

# ANESTHESIA NEWSLETTER



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

## Chairman's Corner

1. The Daily Heart Hike has been postponed to another date since there is too much competition of the grand opening of the Zoo's Grand Plaza (huge crowd). We will continue having the lectures that have been set up, as well as the glucose testing in the OR lounge.
2. Dr. Daily attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Billing and Management Seminar in Vegas and came back with some very important information regarding billing compliance issues. Please keep the following in mind as you document:
  - a. For abdominal washout procedures, document that it is an upper abdominal procedure (6 pts) upper abdomen vs. (4 pts) if undocumented.
  - b. One lung ventilation (3 pts)
  - c. Induced hypotension (5 pts)
  - d. Induced hypothermia (5 pts)
  - e. Document exact abdominal procedure, such as any spinal procedures with hardware (3-5 pts), if hardware was inserted; hip revision (2 pts)
  - f. Deep brain stimulation (11 pts), burr holes (9 pts)
  - g. All GI procedures, if administering propofol, it is considered a GA. Be sure to include medical need for GA, such as unable to tolerate sedation, medical illness, etc.
  - h. If 2 attendings are necessary for certain portions of the surgical procedure, both attendings should bill for the procedure (second staff will be able to bill for base units, plus any time spent in the room). A note in the chart must document the reason assistance was necessary and the amount of time involved.
  - i. Please remember to chart on the orange billing sheet, transport ventilation circuit, if a transport ventilation circuit was utilized.
  - j. Anesthesia start time should begin with either: (1) you start to transport a patient from an ICU to the OR, or (2) you enter the room with a patient (i.e., room time). You cannot bill any routine transports, even if medication was given in SADS.

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- k. Please continue to chart surgical start and stop times for record completeness. You must use the time off the computer in the OR to document all start and stop times. Please be in agreement with the nurses notations.
3. David Leiman is working on a program to help educate our anesthesia techs; I ask for your support in this endeavor. The more you help educate them, the better they can assist you. Please don't take this lightly.
4. Simulation training of our faculty is going to begin this month. The first session will involve both faculty and residents and will be held April 28, 29 and 30. Residents who are pre call on those days will be required to arrive in the simulation center at 12:30 pm. Residents will be involved in simulation sessions from 12:30 - 2:30 pm.
5. The airway/neuro and airway/bariatric rotation will begin their new pig trachea/simulation workshop April 8. Residents will need to check in by 12:30 and will rotate between a simulation session (1 hour) and the pig trachea station 1st (1 hour). Anyone who is on pre call, post call is welcome to attend these sessions. I just need to know in advance if you plan to attend so I can order the appropriate amount of pig trachea for the workshop.

*"The Daily Heart Hike has been postponed to another date..."*

## Residency Director's Corner

By Mary Rabb, M.D.

**Editor's Note:** This portion was inadvertently omitted from last month's column.

Match Day was, according to the National Resident Matching Program, the largest and most successful Match Day in history in terms of the number of residency positions filled. Of our matched seniors, 56% are staying in Texas, 30% will stay at UT-Houston, and 37% are pursuing residencies in primary care. The top four specialties for our soon-to-be graduates are internal medicine, anesthesiology, obstetrics/ gynecology and pediatrics.

1. First of all I would like to extend a **BIG THANK YOU** to the exiting chiefs for their hard work, numerous schedule changes and grid changes they endured last year. They did an exceptional job!!
2. Congratulations are also in order for the new chiefs elected this year. Sam Gumbert, Olga Pawelek, Meri Zavala, and Brandon Fields.
3. Our outstanding graduating medical student award goes to Stacy Norell. She has worked in the department as an Anesthesia technician between her 1st and 2nd year of medical school. In addition, she served as co president of the Anesthesia Club this past year.
4. All case logs are due every three months. A new requirement will be to include copies of names/MR numbers/actual cases/ attendings for verification of cases. This is another ACGME requirement.

*"Our outstanding graduating medical student award goes to Stacey Norwell."*

Humor is everywhere, in that there's irony in just about anything a human does. Bill Nye. Interview with Wired.com, April 2005

## Faculty News

### Abstracts:

Cattano D, Liang Y, Doursout MF: Left heart failure induces progressive lung dysfunction and initiates pulmonary fibrosis. *J Investig Med* 57(3), 2009.

Cattano D, Sridhar S, Khalil Y, Smallwood C, Hagberg CA: Preliminary data on anticipation of the difficult airway: the preoperative airway assessment form as an educational and quality improvement tool. *J Investig Med* 57(3):557-8, 2009.

### Lectures:

Lecture to Maternal Fetal Fellows, "Current Concepts in the Management of the Difficult Airway", Houston, Texas, April 21

### Poster Presentations:

Doursout MF, Liang YY, Pati S, Matijevic N, Holcomb J: Role of the NF- $\kappa$ B pathway in rats subjected to moderate hemorrhage, FASEB Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 22, 2009

### Joint Annual Meeting of the Central Society for Clinical Research CSCR (Chicago IL April 23-24<sup>th</sup> 2009) and the American Physician Scientist Association APSA 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (Chicago IL April 24-26<sup>th</sup> 2009)

Cattano D, Khalil Y, Chen A, Sridhar S, Hagberg CA. Preliminary data on the anticipation of the difficult airway: preoperative airway assessment form as an educational and quality improvement tool (APSA/ASCI/AAP), Chicago, IL, April 23-24, 2009.

Cattano D, Sridhar S, Khalil Y Smallwood C, Hagberg CA. Preliminary data on the anticipation of the difficult airway: preoperative airway assessment form as an educational and quality improvement tool (CSCR), Chicago, IL, April 23-24, 2009.

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### PAIN MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

A Pain Management Conference conducted by Krishna Boddu is scheduled July 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. It will provide continuing education to faculty, residents and nurses the skills of Pain Management. Keep your schedule open so you can attend this conference.

## Political Corner

By Evan Pivalizza, MBChB

Legislative action in Austin continues at a furious pace with day-to-day changes so some of this printed material may already be out of date. As of April 26th, these medically related and critically important items remain:

**TDI Sunset Bill:** The Senate passed the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) sunset bill relating to the continuation and operation of TDI and certain insurance programs. Two amendments important to medicine include data mining companies used by all insurance companies and prohibiting health plans from offering rewards or bonuses for rescinding health insurance coverage.

**Physician Employment by Small-Town Hospitals:** The Senate passed Bill 1500 which would allow rural

hospitals to employ physicians directly if they are designated as a critical access hospital, are a sole community hospital, or are in a county with a population of 50,000 or less. The hospital may retain all or part of the professional income generated by the physician for medical services provided at the hospital. TMA is concerned that the bill is too broad in its application and too limited in its protections for physicians' clinical autonomy – Texas is one of a handful of states that prohibits the corporate practice of medicine with the inherent risk that a physician employee of a hospital will be forced to act in the primary interest in the hospital.

There will be updates after next week's TMA annual meeting and as always, please view the TMA ([www.texmed.org](http://www.texmed.org)) and TSA ([www.tsa.org](http://www.tsa.org)) home-pages for more information, insight and action alerts.

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## Coding/Billing Issues

By Shirley Hillman

### Reporting Anesthesia Time (*from the Anesthesia Answer Book*)

Anesthesia **time** involves the actual presence of the anesthesiologist, medically directed CRNA or resident. Time starts when the anesthesia provider prepares the patient for anesthesia and ends when the anesthesia provider is no longer in actual attendance. Providers should clock anesthesia **time** from the period anesthesia begins in the operating room or an “equivalent area.” (An “equivalent area” is a place adjacent to the operating room – for example, a preoperative holding area or a block room.)



For our *Revised* Compliance Plan:

- Document start time when the anesthesia begins in the operating room or in the unit. The start time should be the IN-Room time according to the providers watch.
- For ICU patients transported by anesthesia,

takes over the care of the patient from the ICU staff.

- When the patient is sedated in the holding area the anesthesia start time should correspond to the administration of the first agent per the providers watch. Do not include placement of IV in start time.
- Invasive lines placed in the holding area are reimbursed by surgical codes. Do not include in start time.
- Never include pre-op time in start time. In fact, the number one reason for prosecution of anesthesia providers is billing time for the pre-op and post-op visits, which is already included in the base unit for the OR procedure.

End time is when the patient can safely be turned over to post op-care unit/person.

If you receive mail from an insurance company, be sure to immediately give it to me.

## Chief Chat

As the new chiefs, we would like to thank all the residents and faculty for their support. We look forward to a great year and together we hope to continue to better our program. So, if you have ideas for improvement, please come talk to us!



Thanks to all the residents for working hard. Keep up the good work! The new CA1 start is just around the corner. Everyone is moving up the ladder of seniority (and responsibility).

Don't forget to submit your pictures for the graduation banquet slide show. This is your chance to show off!

We had a great time at Mike Mullen's happy hour, and we plan to make this a monthly tradition. Our next happy hour is just around the corner, April 29<sup>th</sup>. There are several parties coming up: Jack Craig's Kentucky Derby/Crawfish Boil on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and Rebecca Carroll's Birthday Pool Bash on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We look forward to showcasing those pictures next month!

*"Thanks to all the residents for working hard. Keep up the good work!"*



Mike & Marissa Mullens at their farewell party, 4/22/09.



Going to miss you, man.

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### STUDENT GRADUATION AWARDS PER COURSE OR DEPT.

Stacy Norrell was our number one rank, and she matched with us in the Anesthesiology Department. She was one of our top candidates and has worked in this department since the summer between 1st and 2nd year of medical school.

### JOINT ANESTHESIA/SURGERY JOURNAL CLUB A SUCCESS

The Joint Anesthesia/Surgery Journal Club held 4/20 was a success! It was very informative, and the residents enjoyed conversing with the surgeons. The surgeons also said they liked the format. We definitely would like to do this again!

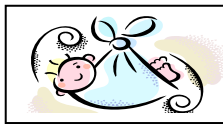
### *Chairman's Corner cont.*

- Our jeopardy session at the TSA will be September 12 from 4:45 - 5:45 pm. We will compete against UTMB, and Dr. James Arens will be the moderator of the session. Three residents will be selected and a back-up resident will be named. Please let me know if you are interested. All will benefit from the meeting in general so even if you are not a participant, I recommend that you attend and give support to your colleagues! Remember, our first alumni reception will be held on Friday, September 11, 2009 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the San Miguel Room of the Westin La Cantera Resort, San Antonio, TX.
- I would like to welcome the new chiefs and give many thanks to the exiting chiefs for all their hard work this past year! They did a great job and represented their class and our residents well.

## Announcements

### DEAN'S TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Sara R. Guzman-Reyes, M.D.
- Ranu R. Jain, M.B.B.S.
- Brain Marasigan, M.D.
- Maria Matuszczak, M.D.
- Katherine C. Norman, M.D.
- Evan G. Pivalizza, MB.Ch.B.
- Didier Sciard, M.D.



Dr. Syed Nasir & his wife, Farah, welcomed the birth of their daughter, Aliza, on April 6, weighing 5#, 6 oz., 19" long. Congratulations!



### NEWSOME GOING TO PERU

Reginald Newsome, M.D. received approval from Dr. Scott Cook-Sather to volunteer in Peru. He will be going during his CA-3 year for approximately 1 month.

### CELEBRATING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT DAY



### FACULTY OF THE MONTH

Jael Carbajal, M.D. "She is a very pleasant and very professional and always with smiling face. She has the all the qualities of a pediatric anesthesiologist. If I need anesthesia for my kids I request her to be anesthesiologist. It is very fortunate to have such a great pediatric anesthesiologist in our department and we all should feel proud of her."

### RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

Richard Beaton, M.D. is our resident of the month. "He always has an upbeat attitude and a good word to say regardless of how tired he is or how long his day has been. He is always volunteering to take extra work, is a great team player and always in a good mood even if it is 3:00 a.m., and there is no end of work in sight."



Pig Trachea/Simulation Labs April 8<sup>th</sup>. From L to R: Sam Gumbert (PGY-3), Rebecca Carroll (PGY-3), and Emily Hamilton (PGY-3) with Dr. Cattano in the background doing the simulation.



Residents are from L to R: Brandon Fields (PGY-3), Reginald Newsome (PGY-3), and Tim Pawelek (PGY-3) with Dr. Hagberg all doing the pig trachea.

PHYSICIAN SCIENTIST & MD/PHD STUDENTS REPRESENT UT-HOUSTON AT 5<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL APSA MTG. & CSCR/ASCI/ AAP JOINT MEETING 4/29/09

Chirag B. Patel, MSE and Davide Cattano, MD, PHD  
The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, Houston, Texas  
April 29m, 2998

The 5th Annual Meeting of the American Physician Scientists Association (APSA) [1] took place in Chicago from Friday, April 24 to Sunday, April 26. It was held in parallel with the Joint Meeting [2] of the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) and the Association of American Physicians (AAP) and the Combined Annual Meeting [3] of the Central Society for Clinical Research (CSCR) and the Midwestern Section American Federation for Medical Research (MWAfMR). A physician–scientist (Davide Cattano, Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology) and three MD/PhD students (Youngsin Jung, Chirag Patel, and Daniel Schneider) represented the University of Texas Medical School at Houston (UT–Houston) at the meeting and presented their research abstracts during the Saturday poster session. Chirag Patel serves on the APSA Executive Council as Member–at–Large for MD/PhD and DO/PhD students and Daniel Schneider received an ASCI/AAP travel award for his research abstract on pulmonary fibrosis.

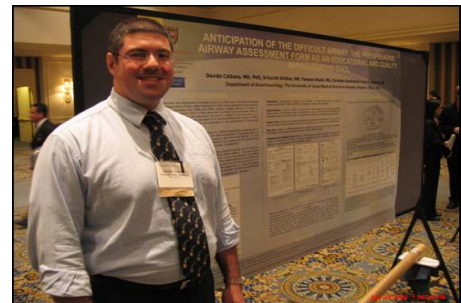
The meeting was an opportunity to hear from leading physician–scientists in various arenas of clinical and translational research. In addition, mentorship and networking were integral parts of the meeting. For example, a mentorship breakfast on Saturday and a lunch with residency program directors on Sunday enabled physician–scientist trainees to engage with role models. In addition to networking with such mentors, attendees had many opportunities to interact with each other, through official and impromptu social gatherings.

Although much of the research presented at the meeting was conducted through departments of internal medicine, the field of anesthesiology has the opportunity to attract talented future trainees Medical Student Anesthesia Research Fellowships [4]

to this unique group of students dedicated to pursuing careers as physician–scientists. Indeed, many of the students with whom the UT–Houston attendees interacted expressed an interest in the field of anesthesiology. Such interest can be nurtured through increased participation of anesthesiology physician–scientists, via membership in APSA [5] and attendance at its Annual Meeting.

#### References

1. <http://www.physicianscientists.org/meetings/annual/2009/>
2. <http://www.jointmeeting.org/>
3. <http://www.cscr.com/am09/>
4. <http://www.faaer.org/programs/students/>
5. <http://www.physicianscientists.org/about/membership>



Davide Cattano, M.D., Ph.D. standing next to his research poster at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual APSA Meeting in Chicago, IL.

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Welcome Naz Hassan, Support Specialist, who works in the Chairman's Suite at MSB 5.020. Her phone number is (713) 500–6114.

