GREETINGS FROM FESLER HALL

—Dr. Robert Presson, Dept. Chair

Colleagues, faculty, and staff, welcome to the first edition of your departmental newsletter. Over the past few years the Department of Anesthesia has seen tremendous change. We have redesigned our funds flow, changed our compensation plan, begun work on a research infrastructure (CARE), hired our first anesthetists, launched a training program for anesthesiologist assistants, and much more. In these changing times, it is important that we communicate. To this end, we have begun twice annual faculty meetings, but this is not enough. My hope is that this newsletter will become a way for us all to stay informed, but to be the best it can be, we need your contribution.

Each of you adds value to your respective divisions and to our department as a whole. Please utilize this publication to share with one another your achievements and challenges alike. This newsletter aims to keep you informed about the latest departmental developments while serving as a connecting hub for all of our divisions spread among our many locations. From the newest additions to our faculty and staff, to departmental birthdays, to the most recent policy updates, this is your resource.

May it serve you well as you continue to serve your department, your university, and your community.
THE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

-Dr. Jennifer Stewart, Residency Program Director

It has been an exciting few months for the Anesthesiology Residency Program! We said goodbye to a great class of residents at the end of June and welcomed a wonderful new group of residents on July 1st. We know that the first few months of residency can be particularly stressful and exhausting, but everyone is off to a great start!

On August 1st, we also welcomed a new program director, Dr. Jennifer Stewart. Dr. Stewart was a resident here at Indiana University from 2010-2013 and has been a faculty member at University Hospital ever since. While she knows that she has big shoes to fill, she is eagerly looking forward to her new role.

We want to give a special thanks to Dr. Stewart’s predecessor, Dr. David Nakata, for all of his years as the Residency Program Director. Not only has he dedicated countless hours to the residency program, but he has also invested a lot of heart.

Lastly, the residents were excited to learn that the department has agreed to provide the True Learn Question Bank to all residents. This question bank will better prepare them for their BASIC, In Training, and Advanced Exams, so we are happy to help!

THE VIEW FROM UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

-Dr. Adam Lemmon, UH Division Leader

In 2018, IU Health University Hospital has welcomed a new Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant, Lindsey Cunningham, and two new physician anesthesiologists Gulraj Chawla and Philip Stoller, both familiar faces from who graduated from our residency program.

Lindsey joined the anesthetist team in July. She is a 2009 graduate of South University-Savannah, GA, and has spent the last eight years practicing as a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant at the University of Toledo Medical Center. We are thrilled that she found her way to IU Health University Hospital.

Gulraj (Raj) Chawla joined University Hospital in September. Raj graduated from the residency program in June of 2017, and he has spent this past year doing an Acute Pain and Regional Anesthesia Fellowship in California at Harbor-UCLA. While Raj enjoyed living on the West Coast, he states he was drawn back to Indiana and to IU specifically when given the opportunity to help educate anesthesia residents in a program that provided him a strong clinical anesthesia experience. Raj is a great asset to our University Hospital team, and we are very excited to welcome him back home!

We’ve also welcomed Philip Stoller to University Hospital in November of this year. Phil was a graduate of the 2017 residency class as well. For the past year, he has practiced at Community Hospital North in Indianapolis. Phil states that he is excited to return to IU and relishes the opportunity to be more involved in resident education. Having practiced in a private practice setting, Phil brings a unique skill set to the residents of our program.

Please make Lindsey, Raj, and Phil feel welcome as you see them around campus.

THE CLERKSHIP PROGRAM

-Belinda Sumborn, Clerkship Coordinator

Our clerkship program and related electives continue to be popular among School of Medicine students. They gain a taste of the anesthesia practice during their third year with a nine-day rotation followed by a two-week vacation. Afterwards, we invite those considering anesthesia as a career choice to return for our fourth-year electives.

For 2018-2019, we had another record year with 67 students registering for the Adult Anesthesia Elective, a total which includes IU and visiting students. We were proud to offer an additional elective this year, “Interventional Pain at VA Hospital, which has already proven to be hit among the students. We did, however, lose another popular elective, “Clinical Anesthesia,” hosted at Community Hospital by Dr. Maves, whom we wish to thank for his service.

And thank you to all the faculty who take time and care to be course directors for our fourth-year Anesthesia electives. The students appreciate your commitment!

Reminder to all faculty: The LCME requires that all faculty review and attest the learning objectives for the 3rd year Anesthesia Clerkship. You will find a learning module under your “Urgent Tasks” or “Learning Module” sections of MedHub. We need all faculty to complete the module entitled “Anesthesia Faculty Syllabus: Anesthesia” by December 31st. Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have questions, please email Belinda at bmsambor@iu.edu.
In August, we welcomed a new hire, Dr. Michele Hendrickson. Dr. Hendrickson did her anesthesia residency at Duke, Pediatric Anesthesia fellowship in Miami, and Pediatric Pain Management fellowship at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. Dr. Hendrickson is the first anesthesiologist trained in pediatric pain management not only at Riley Children’s Hospital but in all of Indiana. She already sees chronic pain inpatients, and she has visited our chronic outpatient pain clinic. Once she settles into the Riley operating rooms, she will have her own outpatient chronic pain clinic days (1-2 days per week). Please introduce yourself and welcome Dr. Michelle Hendrickson.

In 2018, we welcomed several new anesthetists as well: Nikki Block, CAA: In January, we welcomed our fourth anesthetist, Nikki. A Hoosier native, Nikki has eight years of experience as a CAA and is a key contributor in organizing and implementing visiting rotations for our anesthesiologist assistant students.

Matt DeBurger, CAA: Many of you may remember working with our fifth anesthetist, Matt. He joined our department in April of this year. He is a full-time staff who has taken four 10-hour shifts. His addition has helped us greatly this year.

Leah Snyder, CAA: Most of you know our sixth anesthetist, Leah, who did her pediatric anesthesia rotation as an AA student in May. Nikki Block helped to obtain Leah’s Indiana license in a timely fashion, and has helped ensure that Leah is successful.

Krysta Merritt, CRNA: Krysta is from Indiana and has three years of experience as a CRNA, including pediatric experience. She is passionate about pediatric anesthesia and comes with strong recommendations from her Boston and Indiana colleagues.

Mark Wheeler, CAA: Mark has eight years of experience as a CAA, including some work in pediatrics. Before becoming a CAA, Mark served as a physician assistant for 12 years. He is mature and willing to learn complex pediatric anesthesia. He brings balance to our anesthesiologist group.

Clinically, Riley Main OR’s surgical/anesthesia volume crossed 11,000 for the first time in 2017. Between January and August 2018, Riley surgical/anesthesia volume and case hours increased by about 6% compared to the same period in 2017. Thank you Riley team for your hard work and excellent care of patients and families.

Perioperative care provider wellness study: Dr. Sadhasivam obtained an IU spirituality grant to improve the spiritual, physical, social, and emotional well-being of anesthesia care providers and to reduce stress, depression, and burnout. All anesthesia care providers are welcome to participate in the wellness program and associated research study. The program is anticipated to roll out in early 2019.

Medical mission trips: Riley anesthesia faculty, Drs. Abbasi, Walker, Horn, Serafin, Hamilton, Egan, and others are undertaking amazing mission trips in their personal time to help children in need all around the world in India, Jordan, Guatemala, and South American countries.

Academically, our division is now one of the top NIH funded pediatric anesthesia programs in the country. Over half our faculty are actively involved in research projects. This provides numerous opportunities for our fellows to participate in meaningful research.

“As thank you Riley team for your hard work and excellent care of patients and families.”

The Anesthesiologist Assistant Program (MSA)
-Sara Hickman, MSA Program Coordinator

In August of 2017, the Department of Anesthesia launched the Master of Science in Anesthesia program which now, rounding out our first year as an accredited program, stands to graduate twelve Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants in December 2019. This past August, the Class of 2020 began their first semester as the Class of 2019 began their fourth semester, and our program continues to grow at 24 students strong. Our first semester students will enter the University Hospital O.R. mid-September while fourth semester students complete rotations at Eskenazi and Methodist Hospitals. Both groups are working diligently as they complete their clinical and didactic studies.

This fall, the MSA program will begin interviewing for the Class of 2021 and will participate in a number of recruitment fairs around Indiana. For more information about the program, please visit https://medicine.iu.edu/departments/anesthesia/education-programs/msa/. Or you may contact Sara Hickman, MSA Program Coordinator, at 317-278-2532.

New Anesthetist Hires

Since 2016, the Department of Anesthesia has opened its doors to CAs and CRNAs from across the United States. We currently have 18 anesthetists practicing on campus including two recent additions. In October, Mark Wheeler, CAA, and Krysta Merritt, CRNA, began at Riley Hospital. Please give them a warm welcome when you see them.

THE PEDIATRIC FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
-Serenia Mahoney, Pediatric Fellowship Program Coordinator

Our pediatric anesthesia fellowship is one of the top fellowship programs in the country. We train five fellows per year, and the fellowship is 12 months. The biggest strength of the fellowship is the diversity and robust number of clinical cases that our fellows experience over the course of their year. As a center of excellence for several surgical services, our fellows have the unique opportunity to take care of some of the sickest patients in the country. Our faculty have years of experience with these complex patients, as well as the experience in educating young physicians in how best to manage them in the OR.

As a subspecialty, we share the aims of the core residency program. The primary aim of our fellowship is to educate our fellows to become competent, board-certified, and independent practitioners of pediatric anesthesia at a superior level of performance in all areas of anesthesia, including private practice and academic medicine if they so choose. We anticipate that our graduates will improve the practice of pediatric anesthesia at the local, state, and national levels.

A new area of development that should come to light in the next five years is the addition of a women/baby hospital within Riley hospital. Currently, all deliveries are done at Methodist hospital, and high-risk babies are then transferred to Riley for care. This provides a challenge for both mother and baby. In 2020, all deliveries will be done within the new mother/baby hospital. The changes affecting us are two-fold; we anticipate a significant increase in patient volume. We are also currently in discussion on how OB will be covered. This could provide new opportunities for our residents, fellows, and faculty. Stay tuned for more updates this coming year.
IT'S PROMOTION & TENURE SEASON
-Christopher Guagliardo, Administrative Specialist

As you weigh whether this is the year you opt for a promotion or tenured position, be mindful of important processes, resources, and deadlines along the way.

The 2018-19 Promotion and Tenure Committee consists of Drs. Gwirtz, Hasewinkel, Sadhasivam, Emhardt, Wagner, Hardacker, Dierdorf, and Chairman, Dr. Young. The committee invites junior and mid-career level faculty members to consider advancement to the rank of Associate Professor of Clinical Anesthesia. In order to qualify for advancement, you must demonstrate an exceptional body of work in your designated area of excellence, which, for most clinical faculty, is “service.” If you are interested in Promotion and Tenure, the first step is to contact the committee member associated with your division and declare your intent to seek academic advancement.

Next, begin formatting your CV according to Indiana University standards. You must have your CVs properly formatted before the P&T Committee conducts its first of three meetings on November 27th. The second meeting will take place in April, 2019, at which time the committee makes its final recommendations regarding which faculty should seek promotion and tenure. Candidates chosen to proceed should submit personal statements and external references by March 1st, and in June of 2019, finalized applications will be submitted to the School of Medicine.

If you are serious about promotion or tenure, please reach out to committee members, your division leaders, and faculty mentors for guidance. Additionally, your HR Business Partner Dennis Gretchen and your Administrative Specialist Christopher Guagliardo can help guide you through administrative matters and protocols. For more information, visit: https://faculty.medicine.iu.edu/pt/. More details will follow in early November via departmental email. Stay tuned.

THE RESEARCH HUB
-Dr. Senthil Sadhasivam

Within the last year, the Department of Anesthesia saw significant increases in HIH and external research funding in excess of $10 million dollars with Dr. Senthil Sadhasivam’s two RO1s, one R21, one U01, and one industry grant. These grants enabled the hiring of Mary Hesskett, Alicia Limbach, Breanne Hand, Christina Sparks, and Dhanashri Pawale. Additionally, we congratulate Dr. Fletcher White whose basic science research RO1 and DOD grants have been selected for funding.

Center for Anesthesia

Research Excellence (CARE): CARE is the name of the new research infrastructure for IU Anesthesia faculty and team members developed this year by Dr. Sadhasivam, Vice-Chair of Research. CARE provides mentoring, start-up, clinical subject recruitment, data collection, data analyses, scientific writing, grant submission, and management support in addition to networking and academic career advancement opportunities.

Your New CARE Team Research Staff: We’ve welcomed back Dr. Steve Dierdorf as a scientific research mentor for all Anesthesia faculty to help increase scientific productivity and guide junior faculty.

In early 2018, we brought aboard Brandon Bushong as our grant coordinator/administrator, and Beth Moser as the Department’s new biostatistician.

Mary Hesskett is our new research nurse manager, and newly-hired Alicia Limbach serves as our second clinical research nurse. Rounding out the team are clinical research specialists Breanne Hand and Christina Sparks, and clinical research associate Rachael Sadhasivam’s research grants and start-up research funds.

As part of the CARE initiative, we are in the process of hiring additional research nurses for University and Eskenazi hospitals.

Scientific writers Janelle Renschler (0.75 FTE) and Russell Savage (0.4 FTE) joined the department in October. Their office is in Fesler Hall, but they are happy to travel to clinicians and work with them closely to advance research effectively and efficiently. Please make the best use of their talents and enhance your academic career.

BIRTHDAYS THIS SEASON

September
9/6: Mark Tasch
9/7: Gopal Krishna
9/18: Sally Mitchell
9/19: Jian Ye
9/23: Charles Curtis

October
10/13: Michael Mazurek
10/14: Tejinder Soi
10/17: Michael Dorwart
10/14: Tejinder Soi
10/13: Michael Mazurek
9/7: Gopal Krishna
9/6: Mark Tasch
9/18: Sally Mitchell
9/19: Jian Ye
9/23: Charles Curtis

November
11/3: David Okano
11/4: Jonathan House
11/7: Jennifer Stewart
11/8: Scott Walker
11/11: Elizabeth Kroepfl
11/13: Justin Garrett
11/14: Jonathan Kremer
11/14: David Williams
11/22: Lisa Nigro
11/28: Morton Green

December
12/2: Matt DeBurger
12/8: Chrissy Sparks
12/16: Michele Hendrickson
12/21: Natalie Jenks
12/24: Stacy Kritzmire
12/25: Elizabeth Collins
12/30: Rebecca Saleet

A FEW NEW FACES

Danielle Cummins
Faculty Anesthesiologist
Eskenazi Hospital

Michele Hendrickson
Faculty Anesthesiologist
Riley Hospital

Gufran Chehla
Faculty Anesthesiologist
University Hospital

Russell Savage
Scientific Writer
University Hospital

Philip Stoller
Scientific Writer
University Hospital

Janelle Renschler
Scientific Writer
Fesler Hall

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Scientific Writer
Fesler Hall