

SLEEPY TIMES

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 8 AUGUST 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR -SCOTT REEVES, MD, MBA

By the time the August edition of *Sleepy Times* is out, everyone would have had time to reflect upon my 2nd Annual State of the Department address which was given on July 15 and is available on our departmental web site (www.musc.edu/anesthesia). Many exciting things occurred last year which we will continue to build upon this year. Each of us will have unique opportunities this year to expand the success of our department and our own careers. We are only as good as our people.

The **Flawless Operative Cardiovascular Unified System (FOCUS)** study from the SCA is an outstanding opportunity to further enhance our national reputation in caring for patients with cardiovascular diseases. Our faculty continue to be recognized as University leaders with Dr. Susan Harvey being named the MUHA June Magnetic Physician of the Month. Finally, please take a few minutes to read through *Sleepy Times* as we introduce you to Ashley Bode, Tom Epperson and Joe Whiteley.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Messages from the Departmental Leaders*
- *Departmental Information*
- *Updates and News*
- *FOCUS Initiative*

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR -BRENDA DORMAN, MBA

Congratulations! Anesthesia experienced several big *WINS* this past month. While most everyone has heard that Congress voted to override the President's veto of HR 6331 – Medicare Improvement Act for Patients and Providers – you may not realize just how that impacts our department. Not only does the bill reverse the 10.6 percent cut to Medicare physician payments (> \$100,000 for us) that took effect July 1 and halt the 5.4 percent physician-payment cut scheduled for Jan. 1, 2009 (another \$50,000+), it also restores full Medicare payments to anesthesiology teaching programs beginning in 2010. In 1995 CMS cut Medicare payments in half to teaching anesthesiologists supervising two resident-staffed rooms and the ASA has been fighting to correct this unfair policy ever since. This 50% reduction in reimbursement represents approximately \$400,000 per year to the department. As our residency program grows and our patient population ages, this number would have continued to increase. This month however, thanks to the tireless work of many, success has been realized. Thanks to all who wrote letters and contacted our Senators and Congressmen. We couldn't have done it without you!



On another note, BCBS of SC recently published that effective August 15th they would no longer reimburse anesthesiologists for their services for routine GI Endoscopic procedures. Dr. Reeves and I along with a group of anesthesiologists, gastroenterologists and practice administrators from around the state, orchestrated by Margarita Pate with the SCSA, met with BCBS leadership on July 15th to express our concerns and objections to this policy. The following day, Dr. Jordan of BCBS called to say he was postponing indefinitely any policy change regarding anesthesia services for screening GI procedures. This was another huge WIN coordinated by your state society.

Again, congratulations to all . . . this has certainly been our month.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UPDATES	1
PAIN CLINIC	2
CRNAS	2
TECHS	2
HIGHLIGHTS	3
FOCUS	6
APPLAUSE	7
EXCELLENCE	8

MESSAGE FROM THE PAIN CLINIC

Appreciative inquiry is the worldwide portal devoted to the fullest sharing of academic resources and practical tools and the discipline of *positive change*. I thought of Appreciative Inquiry when meeting Kyle Branham 4th yr College of Medicine student during his rotation in Pain Management. Kyle along with Rick Smith and Jeff Boreckhardt submitted and received IRB approval for a study on Spinal Cord Magnetic Stimulation. Congratulations!!

- Cynthia Fitzgerald



Cynthia Fitzgerald, RN

MESSAGE FROM THE CRNAs AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL



Spring and summer saw an influx of much needed new staff into the department. Trish Beckham, from Winston-Salem, and Helen Furtado, from Florida, transferred to the Main Anesthesia Department from Ashley River Towers. Ray White, who started out in the Main last fall, transferred back from Ashley River Towers in early July. I think he missed us. Kim Warren joined our staff as my administrative assistant in June, and she's busy trying to get me organized. Myra Coe, a new graduate from Columbia, started in late June. Please help welcome these folks to the department, along with all the new residents. Unfortunately for us, Staci Armocida decided to follow her new husband to Maryland in early July. We miss her and wish them both well.

Wendy Ewing, Chief CRNA

Congratulations to Susan Hearne and Michelle Rosecrans, who completed the Difficult Airway Management course July 21st. Thanks to Jane Swing and Lester Kitten who teach the course in the simulator lab. There are more classes coming up in August.

Candy Johnson and Gary Hoefler have decided to join the pediatric heart team. They have started their orientation through the pediatric cath lab, and the pediatric heart room. Thanks to both of them for their hard work and commitment. We are working closely with Dr. Hanks and Dr. Havidich to put together a pediatric orientation manual and program for the new staff. We realize how difficult some of our pediatric cases are, and want everyone to feel competent and comfortable doing them. Thanks Diane and Jeana.

I still have several positions open for CRNAs, so I've been busy interviewing and hope to fill them all by the middle of August. It will be nice to finally have an official break and lunch person on the schedule!

I hope everyone is having a safe, fun filled summer!

- Wendy Ewing

MESSAGE FROM THE TECHS

As we approach August, things are settling down from our annual migration of residents and students. One of our techs, Jonathan, joined the army. We all wish him luck. On August 4, Anthony Consonery will be starting orientation as a new tech. He is a Clemson graduate in Biology with hopes to attend medical school. Tamara Hart has proven to be a tremendous asset for such a short time here. Nick continues to contribute and is even talking louder now. Ralph has started to work with our national organization, the A.S.A.T.T., with the hopes of hosting a regional meeting of anesthesia techs here at MUSC in the spring or early summer of 2009.

-Jim Braunsdorf



Jim Braunsdorf

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

I am very excited to be joining the staff here at MUSC. My family and I have lived in Virginia our entire lives and moving to such a beautiful place as Charleston has been very exciting for all of us. I attended medical school and residency at the Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. My wife Kimberly and I are blessed with two wonderful boys Tyler 8, Baylor 4, and a stubborn dog named July. I enjoy many outdoor activities such as boating, fishing, scuba diving and recently trying to learn to surf. Everyone here has been extremely helpful and friendly and I look forward to working with you in the future. - Tom Epperson



Tom Epperson, MD

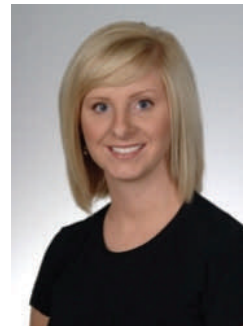


Joe Whiteley, DO

Joe Whiteley is joining the faculty after completing his residency at Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Whiteley has an interest in transplant and regional anesthesia. He is married to Marielis, and they have an energetic two year old son named Matthew. Originally from the Midwest, Dr. Whiteley looks forward to learning about the Charleston area and trying out new water sports.

ADMINISTRATIVE HIGHLIGHT

Many of you have met Ashley Bode as she has recently replaced Carl Kennedy as the Administrative Coordinator. Before joining the Department, Ashley worked as a Research, Web, and Events Coordinator for the Hollings Cancer Center. Ashley is a graduate of the University of South Carolina where she studied Psychology and Biology. Outside of work, she enjoys photography and fine art. As fall approaches, you will find her and her husband, Adam, either outdoors with their puppy or rooting for the Gamecocks. Please welcome Ashley as the newest member of our administrative team.



Ashley Bode

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW INTERNS FOR 2008-2009



Beginning from the left: Lydia Josephs, Ryan Nobles, Tara Ahlberg, Tim Heinke, Lacey Godeaux, Matthew Buck, Ebony Hilton, Rebecca Payne, and Heather Scott

REMEMBERING THE PAST TO BUILD THE FUTURE

Over the past year, the department has been aggressively expanding our endowment program as an investment in our future. As we continue to recognize our past, a wall dedicated to our previous chairs has been established on the third floor of the Storm Eye Institute. Please stop by and remember the substantial contributions these individuals have made to our department. Additional work is in progress to identify and recognize past resident trainees.



DEPARTMENTAL NIGHT AT THE RIVERDOGS

The department hosted its first night at the “Joe” on Saturday, July 12, 2008. Over 170 of us came together to share hotdogs, hamburgers, chips, soft drinks and beer. We had our own designated area in the stadium which was a frequent source of line drive foul balls. It was a special time for the residents to relax following the in service examination. Jerrill Brown was surprised with a large birthday cake. A few photos are presented here and others can be found on our web page (www.musc.edu/anesthesia).



SOCIETY OF CARDIOVASCULAR ANESTHESIOLOGIST ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

The department was well represented at the 30th Annual Meeting of the SCA in Vancouver held June 18-22, 2008. Scott Reeves, MD was the program chair for this international meeting of approximately 700 cardiothoracic anesthesiologist in attendance.

Multiple faculty participated including:

Jake Abernathy, MD, who gave a lecture entitled *The Upset Stomach, How and When to Incorporate Epicardial Imaging Into Your Practice*

Rebecca Cain, MD, participated in a Perioperative TEE Board Exam Prep Workshop entitled *Headaches, Heart Aches, and Hang Overs: A Rapid Fire Case Based TEE Conference on Images that Drive Us all Crazy.*

Jason Taylor, MD, participated in a Hand Held Workshop by demonstrating and training the participants in how to do ultrasound guidance regional anesthesia.



Jake Abernathy, MD



Jason Taylor, MD

Finally, the department was selected as a site for the SCA patient safety research initiative, **F**lawless **O**perative **C**ardiovascular **U**nified **S**ystems, (FOCUS). MUSC was one of five institutions selected throughout the country of greater than 40 that applied. Many prominent institutions such as Duke and Emory were not chosen. This is a reflection of our Cardiothoracic Division under the leadership of Drs. Abernathy and Guidry. The strength of our Heart and Vascular Service Line with additional leadership from Drs. Fred Crawford, Carolyn Reed and Eric Powers, and the vision of our Dean, Dr. Jerry Reves. The adjacent materials from the SCA Foundation summarizes the FOCUS initiative.

What a great honor and meeting!

In addition to lectures and workshop participation, our faculty obtained important committee appointments.

Rebecca Cain, MD	Monograph Committee
Jake Abernathy, MD	Co-Chair of Fellowship Directors Working Committee
Scott Reeves, MD	Board of Directors
Scott Reeves, MD	SCA appointment as Vice Chair of the ASA Cardiothoracic Anesthesia Clinical Program Section

The group further expanded our professional relationship and friendship with our 11th International Meeting Germany host schedule for September 2008





FLAWLESS OPERATIVE CARDIOVASCULAR UNIFIED SYSTEMS

THE FOCUS INITIATIVE OF THE SOCIETY OF CARDIOVASCULAR ANESTHESIOLOGISTS (SCA) FOUNDATION

Most of us go to hospitals when we, or those we love, are in dire need of medical help. Entering this high tech environment can be unnerving, but we maintain high levels of trust and hope. Patients expect to get positive results from highly trained professional care givers. Fortunately, advances in medicine over the past 50 years make it possible for physicians and their teams to meet our expectations. An astonishing array of critical illnesses, from heart failure to cancer can now be treated. These advances require increasingly complex training and technical skill. The aging population of the United States is increasing at a rapid rate. Specialists are called upon to treat growing numbers of critically ill patients. Regrettably, this can bring case overload and long hours of multitasking for health care providers, including cardiac anesthesiologists. Fatigue and stress take their toll. Given the need to remember complex treatment options in the technically demanding environment of the operating room (OR), it is easy to get things wrong. Human error in health care delivery leads to 44,000-98,000 deaths per year in the United States alone. The World Health Organization (WHO) sees human error in the delivery of medical care as a major problem for industrialized and emerging nations alike. As a result, they have made the reduction of human error a priority in campaigns for the next five years.

Raising the Bar on Patient Safety

The Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologist's (SCA) FOCUS initiative is a complementary and cooperative effort designed to raise the bar for patient safety through human factors engineering. To meet the highly technical demands of the modern operating room (OR), professionals must have advanced training and excellent communication skills. Successful cardiovascular OR teams work through clear communication, rehearsed interactions, and painstaking accuracy to build harmony. Unfortunately, not all institutions are able to field such winning teams.

Airplane safety in the OR

While an unconventional approach to clinical research, studies in industrial, aviation, and other high-risk domains have led to major system redesigns and improvements in safety and performance. The SCA recognizes an excellent opportunity for cross-disciplinary application of aviation protocols and plans to borrow from the success of the airline cockpit to develop universal protocols for the cardiovascular OR. The airline industry has conducted extensive systems analysis of interactions in the cockpit as well as between cockpit and support staff. From sentinel event analysis and behavioral study, the industry has learned to manage cockpit resources for maximum effectiveness and error prevention. According to industry publications, since the implementation of Human Resource Management systems in the 1970's, commercial airline disasters have become rare.

Peter F. Drucker, noted management consultant, says that large healthcare institutions may be the most complex organizations in human history. At the core of such institutions, the cardiac OR is a hive of high-tech electronic equipment staffed by exacting professionals. These teams must work smoothly together to ensure positive outcomes. ***There are currently no universal protocols that weave specialized surgical teams into an integrated whole.*** Cardiac anesthesiologists have an opportunity to "pilot" these teams and weave their collective efforts into precise, consistent results.

FLAWLESS OPERATIVE CARDIOVASCULAR UNIFIED SYSTEMS CONTINUED...

Obviously, effective communication in the operating room is critical. The Joint Council on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), the standards-setting and accrediting body in health care since 1951, noted that 60% of all sentinel events from 1995-2004 were caused by communication errors. In anesthesia related sentinel events, communication errors increased from 38% of all errors from 1995-2004 to almost 80% in 2005. Few, if any, physicians have taken advantage of the advances in human systems engineering gained by the airline industry. The FOCUS project will take years from its inception to final guidelines for Human Resource Management (HRM) in the cardiac ORs. The SCA is committed to guiding the creation of universal guidelines to save human lives in the cardiac OR to completion.

The **FOCUS** project includes the following steps over the next two to three years:

- Hire a team of consultants to manage and monitor the project.
- Observe cardiac surgery at approximately 3-5 academic and/or private practice centers to note the human interactions, error patterns, and any potential areas for intervention. **(1st stage scheduled at MUSC)**
- Develop potential intervention points where changes in behavior, systems, or other factors could decrease the chance for human error.
- Implement a strategy to take the findings and build upon them for more SCA research studies, and educational seminars.
- Undertake a major marketing campaign to educate physicians nationwide and implement the FOCUS OR Guidelines in health care facilities.

APPLAUSE

- Scott Stewart, MD was “applauded” by a patient for the kind and caring manner he exhibited as her anesthesiologist during her surgical procedure. Thank you for all you do to provide a positive experience for our patients.
- John Waller, MD was appointed to the College of Medicine Promotion and Tenure Committee
- Scott Reeves, MD was appointed the Vice Chair of the Intraoperative Council of the American Society of Echocardiography
- Scott Reeves, MD was selected as the SCA appointment to become the Vice Chair of the ASA Cardiothoracic Anesthesia Clinical Program Section



SUSAN HARVEY NAMED “MAGNETIC PHYSICIAN OF THE MONTH”

MUHA’s Rewards & Recognition team has named Dr. Susan Harvey June “Magnetic Physician of the Month.” Dr. Harvey was nominated by Kim Croy, RN from the Department of Surgical Services.

Kim expressed, “Dr. Harvey is more than an anesthesiologist in the Main OR. She is a trauma doc, a nursing advocate, a leader, a mentor to most, a friendly, smiling, and caring individual. She is the doctor that you want in your OR if you or your family member needs critical care and thinking skills. She takes her personal time to create motivational in-services for the Main OR staff reminding us all what it means to make a difference in the lives of our patients,

and why we are all very lucky to work at an institution such as MUSC. She fully believes in and supports the MUSC excellence concept. Our facility is very lucky to have a physician like Dr. Susan Harvey, and this is why I feel she deserves the magnetic physician award. Thank you!”

Congratulations, Susan!





DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIA & PERIOPERATIVE MEDICINE

Medical University of South Carolina
167 Ashley Avenue
MSC 912
Charleston, SC 29425-9120

Phone: 843-792-9369
Fax: 843-792-9314
E-mail: walteral@musc.edu

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT:
[HTTP://WWW.MUSC.EDU/ANESTHESIA](http://www.musc.edu/anesthesia)

Future Events

- 8/5-Administration Meeting with Residents
- 8/12-M&M
- 8/13-Resident Journal Club (Dr. Abernathy)
- 8/15-LDI Retreat
- 8/18-Office Zoo Retreat 2
- 8/19-Liver TX **Grand Rounds**
(Dr. Linn/MUSC)
- 8/21-PGY1/SRNA Substance Abuse
Get Together
- 8/26-Perioperative Risk Factors for OLTX
Grand Rounds (Dr. Wahl/Duke)
- 8/26-PICIS Go Live RT

AIDET

Acknowledge

- Make Eye contact, greet with a smile, make patient feel that you expect them

Introduce

- Inform of your name, title, experience, and manage up your competence

Duration

- Provide patient and families with time expectations

Explanation

- Inform and keep patient family updated about what to expect from your interaction, their visit with the medical professional or their procedure

Thank You

- Thank the customer for allowing us to help them, for choosing MUSC for their care. Inquire if there is anything else that we may do for the patient or family



In the coming weeks the department will be making the switch to an electronic scheduling system. The system has been in development for nearly 6 months with significant time and input from many of you invested in the system. We look forward to rolling this out and ensuring success through training and support. A few words from the president and founder of the company, Matt Mendez, MD can be found below.

Spinfusion designs and markets full-lifecycle software solutions for healthcare providers. Founded in 1999, Spinfusion fuses the rigor of clinical practice with the entrepreneurial foundation of a Silicon Valley managed enterprise. Spinfusion offers a full range of innovative solutions from [Momentia](#), our flagship anesthesia staff scheduling solution, to [Volatus](#), our web-based medical recruiting solution. Through the application of innovative technology, Spinfusion's products improve efficiency and drive down the cost of healthcare, enabling providers to focus on clinical care instead of operational issues. Anesthesiology staff scheduling is unique among the various specialties for several reasons:

- » Complex, 24x7, multi-site responsibility
- » Coverage driven by external surgical scheduling needs
- » Large number of unpredictable, last minute coverage changes

Because of this, scheduling for even a small anesthesiology department is both a multifactorial and tedious process. Most departments have created algorithms and protocols to help efficiently handle these problems. Unfortunately, these strategies are both expensive and error-prone. Spinfusion's Momentia scheduling software is the answer to this problem. By providing a customized, computer-based solution, Momentia allows anesthesiology departments to seamlessly maintain scheduling flexibility, reduce errors, and dramatically cut costs. By utilizing Momentia, providers will see operational costs decrease and revenues increase.