Welcome to the GW Gazette! It's exciting to publish the first edition of the bi-annual departmental newsletter. As the newsletter is in its infancy, a lot of work still needs to be done to make it an eye-popping and jaw-dropping publication, but all of us in the department are proud that we took the first giant step to reach out to our alumni. Through this publication, not only are we able to reach you, but it can serve as a medium where you can connect with us and with each other. Along with informative reports from the chairman and the program director, the newsletter will feature sections spotlighting interviews with former residents and faculty and alumni news. Please help us make it a truly enjoyable newsletter by writing to us!

Seol Yang, MD

Chairman's Message

The past academic year has been full of adventure, challenges, and rewards. Our clinical productivity is at its greatest in departmental history and we continue to develop new programs and expand on existing ones. Our Pain Medicine division, now located on K Street, continues to grow clinically and academically. Case volume has ballooned over the past two years and the research and discovery efforts of this division have shown robust growth.

Michael J. Berrigan, MD, PhD

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I am proud of our achievements over the past year, but realize that much more needs to be done, especially as the practice of medicine evolves. We are hoping that this newsletter will provide one of many ways to keep the friends of the department informed of goings-on here at GW. We are particularly interested in connecting with our alumni, whether they are former medical students, residents, fellows, or faculty.

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Message from the Program Director

We hope that you enjoy reading the inaugural edition of our bi-annual newsletter: The GW Gal-ette. It is our intention to use this platform to pass along a variety of news and notes regarding the Department of Anesthesiology at the George Washington University Medical Center.

I would like to highlight the fact that this publication represents the first expression of our efforts to compile an alumni network for the Department. In so doing, we hope:

- To increase your connection to your residency training alma mater;
- To offer ourselves as a resource to you in your practice;
- To reestablish a social connection to your former colleagues through happy hours and lectures, both here at GW and at national meetings such as the ASA’s Annual Meeting;
- To allow for potential two-way communication if a current resident is interested in networking with an alumnus in another part of the country;
- To solicit your support for the exciting new programs that we endeavor to offer residents in the years to come!

First, by way of introductions, my name is Jeff Berger, and I assumed the position of Program Director from Dr. Berrigan in 2007. I went to medical school at The University of Rochester and completed my anesthesiology training at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York City. I was an attending physician for two years at Tisch Hospital—New York University; during my time at NYU, I completed an Executive MBA at Duke University.

Over the past few years, the residency training program has enjoyed a number of successes. Most impressive, we achieved a 5-year accreditation (with multiple commendations) from the ACGME’s Residency Review Committee! This effort solidifies our standing as a top residency training program, a designation for which we can all be proud.

Of note, we have upgraded our didactic curriculum to include: a Practice Management Series; Simulator Exercises; Virtual on-line Curriculum Assignments; Standardized Patient Activities (with actors); Models and Anatomy Workshops for Ultrasound-Guided Nerve Block Teaching; and a Basic Echocardiography Curriculum. These efforts are state-of-the-art and represent a sizable investment in resident education.

In particular, our Practice Management Series includes lectures from lawyers, business consultants, and financial planners to teach the basics of creating a CV, interviewing, negotiating contracts, legal considerations, and financial planning.

The use of Standardized Patients allows for unique curricula such as Relationship Express: a communication skills workshop and Anesthesiology Residents as Teachers (ART) Program: teaching residents to teach.

The residency training program continues to get ever more competitive, attracting top applicants from around the country with average board scores above the 90th percentile for all interviewees. As such, we continue to ask more out of our residents and they respond with exceptional results. This year, CA2 residents will again lead our Journal Club while CA3 residents are expected to deliver Grand Rounds style talks during didactic sessions. Additionally, residents are required to complete a scholarly activity and, for the third consecutive year, projects continue to tackle ever more interesting clinical questions. For example, a prospective study reviewing the value of 360-degree feedback for residency training was recently published by Eric Pan, MD, CA1, in the Journal of Education in Perioperative Medicine. Further, five residents travelled to San Diego, CA to present posters at the ASA’s Annual Meeting.
Rotation opportunities continue to expand. Over the past 3 years, we can boast sending seven residents to a three-week Healthcare Policy Elective on Capitol Hill sponsored by GW’s School of Public Health. What’s more, we are the first residency program in the country to have an ACGME approved International Elective in Quito, Ecuador! Residents will rotate at The Hospital Carlos Andrade Marin with logistical support from The Office of International Programs at GW. We have already had one resident, Dr. Aline Nguyen complete the rotation with a second scheduled in February. Two additional residents are scheduled to participate with five GW Anesthesiology Faculty on an international medical mission to Guatemala for two weeks this fall. The Guatemala mission, in its second consecutive year, is currently attempting to establish a fund to sustain an annual trip indefinitely!

We have completed two successful end-of-year residency program retreats at the Hotel Lombardy on Pennsylvania Avenue. We have used this venue to explore the development of new programs ideas such as: Mock Oral Board Program, The Behavioral Interview, Master Teacher Leadership Fellowship Program, and Journal Club. Our Graduation event was a huge success, again free to all faculty and residents at the Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown, DC. The Epstein Research Award was presented to Sarah Reece, MD (’10) for her work to prospectively evaluate the effects of an informational handout on epidurals to reduce anxiety prior to epidural placement. The Weintraub Resident-of-the-Year Award winner was Joey Bonomolo, MD (’10). Additionally, 80% of graduates received Weintraub funding for the written board examination for excellence on In-Training Examination scoring in the final year of residency.

As we attempt to expand our alumni network, we hope that you will appreciate that the success and growth of GW Anesthesiology is a common goal.

I want to conclude by saying welcome back to your GW family! We look forward to being a source of pride for you as you continue on in your career.

Warm regards,

Jeff Berger, MD, MBA
Giving Back To Society

Four members of the department, Seth Akst, Paul Dangerfield, Danielle Davison, and Chris Junker, had a fantastic time volunteering peri-operative care for an underprivileged population in Guatemala in December 2009. They participated through a public charity organization, Partner for Surgery, which collaborates with the private Guatemalan foundation, Fundación Chusita Llerandi de Herrera. The organizations have built a new surgical center, Centro de Salud Bárbara, in the western highlands of Guatemala to serve the area’s rural population in need of surgical care. As Dr. Paul Dangerfield recounts, “Patients walked for several hours to receive the care that we provided. Most of them had never seen a doctor before. All the H&Ps were done via multiple translators: From Mayan to Spanish and from Spanish to English. Although equipment and supplies were limited, we were able to provide excellent care. These patients really touched our hearts… I’ve never had patients who woke up from anesthesia and all they wanted to do was to give me a hug.” For this year’s trip, more faculty from the department will be joining the Partner for Surgery. They are Seth Akst, Paul Dangerfield, Chris Junker, Nilda Salaman, and Drew Welter. Also, two residents, Anup Belur and Michael Liddy, will be participating as well. If you want to support the effort, please write to us at Pdangerfield@mfa.gwu.edu.
Greetings from Co-Chief Resident

Hello to the entire GW anesthesia community past and present! Change is the best way to describe what has happened to our residency program in the past few years. The addition of a new program director, newly hired faculty members, and the addition of new operating rooms to name a few. Currently, our residency program is made up of 22 residents from all over the country. California, Texas, Louisiana, New York, Florida, Maryland, Illinois, and Pennsylvania are just some of the states we are from. With such a diverse group of residents, we are involved in numerous research projects, national presentations, publications, and much more. Many CA-2’s and CA-3’s travelled to San Diego this year to present at the annual ASA meeting.

We believe that our training is preparing us to become excellent clinicians. In the past few years, we’ve placed in some of the top private practice, academic, and fellowship positions in the country such as Pain Medicine at Stanford University, Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology at Emory University, Pediatric Anesthesiology at Children’s National Medical Center, and attending positions at New York University, University of Texas at Houston and University of California at Irvine.

Dr. Seneff delivers the all important player roster like a pro!

Very special "National" Birthday

Dr. Michael Seneff, our ICU director, celebrated his very public and “national” birthday at the Washington Nationals’ game. His exceptional care touched the hearts of good friends and GW benefactors, Pennie and Gary Abramson, and they treated Dr. Seneff to a very special 55th birthday on Sunday, August 15 at the National’s Park. Decked out in a personalized jersey and grinning like a five-year old, Dr. Seneff was granted the distinguished task of collecting the player roster from the National’s dugout and delivering it to the umpire at the start of the game against the Arizona Diamondbacks. A visit from Screech the mascot and a National’s victory capped off a great day at the ballpark. Happy Birthday, Dr. Seneff!

Christina Seneff

"[Residents] are involved in numerous research projects, national presentations, publications, and much more... In the past few years, we’ve placed in some of the top private practice, academic, and fellowship positions in the country; such as Pain Medicine at Stanford University, Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology at Emory University, Pediatric Anesthesiology at Children’s National Medical Center, and attending positions at New York University, University of Texas at Houston and University of California at Irvine."

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In addition to the required nationwide peri-operative and acute pain rotations that were added to every accredited anesthesiology program last year, GW has added a few touches of its own. A 2-week Health Care Policy course is offered through the School of Public Health to interested CA-3’s, in addition to an international anesthesiology rotation. This year, two of the CA-3’s will be travelling to Ecuador and Guatemala to gain an unparalleled experience. GW Hospital is also probably the busiest it has ever been, as we are involved in some of the most complex cases ever.

As we mentioned earlier, change is the best way to describe our residency program. GW Anesthesiology will continue to grow and improve and has become one of the top programs in the country. We could not be any happier to be a part of the GW Anesthesia Family!

Milad Nazemzadeh, MD
Chief Resident
New Faculty Highlights

**Tricia Desvarieux, MD** received her undergraduate degree from Brown University / Sorbonne Paris IV where she majored in Biology and French literature. She then earned her Doctor of Medicine degree from Weill Cornell Medical College. She completed internship and residency in Anesthesiology at the New York—Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College in New York. She subsequently went on to complete additional training with a fellowship in Cardiac Anesthesiology at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. She joined the faculty at the George Washington University this past July.

Her clinical interest focuses on anesthesia for cardiac and thoracic aorta surgeries as well as other high-risk procedures. Her other interests include intra-operative echocardiography and global health initiatives. She is a member of the American Society of Anesthesiologists and the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists. Long term, she plans to pursue a degree in International health policy with focus on improving perioperative care in developing countries.

**Eileen Quintela, MD,** who grew up in Sydney, Australia, recently completed her anesthesiology residency at Georgetown University. She attended medical school at New York Medical College after completing her undergraduate studies at University of California, San Diego. Dr. Quintela has interests in all fields of anesthesiology. In her spare time, she enjoys running, swimming, snowboarding, and traveling.

We are Proud to Introduce Our New CA1 Class!

Kelly Arwari, MD
University of Arizona College of Medicine

Genaro Gutierrez, MD
University of Texas at San Antonio School of Medicine

Diana Zentko, MD
Albany Medical College

Daniel Asay, MD
New York University School of Medicine

Andrea Huber, MD
Drexel University College of Medicine

Eric Chiang, MD
University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

Eric Pan, MD
George Washington University School of Medicine
Alumni News

Dr. Christopher Jackson (Class of 2008 and faculty) is proud to report that he will finally shed the title of a home renter. He will soon be a proud new owner of his bachelor pad in Washington, DC. House warming party will be announced and everyone is welcome.

Dr. Neil Lee (Faculty) is a proud father of Annabelle Lee who was born on June 12, 2010. She weighed 7 lb 12 oz at birth. His wife and proud new mother, Allison, is recovering well. They report that Annabelle has lots of hair and is a voracious eater. She is already on pace to exceed her father’s height of 6 ft 2 in.

Dr. Drew Welter (Class of 2007 and faculty) is no longer single! His fiancé, Jamie, and he tied the knot on May 22, 2010 at Church of Annunciation in Washington, DC. They have a new home in Arlington, VA.

Dr. Timothy Ebbert (Class of 2008 and faculty) is an overachiever. He recently initiated a new weekly oral board preparation series for the senior residents. Although it takes place at the break of dawn, resident participation is strong! He is also happy to report that his son, Sebastian (18 months old) is keeping him up all night.

Dr. Seol Yang (Class of 2009 and faculty) is happy to report that he is now a board-certified anesthesiologist! He wishes luck to all his classmates who will sit for the board in September!

Dr. Sarah Reece was awarded the Epstein Award for Excellence in Research.

The Dr. Herbert and Judy Weintraub Outstanding Resident in Anesthesiology went to Dr. Joseph Bonomolo.

Congratulations to Our Class of 2010!

Kudiratu Aranmolate, MD
Private Practice,
Holy Cross Hospital, Maryland

Jeremy Gold, MD
Cardiac Anesthesiology Fellowship at Emory University

Sarah Reece, MD
Pediatric Anesthesiology Fellowship at Children’s National Medical Center

Joseph Bonomolo, MD
Private Practice, Arizona

Nichelle Green, MD
Pain Medicine Fellowship at Stanford University

Nirja Shah, MD
Obstetric Anesthesiology Fellowship at Medical College of Wisconsin

Kendra Boyd, MD
Private Practice, Texas

Aline Nguyen, MD
Private Practice, Holy Cross Hospital, Maryland

This section is dedicated to all those who wish to share what’s going on in their lives with the alumni. Let us connect with you. Please send emails to seolyang@hotmail.com.
Future Alumni and Department Events

5th Annual Winter Anesthesia & Critical Care Review at The Canyons Resort, Park City, Utah (March 6–11, 2011)
Dr. Timothy Ebbert, Dr. Christopher Jackson, and Dr. Neil Lee will be attending. They welcome all to join them.

Visit us at our website
http://www.gwumc.edu/edu/anes/index.htm

In order to add your email or update your address, please contact Julianne Brown, Executive Coordinator, GW Anesthesiology with your information at jvbrown@mfa.gwu.edu or 202-715-4753.

Contact Information
All and any inquiries about the department, residency program, or the newsletter should be directed to:

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