

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. The resident relief schedule has been revisited and we will continue to follow the traditional relief system. Team leaders will work together with 892 to facilitate matters. Every effort will be made to treat residents fairly.
2. Eventually all of the surgical subspecialties (peds, ortho, neuro, etc.) will be divided into "Pods". The rationale behind this change is to provide consistency between the surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses and technicians. We are in the planning stage only. More to follow.
3. ACGME duty hour violations continue to be reported. The team leaders are responsible for residents who leave after 8:00 p.m. Although the ACGME does not mandate a 10 hour rest-rule, every effort will be made to provide residents with 10 hours between daily shifts.
4. Case log books are due every 3 months - Jan 1, April 1, July 1 and Oct 1. No exceptions! Jonetha and Cheryl will send out friendly reminders when these dates are approaching.
5. Dedicated "interview days" for CA3s are being scheduled into the current vacation/meeting calendar for one week in every month between now and March. These spots will be available on a "first come, first serve" basis to schedule interviews for either fellowship or job positions. I encourage you to continue with your training and do a fellowship. As the anesthesiology market shrinks, this will be a nice way to distinguish you from the other applicants.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chairman's Corner	1
Residency Director's Update	2
Faculty News	2
Political Corner	3
Chief Chat	3
LBJ News	3
Help Those in Need	3
Current Trends in Thoracic Anesthesia Conference	4
Coding/Billing Issues	4
Announcements	5

6. I want to encourage as many faculty and staff as possible to participate in Early Voting, which is currently going on from 7am-7pm Monday-Friday this week, October 27-31. While there are numerous early voting centers, the closest to the Medical School is located in the **Fiesta Mart** at 8130 Kirby at Main just before Reliant Stadium on your right. For the closest voting center to your home, you may call **713-755-6965** or go to www.harrisvotes.com. You are encouraged to expedite the registration process when you arrive by bringing your Texas Drivers License with you. Please take advantage of this early opportunity to vote as the lines promise to be very long on Voting Day.

"Dedicated "Interview days" for CA3s are being scheduled into the current calendar."

"You are encouraged to participate in Early Voting."

Residency Director's

By Mary Rabb, M.D.

Congratulations are in order for the following residents who scored >75th percentile on the recent ITE. Please take a moment to congratulate them on this huge accomplishment. See list on the last page.

Also, mock oral examinations will begin in November. We will start with the CA 3 Class. You will be notified if you are chosen (based on the call schedule) for this practice exam. The dates will be the first 3 Fridays in November in the afternoon. Exact room numbers and times will be distributed later on. We plan on giving this to all CA 3 residents this year.

Finally, it is resident recruitment season. In the past, the residents have played a HUGE role in our success. It is because of our great residents that we are able to recruit so well. Keep up the hard work. We have a fantastic group of applicants this year.

"Keep up the hard work."

Faculty News

Abstracts and Poster/Oral Presentations/Discussions:

- Hagberg CA, Lam N, Abramson S, Vahdat K, Craig J: Dexmedetomidine vs. remifentanyl for sedation in awake intubations—A randomized, double-blind trial. Anesthesiology A-14
- Hagberg CA, Melnikov V, Scarborough, Luong K: Evaluation of the ramp positioner in obese patients undergoing gastric bypass surgery – A pilot study. Anesthesiology A-426
- Hagberg CA, Khalil B, Garcia T: Comparison of LTS-D, combitube and Pro-seal LMA in adult patients undergoing elective surgery. Anesthesiology A-517
- Hagberg CA, Ferrario L, Vahdat K, Khalil: Comparison of the intersurgical i-GEL and LMA unique in non-obese adult patients – A pilot study. Anesthesiology A-533, 2008
- Hagberg CA, D. John Doyle: Poster Session Moderator: Patient safety. ASA Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida, Oct. 18-22, 2008
- Hagberg CA, Ferrario L, Vahdat K, Khalil B: Comparison of the intersurgical I-Gel and LMA unique in non-obese adult patients. SAM 12th Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts

More Faculty News

Abstracts and Poster/Oral Presentations/Discussions:

- Hagberg C, Melnikov V, Wilson E, Luong K, Contreras: Evaluation of the ramp positioner in obese patients undergoing gastric bypass surgery. SAM 12th Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts
 - Vahdat K, Hagberg CA, Tandon N, Pivalizza E: An Evaluation of the intraoperative use of hexend vs crystalloid procedures with respect to coagulation for intracranial surgical procedures—A pilot study. Society of Neurosurgical Anesthesia and Critical Care Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida, 2008
 - Khalil SN: Perera P, Chuang A: In boys with obstructive sleep apnea, caffeine decreased post-extubation adverse respiratory events. Anesthesiology A-1376 ASA Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida, 2008
 - Pivalizza EG, Chitty DA, Panni MK: Variations in obstetric nurse evaluations of aspects of anesthesia resident core competencies. Anesthesiology A-830 ASA Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida, 2008
 - Pivalizza EG, Zayac EA, Grellhesl, Kao LS, Gonzalez EA: Initial description of the TEG™ split point and delta time (R – SP) in acute trauma patients. Anesthesiology A-1280, ASA Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida,
- Lectures:
- “Current Concepts in the Management of the Difficult Airway”; Refresher Course Lecture Program, Orlando, Florida, Oct. 18-22, 2008;
 - Hagberg CA – Con, Heidegger T – Pro: “Fiberoptic Intubation for the Difficult Airway is the Gold Standard”, SAM 12th Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, Sept. 19-21, 2008
- Moderator:
- Hagberg CA: “Lighted Optical Stylets”, SAM 12th Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, Sept. 19-21, 2008
- Workshops:
- Hagberg CA: ‘Basic and Advanced Airway Management Techniques in Personnel Protection Equipment’; “ASA Difficult Airway Workshop and Airway Simulation”, “Workshop on Thoracic Anesthesia”, ASA 59th Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida, Oct. 18-22, 2008
 - Hagberg CA, Cook D: “Supraglottic Devices”; “Sedation with Remifentanyl and Dex for Awake Intubation”, SAM 12th Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, Sept. 19-21, 2008
- Invited Speaker:
- Doursout MF: Bisulfite Neurotoxicity Fact or Fantasy?, Annual European Society of Regional Anesthesia, Genoa, Italy, September 24-27, 2008

Political Corner

By Evan Pivalizza, MBChB

As election day looms, I encourage all physicians and their families and friends to make educated decisions for candidates for both state and national elections by carefully *examining and investigating* their stances on issues critical to physicians, including protection of tort reforms, preservation of a physician's ability to submit a bill without defaulting to an insurance company's minimal payment, prevention of inappropriate expansion of non-physician practice and proposals for the uninsured patients of Texas. Useful resources include the members-only sections for the TSA-PAC (<http://www.tsa.org>), TMA -PAC (<http://www.texpac.org>), including TEXPAC's bi-partisan list of endorsed candidates (<http://www.texpac.org/political/2008electionprimer.pdf>) and ASA-PAC (<http://www.asahq.org>) sites.

Chief Chat

Many thanks to our residents for stepping up to the plate when Hurricane Ike hit. We have had the pleasure this month of training some of the UTMB residents who were displaced from the hurricane. It's wonderful seeing residents help fellow residents!

The chiefs met with the attendings this month to ensure that the relief system remains as it always has been. We have started something new for the seniors: allowing seniors time off to be able to interview with outside practices/anesthesia groups. Also, a reminder seniors need to register for the ABA exam.

And last, but definitely not least, Mike and Marissa Mullens have graciously offered to host this year's Halloween Party at their house on Fri. Oct 31 at 7pm. If it's anything like the CA1 welcome party, you definitely won't want to miss it!

I also encourage you to financially support candidates that you believe are supporters of physicians and the practice of medicine – have no doubt that the legal, insurance and business communities are supporting candidates with their particular interests at heart! If in doubt, contribute to the TSA/TMA-PACs for state and ASA-PAC for national candidates who will distribute contributions to appropriate candidates in the next 2 weeks.

"I encourage all physicians and their families to make education decisions for candidates for both state and national elections".

LBJ News

By Peter Doyle, M.D.

- The future is now. CompuRecord will go live on November 4th, so please take every opportunity to practice your EMR skills prior to that date.
- All of the LBJ resident check-in information will now be on Blackboard. Please take a look at it and give us some feedback.

"The future is now."

Help Those in Need

An excellent way to help those less fortunate than you are is by giving to the SECC Campaign. Let's make our department #1 in the number of contributors; we don't our department to be last. You can choose how much and where you want your funds to go (charity you designate). Payroll deductions can be as little as \$2.00/month or you can make a one-time contribution for **any amount**, small or large. This campaign ends 10/30. Call or see Anne Starr at 500-6182 to turn in your form.

Current Trends in Thoracic Anesthesia Conference

By Ron Purugganan, M.D, Conf. Director

The University of Texas M.D. Anderson's 3rd Annual Current Trends in Thoracic Anesthesia Conference will be held at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Campus on the weekend of November 8–9th 2008. The conference has been revised to focus primarily on thoracic anesthesia, since the SCA already presents numerous excellent conferences on the cardiac aspect of our subspecialty. It will cover core topics in thoracic anesthesia and provide workshops for hands-on procedural techniques. It is a solid review for the occasional and/or experienced thoracic anesthesiologist and provides a maximum of 14.50 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits.

A warm invitation is extended to faculty, fellows, and residents to attend. A conference website has been created for information and registration (see below). Because of their commitment to the training of our residents, the residents and fellows are invited to attend *free of charge*. The only requirement is to leave a deposit (to insure a place), but it will be **refunded** at the close of the conference (just provide institutional ID). Mary-Ann Schneider, the program coordinator, can handle your registration, if help is needed.

As a member of the Thoracic Anesthesia faculty at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for allowing us to participate in the education of your residents. If you, the faculty, or your trainees have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We hope to see you there!

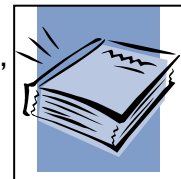
Website:

<http://www.mdanderson.org/thoracicanesthesia>

"The conference has been revised to focus primarily on thoracic anesthesia"

Coding/Billing Issues

By Shirley Hillman



Medicare has a new project entitled, "RAC", Recovery Audit Contractors. Their focus will be on high dollar claims which could put anesthesia in the limelight. Improper payments occur for many reasons, such as procedures not being medically necessary, incorrect coding, duplicate claims, and many other reasons. Those reasons would be discovered through their audit process.

It is of utmost importance you look for Teaching Physicians Attestation, Date of Service and Resident's Signature on the Intraoperative Record. Any one of these deficiencies would be reason for recoupment. Contractors have a large incentive to find errors since they are paid 25% of each dollar they recover. \$347 million was recovered from New York, Florida and California. Staff Physicians will be notified by Medicare through a request for copies of documentation of charges that have been paid through Medicare. The physician will then be given only 45 days to respond with documentation. After 45 days, a refund will take place.

If you receive any type of notice from Medicare, please notify me immediately. Please watch your mail carefully. Everyone must be **proactive** in your documentation. We do the work, need to get the credit and need to receive payment. My advice is to DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT.

"My advice is to DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT."

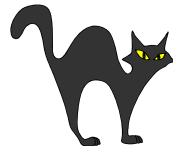
The two best physicians of them all –
Dr. Laughter and Dr. Sleep.
Gregory Dean, Jr.

Announcements

Resident High Scorers

Congratulations to the following residents who scored about the 75th percentile on this year's In-Training Exam. They will receive an additional \$500 award that can be used for educational meetings and/or books.

Andrew Allison, M.D.
Shawn Calvin, M.D.
Lisa Caplan, M.D.
Laura Garrett, M.D.
Brad Keneson
Peter Killoran
Lance LaFleu
Olga Lyuksytova
Reggie Newsome
Scott Roethle
Chris Strouse
January Tsai
David Zarzour



Halloween Party

Date: October 31, 2008

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Host: Mike Mullens

Location: 401 Bolivar St.,
Bellaire, TX

Be sure to wear your costume.



Wedding Congratulations

To Leslie Martinez on her marriage to
Holland Jones October 24, 2008.

Heartfelt Sympathy

To Cheryl Loudd on the passing of her
grandmother.

Faculty of the Month

Nina Singh is our Faculty of the Month. "Nina is a great new asset to our program. Every time I have had the pleasure of working with her, she has taken the time to teach me something new and interesting. She is an incredible mentor and teacher. She is constantly striving to make us better residents; she wants us to always be questioning, learning and improving as residents and seems to value our education and training as much as we do ourselves. In addition, she has a great personality and is a wellspring of energy to be around."

Resident of the Month

Amy Graham is our resident of the month. "I have taken a few calls with Amy in which I have witnessed her work first-hand. As a member of our team, she is consistent, early to arrive, hard-working, has a good attitude, stays late, has great communication with the surgeons and nurses, and is excited about learning. She was a CV nurse before she decided to be an anesthesiologist. We are very fortunate to have her in our program as a CA-1 and feel that she is most deserving of this award."

It's Outrageous

A jury of her peers awarded a woman from Austin, Texas \$780,000 after breaking her ankle tripping over a toddler who was running amok inside a furniture store. The owners of the store were understandably surprised at the verdict, considering the misbehaving tyke was the woman's own son.

A 19 year old youth from Los Angeles won \$74,000 and medical expenses when his neighbor ran his hand over with a Honda Accord. The young man apparently didn't notice someone was at the wheel of the car whose hubcap he was trying to steal.

*"Be the change you want to
see in the world."
Mathama Gandhi*