Celebrating and building on the legacy of an outstanding department

Stephen Robinson, M.D.
Professor and Interim Chair
Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine

This issue of the APOM Newsletter is a tribute to all the people who make our department so outstanding, including important highlights from our Clinical and Basic Science Research Programs, an opinion piece by one of our excellent new trainees, Dr. Jason Campbell, and photos from graduation and our picnic.

Speaking of our picnic, Aug. 3 at Oaks Park, (see photo), I want to sincerely thank and recognize Dr. Judge and Sally Hicks for laying out their first-rate barbecue spread that they have provided for many years to help make this gathering of department members and our families so special. We are all grateful for their time and their culinary talent. This year, the most popular activity at the picnic was the tug of war. Although we competed as teams representing our traditional roles, my favorite memory was Dr. Ann Bingham’s great act of solidarity during a qualifying round when she jumped in to co-anchor the CRNA team.

My focus as interim chair is to maintain and, where possible, build on the legacy of Dr. Jeff Kirsch, who led our department during the past 15 years to be internationally recognized for excellence in academic anesthesiology, while also having an exemplary culture of collegiality. Among my areas of focus:

• Assisting with the national search for our new chair and completing steps to attract first-tier candidates, including working with School of Medicine Senior Associate Dean, Dr. Atif Zaman to complete our internal review.

• Meeting with leaders across the missions of APOM and ensuring that the needs of their divisions are fully accounted for this year and into the future.

• Seeing to completion the review of our clinical operations by consultant Dr. Stan Stead to identify opportunities for improvement. We are especially interested in Dr. Stead’s take on the adequacy of our physician FTE. His report is expected soon, and I am optimistic it will help the department achieve adequate staffing and improve other processes.

• Addressing concerns around protected time for research, education and other activities that define who we are.

• Building up our team. Chief CRNA Matt Hart has identified a top-notch group of CRNAs who we are in various stages of coming on board in coming months. Dr. Sarah McConville will be joining us from the University of Utah in January. She will have a joint appointment with Neurology as she also specializes in Sleep Medicine. Dr. Matthias Merkel is also moving forward with ICU recruitments.

I’m really proud of our department for working through this time of leadership transition and maintaining our dedication to our research, our learners and our patients while continuing to take care of each other.

I want to thank Jeff for his ongoing national leadership and for his invaluable support as I’ve stepped into this role. I also want to recognize each member of our department and our alumni community for the many ways you keep our department strong.

Thank you for your continued support.

Stephen Robinson

CHAIR’S MESSAGE
APOM’s prolific clinical research program is team effort

Miriam Treggiari, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.
VICE CHAIR FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH

It is a great pleasure to provide an update on the activities in APOM clinical research division. “Officina” (workshop) APOM OCEAN has been hard at work assembling several clinical research projects:

**PREVENT 2 Clinical Trial:** We are preparing to implement a multi-year grant awarded by the National Heart Lung Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institute of Health (NIH) for a large clinical trial (PREVENT 2) to evaluate the efficacy and safety of endotracheal tubes equipped with a port for the suction of subglottic secretions and a microcuff in polyurethane material.

The trial will be performed during emergency intubation to determine whether the specialized endotracheal tube prevents ventilator-associated infections and improves long-term quality of life and cognitive function. Randomization for the trial occurs before gaining consent from the patient under an exception proscribed by the FDA, permitted only if a set of conditions and several regulatory requirements are met.

**TEMPLE Clinical Trial:** This multi-center clinical trial, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense investigates optimal blood pressure management after acute traumatic spinal cord injury. We manipulate blood pressure in the immediate post-injury period and evaluate neurological levels, independence, and quality of life at six months after the injury. A total of 10 large trauma centers across the country are involved.

**SUSHI Clinical Trial:** We are enrolling participants with subarachnoid hemorrhage and assessing the role of arachidonic acid pathways blockade in reducing complications related to cerebral vasospasm. The trial is led by Dr. Martini who is the recipient of a 2-year mentored career development award by the Foundation for Anesthesia Education. The trial is also supported by GSK that provides the study drug.

**Additional Trials:** We recently completed a randomized trial in pediatric cardiac surgery, led by Dr. Crescini and sponsored by the Gerber Foundation, evaluated acute normovolemic hemodilution in children undergoing surgery with cardiopulmonary bypass. A second trial, led by Drs. Sera and Bingham and sponsored by Shire, enrolled adult cardiac surgery patients at high risk of coagulopathy who were randomized to receive FEIBA or placebo at the end of cardiopulmonary bypass. A third trial, led by Dr. Togioka and sponsored by Merck, compared head-to-head sugammadex and neostigmine for reversal of rocuronium induced neuromuscular blockade.

Dr. Schenning is enrolling participants in an observational study of older patients scheduled for surgery to evaluate clinical and genetic risk factors for postoperative cognitive decline, sponsored by the Alzheimer Association. She has also been awarded funding through the National Institute on Aging and the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research.

These and many more tremendous accomplishments are made possible thanks to our outstanding clinical research team, which provides broad support for clinical trials and observational studies and extensive clinical research expertise and assistance. I could not be more proud of their dedication and effort.

The team includes administrative and grants support (Jennifer Young, Beth Fee, Renee Alexander, and Janessa Lynch), program management (Mike Kampp), research coordination support (Janna Higgins, Jordan Cusick, Ruti Cogan, and Kristin Scott), regulatory expertise (Laura Sissons-Ross and Karen Adams), biostatistical support (David Yanez), and system analysts (Praveen Tekkali and Renju Sehkar).

I wish also to express my deepest gratitude for the support Dr. Kirsch provided to develop this outstanding program. Learn more at: apomocean.ohsu.edu.
Dr. Jeffrey Iliff and team discover possible new target for Alzheimer’s treatment, prevention

A new scientific discovery may provide a future avenue for treatment and prevention of Alzheimer’s disease.

A study published Nov. 28 in the journal JAMA Neurology examined aquaporin-4, a type of membrane protein in the brain. Using brains donated for scientific research, researchers at OHSU discovered a correlation between the prevalence of aquaporin-4 among older people who did not suffer from Alzheimer’s as compared to those who had the disease.

“It suggests that aquaporin-4 might be a useful target in preventing and treating Alzheimer’s disease,” said senior author Jeffrey Iliff, Ph.D., an assistant professor and vice chair of basic science research for APOM. “However, we aren’t under any illusion that if we could just fix this one thing, then we’d be able to cure Alzheimer’s disease.”

Alzheimer’s is a progressive disease, most often associated with aging, that causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior. It is the leading cause of dementia worldwide with no known cure, but there are treatments available for some of its symptoms.

Aquaporin-4 is a key part of a brain-wide network of channels, collectively known as the glymphatic system, that permits cerebral-spinal fluid from outside the brain to wash away proteins such as amyloid and tau that build up within the brain. These proteins tend to accumulate in the brains of some people suffering from Alzheimer’s, which may play a role in destroying nerve cells in the brain over time.

“This system, and the failure of the system, may be one of many things that goes wrong in people with Alzheimer’s disease,” Iliff said.

The study closely examined 79 brains donated through the Oregon Brain Bank. They were separated into three groups: People younger than 60 without a history of neurological disease; people older than 60 with a history of Alzheimer’s; and people older than 60 without Alzheimer’s.

Researchers found that in the brains of younger people and older people without Alzheimer’s, the aquaporin-4 protein was well organized, lining the blood vessels of the brain. However within the brains of people with Alzheimer’s, the aquaporin-4 protein appeared disorganized, which may reflect an inability of these brains to efficiently clear away wastes like amyloid beta. The study concluded that future research focusing on aquaporin-4—either through its form or function—may ultimately lead to medication to treat or prevent Alzheimer’s disease.

In 2015, a multidisciplinary team of OHSU scientists led by Iliff was awarded $1.4 million from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation to develop new imaging techniques based on MRI to see these processes at work in the aging human brain for the first time.

Co-authors included Douglas M. Zeppenfeld; Matthew Simon, J. Douglas Haswell, and Daryl D’Abreo of the OHSU Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine; Charles Murchison, Joseph F. Quinn, M.D., and Jeffrey Kaye, M.D., of the OHSU Department of Neurology; and Marjorie R. Grafe, M.D., Ph.D., and Randall L. Wolter, M.D., Ph.D., of the Department of Pathology. Read more at news.ohsu.edu
Dr. Ines Koerner selected chair of AUA Scientific Advisory Board

For Ines Koerner, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of anesthesiology and perioperative medicine, OHSU School of Medicine, excellence is a well-practiced achievement.

Trained in Germany, Dr. Koerner received her medical degree before going to complete doctoral studies in molecular neuroscience, as well as a residency in anesthesiology and critical care. She came to OHSU in 2003 for a post-doctoral fellowship and to complete research in the anesthesia department. Afterwards, Dr. Koerner remained at OHSU to complete a critical care fellowship and has served as a faculty member since 2007. She has also taken on the role of the medical director of the neuro intensive care unit since 2014. She maintains an active role in clinical practice within the ICU, as well as engagement in administrative duties and research.

In May, Dr. Koerner was selected to serve a two-year term as chair of the Scientific Advisory Board for the Association of University Anesthesiologists (AUA). One of the most prestigious organizations within academic anesthesiology, AUA focuses on the academic side of anesthesiology, advancing research and education within anesthesiology. It is an honor to earn society membership, as one has to be elected as a member based on their academic accomplishments.

Dr. Koerner’s duties as Scientific Advisory Board chair include overseeing scientific research content for the annual AUA meeting, viewing abstracts and selecting speakers for the meeting, as well as taking on the responsibility for coordinating the annual research symposium at the International Anesthesia Research Society conference. She hopes to use her two-year tenure as chair to expand high-quality anesthesia research for all AUA members.

“Over the last years, as a field, we’ve seen quite a few bright junior people become excited about anesthesia research and really get into the field,” she said. “I want AUA to continue to foster that by providing a forum for these younger people, encouraging them and supporting them intellectually, providing mentorship.”

Additionally, Dr. Koerner sits on the board of directors for SNACC, the Society for Neuroscience and Anesthesia Critical Care. She hopes to combine scientific activity with AUA and her duties with SNACC. “I hope to really continue to advance anesthesia research in general, but also neuroscience research within the field in particular,” says Dr. Koerner.

We congratulate Dr. Koerner on her extraordinary accomplishments and look forward to supporting her and her endeavors in the future.

The D.R.E.A.M. award and the Linda L. Hays Award for Service Excellence recognize outstanding administrative staff for their exemplary contributions to the department. Throughout the year, employees submit D.R.E.A.M. award ballots, standing for Dedication, Responsibility, Education, Attitude, and Motivation.

This year, the four quarterly D.R.E.A.M. award recipients were Rawezh Rasheed (Fall 2017), Jennifer Gonzalez-Birk (Winter 2017), Janna Higgins (Spring 2018), and Alyssa Lorzano (Summer 2018). The annual Linda L. Hays Award for Service Excellence is selected from D.R.E.A.M. award recipients and is presented to staff who exemplify professionalism, service excellence, and team work. This year’s Linda L. Hays Award was awarded to Rawezh Rasheed. Congratulations and thank you to all our winners.
APOM Graduation was Saturday, June 23 at the Tiffany Ballroom in downtown Portland.

We were delighted to graduate and celebrate 10 residents, four Oregon Scholars Program residents/fellows, 10 traditional track Fellows, and 10 interns. Part of the graduation ceremony includes honoring select faculty and residents with annual awards. Congratulations to all the graduates and best of luck in their future endeavors!

**DR. HARRY G.G. KINGSTON AWARD**
Dr. Evan Hunter Alldredge

**DR. BETTY THOMPSON AWARD**
Dr. Evan Thilo

**THOMPSON FELLOWSHIP IN GLOBAL ANESTHESIA RECIPIENT**
Dr. Ruth Hickok

**DR. JOANNE JENE AWARD**
Dr. Ryan Fink

**FACULTY EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD**
Dr. Glenn Woodworth

**DISTINGUISHED EDUCATION SERVICE AWARD**
Dr. Christopher Swide

**DR. NORMAN BERGMAN AWARD**
Dr. Tera Cushman

**DR. FREDERICK HAUGEN MEDICAL EDUCATORS AWARD**
Dr. Tera Cushman

**DR. WENDELL C. STEVENS AWARD**
Dr. Nicholas Saenz
This year’s annual department picnic was Friday, Aug. 3 at Oaks Park. It is a well-attended and much-anticipated event and we are especially grateful to Dr. Judge and Sally Hicks for all of their work to prepare the amazing barbecue. Congratulations to our winning tug of war team and thank you to all participants!
The Oregonian publishes inspiring opinion piece by Dr. Jason Campbell

By Jason L. Campbell

Opinion: I’m a black student-athlete turned physician. Here’s what Nike and Colin Kaepernick really mean

Excerpted from the piece that ran in The Oregonian

I sat in a football stadium for the Ohio State Buckeyes vs the Nebraska Cornhuskers game on Nov. 5, 2016, three days before the presidential election. About 108,000 screaming fans surrounded me, but I only remember three.

To my right were two white gentlemen wearing baseball caps. This was the first sporting event I attended since Colin Kaepernick, former San Francisco 49ers player began kneeling during the anthem in protest against police brutality against African-Americans.

I stood up. I removed my hat. These actions were done not because I didn’t vehemently stand against police brutality, but because I felt standing for the anthem was the ‘right thing to do’ for me.

Yet all the while, I could imagine all eyes on me.

As I stood, there came laughter from behind, a few seats to my left. An older white gentleman yelled over at one of his buddies, “Hey, hey, look at me. I’m going to kneel,” mocking me and all of what Kaepernick represented. I suddenly felt alone and exposed, maybe even a little afraid. Being there, supporting a team and university that had given me so much, no longer felt like home. The sporting event took a new form as my attention turned from the football game to the underlying game.

The same man who mocked Colin Kaepernick’s kneeling cheered for each move the young black male athletes made. The same men clapped enthusiastically as the young black male athletes scored point after point for their beloved team.

The truth is, many of us black males cannot feel calm as we have to constantly look outside of ourselves in order to visualize how our present and future actions might be perceived by others. It’s part of growing up as a black male in America.

Growing up as a black male athlete in America adds more complexity—and becoming a black male physician even more.

As a black male I am unnerved by the stories I read about current or former athletes sustaining injuries leading to a fall from grace. That leads to a harsh realization that they are no longer “needed,” with little to account for all of their hours of dedication. Basketball courts, tracks, football fields and athletic arenas are bursting with black men excelling every day, rain or shine.

The time has come for us to redefine our own values and to focus our potential in different ways. With the right direction and guidance, that same excellence and discipline can easily transition into the libraries, research laboratories and clinical rooms where we are currently sparse.

The beauty lies not in the fact that we have to choose one over the other, but in what I believe and personally know to be true: Black men can excel in both realms. It is time that we stop letting others limit us as we move forward.

That’s what Nike and Colin Kaepernick mean.
Lessons in H.O.P.E: the transformative power of service

Berklee Robins, M.D., associate professor of anesthesiology and perioperative medicine, OHSU School of Medicine, sums up the life-changing impact of Humanitarian Overseas Physician Education (H.O.P.E.) trips with the story of one of the many cleft lip and palate procedures he has performed, this one for an older man from rural Guatemala.

“He struggled to speak, and he had to eat dinner in his home by himself because he had a cleft palate and the food would come out of his nose,” said Dr. Robins, director of Global Health Education for APOM. “I remember in the recovery room, we gave him something to drink, and he started crying because he could drink. For the first time in his life, he could go home and eat with his family.”

About H.O.P.E.

The H.O.P.E. program provides opportunities for anesthesiology residents, pediatric anesthesia fellows and one medical student a year from the OHSU School of Medicine to practice within their scope in a developing country.

Trainees encounter health and living conditions that expand their understanding of the human condition, while also partnering with local clinicians, using different kinds of equipment, navigating the local health care system and confronting social and infrastructural challenges.

The opportunity is funded in part by donors through the OHSU Foundation, including the Bob and Mary Jane Stewart Fund, the Wendell Stevens Memorial Endowment Fund, and the Betty B. Thompson, M.D., Endowment for Student Education and International Service. Going on a trip is the culmination of participation in APOM’s ExCEL Program in Global Health and Global Anesthesia, which Dr. Robins leads.

Community partners work year-round to build trust within communities, recruit patients, raise funds for trip costs outside of travel (such as lodging for patients while they are receiving care and some medical supplies), and gather in-country personnel, both medical and non-medical.

“This is transformative and impactful work not just for the patients but for the doctors,” said Dr. Robins, who has made more than 10 H.O.P.E. trips. “The doctors who go on these trips come back better physicians for their patients.”

H.O.P.E. in 2018

Earlier this year, four residents, one fellow, one medical student, and two attending faculty made trips in three countries: India, Peru, or Sierra Leone. Cases included general surgery, urology, ENT, cleft lip and palate, reconstructive, and OB/Gyn procedures. Members of the anesthesia team included both anesthesiologists and nurse anesthetists from Oregon.

Residents Remigio Roque, M.D., and Austin Peters, M.D., went on the Peru trip and came away inspired.

Dr. Peters said they overcame the challenges of language barriers, outdated equipment and limited medicines by working together, including “constant communication between teams and providers about supplies and plans, supporting each other through obstacles we’d encounter, and engaging the local community, which was endlessly helpful in making sure everything worked out.”

Dr. Roque said the trip motivated him to do more such work in the future.

“It was one of the best and most memorable things I did during residency. The anesthesia is the easy part—everything else can be challenging. Go with an open mind and take in as much as possible—about the people, the place, the culture.”
NEW STAFF

Andrea Diulio-Nakamura, Ph.D.  
PSYCHOLOGIST

Austin Peters, M.D.

Cory Butler, Ph.D.  
PPOSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR  
RESEARCH DIVISION

Dana Bigham  
ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR  
EDUCATION

Janessa Lynch  
ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR  
RESEARCH

Jenna Bufkin, C.R.N.A.

Jenna Stapleton, Ph.D.  
PSYCHOLOGIST

Leslie Christiansen, L.M.T.  
MASSAGE THERAPIST

Lisa Fisher  
CODER

Lori Hillis, C.R.N.A., D.N.P.

Nathan Wilkins, C.R.N.A.

Ruti Cogan  
STUDY COORDINATOR  
RESEARCH

Steve Sullivan, Ph.D.  
PPOSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR  
RESEARCH

Sylvia Li, M.D.  
REGIONAL FELLOW

NOT PICTURED

Moi-Kia Duong, C.P.C. R.N.
Darci Elger, PAS Specialist
Greg Harvey, PAS Specialist
Melissa Reyes, C.P.C., M.C.C.
Garrett Russell, M.D., Regional Fellow
Congratulations to ascending faculty

APOM wishes to recognize our faculty receiving promotions as of July 1, 2018

Emily Baird, M.D., Ph.D.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Mark Baskerville, M.D., J.D., M.B.A.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Scott Mist, Ph.D., M.Ac.O.M.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Eric Schnell, M.D., Ph.D.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Matthias Merkel, M.D., Ph.D.
PROFESSOR

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Left to right: Hillary Paasch, Debi Stabler, Heather Parks-Huitron, Melanie Lee

Announcing new vice chair, director and managers

We are thrilled to congratulate several outstanding individuals on their promotions to new leadership positions within the department.

**Heather Parks-Huitron** has been selected as the new Vice Chair for Administration. We are looking forward to her expertise and years of experience.

**Melanie Lee** has accepted the Director of Operations position for the Comprehensive Pain Center, bringing a wealth of knowledge in outpatient medical operations.

**Debi Stabler** has accepted the new position of Director of Business Operations for the department. She will be providing leadership and management for the strategic and operational support systems within APOM related to staffing, business policies, and Human Resources services.

Additionally, we congratulate **Hillary Paasch** on her opportunity to serve as the new Education Manager, providing managerial oversight for the education office and ensuring all aspects of our resident, fellow, and medical student training will retain their standards of excellence.

Congratulations to these phenomenal leaders and their accomplishments!
Small Blood Vessels May Be Key to Cardiovascular Disease

PRESENTED BY
Nabil Alkayed, M.D., Ph.D.

Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018 7 p.m.
OHSU Auditorium

The lectures are free; reservations are requested. Visit www.ohsu.edu/mhlectures or call 503-494-5699.

Complimentary parking is available in the OHSU Auditorium Lot at 3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road.