

EDITOR'S NOTE

Our Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine is not running out of news. Far from it. It is very easy to fill three newsletters per year just keeping readers up to date.

In this issue we congratulate the Director of the Department's Human Simulator Center, John Schaefer, who recently received a Laerdal Foundation grant of nearly \$1 million to develop the Center into a premier facility within this field. It will be named in honor of Dr. Peter Winter, who in 1995, as Chairman, initiated this activity by providing the Department with one of the nation's first human simulators.

We also congratulate Ann Thompson on her inauguration as President of SCCM. This Society is now 30 years old and has grown to a membership of almost 10,000.

We also welcome our new Executive Administrator, Steve Brown. Steve succeeds Bob Johnson, who has returned to Baltimore, his former hometown.

A number of additional faculty members have distinguished themselves in various ways, as you will note from the number of stories on the pages within. Several other newsworthy events were about to happen just at press-time, but report on these must be postponed until the Summer 2001 edition. Look for it in July.

Until then, we wish you pleasant reading and a nice, most welcome spring, perhaps the best part of the year in our lovely livable city of Pittsburgh.

Tuus,
Ake Grenvik, MD, Editor

Laerdal Grant Widens Scope of Simulation Center

The Department of Anesthesiology & Critical Care Medicine is establishing an institute dedicated to medical education and educational research using advanced instructional technology and focusing on the use of interactive human simulators.



The Department's Simulation Center will expand its impact as it grows into an Institute with a grant from the Laerdal Foundation. John J. Schaefer III, MD (second from right) is Principal Investigator under the grant and will be Director of the new Institute.

Supported in large part by a new grant of nearly one million dollars from the Asmund S. Laerdal Foundation for Acute Medicine, the Department of Anesthesiology & Critical Care Medicine is establishing an institute dedicated to medical education and educational research using advanced instructional

technology and focusing on the use of interactive human simulators. Dr. **John J. Schaefer**, Director of the Department's Human Simulation Center, and principal investigator under the grant, will serve as the new institute's director. Under its proposed title, the Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation,

Education, and Research (WISER), the new institute will be a major expansion of the Department's Human Simulation Center.

Simulation is a well-established training tool that has been used for decades in a number of industries, notably aviation, space flight, and the military.

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John Schaefer MD
Patrick Kocbanek MD
Ake Grenvik MD
Leonard Firestone MD

In the early 1990s, under the visionary leadership of then-Chairman Dr. **Peter M. Winter**, this Department took the lead in applying simulation to medical training. It acquired a human simulator and all needed accessories, including computers, monitors, and video equipment. A few faculty members participated in developing curricula to take full advantage of the Simulation Center, and Dr. Schaefer — along with former faculty member Rene Gonzales, MD — developed a portable and more affordable simulator designed to simulate a patient with difficult airway.

The Department makes extensive use of the existing facility. According to Dr. **Rita Patel**, Director of Anesthesiology Educational Programs, the simulator is used in the Anesthesiology Residency, Fellowship, and Medical Student programs, including the third-year mandatory Anesthesiology Clerkship. And Dr. **Paul Rogers**, Director of the Multidisciplinary Critical Care Training Program, has incorporated simulation-based training into the MCCTP's curriculum, to develop technical competency in resuscitation procedures and difficult airway management, and leadership skills in complex crisis situations.

The Center is already utilized by other departments as well, including Surgery and Emergency Medicine, and by the School of Nursing. "Crew training" across disciplines and professions is crucial to achieving and maintaining the kind of teamwork necessary in a crisis situation. The multidisciplinary and multiprofessional use of the facility is welcomed and supported by the University of Pittsburgh Physicians (UPP), UPMC, the School of Medicine, and the School of Nursing.

The use of simulation is repeatedly referenced by the Institute of Medicine in its work *To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System*. The book is the result of a recent study by the IOM documenting the alarming number of deaths and other negative outcomes associated

with medical errors, and recommending — among other things — training exercises using simulation as preventive medicine. As a reflection of the simulator's potential in this area, an exhibit entitled "Simulation Training in Applying the ASA Difficult Airway Algorithm" earned the First Place Award: Best Scientific Exhibit in Patient Safety, of the Ellison C. Pierce Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation. The authors of the exhibit were Dr. Schaefer, faculty colleagues Drs. **Randy Wood** and **David Metro**, and Dr. Rene Gonzalez. The award was presented during last year's Annual Meeting of the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

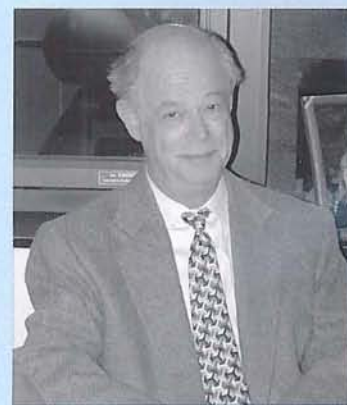
The Laerdal grant will allow the Simulation Center to expand its scope considerably. The grant was made possible

because of the longstanding collaboration and cooperation between the Laerdal Foundation and the Department of Anesthesiology & Critical Care Medicine over the past four decades, a relationship established between Asmund Laerdal, the founding Chairman of the Foundation, and **Peter Safar**, MD the founding chairman of this Department. In addition, **Ake Grenvik**, MD, Distinguished Service Professor of Critical Care Medicine, has served on the Foundation's Board of Directors for more than 20 years.

Dr. Grenvik is also chairman of the Department's Fundraising Committee. That committee's mandate to establish a fitting tribute to the legacy of Dr. Winter's educational and research efforts led to intense negotiations among the current chairman of the Foundation,



Over the past four decades, former Anesthesiology Department Chairman Peter Safar, right, has worked closely with the Asmund S. Laerdal Foundation for Acute Medicine. He is pictured here with Tore Laerdal, son of the late Asmund S.



Under the leadership of then-Chairman Dr. Peter M. Winter, this Department took the lead in applying simulation to medical training.

Tore Laerdal (son of the late founder, Asmund), Dr. Schaefer, and Dr. Grenvik. The outcome was a successful grant application. The Department of Anesthesiology & Critical Care Medicine is also lending substantial support to the new institute through the use of existing resources and annual operational support.

Dr. Grenvik is Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the new institute. Safar Professor and Department Chairman **Leonard Firestone**, MD holds a place on this Committee, as does **Patrick Kochanek**, MD, Director of the Safar Center for Resuscitation Research. Steven Kanter, MD, Senior Associate Dean of the School of Medicine, and Ellen Rudy, RN, PhD, Dean of the School of Nursing, are also represented on this committee, along with Dr. Schaefer.

Negotiations are underway with UPMC for a suitable facility to house the new institute, which, in accordance with the wishes of the grantor, will be associated with of the Safar Center for Resuscitation Research.

Dr. Thompson Inaugurated President of SCCM

Ann E. Thompson, MD joins a lengthening line of faculty members from the University of Pittsburgh Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine who have been elected to serve as President of the Society of Critical Care Medicine, or who were founding members of the Society — or both. Drs. **Peter Safar**, **Peter Winter**, and **Ake Grenvik** are founding members. Drs. Safar and Grenvik are also past presidents of the Society. The Division has trained its share of SCCM's VIPs as well, with former CCM Fellow John Hoyt, MD and former Pediatric CCM Fellow Peter Holbrook also having served as SCCM Presidents.

The Society had its beginnings in Los Angeles, California in 1970, when 29 physicians, all with a major interest in the treatment of critically sick and injured patients, met to discuss the creation of an association dedicated to meeting the needs of those patients. The SCCM has devoted itself to an intensivist-led, multi-professional team approach in all of its activities, according to Dr. Thompson. Although the Society is "physician-led," it espouses not only a multidisciplinary (anesthesiology,

Patient care in an ICU is often fast-paced and highly technological. But as the newly inaugurated President of the Society of Critical Care Medicine, Ann Thompson, MD would like to share her vision of the importance of the human side of the practice of critical care medicine.



medicine, pediatrics, surgery) but a truly multi-professional style, embracing critical care professionals from the fields of nursing, respiratory therapy, pharmacy, and research (from studies of emergency transport services down to biochemical studies at the cellular and molecular level). As evidence of the multi-professionalism of the group, Dr. Thompson notes that a critical care nurse, Maureen Harvey, will succeed her and become the first non-physician SCCM President.

Those Society members and intensivists who have worked diligently over the past three decades to win recognition for their subspecialty are vindicated today by data from studies demonstrating that having an intensivist manage patients' care accounts for a threefold reduction in ICU mortality.

"These are rigorous, high-quality studies," says Dr. Thompson. "In general, people don't know who we are or what we do. But the data is accumulating that what we do truly matters. I would like to take that information and make it known to the average person. At some time in their lives, 80% of Americans will have a brush with an intensive-care situation, either for themselves or for a loved one. And they should know that the outcome will be better — that the patient has a much better chance of survival — if an intensivist is involved in their care."

Dr. Thompson also notes that even buyers of health care have taken notice of the importance of critical care medicine, citing the increasing number who have observed

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Dr. Peter Davis Ascends to SPA Presidency

Peter J. Davis, MD was inaugurated President of the Society for Pediatric Anesthesia at the SPA's Annual Meeting, held last October in San Francisco. He had served as the Society's Secretary for two years prior to becoming President-elect in 1998 and will serve a two-year term as President.

Board certified by the American Board of Anesthesiology as well as the American Board of Pediatrics, Dr. Davis sees himself as both pediatrician and anesthesiologist. "Our role is to be advocates for our pediatric patients," he says. "It's our job to help get children through a difficult time — to assist them throughout the OR experience and to help manage postoperative pain."

The mission of the Society for Pediatric Anesthesia reflects many of Dr. Davis' goals. The SPA exists to foster the development of pediatric anesthesia through research and education, and to strengthen the subspecialty's influence in the medical-political arena through advocacy — with the collaborative effort of the anesthesiology section of the American Academy of Pediatrics — and through dialogue.

Beyond caring for individual patients and fostering the growth of pediatric anesthesiology, Dr. Davis has an interest in the subspecialty's political and advocacy issues, such as ensuring that the standards and laws governing the pharmaceutical industry and drug development are applied appropriately to children as well as to adults.



As pediatrician and anesthesiologist, Peter J. Davis, MD, sees his role as that of advocate for pediatric patients. Dr. Davis is Anesthesiologist in Chief at Children's Hospital.

In addition to his position as Anesthesiologist in Chief at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Dr. Davis is also Director of the Pediatric Anesthesiology Fellowship program. He is a Professor of Pediatrics and Anesthesiology & Critical Care Medicine, a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and he has served on the

Academy's Executive Committee for the Section on Anesthesia. He is a member of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the Association of University Anesthesiologists, and the Pennsylvania Society of Anesthesiologists, and he has served on the Board of Directors of the Society for Office Based Anesthesia.

(continued from page 3) that improved outcome in the ICU is one of the best ways to save health-care dollars.

Dr. Thompson's inauguration took place during the SCCM's 30th International Educational and Scientific Symposium, which was held Feb. 10-14 in San Francisco. The theme for this year's Symposium was "Critical Care: Blending Science and Compassion." She says that she feels almost as if the Society chose that theme with her in mind, since it so closely reflects her own perspective of critical care medicine.

"I love the mix of fast-paced, complex and highly technological care, combined with the opportunity to support patients and families through what is necessarily one of the most difficult and frightening periods in their lives. Over the past twenty years the science has become more and more interesting, the opportunity to intervene successfully much greater,

and the chance to share patients' and families' hopes, fears, joy, or sorrow such a privilege, I cannot imagine better work."

Dr. Thompson interposes another perspective on the element of compassion in critical care medicine: "Many of the ethical problems that we encounter are encountered because people fear not being listened to, or — in fact — have not been listened to," she says. As President, she would like to convey to the Society her vision of the importance of that human side, and she feels that many ethical and legal problems would not arise if practitioners would listen more attentively to patients and their families.

Dr. Thompson is Professor of Pediatrics and Anesthesiology & Critical Care Medicine, Director of Pediatric Intensive Care at Children's Hospital, and Director of the Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Fellowship Training Program.

New Sponsored Projects September 2000 – February 2001 (does not include ongoing projects)

FEDERAL GRANTS				
Faculty Member	Role on the Project	Agency Name/Agency Grant Number	Project Title	Project Period
T. Rudy	PI	NIH (1-P50-HL65112-02)	Understanding Shared Psychobiological Pathways – Project 2	09/01/00 - 08/31/01
M. Pinsky	PI	NIH (5-T32-HL07820-05)	Experimental Therapeutics in Critical Illness	09/01/00 - 8/31/01
P. Kochanek	PI	NIH (1-T32-HD40686-01)	Training in Pediatric Neurointensive Care and Resuscitation Research	09/25/00 - 04/30/01
M. Fink	PI	DARPA (N65236-00-1-5434)	Ringer's Ethyl Pyruvate Solution (REPS) as a Countermeasure for Overwhelming Infections Caused by Unconventional Pathogens	09/29/01 - 09/28/02
P. Linden	PI	NIH (N01-HR-16152)	Clinical Centers for the Clinical Network for the Treatment of Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome	10/31/00 - 01/31/02

FOUNDATION GRANTS				
Faculty Member	Role on the Project	Agency Name/Agency Grant Number	Project Title	Project Period
G. Clermont	PI	Society of Critical Care Medicine Founders Grant	The Impact of ICU Physician Staffing Patterns on Outcome and Resource Use	07/01/00 - 06/30/01
F. Gyulai	PI	International Anesthesia Research Society Clinical Scholar Research Award	Anesthetic Mechanisms by <i>in vivo</i> Human Brain Imaging	01/01/00 - 12/31/01
D. Marcus	PI	The Raymond and Elizabeth Bloch Foundation (UPP Account)	Cause, Treatment, and Possible Cure for Pain Caused by, for example, Migraine Headaches	01/01/00 - 01/01/01
A. Rotondi	PI	The Federation of Independent School Alumni	Identification of Needs of Those with a Traumatic Brain Injury and their Families	09/01/00 - 08/31/01
C. Sirio	PI	American Heart Association (PA/DE Affiliate) Grant-In-Aid Award (Agency # 0051048U)	Evaluating Outcomes, Treatment Patterns, and Cost of Care for AMI Patients Using a Statewide Database	07/01/00 - 06/30/02

Faculty Members Write On

Last year was one of prolific publication for Department faculty, yielding several major textbooks, more than 40 book chapters, nearly 70 peer-reviewed articles, and over 100 published abstracts, plus numerous additional works including invited papers, editorials, and letters to the editor in leading scientific journals. A complete bibliography is too lengthy to print here, but the following is a list of peer-reviewed articles authored or co-authored by Anesthesiology/CCM faculty during Academic Year 2000.

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Block BM, **Sirio CA**, Cooper GS, DiGiuseppe DL, Rosenthal GE. Use of intensive care-specific interventions in major teaching and other hospitals: a regional comparison. *Crit Care Med* 28(4):1204-7, 2000.

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Dr. Michael DeVita Focuses on Medical Ethics

Ethical dilemmas not imagined twenty years ago will continue to be facts of life — and death — in the 21st century. Nowhere is this more apparent than in health care, and, within the hospital, nowhere more charged with emotion than in the critical care setting. Hospitals have responded to the need to deal with issues such as advance directives, termination of life support, and organ donation, by employing professionally trained ethicists and by forming committees to address these questions.

Michael DeVita, MD has devoted a good deal of his professional life to these and other such concerns. He has been involved with the Medical Center's ethics initiatives since 1990, as an associate of the University's Center for Medical Ethics and as Chairman of the Medical Ethics Committee at UPMC, initially as co-Chairman with Dr.

James Snyder of the Division of Critical Care Medicine.

The University of Pittsburgh has been a pathfinder in the field of medical ethics. Drs. DeVita and Snyder chaired the Ethics Committee that wrote the nation's first formal policy on non-heartbeating organ

donation. After its publication in 1992, the greater-Western-Pennsylvania area's organ procurement organization (OPO), the Center for Organ Recovery and Education (CORE), followed suit and became the first OPO to articulate a policy on non-heartbeating donors. About 50% of OPOs currently have similar written guidelines.

Another interest of Dr. DeVita is the place of palliative care in an intensive care environment. He spoke at a Palliative Care Grand Rounds offered last October by Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland at Baltimore on the topic of "Palliative Care in the Critical Care Setting." Dr. DeVita believes that palliative and curative medicine are not mutually exclusive treatment goals.

The issue of quality end-of-life care is another priority for Dr. DeVita. He points out that because of the acuity of injury or illness afflicting patients admitted to intensive care units, a disproportionate percentage die there. Yet there is ample evidence that end-of-life-care in many ICUs does not meet current standards for this purpose. Care in an ICU is focused so sharply on saving life that there can be a blindness to how patients fare at death. In the area where

"Often patients cannot remain in control of end-of-life planning. People should not die alone or in pain."

— Dr. Michael DeVita



mortality is highest, Dr. DeVita says, death gets the least attention.

"People should not die alone or in pain," he says. "Patients and their families are often not given all of the information they need, and often patients cannot remain in control of end-of-life planning. There are gaps in care, and we want to change that."

But Dr. DeVita also believes that there is an education gap. One of the shortcomings of medical education is the lack of training in the psychosocial aspects of medicine and nursing. "We don't teach physicians and nurses how to talk to patients and families, and that is a lot more difficult than mastering technical proficiency."

So Dr. DeVita (along with MCCTP Director **Paul Rogers, MD** and UPMC Director of

Palliative Care **Robert Arnold, MD** of Internal Medicine) developed a curriculum and initiated a rotation in palliative care within the Critical Care Medicine Fellowship program. During this rotation Fellows attend to patients in the hospice setting so that they can become familiar with symptoms, treatments, and psychosocial issues common in dying patients. "Hopefully, they will apply this experience in the ICU," says Dr. DeVita.

Dr. DeVita was the 1998 recipient of the Christer Grenvik Memorial Award of the Society for Critical Care Medicine, recognizing "outstanding contributions" to the field of ethics in critical care medicine. He has served on the SCCM Ethics Committee since 1993, and he chaired that committee in 1996-97. He is also the current Chairman of the Christer Grenvik Award Committee.

Department Welcomes New Executive Administrator

The Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine welcomes **Stephen F. Brown** to the office of executive administrator. Steve joined the Department in January 2001, coming directly from the Department of Pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, where he had been administrator since 1993. His move to Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine came when he was ready for another professional challenge. In terms of faculty membership the two departments are roughly equal in size, but the Department of Anesthesiology/CCM is fiscally much larger.

"I'm well aware of the achievements and international standing that this Department holds, and I hope to help sustain and even enhance that standing," he says. "I applaud Dr. Firestone and the entire Department for their incredible successes over the years. I recognize the enormity of that achievement in this challenging health care environment."

"I'm well aware of the achievements and international standing that this Department holds, and I hope to help sustain and even enhance that standing."

— Stephen F. Brown



Steve's background is in accounting and finance, including more than 20 years experience in health care finance and administration. He came to know the faculty of the Department of Pediatrics in the early 1990s, while he was Assistant Vice President for Finance at CHP. After three years in that position, he was approached by some of those physicians and asked to serve as their department's administrator.

Of the time he spent at Children's, Steve recalls, "It was a wonderful period for me, personally and professionally. I saw a very sound

department become even stronger. I fell in love with the faculty in the Department of Pediatrics. We are very fortunate in Pittsburgh to have such a place as Children's Hospital. I believe the cornerstone of this great hospital is the faculty. And so it was a privilege to serve them both."

Whether referring to Pediatrics or Anesthesiology & Critical Care Medicine, Steve enjoys most the challenge of supporting a department in a world-class health system that is striving for excellence in clinical care and academics. He is extremely impressed

with the achievements of the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine in this regard.

Although Steve is a native of New Jersey, he has lived in Pittsburgh for many years and now considers himself to be a Pittsburgher. He met his wife, Deanna, at Children's Hospital where she was a specialty nurse. The proud father of four, Steve feels that his children are his "greatest achievement," and that Pittsburgh is a wonderful place to live and to raise a family.

Steve is grateful for the warm reception he has received in the Department and would like to thank faculty and staff for their kindness and generosity in taking time to help him make a smooth transition into his new role. Steve replaces former Executive Administrator Robert Johnson, MBA, who recently returned to Baltimore



Peter Safar MD
Samuel Tisherman MD
Rita Patel MD
Carol Rose MD
Shekhar Venkataraman MD
John Kellum MD

Faculty News Briefs

Peter Safar, MD, Distinguished Professor of Resuscitation Medicine, gave the CF Reynolds Medical History Society Lecture at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in February. His presentation, entitled "On Resuscitation Medicine: 1000-2000 C.E.," covered the history of resuscitation research and medicine from its origins before the turn of the Twentieth Century to its future. The lecture attracted a large and interested audience in the medical school.

Dr. Samuel Tisherman has been accepted into the Surgical Educational Research Fellowship (SERF) program of the Association for Surgical Education. This is a one-year program with an educational curriculum related to educational research and the development of a research project. For his research project, Dr. Tisherman has tentatively proposed to study a curriculum using simulation

for training surgical residents in crisis management. His study would examine the impact of such a curriculum on the residents' performance during simulated crises.

Rita Patel has been appointed to chair the newly established Committee on Professional Development of the Society for Education in Anesthesiology (SEA). SEA is a non-profit organization for anesthesiology educators seeking to improve their skills in anesthesia education.

Drs. Carol Rose and **Rita Patel** took part in a conference on Feb. 15, 2001 entitled "Choices: The Reality of Practice for Women," sponsored by the Allegheny County Medical Society, the Pennsylvania Medical Society, and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Dr. Rose, current President of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, was a panel member; Dr. Patel led a breakout discussion group.

Dr. Shekhar Venkataraman was invited to speak at the Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine. Earlier this year, he was invited to be a guest faculty member at the 2nd Annual Pediatric Critical Care Symposium in India, where he is assisting the Pediatric Section with development of a national curriculum for training pediatric intensivists.

John A. Kellum, MD is now John A. Kellum, MD, FCCM, since his induction as a Fellow in the American College of Critical Care Medicine (ACCM). The Induction took place at the ACCM's 12th Annual Convocation of Fellows, held in conjunction with the Society of Critical Care Medicine awards presentations during the SCCM Symposium in San Francisco.

New Faculty Members Welcome

Welcome to the following faculty members, who recently joined the Department of Anesthesiology & CCM:

- Dr. Ellis Berzon, UPMC Shadyside*
- Dr. Arun Bhandari, Veterans Affairs Medical Center*
- Dr. Sofronio de la Vega, Magee-Womens Hospital*
- Dr. Ali El-Mohandes, UPMC Shadyside
- Dr. Victor Iouchmonov, Research Faculty
- Dr. Prema Krishnamurthy, UPMC Presbyterian
- Dr. Paul Luckiewicz, Children's Hospital
- Dr. Pravat Mandal, Research Faculty
- Dr. Penny Sappington, UPMC Critical Care Medicine
- Dr. Doreen Soliman, Children's Hospital*
- Dr. Kelly A. Wood, Research & UPMC Critical Care Medicine

**Visiting*



John O'Donnell CRNA

University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program News

Pitt's Nurse Anesthesia Program, three times ranked No. 2 in the nation by *US News and World Report* (1998, 1999, and 2000), has been offered

through the Graduate School of Nursing at the University of Pittsburgh since 1989. Prior to 1989, the program was offered at the certificate level and was administered through the University of Pittsburgh Health Center Hospitals. Since those days, the enrollment for the

current 28-month, masters-level program has grown considerably. Seventy-four critical-care nurses from across the country are currently enrolled full time in the program. Students complete 52 credit hours of didactic content, presented — to a

great extent — by Department of Anesthesiology faculty members. In addition, students accrue more than 1600 hours of actual clinical anesthesia experience under the supervision of anesthesiologists in the clinical setting. For this experience, students rotate

Student Awards for 2000

Outstanding Student of the Year

Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA)
KRISTA BRAGG, CLASS OF 2000

Patricia P. Lynch Scholarship

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
KRISTA BRAGG, CLASS OF 2000

Doris and Davina Gosnell Endowed Scholarship

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
JAMES KELLEY, CLASS OF 2001

Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA) Scholarship

WILLIAM LEES, CLASS OF 2001

Nursing Education Foundation Scholarship

(Given to only eight masters-level students across the US every year)

RACHEL BEAVER, CLASS OF 2001

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Student Writing Contest - Honorable Mention

TIMOTHY LYONS, CLASS OF 2001

Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA) Student Representative to the PANA Board of Trustees

TIMOTHY LYONS, CLASS OF 2001

PANA Education District V Student Representative

AARON OSTROWSKI, CLASS OF 2001

Program Faculty Awards and Honors for 2000

Outstanding Didactic Instructor of the Year

Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA)
BETTINA DIXON, CRNA, MSN
Instructor, Nurse Anesthesia Program

Outstanding Clinical Instructor of the Year

Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA)
WENDY VEITH, CRNA, BSN
CRNA Preceptor and Student Coordinator, UPMC Presbyterian

Outstanding Clinician of the Year

Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA)
GARY STANICH, CRNA, BS
Staff Nurse Anesthetist and Instructor, UPMC Shadyside

Leadership in Nursing Award for Education (June 2000)

Sigma Theta Tau, Eta Chapter
JOHN O'DONNELL, CRNA, MSN
Program Director

Dean's Distinguished Teaching Award

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
LAURA PALMER, CRNA, MNEd
Assistant Program Director

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing NEPTUNE Award

(Nursing's Excellence in Planning and Teaching with the University's Network Environment)
LAURA PALMER, CRNA, MNEd
Assistant Program Director

not only through UPMC facilities in Oakland, but also to outlying facilities and numerous community-based hospital settings. This experience, along with the use of interactive labs, human simulation, lectures, and workshops, prepares students to assume the role of nurse anesthetist upon graduation and qualifies them to take the national certifying exam required to practice as a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

The program supports four full-time faculty positions. The current faculty members have all previously held full-time nurse anesthetist positions at UPMC Presbyterian or Montefiore. Program Director **John O'Donnell**, CRNA, MSN is currently pursuing a PhD and maintains his faculty practice at UPMC Presbyterian. Assistant Program Director **Laura Palmer**, CRNA, MNEd practices at UPMC South Side and UPMC South Surgery Center in Bethel Park. Program Instructor **Bettina Dixon**, CRNA, MSN completes faculty practice at UPMC Presbyterian and Magee-Womens Hospital. Finally, Program Instructor **Sandy Sell**, CRNA, MSN maintains a clinical practice at UPMC Presbyterian and several primary centers in the Pittsburgh area. The faculty has a strong commitment to maintaining the program's outstand-

ing reputation, and educating students who are welcome additions to any anesthesiology department across the country.

A strong clinical faculty consisting of outstanding anesthesiologists and CRNAs also supports the program. At each clinical facility there is at least one Student Clinical Coordinator appointed by the program to coordinate all student clinical activities while assigned to that facility. At UPMC Presbyterian **Wendy Veith**, CRNA has assumed overall responsibility for student education. In addition, **Bob Dukic**, CRNA helps coordinate the students' general anesthesia rotation, and **Elaine Kasha**, CRNA coordinates those students assigned to specialty rotations including cardiac, thoracic, hepatic, and neurological surgery. These volunteers should be commended for their efforts in assuring the quality and continuity of student education.

Finally, there are numerous awards that both students and faculty have recently received. (See previous page.)

To obtain more information about the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program, visit the program's website at <http://www.pitt.edu/~srna100/>

PCCM Fellow Wins Laerdal Grant

Hülya Bayır, MD, of the Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Fellowship, has received a grant from the Laerdal Foundation for her study entitled *Oxidative stress after severe head injury in infants and children: Effect of therapeutic hypothermia*.



Hülya Bayır

Seed Grants Awarded

The Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine has awarded Seed Grants to the following researchers:

Scott R. Gunn, MD (Fellow, MCCTP) for his *Non-invasive assessment of ventricular-arterial coupling with the esophageal pulse Doppler monitoring*; 2000 Schertz Fellow **Yong Y. Han**, MD, for his investigation of *Mitochondrial mechanisms of excitotoxic neuronal injury*; and **Peter W. J. Harrigan**, MD (research associate, Division of Critical Care Medicine) for his study, *Assessment of the cardiovascular effects of the volatile anesthetic agents*.



Scott R. Gunn



Yong Y. Han



Peter Harrigan

Charles A. Schertz Fellow Named

Mark Hall, MD, of the Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Fellowship Program at Children's Hospital, has been awarded the Charles A. Schertz Memorial Fellowship for 2001-02. Dr. Hall's Schertz Grant is entitled *Evaluation of the capacity of CyA to promote dendritic cell tolerogenicity in experimental heart transplantation*. His faculty mentor is Angus Thompson, PhD, Professor of Surgery, Molecular Genetics, and Biochemistry.



Mark Hall

Former MCCTP Fellow Makes Exchange Trip to Japan

Edward Kimball, MD (MCCTP fellow 97'-99') recently visited Japan at the request of another MCCTP alumnus, Dr. Koichi Tanigawa (92'-94'). Dr. Kimball spent a month at Kosei Nenkin Hospital in the city of Kitakyushu giving lectures on trauma and resuscitation as well as participating in the bedside teaching of house staff in the department of emergency and critical care medicine.

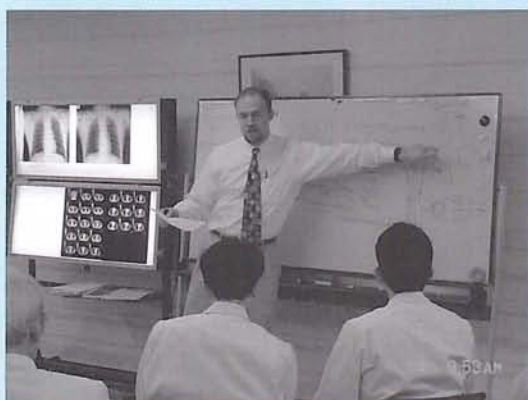
"It was interesting to see how culture affects the practice of medicine," said Dr. Kimball, who is currently an assistant professor in the department of surgery and co-director of the Surgical/Trauma ICU at the University of Utah. "The Japanese system is very efficient and has excellent outcomes. Surprisingly, in a system where health care is provided at virtually no cost to the patient, there does not seem to be significant abuse of this benefit. Almost without exception, those who came to the emergency department had relatively serious health problems."

Dr. Kimball also visited Fukuoka University Hospital where he was impressed by the resuscitation room in the emergency department and the cutting-edge therapies being applied in the ICU under the direction of Dr. Tanigawa. Dr. Kimball said that Dr. Tanigawa provided excellent teaching programs on resuscitation and critical care and that "You could see a little of the Pittsburgh influence on these programs."

MCCTP Alumnus
Dr. Edward Kimball spent a month at Kosei Nenkin Hospital in Kitakyushu, Japan lecturing on trauma care and resuscitation and participating in the bedside teaching of house staff.

During the visit Drs. Kimball and Tanigawa realized that they have similar research interests and have discussed future collaboration. Both are grateful for the collegial atmosphere created by Dr. Ake Grenvik at the MCCTP in Pittsburgh.

"Ake is a kind of grandfather to a big international critical care family," Dr. Kimball said. "This opportunity for exchange stems directly from the collegial relationship fostered in our CCM fellowship." Dr. Kimball also appreciated the gracious hospitality of Dr. Tanigawa and exchange organizer Dr. Fukutome. Dr. Grenvik, former MCCTP Director Dr. David Powner, and Dr. Joseph Darby have also visited Fukuoka University Hospital.



Alumni News Briefs

Elisabet Nystrom, MD, PhD, former visiting assistant professor and post-graduate research assistant, has been elected President of the Western Pennsylvania Society of Anesthesiologists. She was WPSA Program Director during Academic Year 1999-2000.

Dr. Nystrom completed work for her PhD under the guidance of Dr. **Charles**

Buffington between 1994 and 1997. She returned to her native Sweden to defend her thesis, *Observations on the Anatomy and Physiology of Epidural Anesthesia*, and was awarded her PhD by the University of Umeå in 1999. She is currently Research Director in the Department of Anesthesiology at West Penn Hospital in Pittsburgh.

Dr. Hector Wong, former University of Pittsburgh Pediatric CCM Fellow, is currently the Director of the Division of Critical Care Medicine at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati. Dr. Wong is also the Program Committee Co-Chair for the Society of Critical Care Medicine's 31st Educational and Scientific Symposium meeting next year.

MCCTP Alumnus **Jacques-Andre Romand**, MD was inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Critical Care Medicine (ACCM) in a ceremony held in conjunction with the Society of Critical Care Medicine awards presentations during the SCCM Symposium in San Francisco.

MCCTP Reunion Held in San Francisco

The Multidisciplinary Critical Care Training Program (MCCTP) held a reunion for alumni in conjunction with the 30th International Educational and Scientific Symposium, which was held Feb. 10-14 in San Francisco. The reunion was well attended, with approximately 30 alumni and current faculty and fellows present for the event.

Faculty Members & Fellows Win SCCM Awards

Members of the Department's Pediatric Critical Care Medicine group at Children's Hospital captured a number of awards at the SCCM's 30th International Educational & Scientific Symposium, held Feb. 11-14 in San Francisco.

Shekhar T. Venkataraman, MB BS won the Specialty Award in Pediatrics for his study, PREDICTING EXTUBATION READINESS IN INFANTS AND CHILDREN USING SIMPLE BEDSIDE VARIABLES, and **R. Scott Watson**, MD won the In-Training Fellow Award for his work, SEVERE SEPSIS IN CHILDREN: A U.S. EPIDEMIOLOGIC STUDY.

The Society recognized the work of several PCCM fellows as well. An Annual Scientific Award was presented to **Trung Nguyen**, MD for the study, RANDOMIZED CONTROL TRIAL OF PLASMA EXCHANGE THERAPY FOR THROMBOCYTOPENIA-ASSOCIATED MULTIPLE ORGAN FAILURE IN CHILDREN, and to **Margaret A. Satchell**, MD for her study, EVIDENCE FOR POLY(ADP-RIBOSE) POLYMERASE ACTIVATION AFTER HUMAN HEAD INJURY. **Mark W. Hall**, MD and **Hülya Bayır**, MD each received an Educational Scholarship, Dr. Hall for DECREASED *EX VIVO* TNF- α PRODUCTION (<200pg/ml) IS ASSOCIATED WITH IMMUNE PARALYSIS IN PEDIATRIC MULTIPLE ORGAN DYSFUNCTION SYNDROME (MODS), and Dr. Bayır for her ASSESSMENT OF ANTIOXIDANT RESERVE AND OXIDATIVE STRESS IN CEREBROSPINAL FLUID AFTER SEVERE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY IN INFANTS AND CHILDREN.

Drs. Robert S.B. Clark and **Joseph A. Carcillo** received Presidential Citations at the Symposium, as did Drs. **Michael DeVita** and **Paul Rogers**, of UPMC (adult) CCM. The Division of Critical Care Medicine contributed a generous number of faculty members to the Symposium faculty. The roster included Drs. **Derek C. Angus**, **Robert S.B. Clark**, **Michael A. DeVita**, **Mitchell P. Fink**, **John A. Kellum**, **Patrick M. Kochanek**, **Peter K. Linden**, **Michael R. Pinsky**, **Peter Safar**, and **Ann E. Thompson**. In addition, **Ake Grenvik**, MD had the honor of introducing this year's Asmund S. Laerdal Memorial Lecturer, Eric C. Rackow, MD, of the New York University School of Medicine.

Brief Farewells

Dr. Rainer Kentner, former senior research fellow at the Safar Center for Resuscitation Research, has returned to his native Germany, where he is now a staff anesthesiologist with a position on the faculty of Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz. While at the Safar Center, Dr. Kentner worked with Drs. Samuel Tisherman and Peter Safar on studies of novel resuscitation fluids in an initiative funded by the United States Navy. His work also included investigation of the influences of hypothermia during hemorrhagic shock.



D. Ryan Cook, MD has joined the faculty at Duke University in Durham, NC. Dr. Cook came to The University of Pittsburgh in 1972. He served as Anesthesiologist in Chief at Children's Hospital for 22 years. He stepped away from that position in 1999 in order to devote more of his time to clinical anesthesiology, mentoring junior faculty, and pursuing his special research interests, particularly studies of the pharmacology of drugs in infants and children. Dr. Cook also served as acting Chairman of the Department during the 15-month interval between the chairmanship of Dr. Peter Safar and that of Dr. Peter Winter in the late 1970s.



Stephen A. Bowles, MD has moved to join the Pittsburgh Critical Care Associates at Mercy Hospital. Dr. Bowles entered the Multidisciplinary Critical Care Training Program in 1987 as an internal medicine critical care fellow and accepted a CCM faculty position here in 1989. Pittsburgh Critical Care Associates is under the direction of John Hoyt, MD, another alumnus of the MCCTP.



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