Sandberg Joins Department to Sample ‘Secret Sauce’

What was the tipping point behind Dr. Warren Sandberg’s decision to leave a thriving research/academic career and clinical practice spanning more than a decade at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School to join Vanderbilt University Medical Center as Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology? It was the “secret sauce” that he discovered simmering throughout the department that ultimately led to his choice to relocate his family from Boston to Nashville.

“If there was another chair’s job open at a similar institution, but without the secret sauce that makes Vanderbilt special, I wouldn’t have applied for the job,” he said.

When Sandberg visited Vanderbilt as a Grand Rounds lecturer in 2009, speaking on one of his passions — informatics and its application in perioperative care — he spotted many intriguing facets of the department, largely centered around the people that make it tick.

“I noticed how well run it was, how happy people seemed to be, how accepting the faculty were of the use of innovative technology to improve situational awareness and patient care – I realized fairly quickly that Vanderbilt was really a place that I would want to be,” he said.

Sandberg, former Associate Professor of Anaesthesia at Harvard Medical School, was recruited through a nationwide search led by Sam Santoro, MD, PhD, Chair of Pathology. And his professional credentials, at the fairly young age of 46, are impressive. He joined the Harvard faculty in 1998, after receiving his Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Chicago in 1991, and his M.D. from the University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine in 1994. He served his internship at the University of Chicago Hospitals, and was a resident and fellow in the Department of Anesthesia and Critical Care at Massachusetts General Hospital.

He has a strong clinical and research interest in the development and use of informatics in healthcare, and Vanderbilt’s innovative programs in informatics, quality, and health outcomes research, much of which is spearheaded by the Department of Anesthesiology, were critical in his decision to accept the chairmanship. Dr. Santoro had plenty of praise for Sandberg, and no
doubts about the final decision.

“Warren Sandberg stood out early on in the search process as a visionary and innovative academic anesthesiologist,” Santoro said. “His own current research focus on the application of informatics to improve anesthesia care is truly world class and a natural fit for Vanderbilt given our institutional strength in informatics and the strength within the department. His early career focus on basic science research provides him with a broad bandwidth to lead the complex research programs of a top tier anesthesiology department. He is the complete package – strong academics, commitment to excellence in clinical service, and superb mentoring skills. I am confident that Warren Sandberg is the inspiring leader who will build upon the existing base of excellence in the department and guide it to the next level.”

While having Sandberg on board is a definite coup for Vanderbilt, it has been a bittersweet parting for Sandberg and his colleagues in Boston. Sandberg praised his former department chair and mentor, Dr. Jeaninne Weiner-Kronish, for her generosity in nominating him for the Vanderbilt chairmanship and for her full support as he “left the nest.”

“Warren is brilliant, enthusiastic and has boundless energy,” commented Weiner-Kronish. “He is interested in improving how we take care of patients and how to insure their outcomes are optimal. Why did I let him go? Warren will be a great chair, and my job is to help him succeed and to help support the development of anesthesiologists like him. I personally will miss him and wish him only the best.”

Sandberg’s wife, Elisabeth H. Sandberg, PhD, is also joining the Vanderbilt faculty, having accepted a position as senior lecturer in the Department of Psychology in the College of Arts and Science. Sandberg and his wife met at the University of Chicago of Arts and Science. Sandberg and his colleagues in Boston. Sandberg and his wife met at the University of Chicago and has boundless energy,” commented Weiner-Kronish. “He is interested in improving how we take care of patients and how to insure their outcomes are optimal. Why did I let him go? Warren will be a great chair, and my job is to help him succeed and to help support the development of anesthesiologists like him. I personally will miss him and wish him only the best.”

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Inaugural Smith Lectureship, Related Events Draw Many

Former Anesthesiology Department Chair, Bradley Edgerton Smith, MD, was honored in late January with a newly endowed lectureship on medical professionalism established in his name. A Grand Rounds presentation on the topic was given by Joseph Gerald “Jerry” Reves, MD, Dean of the School of Medicine at Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. Reves is credited with creating the nation’s most prominent cardiovascular anesthesia fellowship program, and initiated a physiology simulator in the Duke Medical School curriculum.

Dr. Smith became chairman of the Vanderbilt Department of Anesthesiology on July 1, 1969. He established the first position for a full-time “intensivist” at Vanderbilt, and in 1985 established Vanderbilt’s first pain control clinic. Dr. Smith’s term as chairman ended in March 1993.

In addition to the Grand Rounds lecture, many department alumni joined Smith and Reves to cheer on the Commodores basketball team, and Dr. Smith was honored by an evening reception attended by his family, department leadership and many alumni at The Hermitage hotel in downtown Nashville. Vanderbilt employees can click here to view the Grand Rounds presentation.

Above, left to right, Dean of the School of Medicine Jeffrey Balser, Dr. Bradley Smith and Dr. Jerry Reves.

Above, Dean Balser, Winston C.V. Parris, MD, Nelita Parris and Melinda Balser at the reception honoring Dr. Smith. Below, many Vanderbilt Anesthesiology alumni and friends gathered for a breakfast in Dr. Smith’s honor.

At left, Dr. Smith’s family, left to right, daughter Ione, wife Gretchen, and son, Bradley. In front is Dr. Smith’s son’s girlfriend, Rebecca Rhodes.
Easdown Aids in Haiti Relief Effort

Dr. Jane Easdown, Anesthesiology Associate Professor, volunteered in Haiti in January, providing post-earthquake medical aid to victims. Upon her return, Dr. Easdown filed the following report. The photos were taken during her service.

On the day of the earthquake in Haiti, I was packing for an annual primary care trip to the north of the country. That trip was cancelled as we learned the extent of the chaos in the capital, Port-au-Prince. With the encouragement of our department, I was fortunate enough to connect with Operation Smile, who for the very first time in their 28-year history was assembling a surgical team to do humanitarian work in a more urgent scenario. With five tons of medical supplies, five surgeons, three anesthesiologists, and 10 nurses, we set out from Norfolk, Virginia, in a donated plane to Santo Domingo, with no idea of our final destination.

Within a day, we were invited to work at Fond Parisien, Haiti, just over the border and one hour from Port-au-Prince. The “Love a Child” orphanage and school had opened its doors to serve the refugees from the quake. The Harvard Humanitarian Initiative was directing the camp which was expecting over 1,000 people to take residence there. When we arrived, it was a Red Cross tent city with just 100 patients (ten days later there were 300). Most of these men, women and children had upper or lower-limb injuries, including amputations or external fixation devices hastily placed in whatever health facilities were in operation after the quake.

Many had undisclosed fractures and injuries. Almost all had serious wound infections. We set up two operating rooms and began 10 days of surgical procedures with the intent of saving limbs. Conditions were difficult, with the heat and dust but we were soon able to see a vast improvement in the health and spirit of the patients. What I will remember most is the huge smile we would see when they awoke to see a limb with a clean dressing — no amputation.

Other medical teams arrived from New Jersey, Chicago, and Jackson, Tennessee, as well as from the Dominican Republic, Germany, Ecuador and Norway. Ten days later, there were more than 300 patients with an equal number of family members filling the now close to 50 Red Cross and Eddie Bauer tents. On February 3rd we turned over the service to a fresh new Operation Smile group who continued the surgical work at Fond Parisien.

Dr. Easdown and a colleague in the field, above, were identified by their names written in marker on tape stuck to their scrubs. Dr. Easdown’s reads, ‘Dr. Jane.’ Below, Dr. Easdown provides anesthesia for a patient with a severe leg injury.

At left, young patients are comforted by volunteer caregivers. Today, many of these patients are walking again due to their surgeries three months ago.
Update from Operation Smile
Program Coordinator Mark Beers

Since we arrived in Haiti on January 25th, Operation Smile has had a continual presence at the Disaster Recovery Center in Fond Parisien, about an hour outside of Haiti. After sending four surgical teams and providing more than 250 procedures, we closed the operating rooms but continued sending teams of nurses to care for all of the post-operative patients living in the tent hospital. We have our 11th team there right now.

Next week, the operating rooms open once again as we send a full surgical team to follow up with our patients in the tent hospital. We are excited to send patients on their way, fully recovered. Some of the patients will need follow-up surgery, which also will be provided by this next team.

Overall, the reports we receive regarding the patients and the camp are very encouraging. The majority of the injuries have progressed well and spirits are surprisingly high considering what these families have been through.

A makeshift hospital and supply depot was set up by Operation Smile to handle donations.

Follow the Operation Smile team’s blog at: http://www.operationsmile.org/haiti/ Learn other ways to volunteer at: http://www.vandydreamteam.com/help_for_haiti_now

A giant whiteboard is used to identify volunteer teams from countries around the world. The board lists length of stay, medical specialties and accompanying cargo.

and also Hinche, Haiti. (The Hinche team was flown in by actor Harrison Ford, whom I missed meeting!)

All of us that were able to help in Haiti have been humbled by the experience. Despite the loss of their homes, communities, family and friends, these Haitians were just getting on with it. Each morning you could see them helping each other with dressing and washing since many could not walk. When entering a tent, we were always greeted with smiles, never a complaint of pain or distress. Bibles and prayer sheets were everywhere and evenings were full of singing. But most would not enter a building without fear and the future for these survivors is uncertain.

Those of us who have worked in Haiti and care deeply for its future hope that this catastrophe will focus a lasting international energy on Haiti that will overcome the overwhelming obstacles it faces in the future, especially in Port-au-Prince. Every part of Haiti will be affected by the events of this quake so I am hopeful that we can evolve our VIA activities in Haiti. I encourage all of you to consider Haiti for a charitable donation, not just for this moment in time, but to support the efforts necessary in the years ahead.

Dr. Easdown, foreground, with patients and other volunteers.

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Jamaica Workshop Success Fortifies Global Outreach

Nine VUMC Anesthesiology Department faculty and staff members traveled to Jamaica in mid-March to conduct an Ultrasound-Guided Regional Anesthesia Workshop at the University of the West Indies. Approximately 90 anesthesiology providers from a dozen Caribbean nations were trained during the highly successful workshop and are now better equipped to return to their home hospitals and clinics to practice ultrasound-guided regional anesthesia.

With the addition of ultrasound technology, regional anesthesia is quicker to place, creating better efficiency for clinicians. Ultrasound-guided regional anesthesia also increases patient safety and improves directed pain management due to better needle placement.

Those traveling to Jamaica from Vanderbilt were workshop director Ann Walia, MD; workshop co-director Randall Malchow, MD; Raj Gupta, MD; Amy Robertson, MD; Curtis Baysinger, MD; Nahel Saied, MD; Stephanie Rasmussen, MD; Julie Kapelan, anesthesia technician; and Deborah Nelson-Rouse, program coordinator. University of the West Indies’ Hyacinth Harding-Goldson, MD, was on-site co-director of the workshop, and other faculty members from the University of the West Indies were instructors.

During the workshop, participants conducted cadaver dissections in order to better visualize vascular and other critical anatomical structures during regional anesthesia placement. Six ultrasound machines were transported from the US to Jamaica so guided blocks could be practiced, and three lectures were presented.

Workshop co-director Randall Malchow said the educational outreach “will surely plant the seeds of ultrasonography within the Caribbean nations for years to come.”
The Anesthesiology Department had a very busy 2010 recruiting season, during which we received 762 applications and interviewed 113 candidates. Four of those selected are members of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.

We are pleased to announce the 2010 incoming interns:

- **Aaron Broman**, Creighton University School of Medicine, Omaha, NE
- **Justin Chen**, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX
- **Elizabeth Cochran**, Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine, Augusta, GA
- **Jason Cowan**, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Philadelphia, PA
- **Marc Gutierrez**, Florida State University College of Medicine, Tallahassee, FL
- **Matthew Hamilton**, Mercer University School of Medicine, Macon, GA
- **Amanda Hester**, University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, FL
- **Hannah Keirnes**, University of Florida College of Medicine
- **Roy Kiberenge**, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
- **Adam Kingeter**, University of Texas Medical School at Houston
- **Jessica Quinlan**, Washington University School of Medicine
- **Brad Rodgers**, University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Albuquerque, NM
- **Jenna Walters**, Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine, Charleston, SC
- **Andrea Westman**, University of Texas Medical School at Houston
- **Jennifer Zingarelli**, Florida State University College of Medicine

Match Day Brings Much Celebration, New Faces

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**Badger, Lorinc, Volney Picked as Department’s 2010-11 Chief Residents**

Drs. Stephen Badger, Amanda Lorinc and Shane Volney have been named Chief Residents for the Vanderbilt Department of Anesthesiology for 2010-2011.

Dr. Badger completed his medical degree at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Lorinc received her medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia. Dr. Volney received his medical degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine.

The trio are looking forward to their responsibilities of teaching and guiding medical students, interns and residents, as well as working to continually improve curricu-
On May 7, the basic science investigators, physician-scientists, clinicians, research nurses and medical students conducting investigations in our laboratories and in clinical settings present their findings at the annual Anesthesiology Research Symposium, held at two venues, 214 Light Hall and Vanderbilt’s Student Life Center. The event’s poster sessions and oral presentations represent the diverse research programs in the department and the unique contributions that anesthesiology investigators make to science and medicine.

The Benjamin Howard Robbins Lectureship is held in conjunction with the Anesthesiology Research Symposium, and this year’s speaker is noted physician-scientist Jeanine P. Wiener-Kronish, MD, chair of the Department of Anesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Medicine and the Henry Isaiah Dorr Professor of Research and Teaching in Anaesthesics and Anaesthesia at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Her topic is “Infection vs. Colonization in the ICU”

Dr. Wiener-Kronish’s primary research involves aspects of pulmonary infections in intensive care patients, as well as in asthmatics and patients with cystic fibrosis. She is active in numerous national medical organizations and societies. She is a member of the Board of Directors of FAER, and was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 2002. Dr. Wiener-Kronish is editor of several journals, including Anesthesiology, reviewer for many more, and is a grant reviewer for a number of foundations.

Dr Wiener-Kronish has been an invited speaker or moderator at numerous international and national conferences. She has supervised or mentored pre- and post-doctoral students, and is a prolific writer with 113 peer-reviewed publications, 49 book chapters/editor, and nine invited editorials. She has two issued patents and 131 abstracts.

An annual research awards program was established in conjunction with the symposium to recognize exceptional research teams for work published in the prior year that demonstrates the potential to achieve the Department’s fundamental goal of transforming science and healthcare. Two awards for published research, one in basic science investigation and the other in clinical/translational investigation, were established in honor of Charles Bernard Pittinger, MD, an accomplished anesthesiologist and pharmacology investigator who served as the second chair of Department. Please join the department for the annual Anesthesiology Research Symposium and find out who will be our winners this year.
Upcoming: Phythyon Endowed Lectureship in Pediatric Anesthesiology

Featured Speaker:
Dr. Shobha Malviya
Director of Pediatric Anesthesia Research & Professor of Anesthesiology
University of Michigan Health System

Scheduled Events:
Conversation with Residents & Fellows
Dr. Shobha Malviya
Director of Pediatric Anesthesia Research & Professor of Anesthesiology
University of Michigan Health System
4:30 pm, Thursday, April 29, 2010
Room 419 C&D Light Hall, VUMC

Phythyon Lecture
Dr. Shobha Malviya
6:30 am, Friday, April 30, 2010
214 Light Hall, VUMC

Robbins Scholars Luncheon with Dr. Malviya
11 am, Friday, April 30, 2010
Room 716, Medical Arts Building

Topic: “Pain Assessment and Management in the Cognitively Impaired Child”
Children with cognitive impairment are subject to more frequent painful experiences than their intact counterparts. Difficulty with pain assessment and a lack of clinician knowledge regarding specific pain assessment tools in this population are significant barriers to effective pain management. Dr. Malviya will describe and evaluate tools and techniques for assessing the pain of this unique population.

SAVE THE DATE—CALL DEBORAH NELSON ROUSE NOW!

Vanderbilt Critical Skills Summit 2010

Friday-Sunday, May 21-23, 2010
Sponsored by Vanderbilt School of Medicine
Department of Anesthesiology
Nashville, Tennessee

Comprehensive CME training & hands-on workshops in targeted medical disciplines:
♦ Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS)
♦ Airway Management: Basic & Advanced
♦ Perioperative Transesophageal Echocardiography (TEE)
♦ Pacemaker Management
♦ Fundamental Critical Care Support (FCCS)
♦ Advanced Regional Anesthesia: CANCELLED
♦ Pump and Coagulation Management during CPB

Summit Directors: Ann Walia, MD & Bernhard Riedel, MD, PhD
For information & reservations contact: Deborah Nelson-Rouse
615-343-1926 or via email at deborah.nelson@vanderbilt.edu
This activity has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit.
www.vandydreamteam.com/vanderbilt_critical_skills_summit_2010
Sandidge Events Highlight Advances in Treating Pediatric Pain

On March 26, the Anesthesiology Department members focused full attention on the treatment of pediatric pain, with the awarding of the first Sandidge Pediatric Endowed Fund Pain Management Award and a Grand Rounds presentation: “Perspectives on Pain Management at Children’s Hospital.”

The Sandidge Pediatric Pain Management Endowed Fund at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt was established by retired Vanderbilt anesthesiologist Paula C. Sandidge, MD, to recognize and promote the practice and science of pain management for children.

Dr. Sandidge established the fund in memory of her grandson who died from osteogenesis imperfecta, a genetic illness that inhibits normal bone and tissue growth. Pain management was essential to his treatment and care.

Twila Luckett, BSN, RN-BC, received the first Sandidge Pediatric Endowed Fund Pain Management Award in recognition of her valuable contributions in advancing the practice of pediatric pain management. She received $1,000 to be used toward scholarship and education to further her practice in pediatric pain management.

Luckett has been with VUMC since 1988. She is a graduate of Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky where she earned her bachelor of science in nursing. Luckett has spent the majority of her career at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt in surgical and perioperative nursing.

She is board certified in pain management by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), and has been working with the Children’s Hospital pain service since 2005.

Click here to view the Grand Rounds presentation and Luckett’s award presentation.
iPhone app gains interest

If you haven’t already, *make sure* you read pages 14-16 of the American Society of Anesthesiologists April 2010 newsletter. The MSA Division’s Dr. Brian Rothman, who also serves as associate director of perioperative informatics, wrote an article for ASA, “Mobile Devices — The Next Generation of Situational Awareness Technology in Perioperative Care,” which spotlights Vanderbilt’s newest level of perioperative situational awareness tools, an iPhone application for perioperative situational awareness called VigiVUTM.

The iPhone application is in the midst of a pilot run at Vanderbilt involving a growing number of users (now at 20) who are testing the use of the mobile device to monitor perioperative care. The iPhone app allows clinicians to observe live room video with camera control, graphical vital trends, patient problem list and history, and the electronic medical record.

Go to the ASA website at [www.asahq.org](http://www.asahq.org) and download the April 2010 newsletter to read more about both the pros and the cons of using mobile devices in a perioperative setting. Kudos to Dr. Rothman for publishing such a visible article on an area of pride for Vanderbilt Anesthesiology, cutting-edge technology designed to continue to improve both patient care and safety and the efficiency and responsiveness of our clinicians.

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Survey Away: Create Your Own E-Opinion Polls!

Vanderbilt has a user-friendly resource called REDCap Survey for building online/electronic surveys. Anyone with a VUNet ID can access and use this tool.

Surveys should ONLY be sent out following your division director’s review and approval of the survey & its distribution. This is a useful tool, but not if it is OVER USED.

Communications/Marketing Coordinator Jill Clendening is available to edit and review survey content and has several years’ experience in survey design and implementation.

**The creation and administration of the survey will be each division’s responsibility.**

The secure site for REDCap is: [https://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/victr/secure/redbcapsurvey](https://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/victr/secure/redbcapsurvey)
Presentations

♦ Dr. Amy Robertson, at left, was the featured speaker during the recent 2010 Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Society of Anesthesiologists in downtown Nashville. She spoke on Acute Kidney Injury in Major Surgery.

♦ Dr. Jill Boyle presented two medically challenging cases at the NYSORA World Congress in Dubai during March.

♦ Jerod Denton, PhD, gave two lectures at the Biophysical Society meeting in San Francisco. His topics: “Rational design of a highly selective inhibitor of the renal outer medullary potassium channel (ROMK)” and Functional studies of small molecule-potassium channel interactions using the Patchliner automated patch clamp workstation.”

♦ Drs. Daniel Lonergan and Pratik Pandharipande, gave oral presentations at the Association of University Anesthesiologists’ 57th Annual Meeting, April 8-10, in Denver. Lonergan was honored with the AUA’s Resident Travel Award for his research, “Targeted Discovery of a Small-Molecule Inhibitor of the GIRK Channel,” work he conducted in the lab of Jerod Denton, PhD. Pandharipande, MD, MSCI, presented his research, “Tryptophan Metabolites and the Risk of Delirium in Intensive Care Unit Patients,” during an oral session at the AUA annual meeting.

♦ Dr. Bill Furman spoke on April 17 at the spring meeting of the Colorado Society of Anesthesiologists. He gave two lectures: “Geriatric Anesthesia: What’s Different About Being Old (And What Isn’t)” and “Endocrine Emergencies.”


♦ Gautam “Jay” Bhave (postdoctoral fellow in Jerod Denton’s lab) got second place for best talk at the Nephrology Young Investigator’s forum in New Orleans, LA in recognition of his work. See another note about Bhave under “Honors, Awards & Appointments.”

Recent Publications

♦ Dr. Curtis Baysinger published a paper, “Imaging During Pregnancy,” in Anesthesia and Analgesia, the journal of the International Anesthesia Research Society. Read his work at www.anesthesia-analgesia.org/content/110/3/863.abstract?sid=3040059e-0221-4ff3-9b92-9a187b059c10


♦ Dr. Randall Malchow published an article, Ultrasonography for Advanced Regional Anesthesia in Combat in the Army Medical Department Journal (The AMEDD Journal) in December 2009.

Upcoming Publications

♦ Sabina Kupershmidt’s laboratory, in conjunction with the Vanderbilt Department of Pharmacology, has had a paper accepted in Heart Rhythm, the journal of the Heart Rhythm Society and the Cardiac Electrophysiology Society. The article is “ Trafficking-Competent KCNQ1 Variably Influences the Function of HERG Long QT Alleles.”
Grant News

Two receive FAER grants

♦ Julian Bick, MD, has been approved by the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER) for a Research in Education grant that would fund a basic TEE training program for two years. Dr. Bick is an assistant professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology. See story on page 16 of this newsletter.

♦ Chris Hughes, MD, has received a 2-year mentored research training grant for clinical research from the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER) for his research in the role of endothelial dysfunction in intensive care unit delirium and long-term cognitive impairment. Dr. Hughes is a Clinical Fellow with the Division of Critical Care and a BH Robbins Scholar.

Currie receives Conte Pilot Grant

♦ Kevin Currie, PhD, assistant professor of Anesthesiology, has received a $20,000 Conte Pilot Grant. The Conte Center for Neuroscience Research provides pilot grants through an endowment from the Vanderbilt School of Medicine and awards five investigators annually with a budget of $20,000 for studies that further advance the knowledge of serotonin systems.

In his pilot study, Currie proposes that serotonin acts at an intracellular site(s) following acute uptake by the serotonin transporter (SERT) to regulate adrenal catecholamine release. The long term goal is to dissect this novel cellular mechanism and how it regulates neuroendocrine secretion. Given the serotonin transporter is targeted by several antidepressants such as prozac and citalopram, the lab’s work will also provide new insight into the cellular mechanisms of these clinically important drugs.

Honors, Awards & Appointments

♦ Dr. Ann Walia has been invited to be an abstract reviewer for ILTS in Hong Kong in July, 2010.

♦ Dr. Jill Boyle was accepted as a faculty VUceptor for the fall semester 2010 for incoming freshman undergraduate students.

♦ Gautam “Jay” Bhave, MD, who conducts research as a postdoctoral fellow in the Anesthesiology Department lab of Jerod Denton, PhD, was recognized for excellence in basic science research at the National Kidney Foundation 2010 Spring Clinical Meetings in Orlando, Florida, during the annual National Young Investigators Forum.

Regional winners were invited to participate and competed for national accolades based on original research presented at the forum. Final awards were decided through an open competition judged by independent clinical experts. Bhave won first place in basic science research for his project, Rational Design of a Highly Selective Renal Outer Medullary Potassium Channel (ROMK) Small Molecule Antagonist.

Personal Notes

♦ Our sympathy goes to Dr. Michael Richardson as his father, William Richardson, died on April 11. Please keep Dr. Richardson and his family in your hearts and prayers during this difficult time.

♦ Our sympathy to Administrative Assistant Gail Hess, on the loss of her mother in early April. Please let Gail know you are thinking of her as she mourns her loss.

Alumni News

Division News

♦ Many department members were visible players in the Society of Critical Care Medicine Annual Conference in Miami in January. Presentation given included:
Liza Weavind: Intensivists as Educators: Developing an Educational Program and Surviving the Accreditation Process–Curriculum Development
C. Lee Parmley: Is the Double-Effect Principle a Double-Edged Sword
Pratik Pandharipande: FCCS Instructor Course – Monitoring Blood Flow, Oxygenation and Acid-Base Balance; FCCS Instructor Course – Mechanical Ventilation; Delirium: The Next Proposed “Never” Event: Is this Realistic?
Bernhard Riedel: Endothelial Dysfunction in the Critically Ill
Christopher Hughes: Intraoperative Risk Factors for ARDS
Stuart McGrane: Role of CRP & Procalcitonin in Delirium
Jessica Adams: Role of Tryptophan Metabolites in Delirium
Arna Banerjee: Introducing Fundamentals of Critical Care Support into the Medical School Curriculum

♦ Several CRNAs are in new roles in order to continuously improve the department’s communication and efficiency. Buffy Lupear, CRNA is the Assistant Chief CRNA. John Butorac, CRNA is the MSA Lead CRNA. The position of Service Specialist has also been created. These employees serve as facilitators for the various pods in the OR and report to John Butorac as MSA Lead CRNA. They are:
Tammy Freehling, CRNA Neurosurgery
Kathy Mitchell, CRNA AOS/Ortho
Ken Donnell, CRNA Gen Oncology/Urology
Mark Haffey, CRNA OOOP/Vascular
Ki Szmyd-Hogan, CRNA OOR

♦ Two research nurses have been hired in the Perioperative Clinical Research Institute: Pamela Berry, RN and Patty Hendricks, RN.

♦ Jennifer Smith has been hired as Program Coordinator II for the Center for Perioperative Research in Quality, working with Dr. Matt Weinger. Smith was formerly an administrative assistant with the School of Nursing. In her new role, she will be extensively involved with the faculty promotion program, as well as center management and operations. Smith will also work on grant, financial and budget management. She can be reached at jenn.smith@vanderbilt.edu.

Education News

♦ Register now for Vanderbilt Critical Skills Summit 2010, May 21-23. This unique medical summit allows attendees the flexibility of combining training in several disciplines to create customized learning tracks in a highly-structured academic environment. For instance, an attendee can combine training in ACLS and FCCS; Airway Management and ACLS; Adult & Pediatric Airway Management and FCCS, or Pacemaker Management, Pump Management, TEE and Coagulation Management.

During the Summit, a wetlab for porcine heart dissection; hands-on simulation including the 3-D Heartworks TEE Simulator; state-of-the-art mannequins; and other training tools will provide attendees an optimum learning experience. Visit www.vandydreamteam.com/vanderbilt_critical_skills_summit_2010 to learn more and to complete registration online. Contact Vanderbilt Critical Skills Summit 2010 directors, Ann Walia, MD & Bernhard Riedel, MD, PhD with any questions.

♦ The first ASA MOCA course, was presented in January by our department, in partnership with the Center for Experiential Learning and Assessment (CELA). The course offers immersive patient simulation education for ABA Diplomates seeking to fulfill their Practice Performance Assessment and Improvement (PPAI) requirement for the American Board of Anesthesiologists (ABA) Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology (MOCA®) Program. The training fulfills the simulation education requirement of Part 4 of MOCA®. The VUMC simulation program has been endorsed by the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ (ASA) Committee on Simulation Education to provide quality training to ASA members. MOCA Course Director is Arna Banerjee, MD, assistant professor in the Division of Critical Care. Upcoming course dates are posted on the CELA website: www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/medschool/cela/moca/moca.php

♦ The Acute Pain Service hosts a monthly Journal Club, including an accompanying newsletter. If you are interested in receiving the APS newsletter or learning more about the Journal Club, contact Dr. Raj Gupta, raj.gupta@vanderbilt.edu
The support documentation must be a merchant produced or a non-University document that records the relevant details for each item purchased, including quantities, dollar amounts, a description of what was purchased, the total charge amount, the merchant’s name and address, and transaction date. Examples of acceptable supporting documentation include, but are not limited to:

- Original sales receipt, invoice, cash register receipt, or packing slip (including the price)
- Internet confirmation printed from email (if there is no packing slip included with goods when received)
- Original copy of order form or application

Vanderbilt has allowed our department to continue the CME debit card program provided that the required documentation accompany all CME/P-card expenditures, and that we terminate the cards of non-compliant individuals. Your assistance with providing the appropriate detailed documentation is appreciated.

If you have questions about this policy change, contact Jennifer Harris-Brown at jennifer.harris-brown@vanderbilt.edu or by calling 936-0649.

Calling all Alumni!

Please send your news to share with other Vanderbilt's alumni and faculty. News can include personal news, accomplishments and achievements. In addition, so we can always reach you with important updates and notices of upcoming events, include your current contact information, including mailing address and email address.

To view other news & events, visit www.vandydreamteam.com. We look forward to this newsletter strengthening what is already a great relationship. Send news via email to Communications/Marketing Coordinator Jill Clendening at jill.clendening@vanderbilt.edu or via mail at Department of Anesthesiology, 1211 21st Avenue South, Medical Arts Building, #701, Nashville, Tennessee 37212. A

Angela Brown is the Department of Anesthesiology program coordinator for Alumni Affairs. Please contact Angela directly at angela.brown@vanderbilt.edu or 615-343-6236 with any questions regarding alumni activities and information.
As educators charged with training the next generation of anesthesiologists, our department recognized the need for increased numbers of anesthesiologists proficient in basic perioperative transesophageal echocardiography (TEE). A TEE Heartworks simulator was purchased by our department and is now housed at the Center for Experimental Learning & Assessment (CELA).

Julian Bick, MD, with the assistance of other members of the Cardiac Anesthesia Division, has created a comprehensive two-year training program in basic TEE, designed to run in tandem with anesthesiology residency. This program was developed through collaboration with the Anesthesiology Department at Duke University which also has a strong perioperative TEE program.

This proposal has been approved by the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER) for a Research in Education grant that would fund the basic TEE training program for two years. The proposed program is comprehensive, complete with web-based didactics; an online question and answer forum; supervised clinical TEE training; supervised TEE simulator training; and independent TEE simulator training. The success of the pilot program will be evaluated, with hopes that the training will serve as a model for other anesthesiology programs.

The Heartworks simulator features an interactive computer-generated model of the human heart which has photorealistic anatomical detail and animation to mimic human cardiac motion. The heart rate can be varied and synchronized to an EKG trace. The beating heart can be viewed from any angle, both internally and externally and through a range of zoom. It can be rotated freely around any axis, and sliced on any plane. The introduction of a TEE probe down the esophagus of an accompanying mannequin generates simulated, real-time ultrasound images.

Learn more through E-Echocardiography.com
The Division of Cardiothoracic Anesthesia has an academic group subscription to E-Echocardiography.com, a web service designed to help increase and assess your knowledge of echocardiography. If you would like to use this website, go to www.e-echocardiography.com and sign in using the using the username: VUMCAesthesiasCT and the password: cta5160

After signing in the first time, create an individual account (free of charge) Watch a video (be patient while it downloads) regarding how to sign up at this link: www.e-echocardiography.net/echo_manual.mov.

If you have questions, contact Ronan Walker, AAII in the Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology Division, 322-4650.
What’s in a Name? Anesthesia Monitor Submitted by Peds Staff

Thanks goes to Elisabeth Hudson, Administrative Assistant II in Pediatric Anesthesia, for submitting the name, Anesthesia Monitor for our department newsletter. It seemed to fit ideally, as the definition of monitor is “someone appointed to supervise” or “something that serves to remind or give warning.” The etymology of “monitor” is Latin, from the word monēre, which means “to warn.” As anesthesiologists, monitors and alerts are critical to safely monitoring patients throughout their perioperative care. So, again, perfect fit!

Also, the word has a double meaning in this use, as many newspapers and newsletters from the early days of publishing have been named monitor, from the Christian Science Monitor to the Concord Monitor in Concord, New Hampshire, to the Daily Monitor in Uganda. Thanks, Elisabeth, for your team-player attitude in brainstorming the perfect name for our in-house newsletter.

Recognize Any Former Department Members? (1969)

Dr. Akram Kareem sent this photo of the 1969 Anesthesia Department medical staff, and he’d love your help in identifying everyone pictured. Here’s what we know so far. Dr. Kareem is in the first row, third from the right. The white-haired gentleman at the end of the second row is Dr. Charles Bernard Pittenger, chair of the department, 1962-1968. Sue Walsh, who has been with the department since 1975, believes the doctor in the front row, far left, is Dr. Geeta Wasudev, and Dr. Pong Chang may be to her right. The doctor in the second row, far left is Dr. Joanne Linn, with Dr. Paula Sandidge at her right. Thanks to CRNA Charlie Sharbel, Walsh and a few others for their assistance. Send your thought to Marketing/Communications Coordinator Jill Clendening at jill.clendening@vanderbilt.edu, or call 615-322-4841.