Welcome to the season of giving thanks! There is much to be thankful for in our department.

Clinically, we continue to grow our business. We are moving forward with our perioperative surgical home initiatives, best described as procedural care coordination. We’re beginning with three different surgeons/service lines. We’ve now done our first CPB case in our new hybrid OR on the 1st floor in OUMC. Our Surgery Center is running four and five ORs each day. OUMC-E has begun to do GI endoscopy sedation/analgesia. Our residents at OUMC have a new perioperative medicine rotation and our residents at TCH have a new NDRA rotation. We have one adult services faculty (McBride) coming in March and hopefully two additional positions in July. We also have two additional pediatric anesthesia faculty (McAnally & Vollers) coming in January and two additional positions we’re recruiting for July 2016. We have one nurse anesthetist (Kliwer) who started at the end of November, and we just interviewed for one more nurse anesthesia position.

Our department presented a record 32 posters and abstracts at the ASA 2015 conference in San Diego. We were well represented by our faculty, residents, and some terrific medical students. Our fellowship directors are working behind the scenes to put together our OB, neuro-anesthesia, and critical care anesthesiology fellowship programs, which we hope to start over the next one to three years.

We are well into the residency recruiting season. Many thanks to all for helping with this critically important endeavor!

Thanks to everyone for all you do to take care of our patients, educate and train our students, residents and fellows, and contribute to our department. Please remember: Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM)!
Research Review - Pamela Roberts, MD

I’d like to introduce our new Scholarly Projects Bulletin Board, which will provide an opportunity for residents and medical students to connect with faculty on scholarly project ideas by using a new system to share these ideas within the department.

How it works:
1) Faculty members fill out a form explaining the basics of their idea/project and email it to the research team. [Form available in folder ‘Bulletin Board’ in shared (G) drive folder]
2) The research team enters this information into a spreadsheet
3) The spreadsheet is available for all members of the department to view through the Excel file in the ‘Bulletin Board’ folder.
4) Residents and students can learn about upcoming departmental projects and contact faculty whose projects they have an interest in participating in.
5) When notified by project teams, the research team updates the spreadsheet to reflect new projects and changes to existing projects.

*Keep an eye out for an email with more details. Contact Fahmida Khan (Fahmida-Khan@ouhsc.edu) with questions.

Education Update - Pramod Chetty, MD

It’s the busiest time of the year in Education! We’re currently in the process of completing interviews and making a rank order list of applicants who would begin their residencies in the summer of 2016. In 2015, we matched 12 PGY-1 positions, which included 3 OU graduates.

The first of two fall mock oral exams was conducted on November 14th, and the second is scheduled to be conducted on December 12th. There will be two spring mock oral dates, which are both TBD at this point.

We are very pleased with the resident participation at ASA 2015 and are excited about the initiation of the Scholarly Projects Bulletin Board. We work tirelessly to select the best medical students to add to our program and then work continuously to develop and provide the best possible resident experience once they arrive.

CRNA’s Taking The Lead - Kathryn Dooley, CRNA

Congratulations to Brenda Toland, CRNA (left), who has been chosen to serve as the President of the Oklahoma Association of Nurse Anesthetists (DANA). Brenda was elected at the Fall Meeting of the DANA in November.

Our department is also proud that Quentin Sukut, CRNA, is the new Secretary of the DANA Board. He is joined on the Board by Jenny Schmitt, CRNA (right), who is serving as a Director.

Thank you to all these members of our department who, in addition to providing excellent care to patients here at OU, also choose to give of their time and energy to promote the profession of nurse anesthesia through their dedication to leadership positions in our field.
**EMR - Daniel Biggs, MD & Lisa King**

- We are upgrading to Centricity Perioperative Anesthesia V8.2 during the first weekend in December.
- Please remember to sign into all of your cases. Attendings: please make sure you are attesting to all of your records and also attest at the appropriate time in the record.
- If you are relieving someone please make sure you select this option:

  *Intraoperative Handover: We have discussed significant preoperative findings, the anesthetic course to this point and the planned disposition of this patient.*

**Billing - Kay Recher**

- If you would like to receive text messages when we are experiencing system issues please call 271-2467 or send email to anesinformatics@ouhsc.edu that includes your cell phone service provider.

  *Help desk 271-2467*

**Why Do We Lunch and Learn?—Susan VanGundy, MBA**

Unfortunately, or fortunately, depending on your view, many lunch and learn topics are triggered by an event within the department, at the university, or an occurrence of national prominence. Although these topics may come to light through negative events, group training creates an atmosphere of awareness and helps to make positive improvements to the overall culture of the Department of Anesthesiology, OU Physicians, and the University of Oklahoma. The topics and content of these training sessions may at first feel like a waste of time, discussing things we all feel we’re already aware of, but these sessions serve to take us out of our routine and provide reminders as well as education to take away and put into practice in our professional and personal lives.

In the healthcare profession we are very aware of HIPAA. We know it means accessing, disclosing, or requesting only the minimum amount of PHI necessary to do our jobs. However, because PHI is such a part of our daily lives we can become desensitized. An occasional or recurring reminder through the lunch and learns or our annual training is not only helpful, but also necessary to keep our patients safe.

Diversity was the topic of our November lunch. The world we live in is becoming more diverse every day. This is fantastic, as we learn from those whose experiences, beliefs, and perspectives are different from our own. Diversity challenges stereotyped preconceptions and encourages critical thinking. Diversity training can cover race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious or political beliefs, and more. Embracing diversity helps foster acceptance, mutual respect, and teamwork. Understanding that each individual is unique helps us judge our team members by the quality of their character and their contributions. While we may have considered ourselves open-minded already, the training has helped us to realize, that we still have awareness and understanding to gain in order to make our workplace and our world as tolerant and inclusive as possible.

So, what’s next? The University is currently rolling out training on what to do if there were an active shooter on campus. Unfortunately, we have seen this occur recently across the country. Tara Sanders and Dr. Fitch have already participated in training. We hope to bring training to everyone in the department shortly after the first of the year.

If you know of other topics targeted towards professional and personal development, which you think we as a department could benefit from, please let me know. Discussions such as these add skills needed for a valuable and successful work experience for all of us.
Anesthesiologists convened in San Diego this year for the ASA annual meeting. The 2015 conference was a notable one for our department, as, under the guidance of our faculty, we presented 32 posters on medically challenging cases. Sponsored by the gracious donations of faculty, a number of residents were able to both attend the meeting to present their posters as well as to take part in many educational experiences ranging from learning about new innovations in cardiac anesthesia to financial planning after residency. There was also time to enjoy the scenery and unique experiences that San Diego has to offer, including a wonderful meal at the Brazilian steakhouse, Fogo de Chao. Thank you to all those who made this experience possible! As we prepare to begin another calendar year, let’s all keep our eyes open for those cases that throw us a curve ball, providing a great learning experience to be shared with others on a national level.
Catching Up With Featured Faculty Member Teodora Nicolescu, MD

Dr. Nicolescu hails from Romania originally, but has now been stateside for twenty-five years. Adjusting to new social and economic systems, especially coming from a formerly communist country, was difficult at first, but today she finds it to be much simpler.

Here at OU, Dr. Nicolescu’s specialties and interests are in cardiac anesthesiology and performance quality and improvement. She’s been with us for fifteen years, arriving just a few months before Dr. Fitch. Dr. Nicolescu appreciates the cultural diversity in the department, the rich exchange of knowledge and ideas, and maybe most, an atmosphere where she can laugh and joke with colleagues and enjoy working together.

Although the toughest thing about being an anesthesiologist is that she cannot save all of her patients, her favorite part was best encapsulated by a patient when he said, “I have a lot of respect for anesthesiologists because you bring me as close to a coma as possible and then you are able to bring me right back out of it.”

When she’s not at work, Dr. Nicolescu enjoys reading, watching scientific documentaries, and participating in outdoor activities. This globetrotter is not headed home to Europe for the holidays. Instead, Dr. Nicolescu, a vegetarian, will be cruising around South America enjoying salads of all forms and likely a few sweets too!

Getting To Know Client Support Analyst Matt Turner

Matt has been with the department of Anesthesiology for just over a year. Matt’s job title is Client Support Analyst, but when we asked him what that means and what he actually does, he explained that he runs support for the department’s EMR and assists with billing-related tasks. Matt enjoys his job here, but speculates that if he were to pursue something else it would be technology-related and possibly engineering oriented. In addition to working with us full-time, he’s working on a degree in Mechanical Engineering!

When he’s not busy with work, school, or studying Matt enjoys all things outdoors. If it’s the summertime, you’ll find him at the lake and in the winter with his snowboard on the slopes. Matt is hoping that the holidays take him to Indio, CA for a visit with his sister, but in the meantime, there’s a good chance that if you offer him some tacos, his favorite food, he might just take you dancing, one of his favorite, but less often publicized activities.
Recent Publications


Accepted for Publication


Welcome Aboard To Our New Hires

**Physicians**
- Adam Broussard, MD
- Cassandra Duncan-Azadi, MD

**Staff**
- Robyn Harrell
  (Administrative Coordinator DUIC/DR)
- Melinda (Mindy) Holt
  (Staff Assistant TCH/OR)
- Jean Liles
  (Coding Specialist II)
- Ashley Rumer
  (Patient Services Rep 1 - Billing Registration)

**CRNAs**
- Brittany Hyde
- Lauren Kliewer
- Samuel Lingle

Staff Members Of The Month

**September**
- Susan VanGundy
  Business Administrator

**October**
- Kyley Walker
  Accountant—Payroll
  CRNA & PAU Discretionary Accounts

**November**
- Gale Gwin
  Senior Administrative Assistant
  TCH/DB

Save These Dates!

**Mock Orals**
Dec 12th, 2015
Contact: Matthew-Wilson@ouhsc.edu

**Holiday Recovery Party**
Jan 16th, 2016
Contact: Kari-Lee@ouhsc.edu

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

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

Tip Time

**PMIDs & PMCID: What are they and how do they differ?**

- **PubMed** and **PubMed Central** are two different services.
- **PubMed** is a searchable database of biomedical citations and abstracts whose full texts stay with the original publications. PMID #s are automatically assigned by PubMed, an indexing engine, to any article published in an indexed journal.
- **PubMed Central** is a free digital archive of biomedical and life sciences articles curated by the NIH and available to everyone. PMCID #s are assigned only to those articles that adhere to the Public Access Policy mandated by the NIH.

*Recipients of NIH funding are required to use PMCID numbers to maintain compliance with the NIH Public Access Policy.*
Wacky Games 2015!
Our Rugged Maniacs!
Drs. Gibson and Haywood took the physical challenge!

Congrats to Dr. Henthorn on his many years of service and on his retirement!

OU Fit - Morning staff walk!

Halloween 2015

Christine Vo, MD with kittens Angelina & Caitlin

Michael-O’-Lantern Major, MD

Michael O’Dell, CRNA and family

Nusaybah Khan, Lady Cookie-Monster and Daughter of Fahmida Khan, MD