Wow! Spring is finally here, with all the good (flowers & greenery) and the bad (allergies & weather)!

As for the department, we have just welcomed our new pediatric anesthesiology section chief, Mike Vollers, along with another pediatric anesthesiology section member Aimee McAnally. They have two more joining this summer, our current fellow, Victoria Elwell, and Joe Sisk. Our adult service has just welcomed Sean McBride and we now have Nariman Alas karov, Ashley Gallup, and Libu Kurian on board as CRNAs. In January, our Edmond OB anesthesiology service closed and Drs. Aaron McCoy and Sunny Zheng have since joined us downtown.

We just received commendations from the ACGME for all of our education programs. Many thanks to Dr. Chetty for his leadership in that area, as well as to our other student and resident education leaders. In two months we will graduate our Resident class of 2016 and soon after that welcome our new PGY-1 class.

It’s an interesting time for both research and IT, doing work among several departments. Clearly our biggest challenge will be with our budget for the next fiscal year. With 10% cuts to our state dollars and 25% cuts to our Medicaid rates, we will all have to endure what we hope will be only temporary measures.
Education Update - Pramod Chetty, MD

In March we completed the match process for the 2016 year and filled all 12 spots! The 2016-17 PGY-I class will be: Kelly Maloch, (KCUMB), Marc Maddox (LSU-New Orleans), Caleb McCormick (Kansas – Wichita), Matthew Moore (OU), Joseph Mosley (AZCOM), John Nedza (VCU), Caroline Parrish (OU), Andrew Pontikes (OU), Lucas Smith (OU), Thomas Stevens (Loma Linda), Sterling Udom (Wisconsin), and David Van (OU). Thank you to everyone who played a part in recruiting our new class to the OU Anesthesiology Residency.

Congratulations to Dr. Nathan Overbey, Chief-elect and Dr. Tyler Kloven, Co-Chief-elect on being elected to their respective offices. Thank you to all of the residents and faculty for their excellent participation in a well contested process. We would like to give a heartfelt thanks and appreciation to this current year’s Chief resident -Dr. Egbert and Co-Chief – Dr. Rowlett for an outstanding job!

Important Upcoming Education Dates:
May 7: Mock Orals / May 12-14: CA-I Review Course / June 10-11: ABA BASIC Exam

CRNA’s Finding Balance on the Run - Kathryn Dooley, CRNA

Two of our CRNAs, Robin Deck (left) and Jenny Schmitt (right), recently ran the Go Girl Half-Marathon in Oklahoma City. It is an accepted fact that maintaining a work/life balance is important to achieving optimal health, but many of us are challenged to find time to fit everything into our busy lives. Robin says that she has always run to decompress, because it something which doesn’t require thinking. She can put in her earbuds and leave stress behind. Robin has been an off and on runner for quite a while, but about a year and a half ago she started running longer distances and enjoys the challenge and the camaraderie of running with friends. Jenny is also a fitness enthusiast and happy to have completed her first half-marathon.

They are both great examples of professionals who know that to provide the best care for their patients they need to make sure that they take care of themselves first. Robin and Jenny also completed the Red Bud 10k in early April and the OKC Memorial Half Marathon on April 24th.

Congratulations to Svetlana Sanclement (pen name, Ms. Sunshine) on her new children’s book, Families. She had local signings at Barnes & Noble and Full Circle Bookstore, in April.
ASA deadline: The deadline to submit an abstract for a medically challenging case for a poster presentation at the 2016 ASA Meeting is May 24th. Detailed submission information can be found at: https://www.asahq.org/Annual%20Meeting/Education/Submission%20Information Kate Strum is willing to edit abstracts prior to submission. She will look at drafts that are submitted to her by Friday, May 20th at noon.

Oklahoma Shared Clinical and Translational Resources: Are you thinking about a study? OSCTR CAN and SHOULD be part of your process from the beginning and will assist you in developing your specific aims. Contact them via online request form HERE or visit: https://redcap.ouhsc.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=u8TtpBiwk

Summer Students: The department will be co-sponsoring 7 Summer Anesthesiology Research Fellowships for Medical Students between their MS1 and MS2 years, fulltime, for 7-10 weeks. Last year we had 6 students in this program followed by a Friday conference held in the fall in which the students presented on their projects. Some of these projects were presented at the Teaching Scholars Program and at ASA and other national conferences. Selected students will undergo IRB training and can work with some independence, but will need mentoring from their faculty sponsors. This can be a win-win for the mentor and the mentee when sustained effort is put into the program. We look forward to continuing the tradition of successful pairings.

Billing - Kay Recher

ICD 10 reminder!

Remember to document as much as you can. We need to make sure that we have the Procedure and Diagnosis, and all the supporting diagnoses on the pre-op.

Staff Updates - Susan VanGundy, MBA

Staff of the Month:
Periodically, always in an effort to recognize the most deserving staff, for Anesthesiology’s staff of the month, we alter our method of selection. Recently, we reverted back to a method in which the staff leadership committee, along with Dr. Fitch, names a deserving staff member from a group of nominees. To date, staff are encouraged to nominate, through supervisory staff, staff members whom they believe to be worthy candidates. However, we would welcome, and encourage, nominations from anyone in the department. If you believe a staff member is worthy of nomination, please e-mail the staff member’s name, along with comments supporting your nomination, to either Tara Sanders or myself. We will bring your nomination to the next staff leadership committee meeting for consideration. Annually, a staff of the year is chosen from those staff members who were recognized as staff of the month.

Staff Week:
This year we enjoyed OUHSC’s staff week, during which we recognized all staff during the week of April 18th-22nd each day with a fun activity. Then on April 28th, President Boren will recognize, at a staff luncheon, those who have reached a milestone service anniversary. Anesthesiology staff members recognized this year are Tiffany Carter and Brenda Miles (5) (although Brenda has years of broken service, the total of which is >5), Heather Hogan-Cline (10) Tara Sanders (15), and Dan Ridings (20) years of service. Congratulations and thank you to each of our awardees!
Resident Roundup– Brandon Egbert, Chief & Robert Rowlett, Co-Chief

As this academic year begins to wind down, we have lots to reflect on and look forward to. This year’s current CA-3s have found jobs and are focusing on fine-tuning skills and gearing up for boards. Some plan on practicing here in Oklahoma, while others have accepted positions in Texas, Nevada, Washington, and Arizona, and two are planning on fellowships in Oklahoma and Nebraska. Congratulations to all! The CA-1s are preparing to take their basic exam, while the current interns are getting ready to begin the anesthesia portion of their training. Meanwhile, we have successfully matched all of our spots for the incoming intern class and are excited to have them arrive and join the department. Thanks to all for a successful recruiting season! We have so enjoyed being your chief and co-chief and are thrilled to pass the baton to next year’s leaders, Dr. Nathan Overbey and Dr. Tyler Kloven, chief and co-chief respectively.

Summer Research Fellows at National Teaching Scholars Day
January 27th, 2016

Corinne Dinges, mentored by Dr. Alberto de Armendi

Abby Rubenstein, mentored by Dr. Tanmay Shah

Peter Shin, mentored by Drs. Parul and Praveen Maheshwari

Luke Crawford, mentored by Dr. Abhinava Madamangalam
Catching Up With Featured Faculty Member **Kofi Vandyck, MD**

Dr. Vandyck comes to us at OU Anesthesiology by way of Ghana and Virginia. He spent the first 18 years of his life growing up in Ghana before joining his parents in the DC suburb of Woodbridge Virginia and continuing on to Charlottesville for his undergraduate and medical educations. For the two and half years Dr. Vandyck has been at OU so far, he has enjoyed the variety of cases and his good working relationship with faculty and staff.

Dr. Vandyck feels very blessed to be an anesthesiologist living and working in a country that affords resources to his profession that contrast so starkly with what is available in his home country. In Ghana, estimates state that there are about 10-20 total anesthesiologists in practice tasked with serving a population of 22 million. The state of healthcare is such that people die daily from the most common and treatable diseases. Dr. Vandyck loves his chosen profession because hard work allows him to make quantifiable differences in the lives of his patients. He notes the level of concern many patients have regarding waking up from anesthesia and feels a sense of accomplishment and pride whenever he is able to shepherd a patient through surgery and anesthesia.

Dr. Vandyck adds that it’s the difficult cases that make the job so rewarding for him. He doesn’t see the challenging cases as drawbacks, but rather opportunities to approach situations head-on and persevere through to the desired outcomes that make him a better and stronger physician and person.

When he’s not working, Dr. Vandyck enjoys spending time with his wife and three children, playing Xbox, and watching movies and soccer on TV. He also enjoys a hearty rice, vegetable, and fried chicken stew and then heading to the gym for a workout, though he probably doesn’t get there as often as he should. Dr. Vandyck speaks three languages, two of which are only spoken in Ghana!

On the horizon for Dr. Vandyck is the Society of Cardiothoracic Anesthesia Annual Meeting in San Diego in April, followed by family trips to Disney World in August, and to Germany to visit friends.

Getting To Know Administrative Coordinator **June Fish**

What would we do without June Fish? We tried to make it without her for a while in 2015, but we’re glad to have her back now doing pretty much everything, but specifically being the Administrative Coordinator for Lower Level at OUWMC. June supports Dr. Roberts and the twenty other faculty members on the LL as well as Drs. Tinker and Major at the Surgery Center.

June has served OUHSC for more than twenty years and Anesthesiology has been fortunate enough to have her on board for more than ten of those. June enjoys the busy and ever-evolving nature of her position as well as interacting with everyone she works with.

Though she was born in Shawnee, June moved to both Texas and Tennessee as a child before settling back in OK. Now she wouldn’t have it any other way, as her grandchildren are one of the primary joys in her life, especially summertime at the ball fields with her older grandsons. When she’s not enjoying time with family, she enjoys working in her yard, reading, and home improvement projects, which she notes are never-ending with her three rental properties. In her spare time (when?) she and her husband are in the (slow) process of building a new home!

Though we’d hate to think of work life without her, it’s easy to imagine June in her alternate career choice of elementary/early education teacher. June also has an adventurous side that includes upcoming trips with her husband, Doyle, to Destin, FL and a road trip out west to see the Grand Canyon, all the sites in between, and all the best Mexican food she can find along the way.

We know June as a fantastic colleague here in the department, but even if you work with her on a daily basis, you may not know about her Native American roots and her deep pride in that heritage. June is a member of the Kickapoo tribe of Oklahoma. It is customary to keep tribal traditions private, but she would like to share that as a tribal member, June is part of the Fox Clan and goes by the traditional name of Saunoa.
Recent Publications


Recent Publications, cont’d.


Accepted for Publication:

Welcome Aboard To Our New Hires

Physicians

Aimee McAnally, MD
Sean McBride, MD
Michael Voller, MD

Staff

Jodi Asprey
(Administrative Coordinator DUMC/DR)
Garrett Hill
(Accountant)
Katherine Glenn
(Account Clerk)
Alyssa Reese
(Billing)

CRNAs

Nariman Alaskarov
Ashely Gallup
Libu Kurian

Save These Dates!

Annual Symposium
April 30th, 2016
Contact: June-Fish@ouhsc.edu

ASA 2016 Medically Challenging Cases
May 24th, 2016
(See Research section (pg. 2) of this newsletter for more details)

Annual Substance Abuse Education Offering
June 2nd, 2016
Faculty House
Contact: Fayean-Shaw@ouhsc.edu

Joint Surgical Services Grand Rounds
June 3rd, 2016
Samia Center, Rainbolt Auditorium
Dr. Stephen Heimbach presenting
Contact: Fayean-Shaw@ouhsc.edu

Resident Graduation and Departmental Awards Ceremony
June 25th, 2016
Contact: Amanda-Lee@ouhsc.edu

Courses:
PALS Class: April 2nd & July 16th
ACLS/BLS Class: May 7th & June 18th
MDCA: July 30th, Sept 24th, Nov 12th, & Dec 3rd
Contact: Gale-Gwin@ouhsc.edu

Tip Time

We have an epidemic on our hands here in the Department of Anesthesiology! Many physicians, along with residents and medical students are hard at work writing up their cases and studies for publication, but there’s just one problem that’s tearing through the department like wildfire...two or more spaces after periods. Let it be known from here forward that there is ONLY ONE space after a period, in every situation, always and forever! If you don’t believe it, read http://www.slate.com/articles/technology/technology/2011/01/space_invaders.html

Staff Members Of The Month

January

Debby Upp
Coding Specialist II

February

Rick Miller
Local Area Network Specialist IT Support

March

Dan Aduddell
Travel & HR

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Staff Week 2016

Service Recognition Lunch
Catered By
Ted’s Café Escondido!

Anesthesiology Staff—2016