

# ANESTHESIA NEWSLETTER

The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, Department of Anesthesiology, 6431 Fannin, MSB 5.020, Houston, TX 77030-1503

Web site address: <http://www.uth.tmc.edu/anes/> Anne Starr, Editor

## Chairman's Corner

By Carin A. Hagberg, M.D.

1. Congratulations, Jonathan Eng, for achieving May resident of the month. He was nominated because he is one of several great CA-1s whose work ethic and care for his patients stands out. Late in the year it is tough as a CA-1 with the days in the Herman Hospital general ORs never ending. The exponentially increasing number of elective cases on the weekends and increasing coverage only adds to the length of these days. Dr. Eng maintains a positive attitude through it all and has even volunteered to cover an L1 shift for a resident who called in sick last month. It's this attitude that keeps our program alive and moving and shows that Dr. Eng deserves receiving the resident of the month award.
2. Congratulations also goes to those residents achieving academic excellence on the March In-Training Exam. 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile: Intern – Dr. Crenshaw, CA1s – Drs. Lichliter, Horak, and Praveen Maheshwari, CA2s – Drs. Boyd and Lovoi, and CA3s – Drs. Killoran, Aucoin, Leiman, Franklin, Juarez, and Keneson. 75<sup>th</sup> Percentile: Intern – Dr. Parul Maheshwari, CA1s – Drs. Lindsay, Husain, Rane, Rosario, Smith, Adeyefa, and Keyser, CA2s – Drs. Opdahl, Hunt, Langley, Reddy, Toney, Glassinger, and Vascoe, and CA3s – Drs. Eype, Garrett, Pinsky, and LaFleur. Please join us in acknowledging their effort and performance!
3. In accordance with recent evidence based practice and the new national standard recommended by the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN), the Memorial Hermann–Texas Medical Center Campus is demonstrating its commitment to quality and safety by implementing new guidelines for surgical attire worn in restricted areas of the operating rooms.

Effective July 5, 2011, the hospital will be providing hospital laundered scrubs to our department. All faculty and residents will be issued a scrub card at grand-rounds June 30,

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2011. Female residents will pick up their scrubs in linen services on the ground floor in Robertson Pavilion.

4. Please know that I have emphasized the importance of resident teaching with the faculty. In our last faculty meeting, Dr. Hiller demonstrated a snapshot of his lecture on Myasthenia Gravis & Multiple Sclerosis, as it was so well received by the residents. Please keep in mind that your participation in your own education is extremely important. As Dr. Klafta mentioned when he was visiting our institution, you are equally responsible for your education. Be attentive, ask questions and make some effort. Additionally, you are responsible for teaching others, including medical students, anesthesia assistant students and your fellow residents. T-Mode is around the corner. Please make the effort.
5. The Education Subcommittee on Academic Performance has finalized the criteria for scholarly research projects. *(Cont. pg. 6)*



2011 Graduating Anesthesia Residents

## Residency Director's Corner

By Brian Marasigan, M.D.

Congratulations and Good Luck to the June 18, 2011 Anesthesia Graduates! We are proud to have you as our colleagues.

*Todd Akins, M.D.*, Faculty  
The University of Texas Medical School,  
Houston, TX

*Adrian Paul Aucoin, M.D.*, Private Practice  
Anesthesia Group Associates, Baton Rouge, LA

*Bobby Bellard, M.D.*, Faculty  
MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX

*Trey Burrow, M.D.*, Private Practice  
Greater Houston Anesthesiology, St. Luke's  
Hospital, Houston, TX

*Rebecca Carroll, M.D.*, Private Practice, Arizona  
Heart Anesthesia Group, Phoenix, AZ

*John Craig, M.D.*, Teaching Hospital  
St. Eligius Hospital, Boston, MA

*Theresa Dang, M.D.*, Private Practice  
North Houston Anesthesiologists, Kingwood, TX

*Sheila Eype, M.D.*, Private Practice  
North Houston Anesthesiologists, Kingwood, TX

*Supriya Franklin, M.D.*, Private Practice  
North Houston Anesthesiologists, Kingwood, TX

*Phillip Gallegos, M.D.*, Private Practice  
Pinnacle Anesthesia Consultants,  
Arlington/Fort Worth, TX

*Laura Garrett, M.D.*, Faculty  
The University of Texas Medical School,  
Houston, TX

*Amy Graham-Carlson, M.D.*, Fellowship in  
Pediatric Anesthesia, Texas Children's Hospital,  
Houston, TX

*Reginald Hence, M.D.*, Private Practice  
Texas Anesthesia Consultants, Houston, TX

*Timothy Hollenbeck, M.D.*, Faculty  
The University of Texas Medical School  
Houston, TX

*Richard Juarez, M.D.*, Private Practice  
Central Anesthesia Service Exchange, Medical  
Group, Sacramento, CA

## Chief Chat



July is an exciting time around here! We want to first say a big thank you, congratulations, and best wishes to our graduating seniors. They are a very special group and we appreciate all that they have done to impact our experience and education here as residents. At the same time, we are thrilled to welcome a new class of incoming CA-1's. Transitioning can be challenging at times, but the knowledge you gain in a month will be remarkable. If there is anything we can do to make the transition into anesthesia easier, please don't hesitate to ask.

Thanks for all that came out to the graduation banquet, everyone had a great time. Be on the lookout for a CA-1 welcome party to take place in August.

Thanks!

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*Continued...*

*Bradley Keneson, II, D.O.*, Private Practice  
Pinnacle Anesthesia Consultants  
Arlington/Fort Worth, TX

*Peter Killoran, M.D.*, Faculty  
The University of Texas Medical School  
Houston, TX

*Jay Lance LaFleur, M.D.*, Fellowship in Pain Medicine  
Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle, WA

*David Leiman, M.D.*, Private Practice  
Space City Anesthesia, Houston, TX

*Jay Pinsky, M.D.*, Private Practice  
Medical Anesthesia Associates, Houston, TX

*Esi Rhett, M.D.*, Faculty  
The University of Texas Medical School  
Houston, TX

*Baominh Vinh, M.D.*, Fellowship in Pain Medicine  
M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX

*Maheen Wardak, M.D.*, Private Practice  
North Houston Anesthesiologists, Kingwood, TX

*Diana Yang, M.D.*, Private Practice  
Metro Anesthesia Consultants, Dallas, TX

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## Faculty News

### Committee Assignment

**Doerr H:** Simulation Committee, The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, Houston, Texas, June, 2011.

### Moderator

**Doerr H:** "Simulation Debriefing: Milestones and Consistency," Society for Education in Anesthesia, San Antonio, Texas, June 4, 2011

### Presentations

**Cattano D:** Neuroprotection: from Bench Research to Clinical Application and Becoming A Mother in Texas; Between Dream and Reality: Becoming A Mother, June 10-11, 2011, Italy

### Symposium

**Hagberg CA:** •"Current Concepts in the Management of the Difficult Airway", •"How Does Video Laryngoscopy Fit into the Difficult Airway Algorithms" - Use of Macintosh Shaped Blades", ESA Annual Meeting, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 11-14, 2011

**Sheinbaum R:** "Update on Aortic Surgery - Blood Conservation and Haemostasis in Aortic Surgery", Liverpool Aortic Surgery Symposium IV, Liverpool, England, June 9, 2011.

### Visiting Professor

**Cattano D:** "Platelet Function in the Perioperative Arena: Point of Care Tests & Clinical Management", St. Francis Hospital, Columbus, Georgia, May 24, 2011

**Hagberg CA:** "Current Concepts in the Management of the Difficult Airway", St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital, Houston, Texas, May 11, 2011

### Texas Medical Association Representative

**Loubser, P:** Ft. Bend Representative at the TMA Meeting, May 13-14, 2011.

### Photo:

L to R: Parin Shah, MD, TMA Delegate, Linda Villareal, MD, Treasurer of the Small Districts Association and Alternate Delegate to the AMA, Art Klawitter, MD, TMA Secretary, and Paul Loubser, M.D., Ft. Bend Representative



### Workshop

**Hagberg CA:** "Airway Hands-On Workshop", ESA Annual Meeting, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 11-14, 2011

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## Announcements



Two Day Hands-On Workshop with Unique Teaching Structure is Coming July 30-31, 2011

The 11<sup>th</sup> Biannual Ultrasound Guided Regional Anesthesia Workshop Is presented by The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, Department of Anesthesiology. The Course Director is Krishna, Boddu, M.D. On Day One there will be Cadaver Anatomy, Surface Land Marks, Ultrasound & Conventional Techniques Simultaneously for Each Block on Adult & Pediatric Human Volunteers, and on Day Two there will be Hands-on-Training, Small Groups on 12 Human Volunteers, 10 Live Anesthetized Pigs for Nerve Stimulation and Ultrasound Techniques for Routine, Advanced Nerve Blocks & Vascular Access.



March of Dimes  
Saving babies, together

Update  
Congratulations to our department. We raised a total of \$2,303 for the March of Dimes this year. Yea!

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Letter from Dmitry Portnoy

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As many of you may know, this is my last week before relocation to California where I will be joining Anesthesia Department of UC, Irvine. Before I go, I wanted to take a moment to say farewell and express my sincere appreciation to my friends and colleagues. It was remarkable and productive time: I have learned a great deal from you and enjoyed the opportunity to teach. It has been a great pleasure working with you and I will miss your camaraderie.

Thank you for your support and friendship over the years. My personal e-mail address is [prosodim@gmail.com](mailto:prosodim@gmail.com), cell phone - (713)376-8748

Best wishes to you all,  
Dmitry Portnoy

## Political Corner

By Evan Pivalizza, MBBSCh

Texas Legislative Update

By the time you read this, we will know whether the governor has ordered another special session if legislators are unable to get the controversial budget bills relating to education and health care passed. SB 7 health) is a key component of the budget puzzle. Among provisions included in the current conference committee (i.e. possible) report that are of interest to us, the bill would:

- Establish a statewide plan to improve quality/increase efficiency by forming/regulating health care collaboratives
- Ensure physicians would have an equal say/vote in a collaborative's governing board, and due process protections and the ability to participate in more than one collaborative arrangement in their community
- Create a new Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Quality-Based Payment Advisory Committee and program that would *tie a portion of Medicaid HMO premiums to improved health outcomes and quality, and implement copayments in Medicaid to reduce unnecessary emergency department use*
- Protect patients from vaccine-preventable diseases in health care facilities, such as hospitals, by requiring them to *implement vaccination policies to immunize employees*
- Establish the Texas Emergency and Trauma Care Education Partnership Program to ensure support of the trauma infrastructure in Texas
- Allow Texas to participate in a multistate compact to help fund and administer Medicaid and Medicare

New laws passed for TMB activities which are good for us:

- Prohibit the filing of anonymous complaints
- Require the board to notify the physician when insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies, or third-party administrators file a complaint
- Increase the time for a physician to respond to a complaint notice from 30 days to 45 days
- Allow physicians to tape the proceedings of a TMB informal settlement conference
- Allow TMB to require a remedial action plan rather than impose a fine for a minor administrative violation
- Institute a seven-year statute of limitations on bringing a disciplinary action

### Political Corner continued

Texas Pint

To support ASAPAC and in an effort to get all Texas residency programs recognized at the 2011 ASA House of Delegates, Scott Kercheville, M.D., and Cathy Scholl, M.D., have initiated a Texas resident competition. There is more than bragging rights up for grabs in this competition – a Texas-sized pint! The prize for the top program in 2011 will be the TEXAS PINT to keep for the year.



Texas Pint

If more than one of the eight Texas residency programs reach 100% participation, the tie-breaker will go to the institution with the highest faculty ASAPAC participation. So, all residents and faculty please sign-up even for the minimum amt (\$20 for residents and \$100 for faculty) – access via your own ASA home-page ([www.asahq.org](http://www.asahq.org)).

I don't know about you, but I will be physically ill if our 'friends' at Baylor, UTMB, UTSW etc are recognized and we are not!!

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### FACULTY OF THE MONTH

Dr. Jennifer Wu, M.D. is our Faculty of the Month. She was nominated for being a great clinician and always being pleasant to work with. Congratulations, Dr. Wu!

### RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

Dr. Emily Glassinger is honored as the Resident of the Month. She demonstrated exceptional professionalism while on CV duty. When she had a particularly difficult weekend call where she worked much more than normal, yet she maintained a very positive attitude and worked hard throughout it, and did a very good job with each case.

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Any nation that thinks more of its ease and comfort than its freedom will soon lose its freedom; and the ironical thing about it is that it will lose its ease and comfort too. – *W. Somerset Maugham*

# Coding/Billing Issues

By Shirley Hillman

## PENDING DOCUMENTATION

There is a huge amount of documentation pending at Nancy Roane's desk in the PACU. Please ensure that you have completed, corrected or signed all documentation that is pending. We are tracking all incomplete or incorrect records for each provider. The information will be used as part of your incentive performance review. As more and more CMS auditors are being hired, it is imperative that our documentation be compliant for billing. Do not let any more time pass until your documentation is completed. Contact Nancy ASAP to ensure you are not on the list of offenders. Her telephone number in the PACU is 713.704-3073. If you are an offender, please take of this situation immediately.

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## Faculty News *cont.*



Pre-Op Clinic Best Dressed Men: Henrique Vale (CA-2) and James Nast (AA student)



Dr. Yatsula giving his PACU lecture last month.

## Chronic Pain Management Expanding

As many of you may know, the Chronic Pain Clinic is growing at rapid speeds. Our goal has always been to provide leading pain management medicine for people suffering from chronic pain. We have now expanded our patient treatment to include the Center for Healthy Aging at the Bellaire UT Clinic twice a month. The new address is 6700 West Loop south, Ste. 130, Bellaire, TX 77401, phone number (713) 486-5150. The other Pain Clinic is located at 1 Robertson, MHH, TMC, telephone number (713) 704-7246.

## Common Types of Chronic Pain Treated

1. Chronic low back and neck pain
2. Post-lumbar laminectomy pain syndrome (failed back)
3. Post-cervical laminectomy pain (neck)
4. Fibromyalgia/myofascial pain syndrome
5. Osteoarthritis
6. Cancer pain
7. Post herpetic neuralgia
8. Spinal stenosis
9. Degenerative disease

## Common Types of Interventional Pain Procedures Under Fluoroscopy includes:

1. Epidurals (lumbar, cervical, transforaminal and caudal)
2. Lumbar facets injections, including RF of medial branch
3. SIJ injections
4. Spinal cord stimulation trial
5. Intrathecal pump trial
6. Others Procedures including occipital nerve block, trigger point, intercostals nerve blocks and CT-guided celiac plexus block.

Cynthia Arias



L to R: Mary Saballos (secretary), Dr. Syed Nasir, Helena Daniels (LPN), and Romy Brady (Clinical Mgr.) at the Center for Healthy Aging, Bellaire, TX

*Chairman's Corner continued from page 1*

Dr. Katherine Normand is Director, and you will be required to submit a project submission form to the committee for their review and approval.

- 6. For those of you who are now resident members of the Society of Airway Management, to be reimbursed, you will need to bring a copy of your cancelled check, bank statement or credit card statement showing that the transaction cleared. Thank you again for your support!
- 7. Resident membership is complimentary with the TSA. Please know that TSA resident members also receive free registration to the TSA Annual Meeting, September 8-11, 2011. (For more information and to register, visit [www.tsa.org](http://www.tsa.org). The TSA must pay a registration fee for you to attend the TSA Annual Meeting in the amount of \$100.00.
- 8. There is a competition among the Texas Residency programs to achieve the highest resident participation in ASAPAC. I encourage all of you to make a contribution, even if only a small amount. The cut-off date will be Monday, September 5, 2011 which is the Monday right before our annual meeting.
- 9. The next Chairman's Corner will be held July 18, as the first Monday of the month is a holiday, and I will be on vacation in Vermont with my family the second Monday. Mr. Craig Cordola, CEO Memorial Hermann Hospital-TMC, will be joining us to discuss the resident grievance process and Dr. Emily Drennan to discuss your involvement in the AA program. Please make every effort to attend.

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**Why There Are No More Dinosaurs**



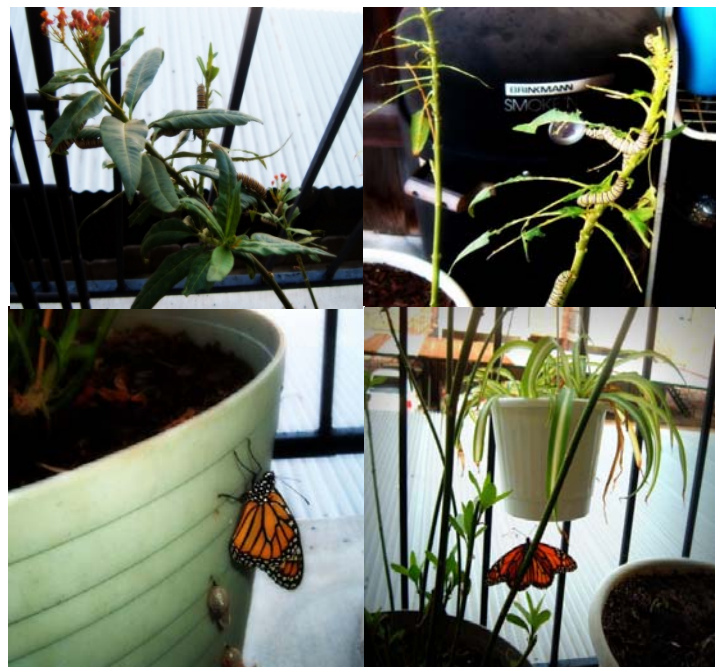
# Story of the Butterflies

If anyone desires a wish to come true they must first capture a butterfly and whisper that wish to it. Since a butterfly can make no sound, the butterfly can not reveal the wish to anyone but the Great Spirit who hears and sees all. In gratitude for giving the beautiful butterfly its freedom, the Great Spirit always grants the wish. So, according to the Papago Tribe legend, by making a wish and giving the butterfly its freedom, the wish will be taken to the heavens and be granted.

Trudy Barrett, Sr. Support Specialist, who has always been interested in nature, this year decided to try her hand at attracting caterpillars which would become butterflies. Consequently, she purchased a butterfly weed plant to attract them to her patio, but found she had to battle aphids every day.

After more than a month, Trudy discovered two tiny caterpillars on her plant. The following day, she found 11 "monster" caterpillars chomping away. Shortly after, she purchased another plant.

Trudy contacted the Cockrell Butterfly Museum for advice. The museum informed her how rare it is to achieve the success she had. After her caterpillars consumed both plants, they made cocoons where they were in the chrysalis stage for a week. To Trudy's delight, beautiful monarch butterflies emerged from their cocoons. With the exception of one, all successfully flew away.



# Scenes from the 2011 Anesthesia Resident Graduation

Photography by Mohammad Hussain, M.D.

