



NEWS

ANESTHESIOLOGY AND PERIOPERATIVE MEDICINE

Fall 2016

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Jeffrey Kirsch, M.D.

Message from the chair Stepping up amid a national addiction crisis

A recent experience drove home for me the magnitude of our nation's opiate use and addiction crisis, my pride in the advances our department is making and our opportunities to make an even larger impact.

As chairman of the FDA Advisory Committee on Anesthetic and Life Support Drugs, which evaluates efficacy and the risk/benefit of new analgesic medications, I listened at each meeting to individuals who travel from all over the country to testify about the devastating effect of opiate addiction in their own lives and those of their family members. Amid dozens of stories emerged two themes: family member became addicted after starting treatment for an acute painful event (e.g. surgery, sports injury, etc.); young family member found left-over opioids in a family medicine cabinet and either had acute intoxication or developed an opioid addiction.

I view the excessive prescription of opioids as a huge public health problem and as an opportunity for us to help find a solution.

I am very pleased with the advances being made in our regional anesthesia division and pain management division. Our regional division continues to work hard with our surgeons and our inpatient pain management group to provide our patients with an expanded "menu" of regional anesthesia approaches and using non-opioid analgesics to treat post-operative pain.

Fortunately, as the list of different regional anesthesia approaches continues to grow, so does the acceptance of our patients and surgeons.

In the laboratory we are also now investigating approaches that would allow for more prolonged regional anesthesia infusions to allow for safe post-operative analgesia (currently

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Lessons from Ethiopia: A pure patient/healer relationship

Ryan Anderson, M.D.'s experience as part of an OHSU team working in partnership with Ethiopian medical providers in Mekelle, Ethiopia earlier this year is synthesized in a powerful memory:

Each morning, the OHSU team was greeted by the progression of patients who were there for surgical treatment for debilitating prolapse and other pelvic floor conditions. Occupying successive wards were women waiting for their surgeries, women recovering from surgery and women who were completing their post-operative stay before returning home.

"As we entered the clinic, we walked past all the women and their children," Dr. Anderson recalls. "Everyone would light up. The women who hadn't had the surgery were excited to be there; the women post-op would poke their heads up and smile big and wave. It was very inspiring."

Footsteps to Healing

The January trip was part of OHSU's Footsteps to Healing program. The partnership in Mekelle, Ethiopia is a collaboration between OHSU and Mekelle University, Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia, St. Paul Millennium Medical College and the World Wide Fistula Fund. The team partners with and trains skilled Ethiopian gynecologists and fistula surgeons, treating patients at the major medical center and teaching hospital at Ayder University and at the Hamlin Fistula Center.

The program focuses on pelvic organ prolapse, which is most severely experienced in developing countries due to multiple vaginal deliveries, obstructed labor, poor nutrition and a lifetime of heavy lifting. Many of the women came from remote parts of the Tigray and surrounding regions for this chance to treat a condition that has left them disabled for years and sometimes decades. Many had to walk for days from their homes to get the surgery.

In January, a team of nurse anesthetists, surgical technicians, residents, fellows, urogynecologists, and anesthesiologists made the trip to perform pelvic floor reconstructions for 42 women. The

operative team was joined by biomedical engineers, radiologists, hospital management specialists, intensivists and philanthropists in an effort to expand the relationship between OHSU and the hospitals and clinics in Mekelle.

Resident participation in these and other service and education trips is made possible through donations to the OHSU Foundation's Humanitarian Overseas Physician Education (HOPE) scholarship funds.

Julio Gonzalez-Sotomayor, M.D., OHSU clinical associate professor in anesthesiology, became the department liaison in 2010. The team making the trip this past January included Dr. Anderson; Roylene Rangel, nurse anesthetist, and Natalea Johnson, a senior resident who is now a pediatric anesthesia fellow.

Working across cultures to heal

The anesthesia team worked two cases simultaneously, using spinal injection where local anesthesia was sufficient and general anesthetic when necessary, as is the practice at OHSU. Yet the experience was a richer, more challenging one.

In some instances, the team needed three-way translation. A patient would speak Tigrinya, which was translated into Amharic by a local team member and then translated into English. Procedures were done without the benefit of monitoring equipment for ventilation levels and other such important

indicators, leaving team members to heavily rely on their experience and training to keep patients safe.

Yet most striking for Dr. Anderson was the purity of the process – distilled down to the most basic patient/healer relationship.

"It's so tough with modern day health care. We get bogged down in the paperwork, compliance and billing and being muted by HIPAA restrictions," Dr. Anderson said. "All those things are necessary but at the heart of it all is that we got into medicine because we wanted to help people, to have people who are sick come to us, and we make them better. This experience was a distillate of that interaction, the purest form of someone who is ill and needs help,

and we were there to help."

Natalea Johnson described the Ethiopia trip as the most meaningful experiences that she had during residency.

"Many of the woman we cared for had to overcome unbelievable obstacles in order to receive these life changing surgeries," she said. "Often the cases of the obstructive obstetric fistulas and uterine prolapse were so advanced that the patients were forced to remain homebound due to the social stigma associated with their disorders. Overall it was extremely rewarding to be a part of a team providing a safe and comfortable anesthetic to women in an austere environment where the comforts of modern medicine/technology was not an option."

The added power of the program is that it is becoming sustainable. Beyond partnering with local providers on surgeries and care, the OHSU team is training the Ethiopian providers. For his part, Dr. Anderson supervised a certified nurse assistant and resident in medical care.

"It's really a great thing what our urogynecology colleagues have done – going from a service and health care trip to a training and capacity building tool," Dr. Anderson said. "That's the Holy Grail of short-term medical aid trips– not just helping people over a brief period of time but training local providers to expand and sustain this work to serve even more patients."

Learn more

<http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/health/services/women/community-outreach/footsteps-to-healing.cfm>
www.ohsuwomenshealth.com/global

Pictured at right, top to bottom:
OHSU team members show their excitement at the collaboration with Ethiopian colleagues and the positive outcomes for their patients.
The Ethiopian women show their gratitude for the medical care that will improve their lives.
Dr. Anderson and Roylene Rangel give a patient a pre-op injection.
Nurses work quickly to attend to their patient.

Photos by Joni Kabana, <http://jonikabana.com/>



The reason for the trip.



A warm welcome to new APOM trainees and staff Interns



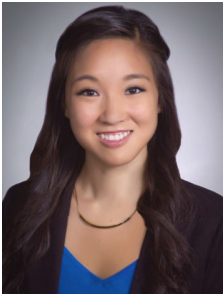
George Agyekum, M.D.



Jacob Anderson, M.D.



Chinonso Chris-Ukah, M.D.



Samantha Go, M.D.



Casey Harms, M.D.



Natalea Johnson, M.D.



Bernie Miller, M.D.



Zerlina Wong, M.D.



Phillip Yun, M.D.

Faculty



Eliza Chen, M.D.



Ona Dachsangvorn, M.D.



Carla De Martino, L.M.T.



Sarah Deverman, M.D.



Michelle Freeman, PA-C.



Melissa Knight, M.D.



Thomas Phillips, M.D.



Viviana Ruiz Barros, M.D.



Nicholas Vigo, M.D.



Yifan Xu, M.D.

Residents



Levana Amrock, M.D.



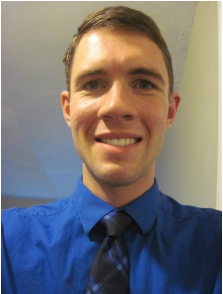
Max Barron, M.D.



Jeremy Bengson, M.D.



Jenny Chen, M.D.



Andrew Dilla, M.D.



Andrea Johnson, M.D.



Marshall Lee, M.D.



Jamie Rubin, M.D.



Amanda St. John, N.P.



Karleena Twitchell,
A.G.A.C.N.P.-B.C.



Christopher Dukatz, M.D.



Desire Ketchandji, M.D.



Brian Magnuson, M.D.



Shakir McLean, M.D.



Jerrod Spence, M.D.



Cory Adams



LeeAnn Davis



Jared Fairchild



Meghan MacRae



Kyle Martinez

CRNAs

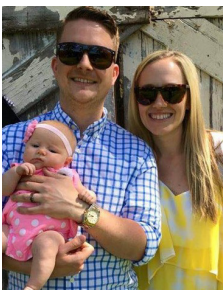


Abigail Tirrell, M.D.

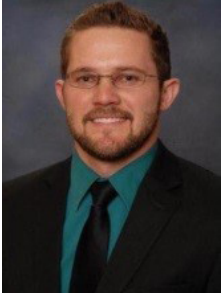
Fellows



Kareem Aggour, M.D.



Jared Hylton, M.D.



Jordan Johnson, M.D.



Jana Mines



Tina Shaner



Andrea Thoma

Comprehensive pain care improves with opening of expanded center

Kim Mauer, M.D., and Tina Foss swipe through iPhone photos of the new, expanded OHSU Comprehensive Pain Center opening Oct. 3 and their excitement is palpable. Sitting in a chiropractic treatment room in the center’s current location and talking about the new digs, this tight team of



medical director and clinical operations director describes the benefits to patients and providers.

“We are elbow to elbow right now,” Ms. Foss said.

“The expansion helps us continue toward our goal of

becoming a world-renowned comprehensive pain center and expand our pain services to serve more of our community.”

The new, expanded center, opening on the 15th floor of the Center for Health & Healing, quadruples the space from the center’s fourth floor location. Four new doctors and a fourth pain psychologist will join the team, and the number of procedure rooms expands from one to three. But far from only increasing the capacity to serve more patients, the new space will improve patient care and provider satisfaction.

- The added procedure rooms open up the possibility of offering additional treatments such

as lidocaine infusions for migraines, abdominal pain and fibromyalgia that can help patients get off pain medication. They also afford flexibility to work in patients who are very ill and/or traveling a long distance so that they can have their doctor’s or treatment visits and pain therapy in the same trip.

- The psychologists, chiropractors, acupuncturists, massage therapists and nutritionist will now serve patients in a quiet wing of the center in rooms with lighting, flooring and fixtures that complement each modality.
- Recovery rooms in proximity to the procedure rooms are sound proof for privacy and afford sweeping views of the river, mountains and city.
- Sinks, operated by touchless technology, are located near the door of treatment rooms so that providers can quickly wash up and greet their patient rather than crossing the room to a sink and turning their back prior to shaking a patient’s hand.

“We worked closely with the architects and built this new center around our commitment to give the best care to our patients,” Dr. Mauer said. “The new space improves our ability to give comprehensive treatment to more people. I’m really excited about all we will do there.”

The OHSU Comprehensive Pain is among the largest in the region. The staff plans to move the center over the course of two days – Sept. 28 and 29 – half the center at a time so that they never have to close down.



Pictured: Many rooms in the current Pain Center, including the one at left for chiropractic, were constructed to be multipurpose. Treatment rooms in the expanded center are tailored to the modality, such as adjustable lighting in the massage therapy rooms (middle), all of which will also be located on a “quiet wing” to best support that treatment. Patient care and comfort are front and center right down to the view from the recovery bays (right).

Message from the Chair (continued from page 1)

FDA only allow 72 hours for use of peripheral nerve catheters), without the need for systemic opioid administration. This work will be done first in an animal model and then in patients, once we are sure of the safety profile of this approach. At the same time, we are working with an organic chemistry professor at Willamette University to develop new local anesthetics that are expected to have decreased toxicity and increased duration of action.

Success in our efforts to reduce the use of opioids to treat pain requires a highly engaged and talented pain management group. Fortunately, under the leadership of Dr. Kim Mauer (outpatient leader) and Dr. Julio Gonzalez-Sotomayor (inpatient leader), we are making fantastic progress. In addition, we have received very generous financial support by a grateful family to help us define improved ways to manage cancer pain.

In support of our vision and in recognition of our accomplishments in pain management, OHSU is quadrupling the space in our outpatient pain management clinic (see article on facing page). This will allow us to accommodate the growing number and types of providers who currently work in the Comprehensive Pain Center, www.ohsu.edu/paincenter, including four (soon to be eight) pain physicians; four pain psychologists; two massage therapists; two acupuncturists; a chiropractor; two nurse practitioners, who work closely with OHSU physical therapists; a fantastic staff; an addiction specialist; a neurologist headache specialist and a yoga therapist.

It is clear to me that in order to achieve our ultimate goals, we will continue to embrace collaboration, and innovation. Our vision is to mirror the success of the Knight Cancer Institute and Knight Cardiovascular Institute with the development of a multi-specialty and inter-professional pain management center at OHSU. This would include the anesthesiology team members, and clinical and scientific colleagues in neurosurgery, pediatrics, School of Nursing and School of Dentistry. Now all we need is a vision for funding! It is troubling that with pain being one of the more common symptoms experienced by millions of Americans, the source of funding for a collaborative pain management center (which includes clinical care, research and education) is not obvious to me. I would love to hear your thoughts about how to fund such an important vision. I’m even willing to try to cover this with “crowd-funding” or a personal challenge (e.g. similar to the ice bucket challenge)!

Thank you for your outstanding work and commitment to keep raising the bar to best serve our patients.

Staff news

Christine Martin, M.D. (right), is the new OHSU site director of the Clinical Base Year for the department. This position is an important educational leadership position overseeing all APOM interns as they rotate through various OHSU services. She will work closely with Dr. David Wilson, Dr. Ashley Valentine and Dr. Tomas Lazo as they develop a new and exciting PGY1 curriculum for our learners.



The department recognizes and thanks Dr. Brandon Togioka for his outstanding performance in this role over the last few years. Dr. Togioka has decided to move on to other leadership roles but is working closely with Drs. Martin and Wilson during the transition.

Elaine Rowzee is our new director of finance, providing executive leadership and management of the strategic and operational support systems for the department as they relate to fiscal and business planning, accounting and financial reporting, operational budget development and implementation, and payroll and business policies.

Elaine came to OHSU in 2005 as administrator for the Department of Molecular and Medical Genetics. She moved to the School of Medicine Office of the Dean in 2008 as finance director and has been responsible for strategic, operational and financial management for the research mission in the School of Medicine. She has collaborated on initiatives such as the researcher compact, faculty salary bridging and collaborative recruitment pool program and has participated in the recruitment of research leadership for the basic science departments.

Tom Rinehart, M.D., adjunct instructor, his wife Katie and son Foster (below) welcomed Fletcher Avett Rinehart on Aug. 14. Congratulations to the Rinehart family!



Dr. Miriam Treggiari named inaugural vice chair of clinical research



Miriam Treggiari, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., professor of anesthesiology and director of APOM clinical research, has been named inaugural vice chair of Clinical Research for the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine.

The clinical research group encompasses administrative, grants and contracts support (Jennifer Young, Madel Heruela, Beth Fee, and Karl Koenig), clinical research coordination support (Janna Higgins and Michael Kampp), regulatory expertise (Laura Sissons-Ross), bio-statistical consulting (David Yanez), and study design advising, which Dr. Treggiari has handled.

“I am grateful for the support I have received over the past two years to develop a strong and stable clinical research infrastructure,” Dr. Treggiari said. “During this time, the clinical research program underwent a major expansion and is now positioned to provide broad support for conducting clinical trials and observational studies.”

Dr. Treggiari indicated that in keeping with ongoing plans for expansion, new members will be joining the group, including a program manager and a data manager, who will focus on building a perioperative data warehouse and facilitating data abstraction.

“It is my intention to continue to foster and grow our department’s research infrastructure to conduct the highest quality clinical research and to promote the success of investigators to make impactful scientific contributions in the field of perioperative medicine,” she said. “As a whole, APOM is very fortunate to have strong support from the department leadership and to be able to provide extensive clinical research expertise and assistance.

APOM research notes

Publications

Brandon Togioka and Megan Werntz in Anesthesia & Analgesia

Pityriasis rosea (PR) is an acute, self-limiting skin disease characterized by a rash covering the trunk and proximal extremities. A new article by Brandon Togioka (APOM assistant professor) and Megan Werntz (CA-3 resident) published in *Anesthesia & Analgesia* describes the first known epidural placement through active PR, and discusses the risk-benefit analysis of regional vs. general anesthesia for an obstetric patient with active PR. While the cause of PR remains unknown, a viral infection is suspected, raising the risk of potential viral encephalitis or meningitis as a result of neuraxial anesthesia. This potential risk is weighted against the well-documented maternal and fetal benefits of regional anesthesia.

Katie Schenning, Henry Casson, Sarah Click, Lucas Brambrink, Thomas Chatkupt, Nabil Alkayed and Michael Hutchens in Anesthesia & Analgesia

A team of APOM researchers has developed a novel device for delivery of anesthesia that is suited for suboptimal conditions such as rural clinics, underdeveloped countries and the battlefield. The OHSU device works by cooling an anesthetic gas to sub-zero temperatures at which clinical concentrations of vapor are created. The concentration of anesthetic delivered to the patient is controlled by controlling the temperature of the anesthetic liquid rather than flow of the fresh gas as in variable-bypass vaporizers. A paper describing the behavior of anesthetic liquids at very low temperatures (the relationship between temperature and the concentration of anesthetic vapor) and the invention has just been accepted for publication in *Anesthesia & Analgesia*. The title of the paper is “Vapor Pressures of Anesthetic Agents at Temperatures below Zero Degrees Celsius and a Novel Anesthetic Delivery Device.” The co-authors are: Katie Schenning (APOM assistant professor), Henry Casson (honorary associate professor of anesthesiology), Sarah Click (medical student), Lucas Brambrink (research volunteer), Thomas Chatkupt (DCM assistant professor), Nabil Alkayed (APOM professor) and Michael Hutchens (APOM associate professor).

[research, continued](#)

A description of the invention can also be found at the OHSU TTBD website: www.ohsu.edu/techtransfer.

Grants

Tartar Trust Fellowship

Congratulations to our graduate student Kathleen Beeson and her mentor Eric Schnell on receiving the Nicholas L. Tartar Research Fellowship award. The Tartar Trust Fellowships, which provide up to \$2,000 to students, postdocs and faculty in the OHSU School of Medicine support projects that are likely to enhance the applicant’s career development. Kathleen is a graduate student in Dr. Schnell’s laboratory. She will use the award to further advance her research program.

Merck study — new clinical trial

Exciting news: Merck Investigator Studies Program has selected and approved funding for Brandon Togioka’s application to investigate the effect of Sugammadex neuromuscular reversal on the incidence of postoperative pulmonary complications. In addition to Dr. Togioka, other investigators on the study are Miriam Treggiari and Michael Aziz. The title of the study is “An open label randomized, controlled, single center, parallel design trial with blinded assessor to compare the incidence of postoperative pulmonary complications (PPCs) associated with rocuronium neuromuscular reversal with Sugammadex versus Neostigmine in patients greater than or equal to 70 years of age and having surgery of expected duration greater than or equal to 3 hours.” This is a significant grant, an important study and an impressive achievement by our APOM faculty. Congratulations to Brandon, Mike and Miriam.

AHA exemplar

Congratulations are due to Nabil Alkayed and his co-investigators Jeff Iliff and Kirsti Golgotiu whose grant entitled “Role of Pericytes in Control of Capillary Perfusion in Brain” has been funded by the American Heart Association. As we know (and sometimes take for granted), Nabil and the APOM research team do a fantastic job and work incredibly hard to produce important research in the areas of physiology and vascular biology. However, please rejoice with me to acknowledge that this grant proposal was rated a priority score of “1” by those who reviewed it on the American Heart Association Study Section. This represents the top 0.01 percent of all grants reviewed by the American Heart Association! We couldn’t be more proud of this accomplishment for Nabil, Jeff and Kirsti.

Awards

Gordon Research Conference poster award

Congratulations to our graduate student Matt Simon and his mentor Jeff Iliff on having their poster selected for the second place in poster competition (among over 115 posters) at the prestigious Gordon Research Conference on Barriers of the CNS in New Hampshire.

New AUA memberships

Congratulations to Julie Saugstad and Jeff Iliff who have been elected to join the Association of University Anesthesiologists (AUA). To be a member of AUA, active members submit nominations for consideration to the AUA Council, including qualifying credentials, which are then voted on by all other AUA members. The mission of AUA is the advancement of the art and science of anesthesiology by encouraging members to pursue original investigations in the clinic and in the laboratory, the development of the method of teaching anesthesia, and the free and informal interchange of ideas.

Alan D. Sessler Award

Andrei Sdrulla, a recent awardee of funding from the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research, has received the Alan D. Sessler Award, given to grant recipients who submitted the highest scored grants in their category. His application was titled “Investigating the Neural Circuits of Spinal Cord Stimulation.” Andrei’s grant received the highest score in the Pain category. We sometimes take for granted that we have highly innovative investigators who work hard to produce high quality research. Andrei’s award is an external validation of what we knew about Andrei’s innovative work and his potential as a first rate physician-scientist. Congratulations to Andrei.

Four faculty members receive promotion

The School of Medicine promoted and appointed 85 faculty members this year. Four faculty members in our department were recognized in this process.

“Promotion in the School of Medicine is a challenging process and I am very proud of each of our faculty members who are talented enough to make these important transitions,” said Jeffrey Kirsch, M.D., chair of APOM. “In addition, although promotion is an individual recognition of excellence, anyone who has been successful in their academic promotion effort will tell you that it only happens when those individuals are collaborating with a great team every day that they come to work. Therefore, as we congratulate these outstanding members of our department, I would also like to

thank the many team members who have supported the efforts of those individuals being promoted, over the years and during the process.”

Promotion to the rank of professor:

- **David Sibell**, M.D. (Pain Medicine and Informatics)

Promotion to the rank of associate professor:

- **Kim Mauer**, M.D. (Pain Medicine)
- **Ed Kahl**, M.D. (Cardiac Anesthesiology and Quality/Safety)
- **Anna Wilson**, Ph.D. (Primary appointment in Pediatrics, but an important member of our Pediatric Pain Management Group)

In memoriam

Larry Priano, M.D., died in June, 2016 at the age of 73. Dr. Priano served in the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine from 1983 through 1997.

Mindful Yoga
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APOM faculty share their work, wisdom at national conferences

Congratulations and thank you to faculty and residents who will be making presentations at professional association meetings this year:

Society for Neuroscience in Anesthesiology and Critical Care, Oct. 20-21, Chicago, Ill.

Ines Koerner will present a workshop on Emergency Neurologic Life Support, and a presentation on “Subarachnoid Hemorrhage and Vasospasm” as part of the plenary session “Clinical Curveballs in Neuroanesthesia.”

Multicenter Perioperative Outcomes Group Annual Retreat, Oct. 21-26, Chicago, Ill.

Michael Aziz will present “Rescue of failed laryngoscopy,” an abstract poster presentation “Predictors of Difficult Acute-Angle Video Laryngoscopy: A Secondary Analysis From a Large Comparative Video Laryngoscopy Trial,” “Storz booth — overcoming difficulty with video laryngoscopy,” an abstract poster presentation “The Risk of Epidural Hematoma After Neuraxial Techniques in Thrombocytopenic Obstetric Patients: A Report From the Multicenter Perioperative Outcomes Group Research Consortium.”

American Society of Anesthesiology, Oct. 22-26, Chicago, Ill.

Imma Achilike will conduct a poster presentation on “Urgent Awake Airway Management of a Woman Presenting with Severe Posterior Epistaxis Requiring Surgical Intervention.”

Kevin Fujita, a visiting medical student, will present “The association between serum sodium and midline shift after MCA stroke” at the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER) medical student poster session.

Kirk Lalwani and **Andrea Johnson** will moderate a panel on “Spinal Fusion, Spinal Muscular Atrophy, Signal Loss and Blood Loss in Jehovah’s Witness Patient,” with **Ken Abbey** and **Matt Weinger** as panelists, plus “Distracted Doctoring in the Operating Room: Absence of Evidence in Not Evidence of Absence,” and “How to Create and Moderate a Great Problem-Based Learning Discussion.”

Stephen Robinson will facilitate an abstract poster session on “Equipment, Monitoring and Engineering Technology: Temperature, Ultrasound and Bonus Topics.”

Peter Schulman will present a hands-on workshop “Electrophysiology: Perioperative Pacemaker and ICD Management.”

Michelle Tully will present on “Management of a Parturient with Acute Antibody Mediated Rejection of Orthotopic Heart Transplant” during a

poster presentation on Medically Challenging Case Presentations.

Glenn Woodworth is a plenary speaker on “Blended Learning in GME.” He will participate in the Toolbox Steering Committee Meeting, as well as provide Toolbox updates and implementation and participate in the Anesthesia Fellowship Directors Meeting.

Everyone loves a BBQ



Judge Hicks delivers! His legendary Texas barbecue is among the highlights of the annual APOM picnic, which also included Salt & Straw ice cream. This year the gathering was Aug. 5 at Oaks Park.



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Saying good-bye to a leader and a friend

A year ago during the week of Veteran's Day, Dean Mark Richardson asked David Coultas, M.D., chief of staff and the VA Portland Health Care System, and me to write a message of appreciation and recognition of our veterans and all of us who care for our veterans who become patients at the VA. The title of the message was "Working together, we are stronger."

For me, that title was symbolic of how Mark led. He engendered a sense of teamwork in the School of Medicine and beyond that was infectious. Because of his integrity, passion and insight, we wanted to be on his team.

Mark's death Sept. 2 from injuries he suffered in a steep fall three weeks earlier, was a tragic loss for our school, our institution and for each of us who knew him. His death has also caused me to reflect on the strength of our team and how important it is to build on Mark's legacy.

In this issue of our departmental newsletter are examples of our teamwork and the many ways that we build and deepen those bonds — whether it is traveling together to Ethiopia to provide and teach about life-changing surgeries, celebrating the birth of a faculty member's baby or sharing in the excitement of our expanded Comprehensive Pain Center.

When we have those moments of feeling beat down by the politics or divisions that exist in any large institution or caught up in the challenges in our corner of the world, remember that notion: Working together, we are stronger.

We can't bring Mark back, but we can make sure that his spirit lives on in our work.

Jeffrey Kirsch, M.D.
Chair, Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine



Mark A. Richardson (1949-2016)