An impressive contingent of Vanderbilt Anesthesiology faculty and residents, as well as department alumni, converged in New Orleans on October 16-21 to participate in the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) 2009 Annual Meeting. Nearly 50 posters — detailing both medically challenging cases and key research — typifying the depth of research and clinical cases handled by the department — were presented by Vanderbilt, many by residents making debut poster presentations. In addition, faculty members oversaw or participated in panel discussions, lead problem-based learning discussions, directed hands-on workshops and participated in key ASA governing committee meetings.

“The quantity and quality of presentations by members of the department at the meeting was second to none in our history,” said Department Chair Dr. Michael Higgins. “This is a big step towards accomplishing our goal of educating the larger anesthesia community about the excellent programs we have here at Vanderbilt.”

Other meetings held in tandem with the ASA included the American Society of Critical Care Anesthesiologists (ASCCA), the Society for Education in Anesthesiology (SEA) and the International Liver Transplantation Society (ILTS), all of which included several Vanderbilt Anesthesiology Department members playing key roles. At the ASCCA meeting, Dr. Frederick “Josh” Billings accepted the distinguished Young Investigator Award and presented his research, “Early Postoperative Statin Use is Associated with Less Acute Kidney Injury Following Cardiac Surgery.” At the ILTS meeting, Dr. Ann Walia, an international expert in anesthetic care during liver transplant.

If viewing newsletter electronically, click on icon to listen to a podcast about the ASA experience by several Vanderbilt anesthesiologists.
Anesthesiology Department Update

ASA involvement expands our reputation

Continued from page 1

plantation, led a key clinical care session, “Hypotension during OLT,” and was part of a panel discussion on the Liver Transplant Anesthesia Consortium, an international group of medical professionals working toward standardizing and improving care during liver transplants.

During the ASA Annual Meeting, Drs. Arna Banerjee and Jane Easdown, in partnership with anesthesiologists from other top medical centers, led a simulation workshop, drawing on their leadership experience at the Vanderbilt School of Medicine’s Center for Experiential Learning & Assessment (CELA). CELA, which is housed in Medical Research Building IV, was endorsed in May 2009 by the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) for the delivery of educational offerings to anesthesiologists. With this endorsement, CELA joined the ranks of fewer than two dozen such accredited simulation programs in the United States.

Dr. John Algren, a pediatric anesthesiologist at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt and vice chair for educational affairs for the Department of Anesthesiology, led a problem-based learning discussion, “Pain Management Strategies for an Opioid Dependent Child Undergoing Lower Extremity Amputation.” Also during the ASA Annual Meeting, Dr. Sukdeb Datta, Director of the Vanderbilt Interventional Pain Center, led a cadaver workshop, “Joint Injections: Fluoroscopic & Ultrasound,” in which he trained other anesthesiologists in this method of targeted pain management.

For the second year at ASA, Dr. Jayant Deshpande, anesthesiologist-in-chief at the Children’s Hospital and vice-chair for pediatric anesthesia, taught a refresher course on pediatric advanced cardiac life support. Dr. William Furman, vice chair for clinical affairs in the Department of Anesthesiology, taught a refresher course on endocrine emergencies, also for the second year at ASA. Dr. Furman also led a problem-based learning discussion, “DNR Orders & Urgent Surgery: Practical and Ethical Considerations.”

These are just a few highlights of the many ASA presentations in which Vanderbilt took a lead role – and for good reason. Vanderbilt is one of the five best university hospitals in the United States in reducing patient mortality – and members of the Department of Anesthesiology were key players in achieving that goal.

The Vanderbilt Department of Anesthesiology continues to have one of the top 10 extramurally funded research programs in the U.S. As a result of excellent research support services, the department has tripled the number of investigator-initiated research projects over the past three years.

Exemplary showings of the department members’ research and commitment to patient safety at national gatherings such as the ASA Annual Meeting are the perfect opportunity to get the word out: Vanderbilt Department of Anesthesiology is one of the top academic departments in the country.
Anesthesiology Department Update

More Images from New Orleans

Dr. Allison Greening

Dr. Dan Lonergan

Drs. Kyla Terhune and Arna Banerjee

Drs. Ricky Sierra-Anderson, Greg Schnepper, Shane Volney, Korie Turner and Justin Wilson

Drs. Michael Pilla and Paul St. Jacques

Millie & Bart Koerner, Dr. Sally Fortner

Drs. Michael Higgins and Dr. Ellen Lockhart.

Nelita Parris and Dr. Winston Parris

Dr. Andrew Korzyniowski

2009 ANNUAL MEETING

New Orleans

AMERICAN SOCIETY of ANESTHESIOLOGISTS

Dr. Angel Perales, Estela and Dr. Gamaliel Perales

Drs. Sukdeb Datta and Ram Sripada
In mid-September, several members of the Vanderbilt Anesthesiology Department, including key faculty members, traveled to Nairobi, Kenya, to participate in the fourth All-Africa Anaesthesia Congress. The congress was established as an international forum for medical colleagues from across the globe to gather and share their expertise and latest advancements with the goal of improving the quality of anesthesia services and providing safer surgeries not only in Africa, but also in other underserved regions throughout the world. The conference provided presentations and workshops from all the major areas of general and specialty anesthesia. The conference attracted delegates from multiple countries of Africa, as well as participants from Europe, Asia, Australia, and North America.

The Vanderbilt Anesthesiology Department has a unique connection with Kenya, as one of our department members, pediatric anesthesiologist Dr. Mark Newton, leads the anesthesiology programs at Kijabe Hospital, located in rural Kenya on the edge of the Rift Valley, and oversees our Vanderbilt International Anesthesia (VIA) efforts worldwide. Dr. Newton previously spent eight years as a missionary physician in Africa where he worked alongside Kenyan medical staff to establish the country’s first intensive care unit and their first nurse anesthetist training program. The VIA program was created by our department to improve international perioperative care. The overriding objective of VIA is to benefit the lives of others by sharing the professional medical skills and knowledge of the faculty, staff, and trainees of the Vanderbilt Department of Anesthesiology.

Story continued on next page.
During the congress, Dr. Curtis Baysinger, director of Vanderbilt Obstetric Anesthesia, presented three talks: “Anesthetic considerations for the obstetric patient undergoing non-obstetric surgery,” “Cardiopulmonary resuscitation in a pregnant patient,” and “Difficult airway management in the obstetric patient.” He also conducted a problem-based learning discussion on the pre-eclamptic patient with low platelet count and a suspected difficult airway, and moderated a presentation section on obstetric anesthesia in the African setting.

“The hospital at Kijabe is in a beautiful setting overlooking the eastern edge of the Rift Valley. The amount and types of surgeries that are performed there are great and remarkable given the setting a resource poor area and the amount of work performed is astounding,” said Dr. Baysinger. “The added benefit of establishing relationships with the teaching faculty at the Kenyatta Teaching Hospital that Dr. Newton arranged will enable several Vanderbilt faculty to participate in an ongoing partnership with that institution. I have established a good starting relationship for collaborative efforts with my obstetric anesthesia counterparts there.”

Dr. Clifford Bowens was the lead faculty member for a regional workshop which was conducted over two days and the regional problem-based learning discussion. He also presented two lectures: “Nerve Stimulator-Guided Peripheral Nerve Blocks” and “Alternate Devices for Airway Management.” Dr. Jayant Deshpande, Dr. Mark Newton and Dr. John Algren worked with others at the conference on early plans for pediatric subspecialty training in Kenya. This would mark a major step forward for medical education in Africa, since fellowship work is usually done abroad. Dr. Jane Easdown gave several talks on neuroanesthesia and had the opportunity to talk with many participants about their practices in areas such as Uganda, Egypt and Kenya.

“What was most significant to me was how up to date these anesthesiologists were despite their lack of modern facilities,” Easdown said. “This is an incredibly intelligent and also flexible group. They can teach us a great deal about providing excellent care with less — a very important lesson for us especially for our trainees.”

Vanderbilt’s participation in the congress was a chance for Vanderbilt participants to become more familiar with other healthcare initiatives taking place in Africa through various organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA). It was an opportunity to network, learn and teach in an international setting.

“This experience opened my eyes to the thirst for medical knowledge and the collegial environment of this international community,” said Dr. Bowens. We all seemed to have one purpose, to give and receive as much knowledge as possible. Everyone was extremely friendly and communication did not seem to be a significant obstacle since most of the participants spoke English.”

Dr. John Algren, vice chair of educational affairs and the director of the department’s residency program, believes it’s important for our residents to be exposed to international fields of service.

“Residents benefit from an understanding of healthcare problems and practice outside of the US both in developed and developing countries,” he said. “In addition, the exposure to other cultures, religions and ethnic groups broadens their perspective and their ability to care for patients with diverse backgrounds here in the US.”

Several of our anesthesia residents and fellows have already travelled to Kenya for educational experiences at Kijabe Hospital.
ALUMNI NEWS

Alumnus Leopoldo Rodriguez, MD, FAAP, Co-Chief Resident 1999-2000, sent this update:

After Vanderbilt, I worked for Panhandle Anesthesiology Associates (with other Vanderbilt alumni) where I worked mostly doing Pediatric and Cardiac Anesthesia in Pensacola, Florida. In 2005, we moved to Miami. Since then, I work for Sheridan Healthcare Inc, where I am presently the Medical Director of the Surgery Center of Aventura, in Aventura, Florida; a four-O.R., two endoscopy suites facility that provides care for outpatient orthopedics, pediatric ENT, urology, gyn, GI and general Surgery. I’m also an alternate delegate-at-large for the Florida Society of Anesthesiologists to the ASA.

I’m a 2nd Degree Black Belt in Japanese Jujutsu, going for my 3rd degree in October of this year in Japan. My wife, Margarita, is a Stock Broker/Financial Advisor that works with private clientele. We have two children: Alexander, 9, and Nicholas, 7. They are both great students with excellent mathematical abilities (inherited from my wife). Both practice Tae Kwon Do; Alex is a 1st degree Black Belt and Nicholas is a Red Belt. Alexander plays in a travel soccer team and his team was 3rd in Florida during the state championship. We all enjoy playing tennis.

To me, professionally in private practice, the things that have helped advanced my career the most are:

For 2002:

• Pediatric Anesthesia (everybody in private practice is afraid of peds anesthesia).
• Regional Anesthesia (if you want to be requested for cases, get good at nerve blocks).
• Transesophageal Echocardiography (study hard and do as many as you can).
• Be a leader, Vanderbilt is an excellent program, you will have the credentials.

I also encourage everyone to get involved with ASA. Donate every year to the ASA PAC; we have excellent people working for us. With healthcare reform coming up, we should all protect our specialty.

Dr. Mouton is trained in electrodermal screening (EDS), which incorporates Chinese meridians and nutritional supplements to detoxify the body and balance the energy state of the individual. She has more than 20 years of experience in the practice of yoga. Dr. Mouton brings her knowledge of traditional Western medicine to the application of complementary therapies for the holistic health of the individual. Lifestyle counseling, acupuncture, neural therapy, along with EDS and traditional Western medicine are used to treat individuals. Dr. Mouton and her practice at Centre Energique is on the Internet at www.centreenergique.com. Centre Energique is in Nashville, Tenn., at Hillsboro Building Suite 338, 4219 Hillsboro Road.
Smith Lectureship in the works

A new endowed lectureship on medical professionalism has been established in honor of longtime Anesthesiology Department Chairman Bradley Edgerton Smith, MD. Tentative dates for lectureship events are January 21-24, with a Grand Rounds presentation Friday, January 22. Dr. Joseph Gerald “Jerry” Reves will be the Grand Rounds speaker.

Dr. Smith became chairman of the Vanderbilt Department of Anesthesiology on July 1, 1969. Dr. Smith also was chairman of the committee which wrote the governance document for the first organization of private medical practice at Vanderbilt (the Vanderbilt Professional Practice Program), and chairman of the committee which instituted the first cardio-pulmonary resuscitation program at Vanderbilt Hospital. He established the first position for a full-time “intensivist” at Vanderbilt, and in 1985 established Vanderbilt’s first pain control clinic.

During Dr. Smith’s chairmanship, the department published more than 536 scientific and clinical reports in the medical literature. The faculty was expanded from seven full-time members in 1969 to 42. The resident staff grew from 12 to 58, and the support staff from three to 171. Dr. Smith’s term as chairman ended in March 1993.

Grand Rounds speaker Dr. Jerry Reves graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1965 then earned his medical degree in 1969 from the Medical College of South Carolina, known today as the Medical University of South Carolina. He completed a medical internship (1970) and anesthesiology residency at University of Alabama Hospital and Clinics in 1972 and earned a master of science degree at the University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB) in physiology and biophysics one year later.

As director of the University of Alabama’s Division of Anesthesiology Research, Dr. Reves laid the foundation for the department’s NIH funding, setting the course for this still-thriving program. His research focused on aging and cognition after cardiac surgery. Under his leadership, the Duke Department of Anesthesiology ranked as high as number two in NIH funding nationally. His scholarly interest today is on medical education, interdisciplinary research programs and educational facilities. 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. In 2001, Dr. Reves returned home as the Dean of the School of Medicine at MUSC.

Calling all Alumni!

As our alumni, you are our Department’s most valued supporters, and we appreciate the wisdom and resources you share. In an effort to improve communication with alumni, we’re publishing this quarterly department newsletter. In addition to including recent professional awards/achievements, publications, upcoming events and other department news, the newsletter will share alumni news. We will include periodic features on alumni of note. We’ll also list brief alumni updates as we learn what you’ve been doing in the post-Vanderbilt years. Though the newsletter’s pages, we’ll help you rediscover old friends and hopefully make a few new ones!

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. 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.
Recent Publications


♦ Dr. Eric Delpire co-edited a new book on the “Physiology and Pathology of Chloride Transporters and Channels in the Nervous System” just released by Academic Press. Dr. Alvarez-Leefmans from Wright State University (Dayton, OH) is co-editor. Dr. Delpire authored three chapters and Dr. Kenneth Gagnon authored one chapter.

Presentations


♦ Nancy Wells (VUMC Director of Nursing Research) invited Anesthesiology Department nurses to present their research orally at the Nursing Education Gala/Octoberfest, a huge honor. Mary Jeskey, RN; Donna Nelson, RN; and Elizabeth Card, RN, presented a case study from the TATRC study.

♦ Steve Blanks spoke to the American Society of Anesthesia Technologists and Technicians (ASATT) at their 20th annual educational conference in October. ASATT meets annually, in parallel with the ASA’s Annual Meeting, to provide education on current and new technology. Two Vanderbilt staff members have served on the ASATT Board of Directors as president, Sharon Baskette (2003) and Sue Christian (2006 and 2009).

Research News

♦ The Vanderbilt Anesthesiology Clinical Research Advisory Committee (VACRAC) promotes clinical research in the Vanderbilt Department of Anesthesiology. The committee supports new investigators in developing clinical research projects that will lead to publication and extramural funding, where appropriate. The committee also oversees the development and conduct of industry sponsored and investigator-initiated research by developing and managing essential research support services and programs.

The committee will mentor potential investigators throughout the research development process and create opportunities for ongoing learning regarding research methods and skill development. The committee will review new clinical research proposals prior to initiation, as well as, periodically review the progress of research initiatives for effectiveness and compliance with regulatory and safety guidelines. Committee members are Drs. Berry (chair), Riedel, Pandharipande, St Jacques, Donahue, Baysinger, France, Schildcrout, and Lane, and Mr. Damon Michaels. Investigators with project ideas, as well as established investigators with specific needs, are invited to contact the committee for assistance.

♦ After three addenda to the Dexmedetomidine Spine Protocol, Dr. James Blair is now enrolling patients. His study compares of the use of dexmedetomidine vs. a placebo to determine if Dex can reduce the time required to achieve fitness for discharge after three or more levels of spine surgery. The study is expected to take 6-8 months to complete.

♦ Dr. Stuart McGrane’s BH Robbins project, “Attenuation of Inflammation by Sedation Regimens to Improve Patient Outcomes,” was approved for funding by the Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research Scientific Review Committee. The study looks at differential attenuation of inflammatory biomarkers in the context of different sedation regimens, and correlation of this with outcomes.

♦ Dr. Michael Richardson has received 2009 Stahlman Grant funding for his research on medical mishaps. The ultimate goal of his work is to lead to interventions that will have an impact, not only at the trainee level, but also that will ultimately improve patient care and safety.
Division News

♦ A monthly Regional Anesthesia and Acute Pain Journal Club has been begun to review articles within our Regional Anesthesia/Acute Pain subspecialty, critically review conclusions and application, and ultimately improve patient safety and outcome. The Journal Club meets every fourth Thursday, 5:30-7 pm at the University Club.

♦ Dr. John Algren, Vice-Chair for Educational Affairs, has completed recertification by the American Board of Anesthesiology.

♦ Dr. Steven Slattery and Dr. Jason Olinger (both MSA) passed their written boards. Dr. Kelly Ortega (former resident) passed her oral boards.

♦ Dr. Nathan Ashby and Dr. William O’Byrne have passed their exams and are certified in Critical Care.

♦ Since January 2009, four technical staff members have passed the national anesthesia certification exam for the technologist level. Josh French; Sharon Baskette; Travis Spain and Cindy Waldrion have been awarded the designation of Certified Anesthesia Technologist. Vanderbilt currently leads the nation’s hospitals by employing six certified anesthesia technologists.

♦ Dr. Raj Gupta was quoted in an October article in Anesthesiology News: “Protocol Designed for Rapid Response to Epidural Hematoma.”

Personal News

♦ Dr. Steve Hyman, a phenomenal concert pianist, has entered the Van Cliburn Foundation YouTube contest for adult amateur pianists. To see his video and vote, go to www.cliburn.org, find YouTube contest, click ballots and sign the guest book.

♦ Dr. Stuart McGrane and Dr. Tracy Jobin were married in his homeland of Scotland on October 1.

♦ Dr. Lee Parmley and Toni Elswick were married on August 25.

♦ Dr. Holly Richter and her husband Brad Hardin, welcomed son, Benjamin Allen Hardin, above right, on September 15.

♦ Dr. Josh Billings and wife Kathy welcomed little Carter Rodgers Billings, at left, on September 27.

♦ CRNA Lissa Stephan and husband David welcomed Lydia James, at right, into the world on October 22.
Thanks to well-coordinated volunteers, a perfect setting at Dr. Bernhard Riedel’s farm, and thankfully NO RAIN, nearly $19,000 was raised to benefit the Vanderbilt International Anesthesia program during the fundraising event in early October. The silent and live auction added plenty of lively bidding and friendly competition for a great cause & the program will benefit directly from all proceeds.

Thanks to all those who put many hours into making this event a success, particularly Dr. Riedel and his beyond-wonderful family. Thanks also to all who have supported VIA through generous donations. Without every gift of both time and financial support, this valuable international effort would not be possible!

Continue to spread the word about VIA and next year’s event will be even bigger and better – if that’s possible!

Please go to www.supportvia.com and scroll down to “Give Online: if you would like to make a donation to VIA!
Anesthesiology Department Update

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Anesthesiology Department Update

Perioperative TEE & Pacemaker Symposium a Success

The first Perioperative Transesophageal Echocardiography and Pacemaker Symposium was recently hosted by the Division of Cardiac Anesthesiology in September. This symposium was a success —attracting 48 attendees predominantly from the South-East region and as far as Florida.

Highlights of the symposium included lectures by local, national, and international speakers; breakout sessions on knobology, transthoracic echocardiography, and hemodynamic calculations; and the ever popular wet lab where pig hearts were dissected by attendees under the guidance of a cardiac surgeon to demonstrate the anatomy of the heart and place it in context of ultrasound images.

The session wrapped up with breakout sessions on pacemakers and other intracardiac devices. Feedback by the attendees was very positive and, as a result, this symposium will be repeated as part of the Vanderbilt Critical Skills Summit to be hosted by the department in May 2010.

See page 15 for more information on this upcoming educational summit.

At top, participants in the first Vanderbilt Perioperative Transesophageal Echocardiography (TEE) and Pacemaker Symposium and Pacemaker Symposium work in a wet lab with pig hearts, improving their knowledge of cardiac anatomy and the imaging tool of transesophageal echocardiogram. Above, Dr. Robert Deegan guides the participants in the wet lab.
Nominees sought for Sandidge Pediatric Pain Management Award

Purpose
The Sandidge Pediatric Pain Management Endowed Fund honors outstanding clinical or research work that advances the practice of pediatric pain management. Retired Vanderbilt anesthesiologist Paula C. Sandidge, MD, established the endowed fund at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt to recognize and encourage progress in the evolving understanding of pain management for babies and children. Physicians, trainees and staff of Children’s Hospital are eligible for recognition from the fund.

Eligibility and Criteria
Eligibility is for any physician, trainee or staff who has been employed at Children’s Hospital for at least 12 months, and who can be described by one or more of the following:

- Someone who regularly and consistently strives to improve patient care in the area of pediatric pain management, reflecting a high level of leadership, service, dedication, conscientiousness, compassion and applied skill.
- Someone who strives to identify areas of potential improvement related to the practice of pediatric pain management.
- Someone who has developed new, or has improved existing, processes that have resulted in a significant improvement in pediatric pain management.
- Someone who has produced scholarly works to advance the practice of pediatric pain management.

Nomination Process
The nomination process for the award will occur annually in the fall. The nomination forms will be distributed to all faculty and staff for Children’s Hospital. Nominations can be received from Vanderbilt staff, faculty or students, as well as families and friends of patients who have been treated at Children’s Hospital, volunteers and benefactors. Physicians, trainees and staff may submit their own work for consideration by the award committee. Applications for the 2009 Award will be accepted thru November 30, 2009, with the awards presented in December 2009. Please submit nominations by November 30, 2009 online or mail to: Sandidge Award, 2200 Children’s Way, 5121 Doctor’s Office Tower, Nashville, TN 37232-9075

Selection Process
The Selection Committee will review nominations and solicit any corroborating evidence it deems necessary, including documentation from supervisors that the candidate meets or exceeds job performance expectations.

The Award
The Sandidge Award will be presented in December 2009. Recipients will receive a certificate and a monetary award which can be used to advance the individual’s knowledge, practice, or research in pain management. For more information, contact Becky Mullen via e-mail at becky.mullen@vanderbilt.edu or by phone at 615-936-1302.

Dr. Paula Sandidge, center in blue-green jacket, and her family members were thanked for their commitment to pediatric care, and specifically pain management.
Dr. Stewart Perlman travelled to Israel in July and explored the possibilities of a collaboration and interchange between Vanderbilt University Department of Anesthesiology and the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine at Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Jerusalem, Israel. Dr. Perlman met with Dr. Charles Weissman, director of the department in Jerusalem, as well as meeting with many of the faculty with special interests in cardiothoracic, obstetric and neuro-anesthesia, as well as interests in critical care medicine and perioperative informatics. Drs. Michael Higgins, Weissman, and Perlman are working on possible collaborations and interchanges. They are investigating ways for our faculty, fellows, and residents to learn in Israel as well, and having the faculty and residents of Hadassah-Hebrew University do the same here. The Israeli anesthesiologists have special interests in our practice of ambulatory and pediatric anesthesia as well as our practices of cardiothoracic and neuroanesthesia. Their division of critical care medicine and neuroanesthesia offer both mini- and full fellowships. Other goals will be to:

♦ Examine each other’s research facilities and studies, including looking for new joint research projects.
♦ Compare perioperative informatics systems, leading to improvement in our technological systems.
♦ Find continuing medical education (CME) opportunities for faculty, fellows, and residents to include speaking at grand rounds, morbidity and mortality conferences as well as in small group discussions.

The Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine in Jerusalem provides anesthesia services for approximately one million people. Their department has had collaborative participation with the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Oregon, Columbia University, and Johns Hopkins University. Their obstetric division has participated in NIH grants in collaboration with the University of Michigan and Washington University in St. Louis. Faculty, residents, fellows, and medical students are invited to explore possibilities regarding this collaboration with Drs. Perlman and Higgins.

**FAER-MSARP proves beneficial to department and student**

This was the first year our department was provided a medical student to do research with us through the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research Medical Student Anesthesiology Research Program (FAER-MSARP). Our student was Brent Boettcher, a third-year student from the Lincoln Memorial University-Dubusk College of Osteopathic Medicine. He spent eight weeks with Dr. Matthew Weinger and Dr. Jason Slagle in the Center for Perioperative Research in Quality. The FAER sponsored a symposium for poster presentations for the 60 medical students across the USA who participated in the program. Brent presented his poster: “Validation of a new tool to study clinician workload and quality of intraoperative care.”

The department will be participating in this program again next summer. FAER created the Medical Student Anesthesiology Research Fellowship to encourage talented medical students to consider careers in anesthesiology research and perioperative medicine. The MSARF program offers medical students an 8-12 week anesthesia-related research experience and the opportunity to present research findings at the American Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting.
Hard work pays off: VPEC wins 2009 Top Performer Award

The Department of Anesthesiology is a leader in preoperative assessment practices, and this includes VPEC, the Vanderbilt Preoperative Evaluation Center. The VPEC consultation was established as a free service for patients scheduled for surgery to ensure their safety and prevent surgical delays and cancellations. VPEC, which has a location at the Vanderbilt at 100 Oaks campus and at The Vanderbilt Clinic, received the 2009 Top Performer Award; given by Professional Research Consultants, Inc.

The Top Performer Award is given annually to each health care facility, provider, outpatient service line or inpatient unit that scores in the 100th percentile for the Overall Quality of Care percent “Excellent” score in their national client database for the previous calendar year. VPEC is also frequently consulted by other hospitals wanting to improve their preoperative processes.

Medical co-directors are Drs. Susan Calderwood and Annemarie Thompson. Clinic manager is Russell J. Kunic, FNP-BC.

SAVE THE DATE—CALL DEBORAH 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:
  (ultrasound-guidance, cadavers and pigs)
♦ Pump and Coagulation Management during CPB

Summit Directors: Ann Walla, 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
Major Milestones — Anesthesiology Staff

Vanderbilt Anesthesiology staff members were recognized by the department for their long service.

Congratulations to all of these individuals for their commitment and great service to our department. Not all recipients were available for photographs.

**20-Year Award**
Becky Mullen

**15-Year Award**
Elizabeth Card

**10-Year Award**
Joyce Speer
Kim Suttle
Michelle Williams

**5-Year Award**
Kim Chavis
Melissa Chont
Jennifer Cook
Betsy DeMarcus
Stacey Ells
Suzette Laws

Great Job!
The Tennessee Physiological Society (TPS) held its inaugural meeting on October 23 at the Vanderbilt University Student Life Center. The meeting was hosted by the Vanderbilt Department of Molecular Physiology & Biophysics and supported by the Department of Anesthesiology. Peter K. Lauf, Chair of the APS Chapter Advisory Committee, officiated and witnessed the birth of TPS. By a majority vote, attendees approved the bylaws and thereby officially created the Society. By a majority vote, the first slate of TPS officers was approved. Dr. Eric Delpire from the Department of Anesthesiology was recognized as TPS president.

The one-day meeting was organized with morning talks, lunch, afternoon poster session, keynote address, and dinner. Four Tennessee institutions were represented: Ronald Emeson from the Department of Pharmacology at Vanderbilt spoke on Prader-Willi syndrome and serotonin receptor editing. Zhongmao Guo from the Meharry Medical College spoke on the protective role of the aryl hydrocarbon receptor pathway against atherosclerosis. Carole Williams from the Department of Physiology at East Tennessee State University spoke on neuropeptide, neuromodulation and cardiac ischemia. Charles Lefler from the Department of Physiology at University of Tennessee Health Science Center, spoke on carbon monoxide and newborn cerebral blood flow. Finally, representing the Vanderbilt post-doctoral fellows, Kevin Erreger presented his work on the regulation of amphetamine-induced dopamine release by glucagon-like peptide-1.

An afternoon poster session featured 29 posters on a variety of physiology topics. A gathering of high school students with two Vanderbilt physicians: Maureen Gannon and Alyssa Hasty was also held. These medical professionals, who work on diabetes and obesity, respectively, used these two disorders to introduce physiology to the students and to talk about integration of the different organs and systems involved. They told the students how they got interested in science and how their individual paths led them to end up working at Vanderbilt. The third event was the keynote address by Alan Verkman, PhD, from the University of California San Francisco. His address was “Chloride channels: Discovery and applications of small-molecule modulators”. Dr. Verkman spoke on systemic diarrhea in Third World countries, traveler’s diarrhea, cystic fibrosis, chloride channels, the multiple processes involved in their regulation, and the additional transport pathways involved in chloride movement, all as possible targets for the development of new therapeutics.

With this initial success, and with a determination to reach out to more institutions and physiologists, TPS will hold its next meeting at UTHSC in Memphis in the fall of 2010.
At the American Society of Critical Care Anesthesiologists (ASCCA) meeting, Dr. Frederick “Josh” Billings accepted the Distinguished Young Investigator Award and presented his research, “Early Postoperative Statin Use is Associated with Less Acute Kidney Injury Following Cardiac Surgery.” The award is presented annually to the resident or fellow whose research exemplifies the Society's mission to educate anesthesiologists in the care of critically ill patients and to foster the knowledge and practice of critical care medicine by anesthesiologists.
Recognize Any Former Department Members? (1969)

Dr. Akram Kareem sent this photo above of the 1969 Anesthesia Department medical staff, and he'd love your help in identifying all of those pictured. 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, chairman of the department from 1962 until 1968. Please send your educated input to Marketing/Communications Coordinator Jill Clendening at jill.clendening@vanderbilt.edu, or call 615-322-4841.

Don’t forget Go for the Gold Deadlines

Fall is upon us and that comes with a reminder that our Go for the Gold Program has a deadline soon. Here are a few things to know:

♦ Changes were made to the Wellness Actions Log and Game Plan for Your Health. Both are more challenging and will take longer to complete than in the past.
♦ Health & Wellness has a new Wellness Information portal that makes it easier to confirm completion of the Go for the Gold program: https://myhealthandwellness.vanderbilt.edu/
♦ Log in and select Go for the Gold Status (left-hand side) and scroll down to view current status.
♦ Also new this year, the wellness credit will now be deposited in the Vanderbilt Health Plan Account, to be used to help pay for deductibles and/or coinsurance.

Newsletter Name Contest & Submission Guidelines

The official newsletter of the Vanderbilt Department of Anesthesiology will be published quarterly, and we’d love a name that reflects our active and innovative department. Send your ideas to Communications/Marketing Coordinator Jill Clendening @ jill.clendening@vanderbilt.edu. Submissions are always welcome. Any high resolution photos, articles, etc., should be submitted no later than the 15th of each month. Material that is time sensitive should be marked as such in the message line of the e-mail in which the article is sent.

Submitted copy may be rewritten and/or edited as needed for clarity and space considerations.
Chief Resident
McKay Bateman
Outstanding Service as Chief Resident
Outstanding Achievement Award in the area of Pediatric Anesthesia

Chief Resident
Court Gunn
Outstanding Service as Chief Resident
Outstanding Achievement Award in the area of Hepato-Vascular Anesthesia

Chief Resident
Chris Hughes
Outstanding Service as Chief Resident
Vice-Chairs’ Award for Outstanding Scholarship

Dan Nahrwold
Outstanding Achievement Award in the area of Cardiovascular Anesthesia
Outstanding Achievement Award in the area of Critical Care Medicine
Outstanding Achievement Award in the area of Regional Anesthesia

Andrea Orfanakis
Outstanding Achievement Award in the area of OB Anesthesia

Meenal Kulkarni Patil
Outstanding Achievement Award in the area of Cardiothoracic Anesthesia
Outstanding Achievement Award in the area of Multispecialty Anesthesia
Outstanding Achievement Award in the area of Pain Medicine

Jordan Stuckey
Outstanding Achievement Award in the area of Ambulatory Anesthesia

Shana Walton
Outstanding Achievement Award in the area of Acute Pain
2009 Faculty Awards

Golden Apple Awards:
Randall Malchow, M.D.; Ram Pai, M.B.B.S, M.D.; Michael Pilla, M.D.

Volker I. Striepe Teaching Award
Bernhard Riedel, M.D., Ph.D.

B.E. Smith Mentorship Award
Matthew Weinger, M.D.

2009 Research Awards

Best Poster Presentation Award in Research: Jessica Adams, Keith Choe, PhD

Charles Bernard Pittenger, MD, Prize for Excellence in Basic Clinical/Translational Research: Mias Pretorius, MD

Roger England Research Award for Excellence in the Support of Basic & Clinical Science: Damon Michaels

Charles Bernard Pittenger, MD, Prize for Excellence in Basic Science Research: Kevin Currie, PhD

Best Presentation Award in Research: Rebecca Falin, PhD; Juan Xing, Mark Jewell

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Critical Care Division meets expanding needs

Critical Care is growing dramatically to meet demands in the new Critical Care Tower. The division expanded by 14 additional people in September/October, and there will be more faculty added as the tower operation expands. Joining the Critical Care faculty are Dr. J. David Hall; Dr. Nahel N. Saied; Dr. Stuart McGrane; Barbara Deanna Moore, MSN, ACNP-BC; Fred Ryan Truesdale, MSN, ACNP-BC; Lindsay Gebhart, MSN, ACNP-BC; Justin Calabrace, MSN, ACNP-BC; Amanda Hill, MSN, ACNP-BC; Olga Dayts, MSN, ACNP-BC; and Derek Bowers, MSN, ACNP-BC. New Critical Care fellows are Dr. Heather McFarland; Dr. Gozde Demiralp; Dr. Christopher Carr; and Dr. Christopher Hughes.

Anesthesia Tech News

Two new anesthesia technicians have been added to the evening staff, Andrew Lee and Terrance Jackson. Andrew has previous medical experience in cardiac patient transport and as an assistant in radiology. Terrance comes to us from Jacksonville, Fla., after retiring from the U.S. Navy.

The technical department also has been restructured and a clinical ladder established to promote the profession, as well as create advancement opportunities. The ladder consists of: anesthesia technician, certified anesthesia technician, certified anesthesia technologist and lead technician. Travis Spain is currently the lead technician spot on day shift, and two lead technicians will be designated on evening shift.

Technicians receiving 2009 service awards are: Paul Clary – 15 years; Julie Kapelan – 10 years; Sue Christian and Tamara James – 5 years.

Pittinger Resident Library Re-opens

The fully renovated Pittinger Library and Learning Center is now open in VUH 2301A. The original library was funded by friends and family of Charles Pittinger, MD, the second Chairman of the Vanderbilt Department of Anesthesiology (1962-1969) and was named in his honor.

The renovation more than doubles the library's size and adds an exhibit of historical anesthesia equipment. The expansion was the first in a series of changes that transformed the 2301 office suite into “education central,” with the offices of Dr. John Algren, Vice-Chair for Education, Dr. Jane Easdown, Associate Residency Director, Dr. Michael Pilla, Assistant Residency Director, the Chief Residents, and the education office administrative staff being co-located there.

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The Vanderbilt Department of Anesthesiology is committed to being one of the top academic departments in the country. Building on a long tradition of excellence as one of the first independent departments of anesthesiology in the United States, we strive to advance the specialty by achieving excellence in Clinical Care, Education, Research and Service.