Welcome to the first issue of Snooze News with our new hospital partner, OU Medicine, Inc. (OUMI), a locally owned and operated hospital system! It has been many years in the making and is now reality. It will be great for our patients, as well as for all of us. Now to get the new adult bed tower built and opened, hopefully in the first quarter 2020!

There’s lots going on in our nation’s capital and as well as at our state capital regarding budgets, so it will be a very interesting budget planning process for all of us this year. We are moving forward with a valuation for our anesthesia services, so stay tuned for more details in that regard. We have also asked HR to do an updated assessment of our billing staff positions. Barish Edil, MD got started last month as our new Chair of Surgery. Barish did his residency here a while back. Russell Postier, MD has been formally named as our OU COM Executive Dean, until his retirement 6/30/18. Stay tuned for the transition plans for that leadership position. The search is underway for our new University President following David Boren’s retirement, also 6/30/18. The one constant in life is change!

From an education perspective, rank lists are in and March will bring Match Day! What an exciting time of the year!

Hang in there, only two more weeks left in the Groundhog’s winter prediction, so please stay warm. Hope everyone had a lovely Valentine’s Day with the ones you love!

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Education Update - Pramod Chetty, MD

Everyone knows that each year the Education Section undertakes the process of selecting 12 residents to add to our department for the following year, but what does that really entail? Here are some quick facts to give you a sense of the time-intensive process that occurs between September and February that leads to a new group of bright and driven future anesthesiologists arriving on our doorstep each July. This is what it looks like by the numbers for 2017-18, for our 18-19 class:

- Number of interviews: 118
- Number of Interview days/ties worn in the 2017-18 academic year by Brian Johnson: 10
- Number of people-hours spent on rank order: 210
- Number of pastries required to survive the process: 317
- Number of cases of Listeria due to contaminated Panera cream cheese: 0!
- Number of emails required to fill the next class of residents: 1469
- Number of dinners eaten during recruiting season: 514
- Number of times Dr. Chetty said “The strength of our residency program is our residents”: > 20
- Number of minutes spent in interviews or interviewing: 9440
- Number of postage stamps used in the process: 436

Thanks to Drs. Windrix, Heimbach, Amanda Lee, Brian Johnson and Kristen Chewey for their hard work throughout the selection process as well as to our Chief and Co-Chief Drs. Foster and Crowe and all current residents who are integral to both helping us attract the best to the program as well as aiding in selection. Match Day is March 16, so stay tuned!

Catching Up With Our CRNA’s - Kathryn Dooley, CRNA & Sam Lingle, CRNA

Welcome to one of our new CNRAs, Carly Hake! Carly and her husband are originally from Oklahoma and are excited to be home! She did her nurse anesthesia training at UNC Charlotte. Carly loves, traveling, soccer and her dog! Be sure to extend a warm welcome when you see her!
Each year the Staff Senate holds a Staff Recognition Ceremony in order to recognize staff who have been continuously employed with the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center for ten, fifteen or more years. This year the ceremony is being held on Friday, May 4th. We are fortunate in the fact that this year, as in most years past, our staff being recognized have not only been continuously employed by the University but are also long term employees of the department. The staff below are Anesthesiology’s staff being recognized by the Staff Senate for a milestone anniversary.

Michele Doughty is being recognized for 10 years of service. Although Michele has worked for our department a relatively short time we hope that she will be with us for many years to come. Lisa King is being recognized for her ten year milestone anniversary as well; all of which time has been in our department. It is important to point out that the Staff Senate only recognizes milestones for continuous service to the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Broken or part-time service is no longer recognized for awards purposes. Lisa had broken years of service with the University which is not reflected in her milestone; otherwise her milestone would have been 31 years!

Kari Lee is being recognized for ten years of service with the University as well as with the department. Amanda Lee & Kay Recher are being recognized for the longest continuous service of anyone in our department this year with 15 years, 6 of which have been in Anesthesiology for Amanda and all 15 for Kay!

Congratulate each of these staff members if you have a chance as we are lucky to have such loyal staff!

Resident Reflection - Getting to know Joan Strong, MD—CA-3 Resident

Dr. Strong is a proud Texan and she’s not likely to let you forget it. If you do, though, she’s happy to remind you about income taxes and the warm beer you’re purchasing at liquor stores in Oklahoma. She completed her undergraduate studies at UT and medical school at Texas Tech before venturing up north to join us here at OU. As a CA-3, she’s in her last few months with us before she moves onto a fellowship in pediatric anesthesia in Kansas City. Dr. Strong chose to pursue peds anesthesia because she found that the months she was working in that environment were her happiest of residency. She’s excited for a new city of food, drink and running options to explore, but a bit nervous about having to learn her way around new hospitals, EMR systems, and KC’s winter weather! She’ll also be missing the people here at OU. She’s enjoyed getting to know all of the faculty CRNAs, and her fellow residents. Not to be forgotten is that she has to leave both Braum’s mixes and the Thunder behind...

As she reflects on her time here at OU and thinks about the next class of residents to enter the program, Dr. Strong encourages them to trust in their training. She hopes they will be flexible and open to the best possible solutions, but also that they will not compromise what is best or safest for a patient or be swayed by other hospital staff and those who question your decision-making. Here at OU, where she has learned never to sacrifice patient safety for convenience, speed of room turnover or anything else that doesn’t have the best interest of the patient in mind she will be bringing that wisdom with her to her fellowship and future anesthesia practice.
Getting Real with Our Research Team!

**AMIR BUTT MBBS, MPH**

Amir has been with us in the department for six years, but he originally hails from Pakistan where he earned his MBBS. He also holds his MPH, which he earned here at OU. He enjoys working with the entire range of researchers on campus from medical students through faculty. Though he’s always up to the challenge, one thing that can be challenging about his job, and is often a delicate balancing act, is the successful enrollment of patients in clinical trials for the duration of a study. When he’s not at work, Amir enjoys fishing, kayaking, gardening and hiking in the summers and taking his projects indoors in the winter. Though his favorite destination is The Swiss Alps, his favorite cuisine to enjoy is Italian. Amir emphasizes that as a research coordinator, he is ALWAYS here to help and the more involved he is, from the earliest stage of a research project, the better he is able to do his job and help our faculty!

**FAHMIDA KHAN MBBS, MPH**

Fahmida has been with us here in the department for two and a half years. Originally from Bangladesh, she has a medical degree and an MPH. Fahmida enjoys the diversity of the projects she gets to work on that keeps things exciting from day to day. Though Fahmida reports that she is not a morning person, we wouldn’t know it to work with her, as she is always ready with a smile and an offer to help with whatever is needed. Outside of the office Fahmida relaxes through gardening, yoga, listening to music, reading, and light hiking. Spain is her favorite getaway spot and there must be something about research and Italian food, because she and Amir both enjoy it. Fahmida reminds faculty to use the resources we’ve worked on to simplify and clarify your research endeavors. Be sure to go through the Study Start-up folder in the shared drive and never hesitate to reach out to her. No question is a bad question!

Welcome Aboard To Our New Hires

**Staff**

Jane Nickolls-Menchaca (Staff Assistant)

**Associate Faculty**

Chris Carter, CRNA
Trayce Carter, CRNA
Carley Hake, CRNA

**Faculty**

Scott Maxwell, MD
Muyaad Tailounie, MD
Grigore Toma, MD
Catching Up With Featured Faculty Member Lara Dean, MD

Dr. Dean has been with us here in the department for just over six months since starting in July, though she hails from here in OKC and attended OU for medical school, so she’s really just settling in back at home. So far, she is enjoying getting to know her colleagues and our residents. Dr. Dean feels the pressure, but also the fulfillment in the responsibility to keep patients safe during their most vulnerable times of life. She loves having an exciting career, but also one that allows her to have a life outside of work with her family. Speaking of family, there seems to be some disagreement about the doctor’s choices. Her wife would probably say Dr. Dean’s favorite food to eat is Raising Cane’s, but she’d say it’s Indian. It sounds like agreement on travel plans may go better, as they have scheduled the fun almost a year out with trips on the calendar to Disney World in April, Hawaii in June, and Mexico in December. Please bring us back a tan! If you haven’t met Dr. Dean yet, be sure to make a point to say hello and welcome her!

Getting To Know Super Staff Member

Debby Upp CPC, CANPC—Coding Specialist II

Debby likes to say what we’re all thinking: she is very glad that we are no longer housed in the Allergy Clinic Building. She’s enjoying our fancy new digs at Williams Pavilion and will have been with us five years in June. Debby is a coder, which means that she reviews physician documentation and works on assigning billing codes for procedures that require anesthesia. She enjoyed watching the Winter Olympics, as she’s originally from the snowy city of Madison, Wisconsin. Debby is an avid sports fan and also enjoys taking her motorcycle out for a spin, reading, and a good bowl of Pho—not all at the same time, of course! A trip across the border to Canada may be in the cards, but count her out of anymore skydiving adventures. For Debby, once was enough.


**Maheshwari P, Maheshwari P.** Quiz for Week 3 Cardiovascular Week. Anesthesia Toolbox. 2017 December.


Good News!

Drs. Fitch and Roberts were on hand for the groundbreaking of the new hospital bed tower at the close of 2017! Watch out, Dr. Fitch has a golden shovel and she knows how to use it!

Though the state budget vote did not go the way we had hoped relative to funding, we send a huge shout-out to everyone who represented OU Medicine at the Capitol on February 12th, especially those from our department: l-r: Resident Drs: David Fish, Ciera Ward, Wissam Tobeia, Joseph Carda, James Sweet and Assistant Professor, Dr. Casey Windrix.

Congrats to our longtime colleague Robert Foreman, MD on his lifetime achievement award from The North American Neuromodulation Society (NANS) presented at this year’s conference in January!
Anesthesiology will be out in force at this year’s OKC Memorial Marathon festival of races on April 29th! Haven’t gotten registered yet? There’s still time and all events are still accepting registrants at the publishing of this newsletter. Find one that’s right for you: Marathon, 1/2 Marathon, Marathon Relay, 5k, & Kids Marathon! Join your colleagues, we have people registered in every single race distance, for one of the most special events that celebrates the legacy of our city and those who lost their lives on April 19, 1995. Word on the street is that our former colleague, Dr Gibson, may even grace OKC with an appearance!

Save These Dates!

**MOCA:** June 23, Aug 26 (Sunday), Sept 15, Nov 3, (Gale Gwin)

**ACLS:** March 17 & June 9 (Gale Gwin)

**PALS:** April 14 (Gale Gwin)  **MOCK ORALS:** April 28 & May 12 (Kristen Chewey)

*Resident Graduation—Saturday, June 16th*
FLASHBACK!

Can you identify some of our current department members in these throwback photos?! Don’t let more and larger hair fool you! (see bottom of page for answer key) No cheating!

A) Dr. Chetty B) Dr. Tinker C) Marjorie Sagonda, CRNA D) Dr. Mansour E) Dr. Elwood F) Dr. Biggs G) Dr. Ganta