



Jeffrey Kirsch, M.D.

### Message from the chair

#### Building upon a decade of excellence

I recently reached a milestone: 10 years as chair of the OHSU Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine. I am proud of what we have accomplished – together – and I’m excited to lead our team to an even higher level of excellence. I feel very fortunate to have such an outstanding group of colleagues with which to navigate the challenges of the next decade and lead our specialty by embracing innovation in clinical care, research, education and department management. As a team, we will create opportunity out of the challenges of health care reform and a shrinking NIH research budget.

In the clinical area, our approach to care delivery will change with the advent of health care reform – with change, however, comes a chance for improved performance and outcomes. I have confidence that our team will develop improved care delivery systems using strategies of OPEX (OHSU Performance Excellence; OHSU’s version of Lean or the Toyota Production Model). I also look forward to updating our strategic plan to develop innovative approaches for increased integration of our team into the perioperative patient care environment. Our use of the Anesthesia Information System, in conjunction with our MPOG (Multicenter Perioperative Outcomes Group) partnership will enhance our ability to provide effective patient care.

Shrinking NIH research support is a reality all academic health centers are grappling with. It is critical that we not decrease our focus on improving the foundation of knowledge in our specialty. I believe that we will be able to continue (and maybe even accelerate) our quest for scholarly achievement by building on partnerships with The OHSU Knight Cardiovascular Institute and many other departments in the School of Medicine (including Neurology, Medical Informatics

*(continued on page 10)*



*We hope you enjoy this issue of APOM News. Have feedback or a story idea? Send an email to [apompeople@ohsu.edu](mailto:apompeople@ohsu.edu) – we’d love to hear from you.*

#### IN THIS ISSUE

Global health and global anesthesia . . . . .	2
Professorship of Pediatric Anesthesiology . . . . .	3
APOM Profile: Dawn Dillman, M.D. . . . .	4
Improved code blue, improved safety . . . . .	5
Embracing technology . . . . .	6
Meet our new Chief Resident . . . . .	7
New faces of APOM research . . . . .	9
2nd Annual Stroke Conference . . . . .	12

**Tel:** 503 494-7641 **Fax:** 503 418-0884

3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road  
Portland, OR 97239  
Mail code KPV5A

## Global health and global anesthesia

### An APOM education update

By Berklee Robins, M.D.



*Above: Dr. Lesley Wojcik with anesthesia residents at Mamata Medical College and Hospital in India. Below: Dr. MicHael Moore and MS4 Vishal Khemlani with a young patient in Ecuador.*

This has been the busiest year in the history of the Humanitarian Overseas Physician Education (H.O.P.E.) program. The H.O.P.E. program has grown from its early days as the Wendell Stevens Scholarship and now includes the Betty Thompson M.D. Endowment for Medical Education and International Service, and the Bob and Mary Jane Stewart Fund. Together, these three scholarship funds allow anesthesiology residents and fellows to participate in a short-term surgical mission overseas with an OHSU faculty mentor.

This year, residents travelled to Ecuador (MicHael Moore, M.D., with Jerry Tanner, M.D.), Ethiopia (Elliza Chen, M.D., with Miko Enomoto, M.D., and Michele Noles, M.D.), India (Lesley Wojcik, M.D., with Hussain Lakdawalla, M.D.) and Peru (Eleanor Vega, M.D., with Dawn Larson, M.D.).

“My trip to Peru to provide anesthesia for children undergoing cleft lip and palate repairs was an amazing experience. Not only was it extremely rewarding to know that we were helping children that would otherwise never be able to have surgery, but it was also very educational to learn about the process of providing healthcare in a less developed nation. I hope to continue to go on similar surgical missions throughout my career,” said Dr. Vega.

A fourth-year OHSU medical student who is pursuing a career in anesthesiology (Vishal Khemlani) joined the team in Ecuador. In addition, pediatric anesthesia fellows participated in trips to Ecuador (Kate Ropp, M.D., with Dan Woodward, M.D.) and Vietnam (Brook Nightwalker, M.D., with Kelly Ryan, M.D.). Ben Brooksby, M.D., a resident, was able to travel to Ethiopia for three weeks after being awarded a competitive scholarship from the Society for Education in Anesthesia/Health Volunteer Overseas (SEA/HVO) program. These trips not only provide education for our residents, but also formal and informal education of anesthesia

providers in our host countries. And, of course, providing surgery that is often not available to our patients in their own country changes many lives – theirs and ours!

Back at OHSU, we have rolled out the ASPIRE module in global health/global anesthesia. Like all ASPIRE pathways, this is a voluntary program. Ours is for residents with an interest in global health, with special emphasis on the role that surgery and anesthesia play in the global burden of disease. We will meet six to eight times per year, utilizing a graduate seminar style of adult learning. We will include presentations by faculty based on their experiences, educational “lectures” from current journals, and guest speakers from other specialties, as well as web-based material. Residents will also give presentations based on their experiences when they return from their trips.

The faculty makes these experiences possible. They serve as mentors for the students, residents and fellows on trips, and lead the ASPIRE module (Berklee Robins, M.D., Ann Bingham, M.D., and Dean Lao, M.D.). It is exciting to see so many residents with an interest in global health issues, and so eager to learn about global anesthesia. We explore the ways we can have an impact in providing care and improving health care delivery in developing nations. Our department is fortunate to have such a great group of passionate faculty and residents.

Our H.O.P.E. program and ASPIRE module are so popular that applicants to our residency regularly inquire about them during their interview visits. The residents who travel routinely tell us it was one of the best experiences during their time here.

*“Providing anesthesia for children undergoing cleft lip and palate repairs was an amazing experience.”*

– Eleanor Vega, M.D.

Without the support of our generous benefactors, however, none of these trips would be possible. Please know that your donations to our program allow us to continue to be a leader in resident education, and change lives all over the world.

To make a gift, please contact Christine Tye, senior director of development, at 503 494-0104 or visit <http://bit.ly/APOMgiving>.



## Greatness among colleagues

Annual Promotion & Tenure Reception recognizes accomplishments, promotes academic careers



*The School of Medicine honored 85 newly promoted faculty members last year.*

Dean Mark Richardson, M.D., MBA, hosted the fourth annual Promotion & Tenure (P&T) Reception in September 2012 to honor 85 newly promoted faculty members in the School of Medicine, including four APOM faculty members:

- Michael Aziz, M.D., Associate Professor
- Robert L. Cross, Jr., M.D., D.M.D., Clinical Associate Professor
- Michael P. Hutchens, M.D., Associate Professor
- Matthias J. Merkel, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor

Robert Shangraw, M.D., professor of anesthesiology and peri-operative medicine and chair of the P&T Committee, opened the program and extended his congratulations to all the faculty members being feted.

Dr. Shangraw introduced Dr. Hutchens, who commented on the “continuous encouragement to do better” that he has received from his colleagues, noting especially the influence of Sharon Anderson, M.D., interim chair of medicine, and APOM Chair Jeffrey Kirsch, M.D., on his career. “This is a fantastic place to work and I’m very lucky,” he said.

“Your talent, expertise and creativity allow OHSU to fulfill our missions,” said Dean Richardson. “We are all here to recognize your individual achievements and to celebrate together.”

In his remarks, Dean Richardson thanked the P&T Committee and emphasized the importance of mentoring in the culture of academic medicine. The faculty members who spoke carried this theme and acknowledged the guidance they received from senior colleagues and mentors in the School of Medicine as influential on their careers.

## Jeffrey Koh, M.D.: first holder of the Fred Fax Professorship of Pediatric Anesthesiology

Jeffrey Koh, M.D., head of pediatric anesthesiology at Doernbecher Children’s Hospital, was honored as the first holder of the Fred Fax Professorship of Pediatric Anesthesia. This endowed position, a generous gift from the estate of Alice and Fred Fax, will support the important work of Dr. Koh and his colleagues, and the academic mission of the Division of Pediatric Anesthesiology, including faculty development, research infrastructure and quality improvement efforts.

Dr. Koh’s colleagues, friends and family came together in January for a dinner to celebrate the endowment and recognize his talent, leadership and passion for quality care. APOM Chair Jeffrey Kirsch, M.D., was on hand to take part in acknowledging Dr. Koh. “This professorship is a wonderful testament to Jeff’s professional excellence and success and an honor for our department,” said Dr. Kirsch.

Dr. Koh’s pediatrics colleagues were equally enthusiastic about his achievement. Nathan Selden, M.D., Ph.D., the Campagna Chair of Pediatric Neurosurgery, said, “Jeff is a superlative leader, who keeps a complex operation room environment humming, makes sure everyone is at their best, and that everyone’s contribution is valued. Holding the Fax Professorship is emblematic of all these skills and of what Jeff brings to Oregon’s children.”

Fred Fax was a wheat farmer in eastern Oregon and has made previous generous donations including support for the Alice Fax Professorship in Pediatric Critical Care in honor of his wife.



*Enjoying a colleague’s success (l to r): Dean Mark Richardson, H. Stacy Nicholson, M.D., MPH, chair of pediatrics, Jeffrey Kirsch, M.D., and Jeffrey Koh, M.D.*

## Alumni Corner: Let's stay connected

By Angela Kendrick, M.D.

Very soon we will be extending congratulations to our current CA 3 class and fellowship graduates as they move forward with their lives and careers. Perhaps, as an alumnus, you remember the excitement you felt when your training was complete and you entered practice as a “real doc.” No more calling to discuss a case the night before, no more doing your staff’s anesthesia plan, no more uncertainty about what your day’s OR schedule might bring. Maybe you felt you could buy a house, start a family and start your loan repayments.

But as you started your independent path, hopefully at least one teacher’s voice remained as your inner consultant, ready to guide your actions in times of crisis, or to serve as a model of professionalism when stressful situations arise. We have many such role models within APOM and we look forward to hearing from you – whether it’s to discuss a complex case, to give a referral, or simply to catch up.



Dr. Kirsch, as many of you know, is a man of many talents. As a fan of electronic communication, he has inspired the new APOM alumni and friends Facebook group, found at [www.facebook.com/groups/OHSU.APOM.Alumni/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/OHSU.APOM.Alumni/). You merely have to click on “Join Group” and we will add you. We’re currently at 49 members and growing. You can add family pictures, announcements, volunteer opportunities, or whatever else you would like to share. Start a conversation about something you read in this newsletter! We have been using the group to highlight relevant meetings, volunteer activities, personal milestones and fun events, like a recent winter trip with the residents to snowy Mt. Bachelor. You will also find a link to the department website and newsletter archives.

We’re looking forward to seeing the group grow to be a site that you visit regularly. So keep those updates coming. (Maybe you’re thinking, I’d like to join the group, but don’t want to necessarily be friends with all the group members. Joining the group doesn’t automatically “friend” you with the others in the group.)

We haven’t started a Twitter feed yet, but as we use more social media tools to stay in touch with you, it could happen soon. Hmm, Jeff’s twitter feed would be arriving at all hours!

## APOM Profile: Dawn Dillman, M.D.

Associate Professor Dr. Dillman is passionate about education and serves in several roles for the School of Medicine M.D. program

### Q. What made you decide to go into anesthesiology?

A. My mother is an anesthesiologist, so there is a video of me at nine years old saying “I want to be an anesthesiologist.” However, by the time I entered medical school, I had definitely crossed it off the list and I wanted to go into Family Med to be a community doc. When I got to my FM rotation in my third year, though, I was very frustrated by patients not doing what we wanted and not being able to fix their problem (e.g. when we would prescribe an antihypertensive and they would come back in three weeks and would not have taken it.) That’s when I had to reconsider and really liked that in anesthesiology I could immediately fix problems like hypertension. I also really liked the pathophysiology and mental intrigue with putting someone to sleep and waking them back up. It’s really quite magical.



### Q. What’s the best thing about being an anesthesiologist at OHSU?

A. Getting to safely shepherd someone through a very stressful time in their life – surgery – hopefully with minimal pain or suffering is the best thing about being an anesthesiologist. The best thing about being at OHSU is the opportunity to help train new physicians. I went in to medicine because I wanted to help people, and when I treat an individual, I help that patient. When I help train another physician, I help all the patients that person will treat as well.

### Q. What were your biggest challenges as a medical student and as a resident?

A. I went through the couple’s match, and that was very stressful, because at the time there was no EM program at University of Iowa and I knew I’d have to leave my home town of Iowa City. I do think going to residency at another institution, Johns Hopkins, helped me develop as a clinician and academician, although it was not the easy road. As a resident prior to the 80-hour workweek, the work hours were very hard. There were

*(continued on page 10)*

## Improved code blue, improved safety

By Kenneth Abbey, M.D., J.D., and Matthias Merkel, M.D., Ph.D.

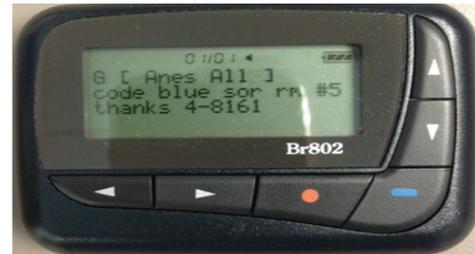
Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine began a continuous quality improvement (CQI) project in 2011 to improve our process for handling operating room emergencies, especially in the South Operating Rooms (SOR). Historically, a mixed system was used for calling for help in such emergencies. Depending on the judgment of the providers at the scene, overhead pages were made with terms such as “help needed in OR 5,” “staff STAT to OR 5,” “code 1 OR 5,” or “code 99 OR 5.” Several problems were noted with this system: The variability of the calls led to confusion as to whether emergent help was needed; the use of overhead calls led to audibility issues and did not reach all providers who might be able to help. For example, the pages were not broadcast in the actual operating rooms, and staff were sometimes unaware of an emergency occurring in the next room; finally, the pages did not always reach the anesthesiologist in charge. All of these factors limited the number of providers responding to an emergency in a timely fashion.

The APOM CQI Committee sought a solution to the above limitations. We considered several options, including the following:

1. Installing a commercially available “code blue button” in each OR that would trigger an automated overhead page.
2. Using overhead pages that would be divided into two categories: “Staff STAT” when just anesthesia staff was needed and “code blue” when the SOR code blue team was needed.
3. Formalizing the historical system of “code 99” and “code 1” overhead pages.
4. Developing a system for sending codes via our paging system to all anesthesia providers.

None of the above solutions was ideal. Option 1 would have been expensive and could not be immediately implemented. Options 2 and 3 risked continued confusion. After considering the above options and after including input from all stakeholders, including anesthesia providers, anesthesia technicians and OR nurses, we chose a system that included elements of the above options and that emphasized simplicity, low-cost and reliance on currently-installed communications technologies.

The new SOR code blue system uses both overhead and text paging to communicate the emergency to anesthesia providers and technicians. OR nursing is alerted via overhead paging



*A typical code blue text page as received by a staff anesthesiologist.*

and Vocera, a lightweight voice-activated device which allows individuals or groups to communicate with each other using a Wi-Fi network. This system depends on existing infrastructure. However, the text pagers required reprogramming to accommodate the mass pages. This was accomplished by having paging services representatives come to Grand Rounds and reprogram all APOM pagers.

After some discussion, it was decided that only one emergency message would be used: “code blue SOR rm #\_\_.” This was chosen to minimize confusion and to ensure that help would arrive quickly for true emergencies. The process adopted is as follows:

- The anesthesia provider asks the circulator or Pre-Op/PACU nurse to call a code blue.
- The nurse calls out the code overhead using the phone system.
- The unit clerk, upon hearing the page, sends a text page to all anesthesia providers using the web-based interface.
- All available anesthesia providers and technicians respond to the code along with the SOR code blue nursing team.

Since its introduction last year, the SOR code blue system has dramatically improved our collective ability to respond to SOR emergencies. We now see large numbers of staff arrive within seconds of the page. This provides immediate relief to the providers who called the code, as well as the right amount of experienced staff to simultaneously attend to all aspects of the emergency. Further, we are more effective in diagnosing the underlying problem and establishing a plan for treatment.



Using an iBook as an interactive tool to improve ultrasound technique.

## Embracing technology to help master new techniques

How do physicians acquire new skills after they have finished residency training? After completing his training more than 20 years ago, Glenn Woodworth, M.D., director of APOM's regional anesthesia fellowship program, was well-established in private practice when ultrasound guided regional anesthesia techniques were introduced.

"I tried to learn this new technique because I believed it could change my practice. I took courses, weekend classes and workshops, but I came away feeling that it wasn't enough to help me learn a complex new skill," Dr. Woodworth said. He set out to produce educational materials on the topic that could be used not only by residents in a training program but also by practicing community physicians.

Along with Jean-Louis Horn, M.D., professor of APOM and director of the Regional Anesthesia Preceptorship Program, they experimented with different kinds of educational offerings. They saw it as important to provide extensive background material that learners could review prior to showing up for a hands-on class. That way, learners would be better able to absorb more information during the focused hands-on training sessions. They also wanted them to be able to review information after class – sort of applying a second coat of educational paint to the primer that was laid down.

To accomplish their goal, Dr. Woodworth and Dr. Horn produced two kinds of interactive educational tools. One is an online educational learning course, Introduction to Ultrasound Guided Regional Anesthesia, which is now a prerequisite for anyone taking the OHSU hands-on ultrasound course they've also developed. The hands-on course is routinely held for community

physicians, with recent sessions offered in multiple cities in Oregon and California. Upon completion of both the online and hands-on courses, physicians can claim up to 14 hours of CME credit for meeting AMA requirements.

The other tool is an iBook – *Fundamentals of Ultrasound Guided Regional Anesthesia: an Interactive Guide*. Drs. Horn and Woodworth used the Apple Inc. iBooks authoring tool to create an electronic book for the iPad. "The iPad and an electronic book are perfectly suited to teaching an ultrasound technique," said Dr. Woodworth. "This format allows us to make use of interactive graphics and embed video clips directly into the book." The iBook features interactive content, multiple ultrasound video clips, mini-quizzes and guided practice exercises. Because it is portable, users can sit down next to an ultrasound machine, review material in the iBook and immediately practice concepts covered in the material. Dr. Woodworth feels that this type of interactive process will help learners more effectively acquire ultrasound skills.

A traditional textbook or website that just shows you idealized images is usually not detailed enough. The iBook and the online course are both full of didactic material as well as animations, graphics and numerous ultrasound clips. Dr. Woodworth believes that interaction with the material is an important aspect of learning. Therefore, both the online course and the iBook contain multiple step-by-step self-guided practice sessions that review concepts and have the learner practice the related skills for reinforcement.

"I really like thinking about the best way to communicate information to make people better at what they do."

– Glenn Woodworth, M.D.

As Dr. Woodworth describes it, there are stages of learning in acquiring ultrasound skill. At first, learners are able to identify a nerve only when it is obvious on an ultrasound scan. As learners become more familiar with the sonographic appearance of structures and the anatomy, they begin to recognize the target nerve, but also the many other structures in the image, like the muscles or vessels. At the next stage, the learner is able to apply a deeper level of anatomical knowledge to understand what structures are being imaged on the scan, and how to identify where the nerve should be – even if they cannot readily identify it on the initial scan.

(continued on page 12)

## Meet our new Chief Resident

Beth Raecker, M.D., grew up in Rochester, Minn. She received her bachelor's degree in biology and completed her pre-medicine requirements at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. While at St. Olaf, Beth played four years of collegiate tennis and was fortunate to study abroad in both Galway, Ireland and the Galapagos Islands. Dr. Raecker also met her husband, Matt Raecker, M.D., while at St. Olaf.

It was during her senior year of college that Dr. Raecker received the National Institutes of Health Post-Baccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award, which provided her with an opportunity to spend a year after graduation at the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) in Bethesda, Md. At the NHLBI she conducted laboratory research using mouse models to study bone marrow failure syndromes.

During her time at the NHLBI, she was accepted into Mayo Medical School and, in 2005, headed back to Rochester to begin medical school. Dr. Raecker considers herself fortunate to have studied at the Mayo Clinic, which provided her with an excellent education and multiple learning opportunities.

During medical school she was able to travel to Santiago, Guatemala and Dehradun, India to study rural and international medicine and to volunteer in rural clinics. It was during her third year of medical school that she became confident that anesthesiology was the right medical specialty for her. "I was eager to care for patients in an acute setting and was fascinated by the pharmacology and physiology anesthesiology provides," she said.

After spending most of their lives in the Midwest, both Dr. Raecker and her husband decided to pursue their residencies at OHSU in anesthesiology and ophthalmology, respectively. Both have been extremely happy with their decision. For Dr. Raecker, OHSU has provided excellent training, mentoring and other opportunities both in and out of the operating rooms. The "warm" winters and abundance of available outdoor activities have kept them busy outside of work and they stay active by hiking, skiing and playing tennis. Dr. Raecker also enjoys knitting and sewing in her free time.

Dr. Raecker was awarded the honor of Chief Resident in April. She is thrilled to take on the new role. "I'm interested in resident education and working to create additional rotation specific study materials and boards style study questions. I also hope to expand mentorship between the different resident classes," she said. She is also very excited for resident recruitment and the chance to share her enthusiasm for the OHSU Anesthesiology Residency training and education with the applicants. She believes this is a wonderful opportunity to improve her skills as a leader and team member.



*Dr. Beth Raecker began her chief residency in April.*

Dr. Raecker's new responsibilities will make for a busy year as she also decides where to take her career as an anesthesiologist. She is currently in the process of interviewing for pediatric anesthesiology fellowships with the goal of completing a pediatric fellowship.

*"I was eager to care for patients in an acute setting and was fascinated by the pharmacology and physiology anesthesiology provides."*

*– Beth Raecker, M.D.*

Overall, Dr. Raecker is looking forward to the opportunities she will have as the Chief Resident and the skills this experience will help her develop for her future.

## The award goes to . . .

**Stephanie Murphy, V.M.D., Ph.D.**! Dr. Murphy, associate professor of APOM, received the 2013 Excellence in Laboratory Animal Medicine Award. The award is given by The American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners (ASLAP), and recognizes Dr. Murphy's research excellence and her contributions to the enhancement of the science of comparative medicine.

Dr. Murphy has also been invited to serve as a member of the Brain Injury and Neurovascular Pathologies Study Section, Center for Scientific Review, for the term July 2013 to June 2017.



Additionally, Dr. Murphy received an R21 award to study "Developmental Mechanisms of Sex-Specific Ischemic Sensitivity in Neonatal Brain." This research will characterize a potentially key factor in determining what aspects of cellular ischemic sensitivity in neonatal brain are modifiable vs. developmentally programmed, as

well as in predicting whether existing or new therapies are likely to be equally efficacious in male and female neonates and will help reduce the burden of neurological diseases through research on the causes and treatment of neonatal stroke.

## APOM research notes

**Norman Cohen, M.D.**, received the Top Anesthesiologist in Oregon Award in the Winter 2013 HealthTap Top Doctor Competition. This award recognizes Dr. Cohen for assisting many people on HealthTap who had general medical and anesthesiology questions and is designed to acknowledge his outstanding expertise and helpfulness.

The Neurocritical Care Society selected the suggestion of **Ines Koerner, M.D., Ph.D.**, and **Holly Hinson, M.D.**, – "Weathering the Storm: Brain Injury & the Autonomic Nervous System" – as the Members Submitted Session for the program of the 11th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia this October. Dr. Koerner will serve as the moderator for the session, which will feature three lectures on this newly recognized topic:

- Cardiomyopathy & Neurogenic Pulmonary Edema: Sympathetics on Overdrive? (Ines Koerner)
- Immunomodulation after Acute Brain Injury: the New Sympathetic Pathway (Holly Hinson)

- Treating Paroxysmal Sympathetic Hyperactivity after Acute Brain Injury (Soojin Park; UPenn)

**Sarah Mader**, senior research assistant, was elected president and **Nicole Libal**, research associate, was elected secretary of the Oregon Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (OALAS) in January.

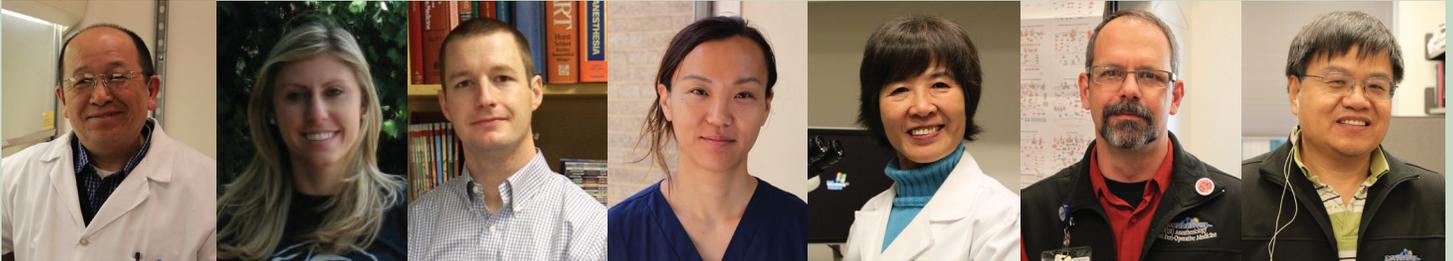
**Nabil J. Alkayed, M.D., Ph.D.**, and **Halina Offer, Ph.D.**, received an STTR award from NIH/NINDS to study "A Novel Intervention Strategy for Stroke with RTL Therapy." This study will further the investigation of a novel therapeutic intervention for ischemic stroke and will test the overall hypothesis that recombinant T cell receptor ligand (RTL)1000 is effective in minimizing histological and functional impairment after ischemic stroke when administered in a therapeutically relevant manner and, importantly, does not cause generalized peripheral immunosuppression.

**Jeff Iliff, Ph.D.**, arrived at OHSU with a Scientist Development Grant from the American Heart Association to study "The failure of interstitial fluid clearance pathway in a model of multi-lacunar infarcts." This study will identify a brain-wide anatomical glio-vascular pathway that subserves the lymphatic function of interstitial fluid and solute clearance, including participation in interstitial soluble amyloid  $\beta$  from the brain.

Resident **Katie Schenning, M.D.**, received awards from the Collins Medical Trust ("Hyperglycemia Abolishes the Protective Effect of Ischemic-Preconditioning in Glomerular Endothelial Cells") and the Foundation for Anesthesia Education Research (FAER) ("Ischemic Injury to Glomerular Endothelium: Mechanism of Hyperglycemic Protection") to investigate the role of glomerular endothelial cells in acute kidney injury (AKI), and to demonstrate a new method of protection from ischemia-reperfusion injury, which may offer new therapeutic approaches to prevent AKI and the associated morbidity, mortality and public health burden.

**Kristen Zuloaga, Ph.D.**, received an F32 Postdoctoral Fellowship award from NIH to study "Endothelial Aromatase in Sex-Specific Cerebrovascular Dysfunction After Ischemia." The proposed research will further the understanding of endothelial cell specific regulation of aromatase and may lead to therapeutic strategies for stroke aimed at enhancing local estradiol production specifically within endothelial cells, thus avoiding the negative side effects associated with global estrogen administration, but maintaining the protective effects of estrogen on the vasculature.

## Meet the new faces of APOM research



(l to r) Dr. Cao, Amanda Casper, Dr. Iliff, Dr. Ikeda, Dr. Liu, Jay Phillips, Dr. Qian

**Zhiping Cao, Ph.D.**, is a senior research assistant. He received his Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Washington State University. Dr. Cao (Jim) joined APOM in January, after 12 years of cardiovascular research in Dr. Donna Van Winkle's laboratory at the Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center. When Jim has time, he enjoys fishing, boating and singing.

**Amanda Casper, B.S.**, is a research assistant II. Amanda manages the recently developed Behavioral Core within APOM. Additionally, she provides colony management as well as surgical and technical support for pre-clinical research. She is a registered Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician with the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science. Amanda received her bachelor's degree in animal bioscience from Pennsylvania State University in 2008. In her free time, Amanda enjoys baking, watching sports and traveling.

**Jeff Iliff, Ph.D.**, joined APOM as an assistant professor in January 2012. He also holds a joint appointment as an adjunct assistant professor in the Center for Translational Neuromedicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, New York.

Dr. Iliff's research follows two main paths. First is the exploration of how the brain's support cells, called glia, contribute to maintaining the proper environment for neuronal function and how their failure in conditions like vascular dementia, stroke and traumatic brain injury leads to neurodegeneration. The second seeks to define the basic cellular mechanisms by which brain blood flow is coordinated up and down the vascular tree.

Dr. Iliff grew up in Sequim, Wash., and completed his doctoral training in 2009 in the Department of Physiology & Pharmacology at OHSU. He then completed two years as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Rochester, and in 2012, was promoted to a research faculty position. When not doing research, Dr. Iliff enjoys hiking, reading and being with his family.

**Mizuko Ikeda, M.D., Ph.D.**, is a postdoctoral fellow. Dr. Ikeda joined the APOM's research division in December 2012 from Kyushu University Hospital in Japan, where she had been working as an anesthesiologist. She is a postdoctoral fellow under the mentorship of Dr. Koerner and Dr. Hutchens. Her research project involves examining the contribution of neuroinflammation to brain after cardiac arrest and the sexual dimorphism in incidence and outcome of ischemic renal failure. When she takes a break from the laboratory, she enjoys reading, swimming and windsurfing.

**Lijuan (Helen) Liu, D.V.M.**, joined APOM in January as a research assistant II. Dr. Liu received her DVM degree in China. Most recently, Dr. Liu worked in Dr. Donna Van Winkle's lab, studying the mechanisms of cardioprotection induced by opioid peptides and epoxyeicosatrienoic acids. Specifically, she used cardiomyocytes isolated from adult or neonatal mouse to study signal transduction (PI3K-AKT pathway) transactivated by G protein-coupled receptors (opioid receptors and EGFR receptors). In addition, she also provided service for other laboratory personnel from OHSU in providing basic training for cardiomyocyte isolations and culture.

**Jay Phillips, B.S.**, is a research assistant II, working as the lead technician for the APOM Research Molecular Biology Core, providing technical expertise and support for a variety of research projects. He has worked in both biotechnology companies and academic laboratories, focusing on research subjects including heterologous protein expression mechanisms, protein structure-function, microbial mechanisms of antibiotic resistance, epigenetic disease markers and clinical molecular diagnostic development. Outside of the lab, Jay enjoys drinking too much coffee, chasing his two children around and occasionally dabbling in home beer brewing.

**Zu Yuan Qian, Ph.D.**, is a research associate. In 1988, Dr. Qian moved to France, receiving a master degree in microbiology/genetics from the University of Caen and further pursuing a doctoral degree in biochemistry from the University of Paris Diderot - Paris 7. He joined APOM in January after working in the Department of Physiology & Pharmacology at OHSU for seven years. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, hiking and traveling.

### Dillman (continued from page 4)

weeks that I was doing more than 110 hrs/wk in the hospital. If you admit 24 patients in one night you have very little idea whom any of them are the next morning when the nurses start calling you to take care of problems. It was not good for me or the patients. There are some downsides to the work hour restrictions, but some definite positives as well.

#### Q. What other specialties did you consider? Do you ever wish you'd chosen a different career path?

A. I considered all of them, I think. The last two I was trying to decide between were radiology and anesthesiology. I took an elective in interventional radiology and spent most of the time telling the sedated patients to breathe when their sats would fall, so I figured I was an anesthesiologist at heart. However, I advised my sister to become a radiologist because I thought she would like it, and she did! I am very happy with my decision. If I had to pick another specialty now, I think orthopedic oncology is really interesting – every case is different, and those surgeons have to be very creative.

#### Q. What are your research interests?

A. I have an interest in education research, as well as research on airway management. I've helped with one study on education about airway management as well!

#### Q. How do you balance your career in medicine, being a mom, and having time for yourself?

A. I'm not sure I do it well, but I do it by compartmentalizing as best I can. I want to be able to give my full attention to my kids when I am at home, so I try and do my work at work, and not at home, which sometimes means coming home a little later. Conversely, I make sure I am free to focus on my work when I am at work by having several layers of child care – daycare, a nanny, and I'm fortunate enough to have my mother around to help much of the year. Time for myself is harder, it has been a good thing to have scheduled Friday night dinner dates with my partner though. The thing I'm finding harder recently, is travelling to national meetings. I think my kids have become very accustomed to being through airport security already.

*This article first appeared in the OHSU M.D. Student Update blog, in which students interview School of Medicine faculty who inspire them.*

### Message from the Chair (continued from page 1)

& Clinical Epidemiology, Neurosurgery, Physiology & Pharmacology, Molecular Microbiology & Immunology and the Vollum Institute). I am committed to creating an infrastructure to better utilize the huge amount of data our electronic patient records produce. It is critical that we study our practice and follow the evidence; where there is no evidence, we need to be agile enough to change directions and provide appropriate patient care. We are quickly getting to the point where we will simply not be paid for care that is not supported by evidence.

In the education area, our department has been blessed with several different endowments to support our students and trainees. The Stevens, Thompson and Stewart Endowments/Funds have helped us be leaders in the specialty for training residents, medical students and fellows in international health. The Oregon Scholars Endowment has allowed us to train the future clinician-scientists and intensivists in our specialty. The growing Mackert Endowment will foster our ability to work toward innovation in education (e.g. ASPIRE Program). And, the growing Cohen Endowment will facilitate our ability to train our residents as leaders in coordinated medicine. As I tell our resident applicants, although we will never become the largest residency in the country, it is my commitment and passion to have the most advanced and innovative program.

All of this activity is best supported by the highest quality of administrative support. Although I was sad to see Jean Trygstad leave our department, I am excited for her as she starts the next phase of her life: retirement!! I can't thank her enough for her partnership in helping me run the department over the past several years. I am excited to be starting my next 10 years as chair with Suzanne Simmons as our vice chair for administration. In order to make sure that all of the components of our department are pointing in the same direction, I plan to start this second decade with an update to our strategic plan.

As we update our departmental strategic plan, I would like to incorporate the input of our faculty, staff, residents and fellows, as well as our loyal alumni. Please contact me directly if you have an interest in being a part of this process. You are a critical part of the exciting, challenging and rewarding next decade!

## Welcoming new faces, celebrating new roles



**Carolyn Coleman** is a certified coder. She is a native Oregonian and has a love of the land. While working in southern Oregon for the District Attorney's office, she and her family began a Christmas tree farm, which they operated for 20 years. After returning to the Portland area, Carolyn continued with legal work, but opportunity arose for education in the coding field, encompassing the ICD-10 changes. She was able to apply her skills toward new (and improved) technology.



**Erin Dobin** is a scheduling assistant. She has been with APOM for six years in a variety of administrative support roles. Erin is excited to be part of scheduling and helping with the new system. Outside of work, she stays busy with her seven- and eight-year-old sons and their sports leagues. Erin's hobbies include school volunteer gardening, visiting as many second-run movie theaters as possible (she's a movie buff), and taking in Northwest professional sporting events.



**Sean Germain** is director of clinical operations, and joined OHSU from the University of Florida, where he was division administrator for the Department of Medicine's gastroenterology division. In his role with APOM, he helps with faculty recruitment, revenue projections and clinical strategic direction for the Pain Clinic, and handles resources within the operating rooms. He is also responsible for ensuring appropriate staffing within the ORs, ICUs and the Pain Clinic. Welcome to OHSU, Sean!



**Felicia Janac** joined APOM as an administrative coordinator in March. Felicia provides support to administrators, the business office, the scheduling team, the education department and various faculty members. She assists with arranging appointments, creating schedules, new employee orientations and ACLS renewals, among other tasks. Felicia is pursuing a master's in health care administration at Portland State University. Her hobbies include anything involving the sun and water, and football season of course.



**Hillary Paasch** is an administrative coordinator, and came to OHSU after working for 13 years at Portland State University. Her duties in APOM include general residency and intern support, creating the intern's block schedule, providing educational support for attendings and didactic lectures, and coordinating department events. Outside of work, Hillary enjoys spending time with her family – including her two young children, finding new recipes on Pinterest to attempt, and starting each day with a great cup of coffee.



**Annie Riley** is the education assistant for APOM. She manages the education and evaluation software used in the department, such as E-Value and Sakai. Annie considers herself a “jack of all trades,” as she contributes to many activities in the office. If you have a question, please don't hesitate to ask. Annie is currently attending graduate school at Portland State University. In her free time, Annie enjoys working out, cooking, hanging out with friends and family, and spoiling her niece and nephews.



**Suzanne Simmons** is vice chair of administration. She joined APOM after serving as director of practice analytics for the Faculty Practice Plan for nearly three years. Suzanne works closely with Dr. Kirsch and faculty leaders to provide administration of the department's clinical, teaching, research and outreach missions. She received her MBA from Columbia University's Columbia Business School and University of California, Berkeley. Suzanne enjoys running and spending time with her two children, Ty, 16, and Emily, 11.



**Matt Schreiner** is now APOM's quality improvement analyst, a role he transitioned into last November. His overall goal is to improve the anesthesia experience for patients – a valuable endeavor that benefits patients and providers alike.



**OHSU Anesthesiology and  
Perioperative Medicine**  
3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road  
Portland, OR 97239  
Mail code KPV5A

**Tel:** 503 494-7641  
**Fax:** 503 418-0884

*OHSU is an equal opportunity, affirmative  
action institution. 0513(85)*

Do you have items of  
interest, honors, awards,  
people announcements  
or newsletter ideas?  
Send them to  
[apompeople@ohsu.edu](mailto:apompeople@ohsu.edu)

*Together with other community members, the APOM team packed 8,531 pounds of food for the Oregon Food Bank! In a single night, volunteers sorted enough food to provide 6,562 meals for people in need; each of us packed 285 meals. We're proud of every member of our team for contributing to this important cause.*

## 2nd Annual Stroke Conference held

The OHSU 2nd Annual Stroke Conference took place March 20 at the Skamania Lodge Resort. APOM Vice Chair for Research, Nabil Alkayed, M.D., Ph.D., hosted this well-attended event that brought fellow stroke researchers together to showcase their work and inspire research and grant collaborations.

The event was supported by the OHSU School of Medicine Research Roadmap Task Force #1. The conference was identified as supportive of the Roadmap's strategic initiative to encourage scientific interactions across diverse groups and enhance the ability of OHSU researchers to form collaborative focus groups or consortiums, in the pursuit of interdisciplinary research and innovative funding.

Speakers included clinician and basic science stroke researchers from several departments, including APOM, Neurology, Neurological Surgery, Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine and Behavioral Neuroscience.

Conference participants will form the core group of a future comprehensive stroke and cerebrovascular research center at OHSU. Members of the OHSU Stroke Center, including Wayne Clark, M.D., director and professor of neurology, participated in the conference and are part of the planning process. While the Stroke Center's focus is on patient care and testing new drugs and devices in patients, the planned comprehensive research center will focus on basic science discovery and translational research that will provide the Stroke Center with the next pipeline of agents to use in clinical trials.

## Embracing technology *(cont. from page 6)*

They know where to look for the nerve based on other structures they recognize in the image. "I wanted our educational materials to get you to that level of deep understanding, so you are not just focused on one tree but you can see the forest," he said.

In the future, the materials will be expanded with the creation of a tool box of online modules, assessments and other resources such as simulations or ultrasound clips. The tool box will be offered to other educational institutions with an option to pick and choose how to incorporate the materials into their curriculum.

An interest in education seems to run in Dr. Woodworth's blood. His mom was an elementary school teacher for 30 years and he has been involved in teaching tennis and ACLS courses. "I was excited to come to OHSU and be involved with education," he said. "I enjoy working with the residents and I really like thinking about the best way to communicate information to make people better at what they do." We look forward to what he communicates next.