CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE

“And tomorrow we might not be together. I’m no prophet, and I don’t know nature’s ways. So I’ll try to see into your eyes right now and stay right here, ’cause these are the good old days.” — Carly Simon

I recently attended the 25th year reunion of my GW medical school class. I think once you get beyond 5–10 years out, these events can be a little scary. Will I recognize anyone? Will anyone recognize me? As it turns out, I had a great time, and I was sad when it became clear that the Ritz-Carlton staff was looking forward to our departure. It was time to go.

My classmates turned out in record numbers, traveling from all over the country. The lives these GW grads have led are truly inspiring. They are successful in the most meaningful ways—public service and personal relationships. Most have raised kids that will change the world for the better. Many have achieved important positions within the practice of medicine and in their communities. All seemed grateful for their time at GW. I wonder, though, did they have the same sense of gratitude and excitement about GW when we were in school? Perhaps some were slogging along, looking forward to getting out, making a dent in their substantial debt, and begin living life after graduation. I hope not.

The making of a physician is difficult and structured around delayed gratification. The preclinical medical school experience is a drag—I can’t wait until I have more patient interaction. Internship stinks—I can’t wait to be a senior resident. Residency stinks—I can’t wait until I’m an attending. Working as an attending is tiresome in these days of increasing regulations with its associated paperwork—I can’t wait until retirement.

Anticipation is a good thing but not when we choose to neglect the here and now. We have a strong and vibrant department. I pray our residents enjoy their classmates and teachers, their daily learning and growth and feel fulfilled in real-time as it seems my medical school classmates did.

These are the good old days.

Michael J. Berrigan, MD, PhD
Message from the Program Director

Why bother with developing an experience in research during residency training? Aside from the obvious desire to meet the new, more stringent requirements for research by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), is there truly a value to resident pursuit of scholarship in addition to clinical and didactic learning?

I would argue most definitely, “Yes!”

Value can be derived from an experience in research, whether it is clinical or bench research. For one, research fosters independent thought and the pursuit of the “why” behind our clinical efforts. In addition, residents can better comprehend the strengths and limitations of other research papers when they have their own experiences to compare to. In other words, reviewing other scientific studies becomes more palatable when personal experiences can be reflected upon. Since implementing a research requirement for our residents in 2008, resident participation in Journal Club (led by Dr. Seth Akst) has increased, not only in attendance and participation, but also in quality of the effort overall.

This year alone, seven residents are preparing posters for presentation at the ASA meeting in Chicago! Thanks in large part to the generous donation of former chair, Burton Epstein, we are able to sponsor almost one-third of our entire residency to attend this meeting and present their research. Further, librarian Laura Abate has been assisting residents with literature searches and use of library resources at Himmelfarb Medical Library. Didactic presentations on experimental design and statistical analysis (Dr. Mink Chawla), medical informatics, and reviewing the literature (Dr. Doug Sharp) have also supplemented our research mission.

Are there any data that confirm the value of research? “Yes!” Resident graduates from GW are going into academic practices at unprecedented rates. This past year, graduates began work at University of California—Irvine, University of Texas—Houston, New York Presbyterian Hospital—Columbia, and New York University—Langone Medical Center. Many have commented that their experiences in research at GW have given them the confidence to pursue an academic career and removed any fear of the unknown with respect to research.

In closing, I want to thank the residents and faculty who have helped foster a culture of research at GW. I am proud of our efforts to date and foresee many successes in the years to come!

Jeff Berger, MD, MBA

Thanks in large part to the generous donation of former chair, Burton Epstein, we are able to sponsor almost one-third of our entire residency to attend this meeting and present their research.

The number of faculty involved in research has tripled in the last five years, improving our standing as a comprehensive training program and leading academic anesthesiology center. Further, librarian Laura Abate has been assisting residents with literature searches and use of library resources at Himmelfarb Medical Library. Didactic presentations on experimental design and statistical analysis (Dr. Mink Chawla), medical informatics, and reviewing the literature (Dr. Doug Sharp) have also supplemented our research mission.

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Jeff Berger, MD, MBA

This edition of Gas-ette contains solemn news about our alumni. Our hearts may be saddened by the news, but we only remember them by their lives filled with happiness and laughter. Keeping up with the spirit, I tried to fill this edition with some humor. You will find that much work has gone into resident bios. I hope you will enjoy a few moments of laughter in your busy lives.

Seol Yang, MD
In Memory of Dr. Herbert Weintraub

As you may already know, Dr. Herbert Weintraub, passed away on February 24, 2011. All of us at the Department of Anesthesiology along with our chairman, Dr. Michael Berrigan, would like to dedicate this page in loving memory of Dr. Weintraub.

Dr. Herbert D. Weintraub was born on February 17, 1930 in New York. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from New York University in 1950. He traveled to England for further studies, receiving his second Bachelor of Arts degree in 1955 from Christ College of Oxford University. His undying passion for knowledge resulted in a Master of Arts in 1958 and a Bachelor of Medicine & Surgery in 1959 from the Oxford University. Dr. Weintraub completed his internship at Strong Memorial Hospital at University of Rochester. His residency and fellowship training in anesthesiology were done at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in 1961–1964.

Dr. Weintraub's academic career started as an instructor in anesthesiology at the Hospital of University of Pennsylvania in 1964. He then moved to the University of Chicago Hospitals as an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and served there until 1971. His distinguished career continued at the George Washington University Medical Center as an Associate Professor of Anesthesiology from 1971. He became a full professor in 1974. After serving at various important posts in the hospital and the university as Director of Operating Rooms, 1976–1997; Associate Chairman, 1979–1984; Vice Chairman, 1985–1991, Dr. Weintraub became Interim Chairman of the George Washington University Medical Center’s Department of Anesthesiology in 1991. He continued to serve as the Interim Chairman until 1997 when he retired from clinical practice.

His distinguished academic career is supplemented by his desire to help others in need internationally. He visited hospitals in Haiti and Uganda in 1963 and 1972 respectively. He lectured in China, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia. He also served as a visiting consultant at King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 1994.

His commitment to education for future generations is survived by an endowment he bestowed on George Washington University’s Department of Anesthesiology. Every year, residents benefit from Herbert Weintraub Resident Achievement Award.

Dr. Weintraub was a founding member and past president of the Society of Ambulatory Anesthesia and was a member of Royal Society of Medicine in Britain.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Judith Levine Weintraub and three children, Linda, Susan, and Trevor.

Besides all the academic achievement, Dr. Weintraub will be remembered most by his kind heart and fighting spirit.

Seol Yang, MD

Besides all the academic achievement, Dr. Weintraub will be remembered most by his kind heart and fighting spirit.
Dr. David Longnecker Arrives!

Dr. Longnecker is the Robert D. Dripps Professor Emeritus of Anesthesiology and Critical Care at the University of Pennsylvania and a director in the section of Health Care Affairs of the Association of American Medical Colleges. At the AAMC, he leads a national organization of Chief Medical Officers, the physicians who coordinate clinical care, clinical service, and patient safety in academic medical centers, and co-leads a project to enhance the culture of quality and safety in teaching hospitals and medical schools. He also coordinates clinical health information technology and represents the AAMC in several other national organizations.

Dr. Longnecker received his undergraduate and medical education at Indiana University. He has over 35 years of experience as physician-scientist, physician-educator, and physician-administrator, first at the University of Missouri, subsequently at the University of Virginia, and eventually at the University of Pennsylvania, where he served as Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology, Vice Dean for Professional Services, and Senior Vice President-Corporate Chief Medical Officer of the University of Pennsylvania Health System. His research and educational interests began with basic, clinical, and translational research in anesthesia-related areas and evolved to include health services research, health care management, health information technology, and quality improvement education and practice. He is the author of numerous scientific articles and chapters and an editor of seven medical textbooks, including the 2200-page Anesthesiology (2007).

Dr. Longnecker served as President of the American Board of Anesthesiology, President of the National Resident Matching Program, President of the Association of University Anesthesiologists, and inaugural President of the W.T.G. Morton Society. He was a member of the Harvard-Kennedy School of Government Health Care Delivery Design Project that explored innovative approaches to quality, cost, and productivity in health care. He is a fellow (by election) of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (UK) and member of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Sciences. At the IOM, Dr. Longnecker chairs the Committee on Aerospace Medicine and Medicine for Extreme Environments, which advises NASA on medical risks, medical care, and health-related matters associated with space flight, including return to the Moon and eventually the human exploration of Mars. Dr. Longnecker also serves on the NASA Advisory Council, which provides strategic advice and recommendations to the NASA Administrator.

Dr. Longnecker is a Professor of Anesthesiology at George Washington University and is involved in scholarly activities including undergraduate and graduate medical education and faculty development such as providing assistance in career development, research design, health services research and quality improvement initiatives.

We Welcome Our New Residents

Nawraz Alan, MD
Nawraz grew up in Kurdistan, Iraq and moved to the United States when he was 14. Being an overachiever, he was not satisfied with the slow pace of his ESL classes. After forcing himself to watch American TV for 10 hours a day, he mastered English in an astonishing 6 months. Dr. Alan enjoys playing soccer, riding bicycle and cooking. Although his poker skills were not good enough to qualify him for the finals of World Series of Poker, he still spends countless sleepless nights trying to learn elusive Texas Hold’em secrets. Dr. Alan graduated from University of Virginia with a degree in biochemistry. He attended Eastern Virginia Medical School and finished his internship at Eastern Virginia as well.

Sami Badri, MD
Sami was born in Iran and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. After attending University of Maryland at Baltimore County, he earned his MD from Rush University. Surviving internship at Rush as well, he is happy to be home in the DC area. When he is not reading anesthesia related books, Dr. Badri enjoys fighting bears while backpacking and removing melted marshmallow out of his hair while camping. Sami is rumored to be a back up adventurer for popular TV show, Man vs Wild. It is also rumored that he is a close pal of Bear Grylls. He is proud that he started trail running recently.

Catherine “Cat” Cleland, MD
Catherine was born and raised in South Hampton, Massachusetts. She attended Boston College for 2 years and started to wonder what the South looked like. Not being afraid to act, she transferred to Emory University where she earned her BA. Dr. Cleland knew there were better things to be found further south and attended University of Miami Medical School for 2 years. Homescickness finally caught up with Catherine, and she finished her clinical years and earned her MD at Brown University. When she is not swinging her bat at softballs in a batting cage, she continuously wears out her Irish step dancing shoes, which, of course, put a tremendous financial burden on her husband. She is happy to call Alexandria, VA home.

Kathleen “Katie” Daetwyler, MD
After completing her CA1 year at University of Colorado, Katie transferred to GW claiming that she had to be a part of the world’s greatest anesthesia program. Little did the faculty at GW know that the true reason was because her husband matched in oral surgery residency at Washington Hospital Center. All was forgiven when it was also revealed that her skiing prowess matches that of Lindsey Vonn and Katie offered to give faculty free lessons. A native of Southern Indiana, her sole criteria in choosing college was slopes filled with fresh powder. After attending BYU, she completed her MD studies at University of Utah. She finished her internship at Carney Hospital in Boston. Other than skiing fresh powder, she also enjoys mountain biking with her husband, hiking with her pooch and eating delicious Thai food.
We Welcome Our New Faculty Members!

Katrina Hawkins, MD  
*Critical Care Medicine*

Dr. Hawkins grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and attended UCLA for her undergraduate studies. After a year as an elementary school science teacher, she moved to DC for medical education at the George Washington University. After her Internal Medicine Residency at GW, she served as a chief resident for one year, learning teaching skills and the administrative side of academic medicine. Dr. Hawkins continued her stay at GW with a two-year fellowship in Critical Care Medicine. From the moment she did her first ICU rotation as an intern, Dr. Hawkins knew that taking care of critically ill patients was what she wanted to do with her life. She is excited to join the faculty here at GW and is really looking forward to a career in academic medicine. She is currently splitting her time as an intensivist as well as a hospitalist on the General Medicine wards.

Christopher Monahan, MD  
*Anesthesiology*

Dr. Monahan grew up in Newtown, Connecticut. He confesses that he enjoyed working on a farm during high school and college. He earned both his BA and MD from Georgetown University. After completing his internship at Georgetown University Hospital, he finished his residency at New York University Medical Center where he served as a chief resident. In his spare time, he enjoys golfing, mountain biking, skiing and playing guitar. He will defend to death on this year’s likelihood of NY Mets winning the World Series.

Gregory Moy, MD  
*Anesthesiology*

Dr. Moy received his undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania where he majored in Bioengineering. He then attended medical school at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. He completed his transitional year internship and anesthesiology residency at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Moy has interests in all fields of anesthesiology.

Ronak Patel, MD  

Ronak has spent his entire life in the Northern Virginia area and is eager to answer any questions regarding local folklore about secretive elves and orcs living in the area. He is tentatively nominated for *True Lifer Award* at GW. He received his BA and MD from GW and is on track to finish his anesthesiology residency training here at GW as well. Only blemish on his record is he ventured out to Pennsylvania (Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh) for his internship. Dr. Patel is an avid sports fan and excels in basketball and soccer. He claims that he was once recruited by now defunct Indian Professional Basketball League. There is also an unconfirmed rumor that negotiations with *Manchester United* broke down after Dr. Patel promised a goal in every game and demanded unrealistic 92.5 million British Pounds. Travelling to exotic places is also his passion.

Peter “Pete” Smith, MD  

Pete hails from Brooklyn, NY. He attended Howard University for his undergraduate studies and earned his MD from University of Maryland School of Medicine. Although he terribly misses world-famous Brooklyn pizza, he decided to stay and finish his internship at Franklin Square Hospital in Baltimore, MD. His idol is Jeanette Lee, a professional pool player, known as Black Widow. Taking after Jeanette’s nickname which originated because of her sweet demeanor, she would “eat people alive” when she got to a pool table. Pete decided to put his talents to good use. He paid nearly half of his medical school tuition by hustling in pool halls. Although Dr. Smith adamantly denies it, the editor’s extensive research shows that there was a notorious pool shark known as “Doc Junior” in Baltimore area. Pete also enjoys DJing and hanging out with his children.

Karen Rusak, MD  

Karen is from Charlotte, NC. It is rumored that Catherine Cleland left Boston College after having a huge fight with her roommate, Karen Rusak, about their room not painted green. After earning her undergraduate degree from BC, Karen enrolled at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Medical School. Along with Catherine Cleland, Karen is one of the first residents to experience our combined internship/categorical program at GW. Dr. Rusak was truly inspired by Katherine Heigl in *27 Dresses* and started to plan fantasy weddings until the fantasy was realized when her boyfriend proposed. She spends her free time planning her wedding which will be in October. She asks that if anyone has a suggestion for a good honeymoon spot, please let her know. On the side note, Karen also enjoys running.

Jessica Sumski, MD  

Jessica is from New Jersey but is not a fan of Snooki. Dr. Sumski was an avid follower of *Jersey Shore* until Snooki made a rude comment to President Obama about tanning. Along with Catherine Cleland, she suffers from blisters on her palms from swinging at too many softballs. It is to a point that it interferes with her intubating skills. However, all is forgiven in the department since she is a valuable member of the department’s softball team. Unlike Snooki, Jessica gets her tan naturally, loving anything outdoors. She enjoys reading anything but anesthesiology related books. When Dr. Sumski is not training to be an anesthesiologist, she either travels abroad or writes a letter to Snooki on how to get a proper tan. Jessica earned her BA from Villanova University and her MD from Drexel University.
Dr. David is our new associate director for medical student section. She recalls her time as an aspiring anesthesiologist as a medical student. “Here…put this together,” instructed my resident as he hurriedly shoved the laryngoscope blade and handle in my hands. He continued with the morning set-up, knowing that he no longer has to mind me. I will be preoccupied for a good while.

I was a 4th year medical student at GW at the time and, unbeknownst to me, that day marked the beginning of my Anesthesiology career. It was September and I was on the first day of my Anesthesiology rotation. I had just submitted my ERAS application to Internal Medicine but I was filled with doubt. Something about my chosen career path made me feel that it was not a good fit. I studied the #3 Macintosh in my hands. I snapped the two components in place, I fully extended the blade… and then there was light.

September comes upon us again as we welcome the new group of medical students. However, try not to smile as you watch them fumble with the laryngoscope…

Before the month ended, I withdrew my ERAS application to Internal Medicine and resubmitted it to Anesthesiology. It was a difficult decision, but one that I am grateful for to this day. While I still believe that being an Internist is one of the most noble professions in medicine, it was just not for me. I was meant to be an Anesthesiologist, and it almost didn’t happen had I not lucked out and landed that rotation in September. Perhaps that is why I am thrilled to help run the Anesthesiology Medical Student Clerkship at GW with Dr. Nilda Salaman. Even if most of the medical students we encounter during the year decide to pursue another specialty, at least they get a glimpse of our fascinating field. More importantly, they get introduced to critical skills that will help them become better physicians someday.

There are a lot of “behind-the-scene” activities that go into running the rotation, from giving weekly didactic lectures to mentoring medical students as they prepare for their residency application. The glue that holds it all together, however, is the residents, and they definitely deserve recognition. The CA-1s have especially stepped up to the plate with their willingness to teach medical students while they themselves are learning their way around the OR. The residents have served as excellent role models and have represented our department well. We should all be proud of them.

September comes upon us again as we welcome the new group of medical students. However, try not to smile as you watch them fumble with the laryngoscope… they will eventually come around. Perhaps, just like me, some of them may even be our colleagues at GW someday.
Alumni and Departmental News

It is with our deepest sadness to share this news with you. Dr. Michael Chaikind died on March 16, 2011 at the age of 49. Dr. Chaikind completed his residency in anesthesiology at the George Washington University in June 1991. He served as Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology at the Virginia Hospital Center for the past 15 years. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Faye Rosenbaum and their two children, Sarah and Jeremy.

Dr. Timothy Ebbert (Faculty and Alumnus 2008) welcomed his second son, Julian, who was born on August 4. Julian was 8 pounds and 20.5 inches tall. Both his son and wife are well.

Dr. Seol Yang (Faculty and Alumnus 2009) is happy to report the arrival of his first child, Sun Woo, on September 4. His son was 6 ½ pounds and 21 inches tall. His son and wife are resting comfortably at home.

Dr. Tricia Desvarieux (Faculty) passed her advanced TEE boards. She completed her cardiac fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Jeremy Gold (Alumnus 2010) passed his advanced TEE boards after completing his cardiac fellowship at Emory University. Congratulations!

We are proud to announce that GW Vaporizers took 2nd place in interdepartmental softball league this year. We thank our self-appointed manager, Dr. Timothy Ebbert, for his heart for the game and his ruthless and calculating behavior on the field. Of course, Dr. Ebbert adamantly denies the allegations.

In our annual flag football with General Surgery, it is with our utmost regret to report that we were the losers by one point. All of us here at GW had to endure protracted gloating by our surgical colleagues.

Dr. Neil Lee qualified to race at the 2011 USA Cycling Mountain Bike Gravity Nationals this September. He will be racing Downhill in Men’s Category 2, 30–34 age group. Downhill mountain bike racing is a gravity time trial competition in which riders are racing one at a time, against the clock, down a trail, jeep road, fire road, or combination of all three. Downhill races are generally technically challenging with courses often featuring a combination of high speeds, jumps, drop-offs, and other technical trail features. Neil is a privateer who is not a member of a race team. However, he is individually sponsored by Leatt Brace and Dainese Protectives.

Congratulations to Our Class of 2011!

Anup Belur
Attending, Sibley Hospital Washington, DC

Ashley Broussard
Faculty, University of California—Irvine Irvine, CA

Nham Le
Attending, Southern Maryland Hospital Maryland

Jaideep Mehta
Faculty, University of Texas—Houston Houston, TX

Michael Liddy
Attending Fort Lauderdale, FL

Milad Nazemzadeh
Recipient of Herbert and Judith Weintrab Award for Excellence in Anesthesiology Faculty, New York University Langone Medical Center New York, NY

Elvis Rema
Recipient of Burton S. Epstein Award for Excellence in Research Fellow in Pain Medicine, Columbia Presbyterian Hospital New York, NY
Visit us at our website
http://www.gwumc.edu/edu/anes/index.htm

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