all 8 of our Anesthesiology residents at UMass for their first year. In December we learned that the Medical School and the GME approved the expansion!

Having all 8 interns at UMass will allow us to create specific curriculum for them. In fact this year we will have all the interns within our department not only for the month of June in the operating room but also during February to begin training in Perioperative Medicine (more on this in the next Newsletter). We will move the CA-1 Simulation Boot Camp to June so the brand new CA-1s can start in the ORs earlier. This expansion will also give us an advantage in the Match as medical students find these integrated positions more desirable. Thanks to all who made this happen, especially Dean Flotte and Dean DeMarco!

2017 Interview Season Complete

Cassie Tortorici, Residency Program Administrator

On Wednesday January 11, the Education Team completed its final round of resident interviews for the season. Since late October, 118 candidates from all over the world were interviewed for the available 7 Intern and 1 CA-1 spot in the program. We have begun meeting to determine our rank order and on March 13 we will get the first results from the Match.



The interview season is long and has a lot of moving parts to it. The entire department, not just the Education Team, got involved making sure everything ran smoothly and the department was well represented. The interviews were held on Wednesdays with a morning and afternoon session, broken up with lunch and a talk with Dr. Kaur in between. On Tuesday evenings before the interview day, a dinner was held to give the candidates an opportunity to meet with some of the residents and faculty members in an informal setting. We felt that this was important to make the entire process less stressful and overwhelming for the candidates.

The mornings began at 9 am with presentations from Dr. Walz, Dr. Lucas, and one of the chief residents. At 10 am, the candidates began their interviews. Four faculty members and one senior resident interviewed the six candidates for 15 minutes each. Once the interviews were done, another resident took all 12 of the candidates on a quick tour before lunch. After lunch, all the candidates were given the opportunity to meet with Dr. Kaur. After this meeting, the morning session candidates left and the process started all over again for the afternoon session. Once the afternoon candidates left for the day, all the interviewers sat down to review and compare notes of who they interviewed that day.

The whole day is a long one for the interviewers and the Education Team. There is a lot of precise planning, organizing, and hard work that goes on in the background to make the day as streamlined as possible. Since I only arrived to the department in the middle of October, I was not a part of the pre-planning process for the interview season. Ben Williams and Lisa Nicholson did a great job getting things ready so once I was brought on I was able to hit the ground running. Many candidates that participated in the process complimented the team on how well-oiled the whole process was and how it made the day less daunting and much more relaxed. It was stressful and hectic at times, but I did enjoy it and learned so much and am very much looking forward to the process starting up again this fall!

Visiting Professor—Mitchell Tsai, MD

On January 4, we had a guest lecture from Mitchell Tsai, MD, MMM, Associate Professor, Dept. of Anesthesiology, Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation, University of VT College of Medicine. His lecture was titled: "Designing Self-Governing Processes".

He had our residents participate in a team building activity, "The Marshmallow Challenge". Residents were split into groups of 5, and were given 18 minutes to build the tallest free-standing structure using the materials supplied: 1 yard of string, 1 yard of masking tape, 20 pieces of spaghetti and 1 marshmallow.



Education

5th Annual Astrid E. Liland, MD Distinguished Lectureship in Anesthesiology



This year's lecture will be presented by Beverly Khnie Philip, M.D., a Professor of Anesthesia at

Harvard University and Founding Director of the Day Surgery Unit at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, MA.

The lecture will be held during Grand Rounds on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 from 7:00 – 8:00 AM in Amphitheater II.

For more information on the annual lectureship and Dr. Philip, download the lecture program [here](#).

BLS Recertification

Pat McCowan will be holding BLS Recertification sessions at the Hahnemann Campus from 7-8AM on the following dates:

Wednesday, 3/8

Wednesday, 3/15

Wednesday, 3/22

If your certification is due to expire soon, please try to attend one of these sessions.

Professional Development

ENLS Course



After the success of the first ENLS (Emergency Neurological Life Support) course in March of 2016, Shaheen Shaikh, MD, Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine, and Susanne Muehlschlegel, MD, MPH, Department of Neurology, again offered an ENLS course at the Medical School. The ENLS course, designed to help health care professionals improve patient care and outcomes during the critical first hours of a patient's neurological emergency, is designated for up to 15 continuing education hours. The course was held on Wednesday, October 5th, 2016 at University Campus.

Another ENLS course has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2017, from 8:00am-5:00pm. [Click here](#) to download course flier, which includes registration information.

FATE Course

FATE Ultrasound is the fastest, most efficient way to build proficiency in transthoracic echocardiography. Dr. Erik Sloth, founder of the FATE protocol, has led workshops in ultrasound throughout the world, but this was the first time he and his team from Denmark had led a combined Basic and Advanced FATE workshop in the United States. The Basic and Advanced courses were held on December 8th and 9th, respectively. All of our CA-2 Residents completed Basic FATE. We had faculty complete both Basic and Advanced. We also had attendees from all over the country. We are already planning the 3rd annual event for sometime in November 2017.



New Roles and Responsibilities

Dr. Gus Angaramo served on the Committee on Educational and Scientific Exhibits 2015-2016

Dr. Laura Cohen has been appointed to Associate Director of Obstetric Anesthesia

Dr. Eleanor Duduch has been appointed to Director of Anesthesia Services for the Cardiac Catheterization and EP Lab

Dr. Layla Fakhrzadeh has been appointed to Associate Site Chief at the Memorial Campus

Dr. Aaron Scott has been appointed to Associate Critical Care Fellowship Director

Dr. Shaheen Shaikh has been appointed to Associate Professor of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine

Dr. Sara Shekar has been appointed to Liaison Lead Anesthesiologist for our Generalists Team

Dr. Matt Stebulis has been appointed to Director of 3rd and 4th Year Medical Students



ASA 2016—Chicago

A record number of our residents and faculty presented at ASA this year, including 7 of our CA-3 Residents. We also held our second annual Alumni Reception, for past and present faculty and alumni to get together. See you next year in Boston! [Click here](#) to see all pictures!



Presentations & Publications

The Perioperative Implications of New Weight Loss Drugs.
Darnobid JA, Jones SB. *Advances in Anesthesia* 34
(1) · September 2016. DOI: 10.1016/j.aan.2016.07.001

A ten-year review of total hospital onset intensive care unit bloodstream infections at an Academic Medical Center. Civitarese, A.; Ruggieri, E.; Walz, JM; Mack, DA; Heard, SO; Mitchell, M.; Lilly, C.; Landry, K.; Ellison, R. *CHEST* 2017, accepted.

Early, goal-directed mobilisation in the surgical intensive care unit: a randomised controlled trial. Schaller SJ, Anstey M, Blobner M, Edrich T, Grabitz SD, Gradwohl-Matis I, Heim M, Houle T, Kurth T, Latronico N, Lee J, Meyer MJ, Peponis T, Talmor D, Velmahos GC, Waak K, Walz JM, Zafonte R, Eikermann M; International Early SOMS-guided Mobilization Research Initiative. *Lancet*. 2016 Oct 1;388 (10052):1377-1388. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(16)31637-3.

Faris K, Heard S, Longtine J, et al: Anesthesiology intensivist-led perioperative surgical home: a quality assurance pilot, Research Snapshot Presentation, SCCM 2017.

Senior Projects

Nate Belt - Ultrasound Guided Identification of Cricothyroid Membrane

Yoonyie Cho - Impact of Organ and Tissue Donations

Jen Evansmith - Multi-Modal Wellness: Developing a Program to Study and Reduce Resident Burnout

Josh Finkel - Enhanced Recovery for Thoracic Surgery

Scott Jeannes - Pediatric Peripheral Nerve Blocks: A Review of the Literature and Establishment of Guidelines

Melissa Lamrissi - Endotracheal tube (ETT) exchange using exchange catheter and Glidescope

Aimee Reilly - Multi-modal Approach to Cancer Pain Management

Carlo Petrillo - Femoral Vs Adductor Canal Nerve Blocks: A Literature Review of Current Analgesic Modalities



Research

Research Studies that have anesthesia MD's involved:

1. A Multi-Center, Randomized, Open-Label, Comparative Study to Assess the Safety and Efficacy of a Treatment Algorithm to Reduce the Use of Vancomycin in Adult Patients with Blood Stream Infections due to Staphylococci

Sponsor: NIH

UMass PI: Jennifer Daly, MD

Anesthesia involvement:

Dr. Heard-Role: Sub-investigator

Karen, Jaclyn and Melissa are the research nurse/coordinators for the study.

We enrolled 10 subjects at UMass. Closed to enrollment

2. A Randomized Double-Blind, Placebo-controlled, sequential Parallel Comparison design (SPCD) study of Intravenous Sodium Nitroprusside in Adults with Symptomatic Schizophrenia

Sponsor: Massachusetts General Hospital

The Stanley Medical Research Institute

UMass PI: Xiaoduo Fan, MD

Anesthesia involvement:

Dr. Heard, Dr. Walz, Dr. Angaramo, Dr. Faris, Dr. Scott and Dr. Aponte- Role: Co-investigator

Karen, Jaclyn and Melissa are the research nurse/coordinators overseeing the two study drug infusions per patient conducted in the SACU area.

We infused 14 subjects at UMass. Closed to enrollment.

REAcT Announcement

A multidisciplinary group under the leadership of Dr Zayaruzny, Director for Medical Simulation in the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine was awarded \$20,000 in December as part of the Carl Akins Risk Management Grant Program. Together with his collaborators (Dr. Ulises Torres, Dr. Spiro Spanakis, Dr. J. Matthias Walz, Dr. Taryn Kennedy, and Eric Cucchi PA-C) Dr Zayaruzny will develop a task force (REAcT: RCA Education and Action Team) comprising members of various stakeholder departments and professions such as RNs and advance practice nurses (CRNAs, NPs) with expertise in adult health care education. The group will be charged with designing and implementing educational activities throughout the entirety of UMMHC using high-fidelity simulation. Such a task force can liaise with appropriate existing committees and departments, as well as nursing units and Risk Management office, and serve as a centralized repository of Root Cause Analysis-based training efforts.



Welcome to the Team

Faculty



Danielle is well known to all of us as she completed her Residency in our department. She is coming to us from the University of California, Davis Health System, Sacramento, CA where she has completed her Fellowship in Pediatric Anesthesiology.

Dr. Jessica Cox has joined the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine as an Assistant Professor on November 28, 2016. Dr. Cox completed her Residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA.



Dr. Nicole Imbriale-Townsend has joined the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine as an Assistant Professor on October 15, 2016. Dr. Imbriale-Townsend completed her Residency at the Allegheny Health Network, Pittsburgh, PA.

CRNA



Mairead Coleman, CRNA, joined our department on November 7, 2016. Mairead is a graduate of the University of New England, Portland ME. She received his Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Worcester State University, Worcester, MA. You may recognize Mairead as she did her clinical rotation here at UMass Memorial Medical Center from January 2015 to February 2016.

Beverly Gonzales-Arrieta, CRNA, joined our department on December 12, 2016. Beverly is a graduate of St. Joseph's School of Anesthesia for Nurses, North Providence, RI. She received her BSN at the Philippine Christian University, Mary Johnston College of Nursing. She has been practicing as a full time locum CRNA since 2015.



Vladislav Troshin, CRNA, joined our department on October 24, 2016. Vlad is a graduate of Midwestern University, Glendale AZ. He received his Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the College of Our Lady of the Elms in Chicopee, MA. and completed his clinical rotations at five different clinical settings ranging from Level I Trauma centers to community hospitals.

Artur Rozentsvi, CRNA, joined our department on January 23, 2017. Artur is a graduate of Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island Nurse Anesthesia, Pawtucket, RI. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing at Adelphi University, Garden City, NY.



CELEBRATE!

Department Welcome Celebration—October 21st



Department Social Gathering—January 12th



CELEBRATE!

ASA Alumni Reception and Department Dinner—October



Farewell Party for Dr. Rebecca Zanconato



Paint Night—December 7th



Charity Within the Department



Toy Drive

This holiday season, Alicia Grimaldo, CRNA, organized a toy drive within our department for Pernet Health Family Services of Worcester. Founded in 1968, Pernet Family Health Services is a neighborhood-based, home health and service agency serving poor families in the Worcester county area. Gigi Dixson, CRNA, helped organize the collection of toys at the Memorial Campus. The toy drive was a huge success. Thank you again to everyone who donated.

Coats for Kids

Every winter, Susan St. Martin organizes a Coats for Kids drive for the department. This drive collects winter coats for kids of all ages through the Worcester Educational Development Foundation. Thank you to everyone who donated!



Department Celebration

Congratulations to several members of our department on their recent or upcoming retirement:

Dr. John Pullerits, Dr. Brian Hennessy, Dr. Anil Vyas,
Ms. Martha Sampson, and Mr. David Capite.

May you enjoy your years of retirement after a lifetime of hard work!

We also want to wish Dr. Rebecca Zanconato good luck as she takes on a new opportunity.

SAVE THE DATE

We are planning a Departmental social event to honor our colleagues on this exciting new chapter of their lives. It will be held on Friday, March 31, at Dr. Sudershan Singla's Residence in Southborough. Please save the date and look out for more details in an e-vite.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Department Newsletter.

Next issue to be released in April and feature content from January-March.

Send feedback or content for our next issue to:

[Dr. Rana Badr](#) or [Ashley King](#)

Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine

UMass Medical School