



## The Morpheus Reporter

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### Message from the Chair

*Dr. Brian Kavanagh*

I am delighted to write a welcome to all readers of the inaugural edition of the **Morpheus Reporter**. The title, suggested by Dr. Gordon Fox, was chosen following a departmental newsletter naming contest which yielded 47 excellent entries! The significance of the name is elaborated upon by Dr. David Mazer in his article below.

It is of course very important to maintain clear communications amongst all members of the department, as well as among our alumni, staff, friends and sponsors. Much of what has happened in the recent past is detailed by our Vice-Chairs (Drs. Houston, Mazer and O'Leary) and our postgraduate program director (Dr. Levine). Dr. Houston (Vice Chair, Education) describes the critically important plans for a departmental educator, as well as a mechanism for a formal education report from all hospital departments. This will be critical as we progressively intensify our efforts to teach as effectively as possible, and will be an important element in measuring such efforts when assessing the strength of our individual - and collective - contributions to our broad educational mission.

Continuing along an educational vein, Dr. Mark Levine (Postgraduate Program Director) welcomes our new residents into our outstanding program, which has just received its six-year approval from the Royal College.

Dr. David Mazer (Vice Chair, Research) outlines our recent research successes, and points towards areas for future discovery. The research mission is of course, one of the cardinal elements that delineates medicine as a profession, and in his commentary, Dr. Mazer illustrates how the discovery of new knowledge is shaping up in anesthesia here in Toronto. Dr. Gerry O'Leary (Vice Chair, Clinical Affairs) describes the most controversial and important clinical development in the profession during the last two decades – the Anesthesia Care Team (ACT). Dr. O'Leary has played a pivotal role in setting this up, providing clinical and administrative leadership during the initial implementation phases. More broadly, we are intensifying our efforts within the departmental Executive to rationalize finances and direct our efforts to the areas of greatest potential productivity.

Of course, while the whole department may indeed be greater than the sum of its individuals, it is nonetheless a department composed of individuals (like you and me!). One of our outstanding faculty members is Dr. Greg Hare, MD, PhD, Associate Professor and Clinician-Scientist at St. Michael's, whom we ask in this edition for an insider's view on doing anesthesia research (and what keeps him going!)

I invite you to read and circulate this Newsletter. Discuss and argue, and where you agree or disagree with the writers, please do let them know! Recognize that although we work in a wonderful Department of Anesthesia, it is only by striving, debating and succeeding in our goals that it can continue to make it even better.

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# Welcome New Anesthesia Residents!

*Dr. Mark Levine, Director, Postgraduate Education*



On July 1, 2007 we will be joined by a new group of PG 1 residents. This is a larger cohort than we have had in recent years and will hopefully help, in a small way, to deal with the human resource issues we face in anesthesia in Canada. We have twenty new PG1 residents: thirteen women and seven men. Fifteen are graduates of Canadian Medical Schools, four are International Medical Graduates (IMG's) who were trained abroad and plan to practice in Ontario, and one is a visa trainee who will return to his home country on completion of the residency.

In addition to these residents we also welcome one IMG into the PG 2 year and two re-entry candidates, both previously trained as GP anesthetists, into the PG 3 year. I would like to welcome all our new trainees who will, I am sure, enrich the department and make a significant contribution to our profession in future. The following are the PG 1 residents starting on July 1<sup>st</sup>:



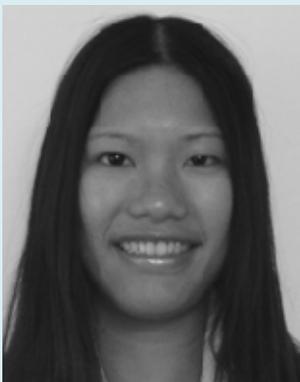
**Husni Alakkad**



**Asim Alam**



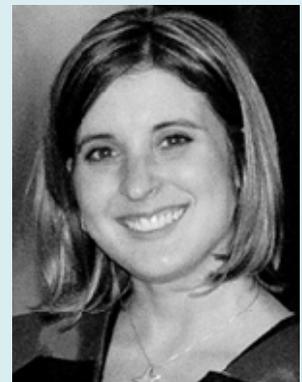
**Iryna Aleksandrova**



**Hyong Cong**



**Shefali Dave**



**Genevieve Dupuis**



**Amy Fan-Lun**



**Tara Lynn Graham**



**Rico Leung**



**Warren Luksun**



**Sheldon Lyn**



**Katherine Marseu**



**Paula Meyler**



**Carmen Mueller**



**Oana Predescu**



**Ian Randall**



**Merita Simitciu**



**Neilesh Soneji**



**Jurgita Treigiene**



**Catherine Wong**

## **Career Opportunities in Anesthesiology**

Several positions in Academic Anesthesiology are currently available at our local hospitals. Visit our job postings at:

[http://link.library.utoronto.ca/academicjobs/display\\_current\\_jobs.cfm](http://link.library.utoronto.ca/academicjobs/display_current_jobs.cfm)

## Awards and Honors 2007

It is our great pleasure to announce the recipients of the following awards in 2007. These awards were presented at the recent 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Shields Research Day event. Congratulations to our awardees!

Award Name	Recipient in 2007	In recognition of....
Dr. John Desmond Award	<b>Robert Chen</b>	Excellence as a clinical teacher of undergraduate students in anesthesia
Dr. Gerald Edelist Award	<b>Viren Naik</b>	Excellence as a clinical teacher of residents in anesthesia
David Fear Award	<b>Sharon Davies</b>	Outstanding contributions to continuing medical education and continuing professional development in Anesthesia
The UT Anesthesia Faculty Award	<b>Joel Katz</b>	Outstanding contributions to research in anesthesia
The Alan Laws Travel Fellowship	<b>Angelina Guzzo and Paul McHardy</b>	In support of academic and research interests in anesthesia.
R.J. Byrick Award	<b>Michelle White</b>	Best Fellows' research paper presented at the 2007 Shields Research Day
A.C. Bryan Award	<b>Albert Tsui</b>	Best research project presented by a graduate student at the 2007 Shields Research Day
Dr. Hynek Rothbart Award	<b>Dov Weiss</b>	Best paper presented by a resident at the 2007 Shields Research Day
Thomas Donald Hammell Memorial Award in Anesthesia	<b>Timothy Welke</b>	Outstanding contributions to the Residency Program (as chosen by the other residents)
Dr. Evelyn Bateman Award	<b>Ian Randall</b>	Excellence in anesthesia at the undergraduate level

### UT Anesthesia Seminar Room

The UT Anesthesia Department has a newly renovated seminar/boardroom available to book your meetings. 8-10 persons can be accommodated and an LCD projector is available. Please contact **Danny Cavanagh** at (416) 946-0926 or [danny.cavanagh@utoronto.ca](mailto:danny.cavanagh@utoronto.ca) to arrange your booking.

## Faculty Promotions and Appointments

We are very pleased to congratulate the following faculty on their **promotions**, effective July 1, 2007:

*To Professor:* Dr. Andrew Baker  
St. Michael's Hospital

*To Associate Professor:* Dr. Stephen Brown  
Hospital for Sick Children

Dr. Mark Crawford  
Hospital for Sick Children

Dr. Gregory Hare  
St. Michael's Hospital

Dr. Keyvan Karkouti  
University Health Network

Dr. Colin McCartney  
Sunnybrook Health Sciences  
Centre

**Dr. Isabella Devito** has been appointed Director, Undergraduate Education, Department of Anesthesia, University of Toronto effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, for a three-year term. Isabella may be contacted via Danny Cavanagh at (416) 946-0926. We thank Isabella for taking on this important portfolio, and wish her well in this position.

**Dr. David McKnight** has been appointed as the new Associate Dean of Equity and Professionalism in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Anesthesia and is a Staff Anesthetist at St. Michael's Hospital. Professor McKnight completed both MD and postgraduate education at the University of Toronto and served as the postgraduate education director in the Department of Anesthesia for 15 years. He has held many leadership positions in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada including Chair of the Accreditation Committee and Chair of the Ethics and Equity Committee. Professor McKnight has served on the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education in the United States. He also chairs the Ethics Committee of the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society. In 2006, he obtained his MHSc in Bioethics at the University of Toronto and currently chairs the Education Committee of Faculty Council. As the Associate Dean of Equity and Professionalism, Professor McKnight will advance policy and practices within our Faculty working closely with the decanal team and leadership within the

University. Please join us in wishing Professor McKnight well in this important new position.

It is also our great pleasure to welcome the following **new faculty** members, effective July 1, 2007:

- Dr. Alayne Kealey, Lecturer, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
- Dr. Ryan Mai, Lecturer, St. Michael's Hospital
- Dr. Andrea Rigamonti, Assistant Professor, St. Michael's Hospital

And, effective August 1, 2007:

- Dr. Naveed Siddiqui, Assistant Professor, University Health Network (Mount Sinai)
- Dr. Coimbatore Srinivas, Assistant Professor, University Health Network (Toronto General)

## Annual Shields Research Day 2007

The UT Anesthesia 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Shields Research Day event was held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Over 230 clinicians and trainees from the University of Toronto, our affiliated teaching hospitals, and community hospitals attended this very successful event to share ideas, display posters (43) and present research. This year, the Annual Shields lectureship was given by Dr. Daniel Sessler from the Outcomes Research Institute at the University of Louisville on "*Outcomes research: Moving from physiology to large-scale outcomes*". Dr. Sessler's talk was followed by a very stimulating and thought-provoking open forum on anesthesia practice in Toronto, featuring Mr. Hugh MacLeod, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and Dr. Stephen Brown from the OMA (Section on Anesthesia). Finally, were very pleased to be joined by Mrs. Frances Lang and her family. Mrs. Lang provided us with some very heartfelt (and entertaining) comments on her father, the late Dr. Harry Shields, the first Chair of the UT Department of Anesthesia.

Many thanks to our faculty, trainees, staff, friends and industry sponsors (Abbott, Baxter and Draeger) for their contributions to, and participation in this event. Special thanks to Dr. Guy Petroz, Ms. Shue Lin Loo, and the members of the organizing committee (Danny Cavanagh, Wendy Kubasik and Jennifer Morris).

We look forward to welcoming everyone back next year!

## Research News

Dr. David Mazer, Vice-Chair, Research



It is noteworthy that the inaugural publication of this newsletter called the *Morpheus Reporter* coincides with the first ever publication of an article in *Scientific American* by a member of our department. Morpheus was the god of

dreams in Greek mythology, and the son of Hypnos, the god of Sleep. Dr. Bev Orser's article entitled "**Lifting the Fog around Anesthesia**" is one of the cover stories in the June issue of **Scientific American**, and it eloquently outlines the current state of knowledge about how our anesthetic drugs actually work, and the quest to make them better.

**Morpheus** is also the name of a file sharing and searching peer to peer client for Microsoft Windows, and through this newsletter, we plan to share research news in the UofT Department of Anesthesia. In addition to profiling a member of our research community, the newsletter will recognize recent research accomplishments of our peers, some of which are listed below.

Duminda Wijeyesundera and colleagues from TGH recently published an article in JAMA on renal failure in cardiac surgery, and his grant was the highest ranked in his category in the last Heart and Stroke Grant competition.

Congratulations also to the following individuals who have recently been awarded CAS Research Awards:

- Dr. Frances Chung, TWH, received the 2007 CAS Research Recognition Award, the greatest recognition for research bestowed upon an individual by the CAS, for her sustained and outstanding contributions to Outpatient and Ambulatory Anesthesia.
- Dr. Keyvan Karkouti, Toronto General, winner of the Bristol-Myers Squibb-CAS Career Scientist Award in Anesthesia and Peri-operative Medicine valued at \$270,000 over three years for his research *Improving hemostasis management in cardiac surgery*.
- Dr. Zeev Friedman, Mount Sinai Hospital, recipient of the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society Research Award with a value of \$20,000 for his project titled: *Clinical Impact of Cricothyrotomy Simulation on Manual Skill Acquisition: High Fidelity vs. Low Fidelity Model Training*.
- Dr. Richard Brull, Toronto Western Hospital, winner of the Baxter Corporation Canadian Research Award in Anesthesia with a value of \$20,000 for his project titled:

*Can Ultrasound-detected Intraneural injection predict nerve injury?*

- Dr. Pamela Angle, Women's College Hospital, received the Dr. RA Gordon Patient Safety Research Award valued at \$40,000 for her project, *International RCT: Effect of Small vs. Large Epidural Needles on PDPH*.
- Dr. Greg Hare, St. Michael's Hospital, recipient of the Dr. Earl Wynands Research Award in Cardiovascular Anesthesia and/or Perioperative Blood Conservation valued at \$30,000 for his project *Does Beta-1 Adrenergic Antagonism Increase Tissue Hypoxia Following Acute Hemodilution?*
- Dr. Joseph Kay, Sunnybrook, winner of the Smiths Canada Ltd Canadian Research Award in Pain Research and/or Regional Anesthesia, valued at \$10,000 for his project: *The Short and Long Term Effects of Perioperative Gabapentin Use on Function, Rehabilitation and Pain outcomes following Total Knee Arthroplasty: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial*.
- Dr. Meredith Ford, TGH, who will receive the Abbott Laboratories Limited/CAS Fellowship in Anesthesia, valued at \$65,000 over two (2) years, for her research titled: *Association of beta-blocker half-life with clinical outcomes and heart rates after non-cardiac surgery*.
- Dr. Dov Weiss, winner of the Residents Competition at the CAS awards.

2 of the six participants in the CAS Residents' Research Competition were from the University of Toronto (Dr. Dov Weiss and Dr. Hance Clark). Similarly, 2 of the top 6 abstracts presented in the Richard Knill Competition were submitted by UofT Faculty (Drs. Greg Hare and Andrea Rigamonti).

Dr. Hare was recently awarded a mid-career grant from the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists for a project titled: *The Threshold Hematocrit for Cerebral Hypoxia is Maintained by Protective Cardiovascular Mechanisms: The Role for Neuronal Nitric Oxide*.

Congratulations are also in order to Drs. Imad Awad and Mrinalini Balki who were recent recipients of the Dean's Fund Research Award. Dr. Awad's project is on the *Role of Low Fidelity Ultrasound Training on Skills Acquisition in Anesthesia Training*, while Dr. Balki's research is titled *Impact of Uterotonic Agents on Human Myometrium*.

Morpheus is also the name of a character in the Matrix series of science fiction films, who worked collaboratively for the improvement of his people. It is through the collaborative support from all members of our department that our research program continues to grow in stature and depth.

## Scientists in Anesthesia

### Dr. Gregory MT Hare, MD, PhD, FRCPC

Associate Professor, Departments of Anesthesia and Physiology;

Full Member, Graduate Faculty, Department of Physiology;

Associate Member, Institute for Medical Sciences;

Staff Anesthesiologist, St. Michael's Hospital



Dr. Greg Hare joined the staff at St. Michael's Hospital seven years ago, and has forged a dynamic and interesting career in both clinical anesthesiology and basic science research since that time. Indeed, Greg characterizes his entry into research as unexpected as he entered medical training with no intention of pursuing a career in research. However, with the exception of his family, research has become one of his greatest passions in life – *“there are some very difficult times and some very rewarding times, but on balance, I would say that if I didn't have it [research] in my life, my life wouldn't be as full”*. Dr. Hare has been married for twelve years to Catherine, and has two children, Natasha and Alexander. He is a strong advocate for finding balance in life, and counts family, gardening and carpentry as his favorite pastimes.

Dr. Hare undertook his medical training at the University of Toronto after two years of undergraduate study. He completed his PhD (Physiology) degree at the UofT under the supervision of Dr. Daniel Osmond, who was responsible for initiating his interest in research in the summer of 1984. This was followed by the completion of his medical training in 1990 following an internship at St. Michael's Hospital. After investigating various options, Dr. Hare undertook a residency position in Anesthesiology at Dalhousie University, where he began to pursue his current research interests which focus on defining mechanisms of organ injury in anemic patients and to optimize the treatment of anemic patients in the peri-operative setting. With **36 peer reviewed** publications to his credit, research awards from the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society (Richard Knill Award 2003, 2005) and research grants from The Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society, The Physicians' Services Incorporated Foundation and The Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists, Dr. Hare is an excellent role model for those trainees interested in pursuing research in anesthesia.

The following excerpts are taken from an interview with Dr. Hare:

#### **Could you tell us about your current research program?**

I am interested in defining the risk of acute anemia in peri-operative patients and in developing treatment strategies to reduce this risk. Often blood transfusions are the only treatment for these patients. The decision to transfuse is largely based on common sense and clinical experience, which are very valuable tools. However, there are very few biological studies that guide us in our decision to transfuse patients. One of the main goals of our research is to determine the mechanisms of organ injury associated with acute hemodilution and also to use this information to define treatment strategies to try and prevent those injuries from occurring. The critical idea is to more clearly define the risk of acute hemodilution and acute anemia. We are currently using an integrative physiological approach with transgenic animal models to achieve this goal.

#### **How does your research benefit from your work in the clinical realm?**

There is a huge advantage to doing clinical work as well as basic science research – exposure to clinical scenarios and patient care keeps the focus of our research relevant clinical problems. The challenge is to derive new information in the basic science laboratory and then translate that knowledge into clinical practice. This goal requires a huge commitment from both basic science and clinical colleagues. I have been very fortunate to have the support of both.

#### **What challenges do you encounter in undertaking your research program?**

The criticisms of our research are, “Well, where's the injury? Show me the dead organ. Show me the dead cells”, and the problem is we are dealing with a model of pre-injury and our efforts are to preventing an injury from happening (e.g., stroke or heart attack). What we're looking at is a bit more subtle, but I think the clinical literature is saying that those injuries are happening. Statistically and epidemiologically, there are databases moving forward which suggest that if you do an analysis which tries to correct for those other factors, anemia is a big risk factor for mortality, perhaps bigger than we had figured. The issue is: at what point does anemia limit oxygen delivery to organs and other mechanisms that could be responsible for organ injury. For example, inflammation, which seems to be activated by low hemoglobin, may play an important role. We don't have a full understanding of these mechanisms. Understanding them better would help us to establish treatment goals such as specific transfusion thresholds for individual patients.

### **Dr. Hare's 5 Most Recent Publications:**

1. McLaren AT, Masden PA, Mazer CD, Baker AJ, Stewart DJ, Tsui A, Li X, Yucel Y, Robb M, Boyd S, Liu E, Yu J, Hare GMT. Expression of HIF-1 $\alpha$ , nNOS and VEGF in the cerebral cortex of anemic rats. *Am J Physiol* 292(1):R403-14; 2007.

2. Hare GMT, Mazer CD, JS Hutchison, Rassouli A, Ai J, Hawkin CE, Liu E, McLaren AT, Lockhart JA, Sikich N, To K, Baker AJ. Severe Hemodilutional Anemia Impairs Oxygen Delivery and Increases Cerebral Tissue Injury Following Acute Neurotrauma. (In Press, *J Appl Physiol*, 2006).

3. Mazer CD, Briet F, Blight KR, Stewart DJ, Mak W, Robb M, Wang Z, Harrington AM, Mak W, Li X, Hare GMT. Increased cerebral and renal endothelial nitric oxide synthase gene expression after cardiopulmonary bypass in the rat. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg* 133:13-20; 2006).

4. Hare GMT, Worrall JMA, Baker AJ, Liu E, Sikich N, Mazer CD.  $\beta$ 2 Adrenergic blockade inhibits cerebral cortical oxygen delivery following severe hemodilution in rats. *Brit J Anaesth* 97:617-23; 2006. Epub 2006 Sep 6.

5. Hare GMT, Hum KM, Kim SY, Barr A, Baker AJ, Mazer CD. Increased cerebral tissue oxygen tension following extensive hemodilution with a hemoglobin based oxygen carrier. *Anesth Analg* 99:528-535; 2004.

### **What do you like best about being an Anesthesiologist?**

I became interested in Anesthesia because it's an exciting clinical realm. I like looking after people. There are immediate rewards in that you assess patients, treat them, provide a clinical service and then see them through a procedure in a safe and monitored environment. Anesthesia is a diverse specialty with a great variety of clinical applications. There are "doing" parts and there are "thinking" parts. Personally, I feel very lucky to have been able to find an area that I like clinically in which I can apply my research. Although we have less exposure to patients in some respects, the exposure we have is very important. We see patients for only a short time and in that short time, you have to make them comfortable and look after them during critical times. I also enjoy the opportunity to bring ideas into the lab from the clinical environment. The opportunity to teach is also rewarding. The dedication and initiative that many of the students have is very impressive, and it's what makes the job very enjoyable – to be able to see them get excited about things and to be able to help them achieve their goals. It has worked out very well, but it took a long time to get where I wanted to be. With the help of very many people including my family, parents and St. Michael's Hospital, I feel very fortunate to have landed on my feet.

### **What advice would you give to someone interested in Anesthesia as a profession?**

First of all, follow your interests. The people who seem to be most content are those with diverse interests who follow what they like to do. Second, find supportive mentors or people who are willing to help you through the process. Third, get the proper training. Research is a very competitive undertaking, and you must possess the right skills.

### **Which scientific discoveries would you like to see take place this century?**

Well, that's a very big question! I don't really know, but stem cell research is the one area that seems to have great potential. However, the problem with research is that you don't know what is going to be important before you discover it. We also have to make information pragmatically accessible to clinicians. With all the knowledge that we have, we haven't really been able to fully apply this new knowledge to patient care. Even if we stopped right now and optimally utilized all the information that is currently available, we could greatly advance patient care. Some people say that it was easier to discover things 100 years ago, that there was so much to discover. It's the same now, it's just that the way you discover is more technically advanced.

### **What qualities are needed to solve big scientific or clinical problems?**

Determination would be number one. A thick skin certainly helps. I'm growing one! The support of academic mentors and clinical colleagues- I have had the great advantage of both. Flexibility of mind and a willingness to let other people do their thing. The security to call for help. People sometimes think that anesthesia is a lone-wolf profession, but it's definitely not. It is a team effort. Without co-operation and interaction, little could be accomplished.

### **What are your goals outside of science and research?**

To help my kids, to keep our family healthy. To me, I feel I'm just getting started with what I'm doing, and it would be nice to be able to continue to make that grow, but I always joke about running a hardware store in retirement, or becoming a carpenter!

### **Who is your favorite figure in history and why?**

Mozart, because of his influence. He perhaps didn't live long enough to enjoy the benefit of what he had provided to the world, but look at the impact. If I had to say what I would miss the most in my day-to-day life, other than the people around me, it would be music.

### **What makes you smile?**

Many things! Laughter is important. I appreciate people who can take an adverse situation and see the humor in it. People who tend to be funny have a very different life force, which often helps you get through difficult times.



## **Clinical Affairs Update**

### **Anesthesia Care Teams: Efficient and Safe?**

*Dr. Gerald O'Leary, Vice-Chair, Clinical Affairs*

There has been much discussion recently about anesthesia care teams and alternative health care providers. Bottom line: Is it effective and safe?

It is timely that last week the 10,000th patient had cataract surgery under local anesthetic at the Kensington Eye Institute (KEI), which opened in January 2006, and is located on the sixth floor of the old Doctor's Hospital site (Brunswick Avenue and College Street). This is a three-OR model where care is provided by four anesthesia assistants (AA) and one staff anesthesiologist. Comments by patients, staff and the media have been universally positive.

Patients are reviewed, an IV inserted and eye drops are applied while the patient remains clothed in a chair in the waiting area. The patient and chair are moved to the OR and reclined for surgery. EKG, BP and nasal prong oxygen are applied while IV sedation is administered. Subsequently, the patient and chair are moved to the recovery area from which the patient is discharged after demonstrating the ability to drink and ambulate with an escort. Recognizing the undeniable conveyor belt element, it is remarkable that patients are perceived and treated more as "*clients*" than "*patients*". On a simple level, wearing one's own clothing may reinforce the individual's sense of autonomy and self-determination.

While overall it is a very efficient system, some common issues prevail despite clearly written instructions (somewhat problematic in patients for cataract surgery) having been provided by the surgeon's office. These issues include lack of escort, medications incorrectly taken/not taken on the day of surgery, fasting status. One individual followed the instructions literally and did not eat his breakfast at home, but stopped at McDonald's to eat because otherwise he would be hungry!

In terms of patient demographics, the average age was 72 years and an ASA 1-4 status was 12%, 66%, 22% and <0.5% respectively. The KEI's acceptance criteria have been modified to include patients with OSA and IDDM. Preoperatively, 39 patients (0.4%) had their surgery deferred, usually for non-compliance with escort or NPO status while 9/39 were deferred for uncontrolled clinically significant cardiac issues. Perioperatively, the anesthesiologist was asked to assess an additional 67 patients (0.6%), primarily for dysrhythmias, hypertensive and vasovagal events. Five patients (1 family member, 2 patients pre- and 2 post-operatively) were transferred by ambulance to ER for potential adverse cardiac events. One patient died within 24 hours, but the coroner and family felt that this was unrelated to surgery and care at the KEI.

As the acceptance criteria for cataract surgery at KEI is loosened, it will be interesting to review the adverse outcome rate in the next 10,000 cases. Only by prospectively reviewing our practice, can we define whether it is not only efficient but safe.



## **Education Report**

### *Dr. Patricia Houston, Vice-Chair, Education*

The newly formed UT Anesthesia Education Council, with representation from each hospital site and the education programs across the University, met for the first time in April 2007. Early work to be done by this committee includes updating the Terms of Reference of all education committees and developing strategies to support educational programs across the department and hospital sites.

Congratulations to Dr. Isabella Devito, the newly appointed Director of Undergraduate Education. Isabella brings enthusiasm, experience and an excellent understanding of the University of Toronto undergraduate program to this position. Please join me in wishing her well in this undertaking.

Dr. Mark Levine has successfully led the Postgraduate program to an exemplary accreditation by the Royal College with accreditation status being granted for the next six years. It was difficult for the reviewer to find any weaknesses in the program! Due to the contributions of all of the members of the Postgraduate Committee and our dedicated faculty members, I would suggest that we have the best residency program in anesthesia in Canada. Thank you to everyone for their sustained commitment to our program.

The UT department will also begin recruiting for an Anesthesia Educator this summer. Details on this job position will be circulated to all faculty members via email and will be posted on the department's website.

All hospital departments should be collecting the information required for the 2006/2007 Education Report. This will be collated into a University Departmental Report, and is due for submission on **July 15, 2007**. It is important that we collect this information to demonstrate the huge commitment this department has to education at the undergraduate, postgraduate and fellow level. This will help as we move forward to negotiate for our share of the new funding available through the AFP. Thank you for your assistance in this regard.

I hope that you all have a relaxing, healthy and safe summer season.



## **Report from the Postgraduate Education Office**

*Dr. Mark Levine, Director, Postgraduate Education*

The end of the academic year is rapidly approaching and with that comes an important milestone – the end of residency training for a number of our trainees. I would like to congratulate the following PGY 5 residents who were successful at the Royal College Examinations this year and wish them all the very best for their future careers in anesthesia: Ali Akbar Abbass, Nasser Al-Kemyani, Rashad Alqasim, Michael Bloom, David Chang, Meredith Ford, Jonathan Kong, Rohit Kumar, Nariman Malik, Paul McHardy, Diana Tamir, Anna Toptchieva and Tim Welke. While this may be the end of the residency program, we will continue to see many in fellowship and faculty positions across the city.

This has also been a very busy year for the Postgraduate Education program. In April, the program was surveyed as part of the Royal College Accreditation process. The preliminary report recommended that we have full approval for the next 6 years and identified a number of strengths including a very strong regional anesthesia program – a tribute to those who have taken a leadership role in turning Toronto into a regional anesthesia site to be reckoned with.

We had a small increase in the number of residency positions and introduced a number of changes to the program including an increase in anesthesia exposure in the PGY1 year, shorter PGY2 anesthesia rotations to facilitate the interaction of junior residents with seniors and a change to 16 hour call for the busier hospitals in the city. These changes will be evaluated regularly to determine how they affect residency training in Toronto.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gulf Cooperation Council Residents Day was held on Monday, June 11, 2007. Two current residents and one previous resident received certificates in honor of the successful completion of their residencies – Drs. Nasser Al-Kemyani, Rashad Alqasim and Abdulaleem Al Atassi. A number of faculty members were present at this event.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all faculty members for their tremendous contributions to the residency program particularly in the face of demands on their time and expertise on so many fronts. I'd like to wish you all a great summer and look forward to welcoming all our new trainees on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.



2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gulf Cooperation Council Residents Day

(L-R) Drs. Isabella Devito, Mary Ellen Cooke, Abdulaleem Al Atassi, Rashad Alqasim, Mark Levine, Len Eisen, Jose Carvalho, Husni Alakkad. Sitting: Dr. Hamid Yarkandi



## Dr. Suntherlingam Yogendran Remembered

Dr. Suntherlingam Yogendran, MB, BS, FFARSCI, FRCPC, passed away suddenly on February 18, 2007. He was an Assistant Professor with the Department of Anesthesia, University of Toronto as well as a Staff Anesthesiologist at the TWH. “Yogi” as he was fondly known, started his training here in 1991 as a Clinical Fellow at TWH. Before working at TWH, he was Staff Anesthesiologist at Brantford General Hospital. Prior to that, he was Chief of Anesthesia at Charles Curtis Hospital in St. Anthony, NF.

Dr. Yogendran was a foreign-trained physician with a wealth of experience from various countries. He was also an experienced Medical Educator, with primary supervisory responsibility for PG1’s and clinical clerks, alongside Dr. Middleton, at TWH.

Dr. Yogendran was cremated during a private ceremony in February 2007 in Mississauga. The private funeral service for family and close friends followed a public viewing. Dr. Yogendran leaves behind a wife and two children. He shall be dearly missed by family, friends, colleagues and everyone that knew him.

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event Name	Location	Contact Person
August	Interventional Approaches in the Treatment of Spinal Pain	TBA	<a href="mailto:Michael.Gofeld@sunnybrook.ca">Michael.Gofeld@sunnybrook.ca</a>
September 13-16	<u>Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine 2007</u>	Deerhurst Resort	<a href="mailto:christine.drane@uhn.on.ca">christine.drane@uhn.on.ca</a>
October	Toronto Critical Care Symposium	Metro Toronto Convention Centre	<a href="mailto:brian.kavanagh@sickkids.ca">brian.kavanagh@sickkids.ca</a>
October 26	Introductory Ultrasound Workshop	Toronto Western Hospital	<a href="mailto:christine.drane@uhn.on.ca">christine.drane@uhn.on.ca</a>
October 27	Mount Sinai Hospital OB Anesthesia Conference	18 <sup>th</sup> floor Auditorium, Mount Sinai Hospital	<a href="mailto:jose.carvalho@uhn.on.ca">jose.carvalho@uhn.on.ca</a>



*"In the Arms of Morpheus", Greek God of Dreams...  
JW Woodward, 1894*

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## **The Morpheus Reporter**

**Please keep in touch!**

***Faculty, Residents, Alumni and Staff – send us your news and photos to share!***

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