We are pleased to rejuvenate our Department newsletter, now called “Awakenings”. The goal of the newsletter will be to keep all of our alumni, faculty, staff, and friends updated on the Department’s activities, its joys and successes, and at times, its ongoing challenges.

I was delighted to assume the Anesthesiology Chair in September of 2001. While this was a critical time in the evolution of the Department, it was never clearer that our challenges presented exciting opportunities. With a forecasted 25% increase in operative services over the next two-three years, partly due to the development of Children’s Hospital, we immediately recognized the need to greatly expand our faculty ranks to accommodate this expansion of the clinical mission. This posed a particular challenge in the midst of an unprecedented national shortage of anesthesiologists. Through a vigorous effort over the last nine months by the entire department, we have successfully brought eight outstanding new clinical faculty to Vanderbilt Anesthesiology, many of whom have already arrived. We particularly owe Andrea Whitman, Assistant to the Chair, a word of thanks for her diligent efforts in coordinating these extraordinary recruitments. At the same time, I have taken the opportunity to appoint a substantial number of new departmental leaders to help provide vision and direction as we manage our clinical growth, as well as expansion of our teaching and research missions.

Over the year, the Department will continue to make key administrative appointments, and to add new faculty to facilitate its growth in perioperative services, as well as research. Over the last year, Department of Anesthesiology extramural support from research grants increased by nearly 50%. While our “growth spurt” creates administrative challenges, it also creates an exciting opportunity for the Department to realize an aggressive vision: across the board, unparalleled excellence in clinical care, research, and education. In my view, few clinical specialties are as well positioned as Anesthesiology to truly facilitate the nonlinear growth in clinical service planned by Vanderbilt as an institution, and at the same time, few Anesthesiology Departments in the nation are fortunate to have such strong institutional support. In short, we’re on a fast track to the top!

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey R. Balser, M.D., Ph.D.
Chairman, Department of Anesthesiology
Associate Dean, Physician-Scientist Development
The James Tayloe Gwathmey Professor of Anesthesiology & Pharmacology
Dr. Gillespie joins us from the Medical College of Georgia, and was the first faculty member to accept my invitation to join the faculty. She began her appointment as Assistant Professor in the Multispecialty Anesthesiology Division in January, and has rapidly become a popular faculty member and teacher. She has also taken a leadership role in re-establishing our Patient Simulator Program, which forms a core resource for resident and student teaching, and is participating in the liver transplantation program.

Dr. Hudson joins us from Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City as Assistant Professor. Dr. Hudson brings experience in general pediatric anesthesia, as well as special expertise in managing infants and children during cardiothoracic surgery. In addition, Julie has experience in legislative affairs, and has assumed a key new leadership role in the Department as Director of Development and Legislative Affairs. Dr. Hudson will be organizing future events for our alumni, and will work with the Vanderbilt Development Office to expand the Anesthesiology Department’s endowment resources. Julie is accompanied by her husband Billy, The Elliot V. Newman Professor of Medicine, and Director of the Center for Matrix Biology.

Dr. D’Alessio joined us in April from the University of Texas San Antonio as Associate Professor. He is a nationally recognized expert in the management of the airway, and in trauma anesthesiology. He is the author of the airway anesthesia chapter of Dr. Robert Ossoff’s (Vanderbilt Chairman of Otolaryngology) textbook, The Larynx. John joined the Department in April as Director of Trauma Anesthesiology. He is also an expert in regional anesthesia, and is working to expand our teaching and clinical services in perioperative pain management. John will soon be joined by his wife, Diane, and their children, Alexander, William, Olivia, and Victoria.

On July 1, Dr. Richardson arrived from the University of Rochester and began his appointment as Associate Professor. Dr. Richardson brings vast experience in resident education to our program from his prior role as Vice Chair for Residency Education at Rochester, and has a national reputation as a clinician and educator. As our new Director of the Multispecialty Anesthesiology Division, he assumes a position of major leadership in the Department of Anesthesiology. Dr. Richardson will have overall responsibility for administering the Department’s clinical and resident teaching activities in most of the main operating rooms, as well as in several outpatient and out-of-OR anesthetizing locations. Michael is accompanied by his wife Nancy, and their children Audrey, Mackenzie, and Neal.
...NEW ATTENDINGS

Dr. Clark Galbraith

Dr. Galbraith is a Canby Robinson Scholar and former class president at Vanderbilt Medical School, and also completed his residency in anesthesiology at Vanderbilt. He joined our faculty on July 1 as Assistant Professor, supervising the Department’s medical student rotations, and will also participate in the Department’s growing acute pain services program. Clark has experience in the computer industry, and has been heavily involved in the Department’s efforts to expand and streamline its peroperative informatics system. He has three children, Amber, Jesse, and John-Michael.

Dr. William Goldsmith

On July 1, Dr. William Goldsmith became Assistant Professor in the Multispecialty Anesthesiology Division, after completing his anesthesiology residency training at Vanderbilt and serving as a Chief Resident. Bill is planning to take a one-year sabbatical in January to undertake further training in our Critical Care Medicine fellowship program, and will then join the Department’s Division of Critical Care Medicine as an attending. In this role, he will join the growing team of anesthesiologists and surgeons providing intensive care services in both the Surgical and Neurosurgical Intensive Care Units. Bill and his wife Karen have two children, Daniel and Kyle.

Dr. Alexander Hughes

Dr. Hughes joins us this August as Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology. Alex completed his residency training and Chief Residency at Maine Medical Center, and his Cardiothoracic Fellowship training at Massachusetts General Hospital. He will expand the Cardiothoracic Division’s ongoing expertise in both pediatric cardiothoracic anesthesiology, as well as in transesophageal echocardiography. Alex is joined by his wife Brenda, and their children, Andrew and Emily.

Dr. Annemarie Thompson

Dr. Thompson joins us this September as Assistant Professor in the Multispecialty Anesthesia Division. Following her medical training at Duke, Dr. Thompson undertook residency training in two specialties, Internal Medicine and Anesthesiology, at the University of California, San Francisco, and also served as Chief Resident in Internal Medicine in 1999. Annemarie is author of large portions of the University of California San Francisco Handbook of Anesthesiology, and her recruitment greatly strengthens our Department’s teaching programs.
Imagine arriving at the hospital for elective laparoscopic cholecystectomy and you are checked in by a “greeter” bearing a handheld computer that enters all of your preoperative information. You arrive in the operating room where an anesthetic has been designed for you based on your medical history that provides you with the best risk profile. As you enter Phase I recovery, your billing information is transmitted to the office complete with all the requisite documentation. Data from your experience is added to the collected experience of thousands of other patients who have had the same procedure so that the safest and most optimal anesthetic can be delivered to future patients.

Thanks to VPIMS, the Vanderbilt Perioperative Information Management System, this is reality at Vanderbilt University.

VPIMS was created to manage surgical patient information into a legible, electronic medical record accessible to nurses, anesthesiologists, surgeons and operating room managers. It was additionally designed to support patient tracking, billing, quality improvement, cost containment and clinical research efforts.

So how does it work? Wireless iPAQ Pocket PC’s log patients into the system on arrival. The surgery schedule is accessed and the “greeter” knows when surgery is scheduled, which operating room (OR) is to be used and which surgeon is performing the procedure. The record is updated as the patient proceeds through the pre-op process.

Once in the OR, the patient’s data is pre-loaded into the anesthesiology OR chart. Vital signs are rapidly entered by the clinician. At the conclusion of the case, a preliminary record may be printed for the recovery team. The final medical record is flagged electronically for missing signatures or documentation, which expedites billing and compliance issues. Once these items are complete, the record is immediately available electronically to all users.

Aside from the practical issues of tracking, documentation, and billing, VPIMS can be used to generate solutions to clinical problems. For example, if a department wishes to determine which antiemetic regimen is most efficacious in laparoscopic gynecological procedures, it could have the needed information within minutes from thousands of patients.

Intelligent Healthcare InformatTx™, Inc. is the commercial development of this product. The leadership team includes John Kunysz, Jr., President and CEO as well as Michael Higgins, MD, MPH, Chief Clinical Technology Officer and Vice-Chairman for Adult Perioperative Services at Vanderbilt. According to Higgins, case delays due to preoperative access have been reduced from 8% to 2% since implementing the system. This translates into dollars saved. Billing capture has jumped to over 98%. Further, an annual savings of more than $3 million from decreased use of chest x-rays and blood chemistries has been realized.

But perhaps most importantly of all, says Higgins, “There’s a terrific intangible benefit as well: our patients are greeted by name at the door…On the day of his or her surgery, every patient wants to feel like they are special. This system helps us make the patient feel exactly that way.”

For more information regarding VPIMS, contact Dr. Michael Higgins (Michael.Higgins@vanderbilt.edu).

Mike Higgins, M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Medical Director of Perioperative Services
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Vice Chairman for Adult Perioperative Services
Associate Professor
Departments of Anesthesiology, Surgery, and Biomedical Informatics
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
SENIOR DINNER 2002

Back: Drs. Alan Dean, William Daniels
Middle: Drs. Pickens "Trey" Patterson, William Goldsmith, Rick Evans.
Front: Drs. Petra Riescke, Pam Abercrombie, Tony James

Dr. Hugh "Tony" James, & wife, Laura,
Drs. Karl Horsten, Petra Riescke

Drs. Adriana Call, Amgad Saied
Daiana Voiculescu, Rick Evans

Drs. John McCrery, Cindy Liu,
Pam Abercrombie, Jeff Balser

Dr. Daiana Voiculescu & Jane Shoun

Drs. Tony James, William Goldsmith

Drs. Pickens Patterson, William Daniels,
Daiana Voiculescu, Adriana Calle

Dr. Pratik Pandharipande & wife, Anjali

Dr. Clark Galbraith & fiancée, Khaysy

Barbara Carter & Andrea Whitman
As we begin the 2002-2003 academic year there are several exciting developments affecting our residents. First of all, we would like to welcome the new interns and CA-1s who joined us July 1st. There is a full class of eight interns who are now learning the ropes on their respective rotations. We wish you good luck; it really will be over before you know it. Additionally, a full complement of 14 CA-1s are now with us in the Main OR. The upper level residents are very excited at the prospect of having greater numbers to dilute that pesky call schedule. Seriously, our new total of approximately 40 residents will make life better for everyone.

To improve the quality of our study and down time, the residents are getting a new office all our own. The office formerly occupied by Lana and Debbie near the O.R. radiology room will soon be ours. Construction began in late June. Plans call for computers, desks, a couch, and TV. This will give the residents a spot to study and unwind that is very accessible to most OR.’s. The Chief’s office will also be located there.

Overall, things are shaping up to be great year!
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Over the last nine months we have made a large number of administrative appointments to allow restructuring and integration of Anesthesiology Clinical Services. Among those, recent appointments that involve new responsibilities for large segments of our clinical service obligation include:

**Dr. Michael Higgins** has assumed the role of Vice Chair for Adult Perioperative Services, where he is responsible for all adult clinical services in the Department. Dr. Higgins was formerly Chief of the Multispecialty Anesthesiology Division, the position now filled by Dr. Michael Richardson. Dr. Higgins brings special expertise in informatics to operating room management, as one of the authors of the Department’s perioperative information management system (VPIMS). On July 1, Dr. Higgins also assumed the position of Executive Medical Director of Adult Perioperative Services, an institutional role where he is charged with identifying and helping to implement strategies for managing the ongoing demand for increased operating room case volume and overall efficiency.

**Dr. Jay Deshpande** is now Vice Chair for Pediatric Perioperative Services. As Chief of the Division of Pediatric Anesthesiology and Critical Care, Dr. Deshpande has developed the premier pediatric anesthesiology and critical care program in the region. His administrative responsibilities now include general oversight of the perioperative clinical missions for Anesthesiology in both the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and the Pediatric Operating Rooms. Jay’s major task over the coming months is to help shepherd the move of anesthesiology and critical care services into Children’s Hospital. He will be fully engaged in our efforts to recruit additional pediatric anesthesiology faculty to a greatly expanded pediatric surgical facility in Children’s Hospital.

**Dr. Robert Deegan** is Chief of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology. Over the past five years, Dr. Deegan has spearheaded the development of the Anesthesiology Department’s intraoperative program in transesophageal echocardiography, and has trained a number of our faculty and fellows in the use of this important diagnostic tool. Dr. Deegan has increased the Department’s Cardiothoracic Fellowship program to two fellows per year, and will shepherd the expansion of cardiothoracic anesthesiology services over the next two years as a number of additional adult and pediatric cardiac and thoracic surgeons are recruited.

**Dr. Ken Smithson** is now Chief of the Division of Adult Critical Care Services in the Department of Anesthesiology. Dr. Smithson was trained in both anesthesiology and critical care medicine at the Mayo Clinic, and been co-director of the Neurosurgical Intensive Care Unit at Vanderbilt. He is working collaboratively with Dr. Addison May in the Department of Surgery toward expanding the activities of intensive care specialists in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit, with a view to expanding Vanderbilt’s capability to effectively manage an increasing volume of patients who require intensive care services. At the same time, Ken is expanding the size and prestige of the Anesthesiology critical care fellowship program.

**Our most recent major appointment is Dr. Ellen Lockhart** as Chief of the Division of Obstetric Anesthesiology. We were fortunate to recruit Dr. Lockhart from Duke University one year ago, where she was a member of the clinical faculty and administered a basic research program. While managing the growth of anesthesiology programs in women’s operative services, Dr. Lockhart is also charged with mentoring the Obstetrical Anesthesiology teaching programs, and will be rejuvenating a subspecialty fellowship training program in Obstetrical Anesthesiology. In addition, Ellen is initiating clinical research projects that examine the genomic basis for morbidity in the parturient patient, part of a growing research theme in the Department at-large.
NEW RESIDENTS

Dr. Sarah Starr  CA-3
Michigan State University, AOA Member
Sarah is married to Fredd Starr who is doing a Fellowship in Child Psychology. Sarah and Fredd have one daughter.

Dr. Curt Carson  CA-1
University of South Dakota
Interests: weightlifting, squash, racquetball, international travel, digital photographic editing, handheld computer applications, cooking.

Dr. Brad Hill  CA-1
University of Health Sciences, Osteopathic Medical School, Iowa
Interests: hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, playing guitar and various sports. Brad and wife Trish, had their first child, Emma, on June 10.

Dr. Charles Hill  CA-1
University of Texas at San Antonio
Interests: playing guitar, traveling, golf, tennis, skiing, mountain biking, photography.
Charles’ main interest is our own Jonay Grimm. They are to be married this year!

Dr. Jim Hong  CA-1
State University of New York at Stony Brook
Interests: skiing, ice skating, table-tennis, cooking, traveling, and music.

Dr. Murali Mamidi  CA-1
University of Texas at San Antonio
Interests: reading, travel, philosophy.
Muralis’ wife, Christina, is an Ophthalmology intern.
NEW RESIDENTS

Dr. Peter Castro     PGY-1
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Interests: soccer, ice hockey, backpacking.
Peter received a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Medical Student Fellowship.

Dr. Christopher “Chad” Findley     PGY-1
University of South Florida College of Medicine
Interests: triathlete, competitive running, hiking, rappelling, kayaking, snow skiing, mountain biking.

Dr. William “Brian” Kendall     PGY-1
University of Arkansas College of Medicine
Interests: participating in church activities, intramural sports, and spending time with his family.

Dr. Frederic “Josh” Billings     PGY-1
Louisiana State University School of Medicine in Shreveport
Josh did a six-week rotation this past fall with us at Vandy.
Interests: scouting (Eagle Scout), rugby, woodworking, bonsai, basketball.

Dr. Nawal Ragheb     CA-1
Michigan State University
Recently married Dr. Jeff Mueller, Resident in Pathology.
Nawal and Jeff will be going to Africa this spring.
NEW RESIDENTS

Dr. Joe Lester   PGY-1
University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine, Kansas City
Interests: running, mountaineering, sky diving, traveling, music. Joe was also in the US Army.

Dr. Austin Rich   PGY-1
University of Texas Medical School of San Antonio
Interests: Austin and his wife enjoy running, gardening, camping and basketball.
Austin lived in Scotland for 2 years while on a Mission trip.

Dr. Frank Zhan   PGY-1
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Speaks Fluent Chinese
Interests: Chinese painting, water painting, fencing, tennis, Airplane design, basketball

THE FOLLOWING RESIDENTS HAVE COMPLETED THEIR PGY-1 TRAINING AT VANDY

Dr. Ladd Campbell   CA-1
Dr. Sean Costabile   CA-1
Dr. Jonay Grimm   CA-1
Dr. Sheila Jeffcoat   CA-1
Dr. Michael Lyaker   CA-1
Dr. Wenying Niu   CA-1
Dr. Shannon Kilkelley   CA-1
Dr. Chris Yates   CA-1
It’s exciting to move to a new home, and that is exactly what the Division of Pediatric Critical Care and Anesthesia will do in the fall of 2003. A dedicated and talented group of pediatric anesthesiologists will relocate to an entire floor designed to provide care from admission to discharge for a variety of procedures including cardiac catheterization and endoscopy. The team will provide over 8000 surgical cases this year alone, and it is anticipated that this number will increase by 8-10% a year after moving to the new Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital facility.

Along with the division growth comes the opportunity to recruit new staff. In the past year, we have welcomed three new faculty members: Dr. Ira Landsman, Dr. Mirjana Vustar, and Dr. Julie Hudson. Dr. John Algren has assumed the role of Medical Director for the Pediatric Operating Rooms and Perioperative Services.

In addition to providing family-focused perioperative care, the staff is involved in the training of anesthesiology residents, medical students, student nurse anesthetists, pediatric residents, emergency room residents and fellows and respiratory therapy students. Of particular note is the department’s commitment to anesthesiology education in supporting a pediatric anesthesiology fellowship program, which has had three graduates to date.

We are also proud of our “citizenship” activities, those involvements that serve to promote improved healthcare for children through partnership and collaboration outside the walls of Vanderbilt. A few examples are mentorship programs in metro schools, the Fisk/Vanderbilt summer program for premed students, PALS teaching, Winterim, the Girl Scout Physicians of Tomorrow mentoring program, and focus groups for the National Association of Children’s Hospitals and Related Institutions.

These are exciting times in the Pediatric Division of Vanderbilt's Department of Anesthesiology. We are thrilled about the exciting opportunities that are occurring. But our very best day is still one where every parent’s child had a safe and uneventful anesthetic.
**Alumni Update**

**Dr. Roberto Ycaza** and his family (yes, all six kids) stopped by for a visit in July. Roberto lives in St. Petersburg, Florida and is employed at Bradenton Surgical Center. He enjoys soccer, tennis, and spending time with his wife, Viveka, and their children: Roberto, Gabriela, Emilio, Francesca, Vivi, and Sergio.

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**Dr. Len Auman (1995)** resides in Dallas, Texas, and is Medical Director, Department of Anesthesiology, St. Paul University, Dallas, Texas.

**Dr. John (2001; Chief Resident) and Jennifer Burelbach** reside in Lacross, Wisconsin, where John practices with a private group of 14 anesthesiologists. They and their three children (Katherine, 6; Alexandra, 4; Elizabeth, 1 ½) await the arrival of their next family member, Baby Burelbach.

**Dr. Casey Cooper (1995, Pain Fellowship, 1996)** resides in Madisonville, Kentucky, and is Director of Pain Medicine at Regional Medical Center.

**Dr. Mehmood Durrani (1996)** is an Assistant Professor of Anesthesia at West Virginia University Hospital and does mostly Cardiothoracic and Neuroanesthesia. Passed both anesthesia boards and Critical Care Boards.

**Dr. Sriram Iyer (1995)** resides in Staffordville, Kentucky. He completed a Pain Fellowship at the University of Kentucky, Lexington in 1996. He is Chief of Anesthesia at Kings Daughter Medical Center in Ashland, Kentucky.

**Dr. Rene Llera (1997)** is in private practice in Prattville, Alabama.

**Dr. Scott (1995) and Michelle Marlow** reside in Fort Worth, Texas, where Scott is in practice. Scott and Michelle are expecting their third son in November.

**Dr. Glenn McAskill (1994)** resides in Marshall, Texas, where he manages his own practice.
Alumni Update

Dr. Dan (1995) and Kara McCarthy reside in Washington, Indiana, where Dan is a staff anesthesiologist. Dan and Kara have a four-year-old son, Daniel IV, and a 5-month-old son, Burkley. They enjoy boating and riding their John Deere tractor.

Dr. Michael (1995) and Inger Mendoza reside in Parkersburg, West Virginia, where he is a staff anesthesiologist with United Anesthesia, Inc.

Dr. Rajendran (2001; Chief Resident) and Kamini Nair reside in Gulf Breeze, Florida, where Raj is in private practice with three other Vanderbilt graduates (Dr. Alan Krys, 1992, Chief Resident; Dr. Leo Rodriguez, 2001; Dr. Sylvio Sitarich, 2001). Word has it (from Dr. Burelbach) that Dr. Nair will be hosting a pig roast and serving his famous jerk chicken. He would like to know what would be a good time for everyone to meet at the Nair residence…

Dr. Dean Perkins (1995) resides in Madisonville, Kentucky, where he is Chairman of Anesthesiology at Trover Foundation Regional Medical Center. He is also medical director of the Kentucky Program of Anesthesia (CRNA school).

Dr. Davor (1999; Chief Resident) and Kristine Pluscec reside in Edgewater, Florida where Davor is in a multi-site practice. He completed a CV fellowship at Emory before moving to Florida. Another classmate, Dr. Daniela Holloway (1999) is in the same group. The Pluscec family will grow by one sometime near the end of July when their first child, a son, is to be born.

Dr. Leopoldo Rodriguez (2001) and Margarita Zingg live in Gulf Breeze, Florida and have two sons, 6 months and 2 ½ years old. Leo practices as a pediatric anesthesiologist. Margarita, who completed her MBA at Belmont, manages her own business. You may access her website at zing@bigplanet.com.

Dr. Jim Roth (1990) resides in Nashville, Tennessee, where he is Medical Director for the Tennessee Medical Board of Examiners. He also practices as an emergency physician.

Dr. Silvio Sitarich (2001) and Sheila Markely (CRNA) reside in Pensacola, Florida where they practice within the same group. They also work with other VUMC alums, Doctors Alan Krys, Raj Nair, and Leo Rodriguez. Silvio and Sheila are expecting a baby daughter sometime in September.

Dr. Mike Vega (1995) resides in Huntington, West Virginia. He is in private practice with Tri-State Anesthesiology in Ashland, Kentucky. Mike is involved in annual mission trips to Belize.

Drs. Tamara Wheeler (1995, Pediatric Fellowship, 1996) and Tom Wheeler reside in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where Tammy is in practice. They have a 3-year-old son, Evan.
You are cordially invited to the
ASA Vanderbilt Alumni Reception
Saturday, October 12, 2002
Rosen Centre Hotel / Salon 1
9840 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819-8122
6:00-8:30 PM
Please RSVP to Ann Loffi (615) 936-1830
ann.loffi@vanderbilt.edu

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http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/anesthesiology/

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