

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. Many thanks to Mike Mullins and his wife, Marissa, for hosting the Hawaiian Luau in their home as they welcomed the new CA-1 class. Fortunately, we dodged Hurricane Gustav, unlike Ike, and the party was able to continue well into the morning hours.
2. We had a great turnout for the TSA Meeting at the Lost Pines Resort with many medical students, residents and staff attending. This is an excellent meeting with a great venue, including lectures, workshops, panels, politics and family fun. Next year's meeting will be held in San Antonio at the Westin Lacantera, September 10-13, 2009. Please save the date and make every effort to attend, at least part of it, if not all.
3. Resident evaluations of this program are taken quite seriously, and I welcome constructive criticism and input. Although many changes have already been implemented, we will continue to make additional changes hopefully in the right direction. My door is open, and I will be more than happy to discuss any possible improvements of your training.
4. We will now integrate simulation training, medical, legal reviews, business matters, mock oral examinations, and enhanced clinical and classroom didactics case presentations. Grand rounds should now be geared to more audience participation and final take home points should be stressed. The discussion is not intended for blaming individuals, but rather to promote safety for our patients and academic improvement. Please remember to list interesting cases and mishaps into our case log for possible presentation. This is a great learning tool and your involvement in case presentations is highly encouraged.
5. The anesthesia transport policy has now been finalized. Pocket-sized laminated cards will be made for residents to serve as helpful reminders. Anesthesia residents will be responsible for transporting all of the following patients:
 - a. All mechanically ventilated patients with 7:30 a.m. scheduled OR start times
 - b. All mechanically ventilated patients with any of the following ventilatory requirements
 - 1) $FiO_2 \geq 0.6$
 - 2) $PEEP \geq 0.8$

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chairman's Corner	1
Residency Director's Update	2
Faculty News	2
Political Corner	3
Chief Chat	3
Snooze News	4
LBJ News	4
Coding/Billing Issues	4
Announcements	5

- 3) $PIP \geq 40$ cm H₂O
- d. All patients with hemodynamic instability
 - 1) Requiring inotropic or vasopressor support
 - 2) Requiring IABP
 - 3) All patients who have had CPR <24 hrs
- e. All patients with unsecured, compromised airways
Anesthesia personnel should request the assistance of RT (Respiratory Therapy) if they are uncomfortable transporting the patient alone and/or if the patient requires unusual ventilatory support (oscillator, APRV, $PIP \geq 40$ cm H₂O).
6. A new feature will be added to our newsletter for both resident and faculty of the month. I would like to identify those individuals who have exceeded expectations and deserve honorable mention. All suggestions should go to Kathy Franz. The individuals can only be mentioned once in a year's period of time.

"My door is open."



Our department was well represented at the TSA Meeting, Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort, Lost Pines, Texas

Residency Director's

By Mary Rabb, M.D.

After dodging Hurricane Gustav, we were immediately faced with Hurricane Ike which forced many people to evacuate. The Anesthesia Department performed spectacularly during the disaster period and our residents were a large reason for this. Congratulations to our residents for a job well done!!!

Hopefully everyone was spared, and the electricity will return soon for those still without power. As a result of Hurricane Ike, 5 residents from UTMB will be rotating here at UT - Houston. The projected start date is September 29, 2008 (orientation) and in the OR on September 30th. Please welcome them and make them feel at home.

They are:

Brandy Bergeron
Raymond Kim
Michelle Nguyen
Erin Sreshta
Michael Yolland

Regarding resident education, we will begin Mock Oral Exams in November. Time and location will be announced soon. Dr. Cattano has volunteered to meet with the CA 1 residents to help them with their failed AKT keywords. Please contact him to set up an appointment.

On a different note, resident recruitment will begin in November and we have a fantastic group of applicants!!! Please let me know your thoughts on the medical students you work with. It is because of our residents and faculty that we have done so well with recruitment. I take your recommendations seriously about the medical students so please keep me informed. Keep up the hard work!!!

"Please welcome the UTMB residents and make them feel at home."

Faculty News

Articles:

Hagberg CA, Law JA: Video laryngoscopy and the difficult airway - Image is everything. Anesthesiology News Guide to Airway Management 2008 91-98.

Workshops:

Hagberg CA: Airway Management Workshop, "LMA Fastrack and LMA Unique/Airtree Airway Exchange Catheter", TSA Annual Meeting, Sept. 4-7, Lost Pines, TX

Hagberg CA: Airway Management Workshop, "Bonfils Retromolar, Intubation Fiberscope"; Moderator: Lighted Optical Stylets; "Fiberoptic Intubation for the Difficult Airway is the Gold Standard" Pros and Cons - Con Presenter; Expert's Round Table #1 - "Sedation with Remifentanyl and Dex for Awake Intubation", 12th Annual Society for Airway Management Meeting, Sept. 19-21, Boston, MA

Matuszczak M: Regional Anesthesia Workshop, "Ultrasound Guided Blocks and Landmarks in Pediatrics", TSA Annual Meeting, Sept. 4-7, Lost Pines, TX

Sciard D: "Regional Anesthesia Workshop, "Pediatric Ultrasound Guided Perineural nerve Blocks Upper Extremity", TSA Annual Meeting, Sept. 4-7, Lost Pines, TX

"Image is everything."

There cannot be a crisis next week.
My schedule is already full.
Henry Kissinger

An ignorant person is one who doesn't know what you just found out.
Will Rogers

Political Corner

By Evan Pivalizza, MBChB

Discussions (including those with a Texas senator and 2 representatives) at the recent TSA and TMA Annual Meetings confirmed apprehensions about the potential perils facing the medical specialty of anesthesiology in the 2009 Texas legislative session.

- Trial lawyers will be attacking 2003 tort reforms despite overwhelming evidence of subsequent increased physician recruitment to Texas with improved patient access.
- Multiple physician extenders will be advocating for independent practice
- Business and healthcare-plan interests will be physician unfriendly with proposals to limit the ability of hospital-based physicians (anesthesiology, radiology, pathology, ER, neonatology) to collect fair and appropriate payment from patients should health-care

Chief Chat

Hello Fellow Campers.



We have had a lot going on in August and so far in early September. The Hawaiian party was a big success, and all who attended had a great time. Hopefully we will get more faculty out next time. We got some great pictures, and I'm sure they will make an appearance at the graduation slideshow (sorry).

Our next social event should be a lot of fun as we have all been invited to check out the jamming band of Dr. Aiyer. The exact date should be coming, so be sure to keep your ears open.

Great showing at the TSA this year and if you were not able to go, try it out next year. It's very informative and gets up to date with the most pressing issues affecting anesthesia state and nationwide. Economics are always a pressing

plans have inadequate network access for these physicians or unfair payment options necessitating physicians being out-of-network.

If these issues alarm you:

- Contribute to the TSAPAC; actual amounts plus participation, per se, adds to our voice in Austin.
- Look for fund-raisers/events for your local politicians where you can meet and represent our issues.

Follow TMA (www.texmed.org) and TSA (www.tsa.org) recommendations for candidate information and opinions on these relevant issues.

"Contribute and participate which adds to our voice in Austin."

Issue. Both Kate Hagan and I are planning to give a brief synopsis of the most pressing issues at one of the next few grand rounds.

Not sure how many new kiddos we have welcomed in since our last newsletter, but I know there are a lot on the way. We definitely work hard in and out of the O.R. Thanks for all the hard work. and as always we welcome all suggestions and will work hard on issues that come up on a day-to-day basis.

See ya'll next month.

Hawaiian Luau Pictures



"Thanks for all the hard work."

Snooze News

UT Anesthesia Club (4th Year Medical Students)
Alison DeGreeff MSVI

Thanks so much to the chiefs for speaking at the first meeting of the UT Anesthesia Club this year! We had a great turn out. Now, we need YOUR HELP!

First, we are reestablishing the shadowing program to give students experience in the OR.

Second, we are planning a clinical skills session on November 7th from 2–3:30pm. We NEED RESIDENTS to help teach the medical students how to intubate and start IVs. Please contact Allison DeGreeff at Allison.r.degreeff@uth.tmc.edu to help with either of these!

Most importantly... we are selling cute T-SHIRTS! They are \$10 each and are awesome! See picture below for the design. Anyone interested in buying a shirt please email Stacy Norrell at stacy.l.kochel@uth.tmc.edu. Thanks so much!





Dr. Elizabeth Behringer, Professor, Vice Chair of the Society for Airway Management, who was the first Joseph C. Gabel lecturer, gave the lecture, "Extubation of the Difficult Airway". Picture of her at the Journal Club at Dr. Hagberg's home.

LBJ News

- Thank you to all who worked during Hurricane Ike. We appreciate all who volunteered to ride out the storm and provide relief until the normal schedule resumed.
- After conferring with the Trauma Medical Director (TMD) at LBJ, there is no trauma CME requirement, nor are you required to fill out additional paperwork for Physician's Services.
- Due to Hurricane Ike, the CompuRecord super user training has been pushed back to September 25th. We will also delay the go-live date to late October or early November.
- The recent OR expansion project was a complete success; therefore, there are plans to expand the OR further. More details are to come.
- Welcome Soo-Hyun Lee-Kim and Sandra Callejas, our two new nurse practitioners in the Pre-Operative Screening Clinic. They are now employees of the medical school, and we look forward to our continued relationship with them.

"Thank you to all who worked during Hurricane Ike."

Coding/Billing Issues

By Shirley Hillman

As a Trauma Center we provide anesthesia for Abdominal Washout/Wound Vac exchange procedures. Due to coding issues, if we report it as "Abdominal Washout" or "Abdominal Wound/Vac Exchange" we can bill for only four points. It is viewed as abdominal WALL washout which is only a skin procedure. If "Exp Lap" is reported we can bill 6 units and if "Upper Abdominal Exp Lap" is reported we can bill for 7 units.

Each spine case that is not documented "with plating" or "with rods" or "with instrumentation" is losing \$300.00–\$500.00.

Cystoscopy with fragments/stone removal pays more than *just* a cystoscopy.

Don't forget to put a stop time on the anesthesia record.



Announcements

The Pain Medicine Rehabilitation Center, under the direction of Dr. Abramson Thomas, opened its doors on September 23, 2008. It is located at Memorial Hermann Hospital on the 1st Floor of the Robinson Pavilion, phone number 713-704-7246.

Welcome Candice Shutko, M.D., former resident from the class of September 8, 2006, who is joining us from the Methodist Hospital. We are so glad for her return home!

Davide Cattano, M.D., Ph.D., was recently awarded one of the Society for Airway Management's Research Award, a new research project entitled, "An Evaluation of Seal in the LMA with Air versus Saline in the Cuff: A Mannequin Study."

Dr. Carin Hagberg, M.D., was named as Executive Director of the Society of Airway Management at the recent SAM Meeting in Boston, MA. Dr. Hagberg has been a member of their society for the past 12 years and has served as an officer for the past 6 years and has on the Board of Directors.

That's the secret to life... replace one worry with another." Charles M. Schulz

*"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."
Mother Teresa*

Rock and Roll Gig
For Residents & Faculty



Come to Downtown Houston
for the Rock and Roll Gig
Date and Time: To Be Announced
Host: Ultra Sound (MDs)
Location: The Butterfly high Lounge/
Bar Hollywood
902 Capitol St.
Houston, TX 77002

Office Procedures and Office Closings

On the Lighter Side...

From the Internet via email

As we watch the progress of the storm, the following are the firm's guidelines based upon the hurricane's intensity:

Hurricane Category #1

No excuse for being late. Leave earlier to give extra time to avoid fallen trees and limbs.

Hurricane Category #2

Due to the horizontal rain, you may wear jeans.

Hurricane Category #3

Whereas most of the area will be flooded, we suggest you avoid wearing open toe sandals when coming to work. Canoes will be provided to get to the building safely without getting wet.

Hurricane Category #4

More than likely there will be no electricity. Given that, we will have manual typewriters available to all staff members. Please take extra caution and wear water-proof make-up if Category 4 or above.

Hurricane Category #5

Velcro will be provided to keep you attached to your chairs when the windows blow out. For those that survive, we will have chocolate cake at 3:00 pm in the cafeteria.