Chairman’s Corner

Berend Mets, MB, ChB, PhD, FRCA, FFA(SA)
Eric A. Walker Professor and Chair of Anesthesiology

This fifth issue of Penn State Anesthesiology News celebrates the past and the future of the department; in the description of our 40th Year Anniversary Celebratory Events, as well as a brief timeline of the department’s history and in recognition of our graduates as well as new faculty and residents. It is my privilege to have served a department comprised of the wonderful individuals that make up our faculty, residents, CRNAs as well as research and administrative staff, since 2002.

The 40th Year Anniversary Events celebrated the opening of the hospital and the Department of Anesthesiology in 1970. The events were held as a brunch in the Fitness Center with an accompanied Hospital, Simulation Lab and departmental tour and a very well attended black tie dinner, at the Hershey Lodge, on October 9th. Drs. Allen Yeakel, Julien Biebuyck, and Philip Lumb, previous chair’s of the department, were able to attend the dinner and each delivered a short address about their period serving our department as chairmen. Dr. Pat McQuilkan spoke on behalf of Dr. Garry Russell. In these short addresses the alumni guests were informed about the history of the department to its present state and were able to share in the historical gathering of four Chairman of the Department (Page 6).

The rapid growth within the department over the last decade is quite spectacular, with the continued addition of anesthetizing locations both within the hospital (now 30 ORs) and the Hershey Outpatient Surgical Center (6 ORs), as well as growth in the Chronic Pain and Acute Pain Divisions and Intensive Care group. In this time there has been a doubling of the anesthetics provided from ~18,000 to ~36,000, this last year ending June 2010. Not surprisingly, there has also been an almost doubling in faculty, residents and an increasing number of CRNAs to help provide these significant clinical service obligations. This last year we opened 6 new ORs (one depicted on Page 7) and a new children’s hospital is being built, scheduled to open September 2012, where 5-6 ORs are planned. Notwithstanding these clinical obligations, through the intense involvement of our faculty and residents, we have continued to grow Basic Science (NIH funded) and Clinical Education and Simulation research resulting in 30-40 publications per year. Faculty educational involvement for an expanding residency and fellowship program as well as our involvement with medical students and of course simulation education bear witness to the strong teaching ethic and expertise in the department. Furthermore, at the hospital administrative level we are proud of our two Associate Deans: Dr. Don Martin as Associate Dean for Administration and Dr. Lisa Sinz as Associate Dean for Clinical Simulation (Page 3).

This fifth issue of the Penn State Anesthesiology News is now edited by Dr. Mary Beth McAlevy. Mary Beth joined us as a resident in 2004 and after graduating, worked as an Instructor at the University of Nebraska. Fortunately she returned to us, a year and a half later, and now serves as an Assistant Professor in the department and an Assistant Director of Residency Education. Dr. Sonia Vaida, who previously served as Editor, now serves as Vice Chair for Research while still providing significant support to the editorial process.

In closing, I express my gratitude for the work of our dedicated administrative staff, CRNAs, residents, faculty and researchers who together contribute to the ongoing success and growth of this Department.
Please Welcome Our Fellows for 2010-2011

Jodi Bosak, MD  
Pediatric Anesthesia Fellow

Bhawna Jha, MD  
Pain Medicine Fellow

Paul McCullough, MD  
CT Anesthesia Fellow

Steven Stulc, D.O.  
Pain Medicine Fellow

Johnson Ukpede, MD  
Pain Medicine Fellow

Channing Willoughby, MD  
Pain Medicine Fellow

Please Welcome Our New Residents for 2010-2011

Andaleeb Ahmed, MBBS

Theodore Cios, MD

Melissa Coleman, MD

Jesse Conrad, DO

Hillenn Cruz Eng, MD

Preea George, MBBS

Sprague (Will) Hazard, MD

John Narron, III, MD

Alexandria Nickless, DO

Justin Pachuski, MD

Bunty Shah, MD

Michael Sharghi, MD

Daniel Tapia, MD

Bryan Tokarchic, MD

Phat Trinh, DO

Julie Vuong, MD

Andrew Waberski, MD

Thomas Willis, MD
New Faculty - Welcome!

Dr. Tiffany Bartsch joined us as a Clinical Instructor in July of 2010. Originally from Canada, she went to Loma Linda University School of Medicine in Loma Linda, CA, class of 2006. She did a transitional year internship at Kettering Medical Center in Dayton, OH and completed an anesthesiology residency at Loma Linda University Medical Center in 2010. She is married to Dr. Ben Bartsch, who is one of the Pulmonary/Critical Care Fellows here at Penn State.

Dr. Thomas Dunn joined the department as a Clinical Instructor after completing his residency with us, in July, 2010. He is originally from Maryland, and attended the University of Maryland, College Park for his undergraduate studies, where he also earned a Master’s degree in Pharmacology. Dr. Dunn attended Pennsylvania State College of Medicine, class of 2006. Two areas of interest are Obstetric Anesthesia and Palliative Pain Management. He is married with a two year old daughter and a son due March 2, 2011.

Dr. Subramanian Sathishkumar joined the department permanently in October, 2010 as an Assistant Professor. He started here in 2008 as a Visiting International Assistant Professor. He attended Medical School at Dr. M.G.R. Medical University in India, in 1995. He completed his Residency at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Norfolk, UK and the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Hampshire, UK. Dr. Sathishkumar also completed a Fellowship of Anesthesiology at the Wessex School of Anesthesia in Southampton, UK and Royal Bournemouth and Poole hospitals, Dorset, UK. He was an Instructor in Transplant and Vascular Anesthesia at University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor. His sub-specialty is in Anesthesia for Transplant, Vascular, and Hepato-biliary surgery. He is married to an Ophthalmologist and they share two sons, ages seven and three.

Dr. Weller joined the department in August 2010 as an Assistant Professor. He completed medical school and a bioengineering doctorate at the University of Pittsburgh, residency at University of Pennsylvania, and a fellowship in pediatric anesthesiology at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. His clinical interests lie in pediatric anesthesiology and critical care, especially neonatal, thoracic, and regional anesthesia. Greg has been awarded the Physician Scientist Stimulus Package and his current research focuses on elucidating the role of the NOP/nociceptin opioid system in vascular dysfunction in the setting of ischemia, heart failure, and sepsis. Greg and his family live in the Stoney Run neighborhood near the hospital. He loves the outdoors, especially camping and canoeing. Growing up, he spent most of his waking hours swimming, a habit that he has passed on to his two children Ally, 8, and Jason, 6. He fervently hopes that his wonderful wife Wendy will continue to tolerate his love of academic medicine, science fiction novels, genealogy, and the Steelers.

Most importantly, Greg wishes everyone to know that he is very excited to be starting here at Penn State Hershey, and looks forward to working with everyone in the department, as well as our colleagues throughout the hospital.
Employee of the Month, September, 2010

Mary Ellen Schultze was selected as Employee of the Month for the month of September. She was honored for the hard work and dedication she gives each patient and their family in the Pain Management Clinic, as well as visitors to the medical center, and colleagues. She is recognized as an outstanding nurse by prioritizing the needs of the patients and managing emergency situations extremely well, while always going the extra mile.
Forty Years of Anesthesia

Joan Ruffle, M.D.
Associate Professor of Anesthesiology

I have been given the privilege of writing a very brief overview of the Department’s history. I probably have a broader personal view of the department than anyone else because I was here in medical school when the hospital opened in October 1970 and returned as a faculty member in 1979. This department has been very fortunate in having had very gifted leaders.

Dr. Allen Yeakal was the first chair of the Department of Anesthesiology. He got the department off to a very strong start with his commitment to clinical excellence and resident education. Those commitments have been maintained by all his successors. He was also very wise in insisting that Anesthesiology be an independent department, not a subsection of the Department of Surgery. This may not sound like a very radical idea now, but at the time it was still fairly common for Anesthesiology to be a division of the Department of Surgery. Dr. Yeakal chose to finish his distinguished career in private practice and was succeeded by Dr. Julien Biebuyck in 1977. Dr. Biebuyck built on Dr. Yeakal’s strong start and added the one element that was missing in our department—namely, a strong research program. Dr. Biebuyck had vision, which allowed him to strengthen the department and maintain the tradition of excellence established by Dr. Yeakal. He was able to anticipate change and adjust to it proactively. He also had an amazing ability to assess the strengths of his faculty and residents and to foster the development of those strengths.

Dr. Biebuyck was succeeded by Dr. Philip Lumb in 1997. Dr. Lumb’s chairmanship was not lengthy, however, he was very committed to educating the residents and he also represented the department at many national and international meetings.

Dr. Garry Russell followed Dr. Lumb. It was a very challenging period of time for all Anesthesia Departments because of the merger and subsequent de-merger with the Geisinger Medical Center. In spite of all these difficulties, Dr. Russell was able to recruit additional faculty and maintain our excellence. He was a truly inspiring leader. Unfortunately, he was taken from us prematurely after waging a courageous battle with cancer.

His successor is our current chair, Dr. Berend Mets. Dr. Mets has expanded both the faculty and the residency in what continues to be a very challenging climate for all medical specialties. He has also transformed us into a truly international department with both permanent and visiting faculty from numerous countries around the world.
The 40th Anniversary Celebration held on October 9th was quite a success. Special thanks to all those who helped to coordinate the festivities, especially Dr. Berend Mets, Mrs. Tavenner Bonsall, Dr. Joe Answine, Dr. Sonia Vaida, Dr. Don Martin and Dr. Joan Ruffle.

Brunch was held at the University Fitness Conference Center on the Penn State Hershey Medical Center Campus. There were approximately 128 guests at the buffet brunch that all enjoyed the excellent food and photo slide show presentation compiled by Dr. Sonia Vaida. During the brunch, scheduled tours of the hospital were given by current anesthesia faculty and residents. Highlights of the tours included the newly remodeled operating rooms, and simulation center. Alumni were also able to view the ongoing construction of the Children’s Hospital. A lot has changed with the campus over the past forty years.

The department hosted a black tie cocktail reception and dinner that evening at the Hershey Lodge. We were happy to see over 150 alumni and guests. All of the previous department chairs were able to attend, except for Dr. Russell, who was sorely missed. Of note, many alumni and past faculty travelled many miles to celebrate, the farthest being from the Philippines and the Middle East. Alumni also traveled across the US to visit us from as far as California and Texas. Everyone had such a wonderful time, maybe we should consider hosting again in ten years for the 50th.
Shown here, the University Conference Center where the brunch was held.

The brunch organizers, from left Dr. Sonia Vaida, Mrs. Karen Bowman, Mrs. Tavenner Bonsall and Mrs. Kathleen Gingrich.

Attendees board the shuttle for tours of Hershey Medical Center.

Dr. Christopher Steel is seen here giving a tour of one of the hospital OR’s.

Dr. Octavio Falcucci is pointing out construction for the Children’s Hospital to onlookers.

Dr. Christopher Steel showing tour goers the OR boards.

Dr. Elizabeth Sinz and Dr. Bossaeu Murray (right) are seen giving a tour of the Simulation Center.

Dr. Christopher Steel is seen here giving a tour of one of the hospital OR’s.
Do you have a submission or topic of interest for the next edition?

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From the Editor...

Thank you to all contributors of this latest edition. For any inquiries or recommendations for upcoming issues, please forward them to mmcalevy@hmc.psu.edu.
Happy Holidays!

“Do you have a submission or topic of interest for the next edition?”

Save the Date!

6th Annual Pennsylvania Anesthesia Residents Research Conference
May 7, 2011
Penn State Hershey Medical Center
Department of Anesthesiology
BMR C2860
500 University Drive
Hershey, PA 17033

www.pennstatehershey.org/anesthesia

“We are Penn State”