Chief’s Corner

Welcome to the Winter 2020 edition of the Gas-ette! We had a very successful celebratory breakfast for national CRNA week and national Anesthesiologists week. I am particularly proud of the fact that we celebrated the accomplishments of the department together as I think this reflects extremely well on our culture. Several awards were presented at the breakfast. Hugh Sharp was honored to receive the Heidi S. Alpern CRNA Educator Award for his outstanding teaching. Ted Lord was honored to receive the J. Randy Darby Memorial Award in recognition of his outstanding educational efforts. Please congratulate Hugh and Ted! I would like to also recognize and thank Cierra and Kristin for organizing the breakfast!

As I mentioned at the celebration, as a department we touch more than 43,000 lives per year. We provide care to a tremendous variety of patients with not only a high level of competence but unparalleled compassion. I want to express my sincere appreciation and respect for each of you and the care you provide.

The year is off to a busy start for our academic group! We wrapped up our residency interviews earlier this month and we are now interviewing candidates for our inaugural class of Cardiac Anesthesiology fellows. I was pleased to join 7 residents at the MeSA winter meeting last weekend at Sugarloaf. The residents did a terrific job hosting Problem Based Learning sessions for meeting attendees and Kolleen Dougherty was featured as the keynote speaker. Finally, our new class of SRNAs have recently joined the department. Please be sure to meet Michelle, Ashlie, Sherry, and Robert and make them feel welcome!

I want to give a quick shout out to our regional anesthesia group. By limiting the number of people who do nerve blocks and standardizing policies and procedures, the team has decreased their complication rate by more than 50% in the past year.

Chillin’ in Chicago with Isaac and James

This is a remarkable achievement and a testament to the benefits of sub-specialization as well as the commitment and skill of our regional group. Congratulations to Ryan, Orion, and the whole regional team!

–Dave

“Success consists of going from failure to failure without losing enthusiasm.”

–Winston Churchill
Message from CRNAs
By Jon Bradstreet, CRNA

Thanks for reading the winter edition of the MMC Gas-ette. I think we can all agree that the combined celebratory breakfast, all about the awesomeness of MMC anesthesia, was a big success. I look forward to this combined celebration in years to come. Both Hugh Sharp and Ted Lord deserve the recognition they received for their exemplary educational efforts within the department!

You should have received an individualized email with a link to the provider engagement survey. For the past several years, MMC has utilized the Advisory Board for the administration of this survey. This year, MMC is moving to a new survey, administered by Gallup. The new survey has been compressed into 8 questions, and takes less than 3 minutes to complete. With this being the inaugural year using Gallup, participation is extremely important as it helps set the benchmark for engagement, which guides the institutional AIP goals.

If you aren’t already surveyed out, we listened to feedback from members of the department and will soon initiate a survey to provide feedback for department leaders/administrators. We are currently working with the MMC training and organizational development department to create a concise group of questions to send out. We will send these surveys out to everyone in the department over the next year. I’m excited to start this process as any and all feedback to help us improve, or to maintain certain behaviors, is extremely important for our development.

As you recently saw from Marty, he will be moving to Florida with his family near the end of April. He will be missed by all of us and hope that this move is beneficial for him and his family. This leaves a CRNA Supervisor position open, which will be posted within the next couple weeks. We hope to have a successor identified prior to Marty’s departure.

We have lots of moving parts in the CRNA staffing world right now. Over the next two months, we have 7 interview candidates scheduled, for a total of 4 openings. So far, from the UNE CRNA class of 2020, we have hired Travis Roy and Coreen Tanner. We also recently had a candidate from Connecticut (Abby Sahagian) accept a full time position starting in June. Any feedback providers have from working with our SRNAs in the OR is extremely valuable to help us make informed decisions on hiring.

Lastly, the 24/7 anesthesia technician coverage is starting to fall into place nicely. Christian, Cat, Alison and I have been interviewing candidates and have the night shifts and weekends mostly covered. Two of the daytime techs are going to move to night positions, which will be very helpful from a training/competency standpoint. This leaves a gap in daytime coverage, which we are going to post and fill before starting the night and weekend coverage. We are currently working on competency training to start having the anesthesia technicians create Arterial line set ups and Cardiac set ups.

Best, Jon

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Professional Practice Committee- Update
by April Bourgoin, CRNA

The CRNA Professional Practice Committee is currently working on a project in collaboration with pharmacy to reorganize the medication drawers in the OR Pyxis workstations. The current Pyxis medication drawer configuration has evolved over time based on available space, med vials and pharmacy discretion. Our goal is to improve the drawers based off workflow, utilization and safety.

Medication errors among anesthesia providers in the operating room continue to be a major source of patient harm with few concrete countermeasures in place. Through standardization, additional prefilled medication syringes (as recommended by the APSF) and thoughtful placement of medication bins, we hope to improve system safety and work efficiency. Although the Pyxis drawers are always subject to redesign, change, stocking errors, etc., please be aware of these impending changes and carefully read all labels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Below are the results to the one-day Double Glove (DG) initiative. Thank you to all those who participated!</th>
<th>Prior to DG</th>
<th>After DG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I wear one set of gloves during intubation/ventilating sequence, shedding those gloves once the airway is secured and the anesthesia machine settings have been set.</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>98.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wear one set of gloves, shedding that set of gloves/glove directly after intubation (before ventilating and entering the machine settings), donning new gloves/glove if you must return to the airway.</td>
<td>70.54%</td>
<td>47.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wear two sets of gloves during airway manipulation, shedding the outer layer directly after intubating (before ventilating and entering your machine settings).</td>
<td>7.69%</td>
<td>22.54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you always perform hand hygiene directly after removing your gloves once the airway is secured? | Yes | 32.7% | Yes | 41.14% |
Residency Update

By Kristin Johnson & Michael Henry, MD

It is hard to believe that the year is halfway over. Our CA1s are adjusting to anesthesia. Our PGY1s will be rotating with us in February and will start anesthesia in June.

Teaching moment

American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Conference
Faculty members and residents attended the ASA conference in Orlando, Florida in October. Five residents presented challenging cases this year. They were Yussr Ibrahim, Kymberlee Royals, Olga Diomede, Johanna Cobb and Giselle Mani. Winsor Wesson also attended the conference as the Maine delegate. While there, the residents and faculty participated in the annual Meet and Greet where medical students can stop by booths and learn more about the program.

We learned that Yussr rode a roller coaster for the first time!

Enjoying the warm weather

Instagram worthy

Halloween fun

MeSA
The residents continue to be active members of the Maine Society of Anesthesiologists (MeSA). This past weekend, 7 residents and 2 faculty members attended the annual conference at Sugarloaf. Residents led CME sessions.

Vendor Floor

Festivus for the rest of us
The holidays wouldn’t be complete without the annual Festivus celebration. We learned the dark secrets and hidden pasts of our colleagues. The highlight was learning that Ted had to redo his proposal to Laurie.

Yussr and Maryn at Department breakfast

Fellowship Update
The department was approved to start an adult cardiothoracic anesthesiology fellowship late last year. Recruitment for the first class has begun. There will be two fellows per year. Interviews will end in March and the match is in June. The first class will start in 2021.

Residents and alumni at Sugarloaf
The annual Costas T. Lambrew Research Retreat will be held on Wednesday, May 6th in the Dana Center. Registration is open and free for Maine Medical Center employees. Abstract submissions are open until 2/28 (you can submit abstracts that have been presented at other conferences). More information is available here or feel free to contact me with questions. I'm also available to assist with prepping your abstract, and if that gets accepted, your poster for the conference.

Congratulations to Kolleen Dougherty for being the keynote speaker at the Maine Society of Anesthesiologists' Annual Winter Meeting at Sugarloaf, she gave a talk on physician wellness. An important topic that I'm sure she did a phenomenal job with!

New this time...

Department Spotlight

Name: Christian Nhonh
Title: Manager, Anesthesia Techs

Family info (pets included): I'm originally from Cambodia. My family and I escaped from a war torn country of Cambodia and lived in multiple refugee camps. We came here to Maine in 1984 (when I was 13 years old) in the middle of winter; that was the first time I've seen snow and didn't know what it was. The first word of English I learned was "Hi!" and the second word I learned was "F...Y.". I am married and been together with Harold for 24 years now. We have 2 kids; they're both very furry. Their names are Mulder and Scully. We recently moved to Buxton. I've been working here at MMC for over 25 years.

Favorite place in Maine: Ogunquit, Maine
Favorite thing to do when you aren't working: Spending time with hubby, family, and friends.
Favorite foods: Cambodian/Thai
Favorite animal: Cats
Favorite sports team: New England Patriots
Hobbies: Weight training, dancing, spending time outdoors, and traveling.
What was your first job ever? Waiter at Deering Ice Cream Family Restaurant.
What inspires you to come to work every day? I love what I do.
What is one random fun fact about you? I am a grandfather of 2.
MILESTONES
By Rae Ann Bshara, Admin Associate II
Here are some special announcements for the Anesthesia Team:

**BIRTHS**

It’s a girl for Dr. Chris Adams & Kristen and big sister Josephine. **Annaliese Rose** born on 9/27/19; 8 lbs, 0 oz.

It’s a girl for Dr. Stephen Harden & Amber and big brother Benjamin. **Elizabeth Morgan** born on 10/10/19; 7 lbs; 6 oz.

It’s a girl for Laura Hearst, CRNA, & Matt and big brother Leo. **Georgia Josephine** born on 11/08/19; 6 lbs; 15 oz.

It’s a girl for Kayla Lafortune, AT, & David. **Ellen Rose** born on 11/17/19; 5 lbs, 8 oz.

It’s a girl for Dr. Derek Bunch & Katie. **Emerson "Emmy" Perle** born on 11/30/19; 7 lbs, 2 oz.

It’s a boy for Dr. Justin Poltak & Amanda and older siblings Piper & Luke. **Hudson Hayes** born 01/15/20; 8 lbs; 13 oz.

**WEDDINGS**

April Ritter, CRNA, & Matthew Bourgoin married on May 10, 2019.

Dr. Adam O’Brien & Kelsey Lyn McSweeney married on October 26, 2019.

Jason Edwards, CRNA, & Lenka Collakova married on November 9, 2019.

Gil Clapper, CRNA, & Liz Hanlon married on December 7, 2019.

Congratulations to all the new parents in the department!
WELCOME

Leanne Jobin, CRNA
Leanne was born & raised in Maine. She worked in CICU at MMC prior to CRNA school. She is married to Nicholas and has a golden retriever named Mason. Leanne enjoys anything outdoors.

Heidi Fuller, CRNA
Heidi grew up in Fairfield, ME. She worked in ICU at MGA then CICU here at MMC before CRNA school. She loves snowmobiling, riding motorcycles, skiing, hiking, camping, ice fishing and anything outdoors. She likes playing World of Warcraft.

Wen Wang, CRNA
Wen was born & raised in China. She came to the US in 1999 after receiving her Ph.D. in Immunology and worked as a research scientist for the first few years. She has two children; one is a college freshman and the second is a high school freshman. Wen enjoys meeting new people, music, travel & missionary.

Matthew Green, MD
Matthew grew up here in Portland and completed his anesthesia residency here at MMC. He completed his pediatric anesthesia fellowship at Children’s Hospital Colorado. Matthew, his wife Maggie, and their two boys, Enzo & Wyeth, are delighted to be back in Maine.

Dana Bernard, ANES Tech
Tamika Levesque, ANES Tech

PROMOTIONS

April Bourgoin, CRNA
Professional Practice Chair

Elyse Schwarzberg, CRNA
Recruitment & Retention Chair

Welcome SRNA Class of 2021

Michelle Calderini
Sherry Bunker

Robert Montague
Ashlie Ayotte
“Scene” around the department....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I would like to buy a vowel—“E”</th>
<th>Mensch on a bench</th>
<th>Diversity!</th>
<th>Practicing to be a government employee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Third stick is the charm</td>
<td>Liver rounds</td>
<td>Making the Patriots Great Again</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership immersion training</td>
<td>Intern regression</td>
<td>Dr. Dinsor Wessonfield gets engaged</td>
<td></td>
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