Focus on Education

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE CHAIR OF EDUCATION, DR. ANNE WONG

Educational excellence has always characterised the Department of Anesthesia. Our Faculty members have long been recognized as integral contributors to the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine Undergraduate Medical Education Program. We initiated the first McMaster clerkship curriculum to use simulation-based learning. Likewise, a robust simulation curriculum is being incorporated into our postgraduate anesthesia training program. Our Faculty have been recognized for excellence in educational contributions at the university, national and international levels. We have recently expanded our website to detail educational activities (http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/anesthesiaeducation/). This newsletter provides a taste of the different activities in the department. We look forward to continuing to push the boundaries of educational excellence and scholarship through practice and innovation!

FACULTY EDUCATIONAL RETREAT NOVEMBER 10, 2012

Educational Strategic Planning for the Department of Anesthesia

Dr. Teal McAteer (The DeGroote School of Business), a specialist in human resource management and career development was our invited guest speaker. She discussed “authentic leadership”, described as a consistent match between thoughts, words, and behaviour. A central message is the need to develop insight into one’s thinking styles in order to better understand how they affect communication, relationships, leadership behaviour and conflict management. To do this, the participants completed the “Life Styles Inventory” (LSI) which assesses responses according to 12 types of thinking styles, further aggregated under three categories. Participants gained a better understanding of their own thinking styles and those of others. Suggestions for modifying these thinking styles for more effective leadership were discussed.

Dr. Anne Wong presented overall educational activities and trends at the university and department level. She proposed a department educational vision/mission towards a framework of teaching excellence and educational scholarship. Participants engaged in a lively discussion around these issues. Leadership development is seen to be relevant for all faculty, not just the “leaders” as it would improve capacity and effectiveness as educators. All agree that further educational retreats and faculty development are important for engaging faculty and for advancing the educational mission.
Dr. Borges, Assistant Professor, focused on the growing importance of simulation-based education for anesthesia at Educational Research Rounds in April. Simulation-based education provides the tools for teaching how to handle emergencies in the OR in a safe learning environment. Dr. Borges also presented the MEPA simulation study (Managing Emergencies in Pediatric Anesthesia). The "MEPA study" is an international multi-centre study (14 centres in UK and 9 in Canada are participating) that aims to determine if simulation checklists can differentiate between different levels of skill. The MEPA scenarios represent common emergencies in pediatric anesthesia. The scenarios are all run and debriefed in one single day. The scenarios are all peer-reviewed and evidence based. The study will take approximately a year to be completed, but the scenarios will remain part of the McMaster's residency simulation curriculum.

**DR. BRUNO BORGES: “SIMULATION-BASED ASSESSMENT FOR PEDIATRIC ANESTHESIOLOGY: A PROSPECTIVE, MULTICENTRE STUDY”**

Kurt Domuracki (PGY3 Resident) discussed how work hour reforms and increasing operating room production pressures have changed the educational dynamic and may be reducing educational opportunities for anesthesia residents. One way to address these educational changes is to focus on systematically applying evidence-based pedagogical methods outside the OR to prepare learners for clinical teaching. Several studies have shown that learning technologies such as e-learning, simulation, and intelligent reminder systems, rigorously applied, have demonstrated learning benefits. The appropriate use of learning technologies outside the OR setting may better prepare learners for the clinical exposure they are receiving and mitigate some of the potential negative effects of work hour and OR reforms. Kurt will be pursuing projects employing novel technologies to enhance procedural skill learning and retention longitudinally throughout residency and into independent practice.

**DR. KURT DOMURACKI: “ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE IN ANESTHESIA EDUCATION”**

Dr. Kelly Dore, Assistant Professor, Program for Educational Research and Development (PERD) presented an overview of PERD’s role in supporting educational research in the Faculty of Health Sciences and the new Master of Health Sciences program. She discussed the meaning of educational scholarship as well as provided examples of ongoing and future educational research projects.
The Contemporary Medical Acupuncture Program, sponsored by the Department of Anesthesia, achieved full maturity this year with the organization of a very successful International Contemporary Acupuncture Symposium in Toronto from May 3-6. More than 250 health professionals attended the meeting, including participants from the US, Spain, Sweden, Argentina, England, Denmark, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Cuba and Japan. International presenters included some of the most respected practitioners in the area of pain management such as Jay Shah (USA), Thomas Lundeberg (Sweden), Mike Cummings (England), Juan Antonio Vecino (Spain), Claudio Couto (Brazil), Barbara Shay (Canada), Florian Pfabb (Germany), and our own "in house" representatives Angelica Fargas-Babjak, Meena Nandagopal and Alejandro Elorriaga Claraco. In addition, 11 instructors of the program made excellent presentations in the "Blue Print Treatment" sessions, showing that the success of the program has been a true team effort.

Congratulations to PGY5 Residents, Dr. Greg Kostandoff and Dr. Amanda Whippey, for their 1st place poster presentation on “Predictors for Unanticipated Admissions following Ambulatory Surgery” at the 2012 CAS Annual Meeting.

Congratulations to Dr. Edwin Ho on being named 2012 SJH Best Anesthesia Resident.
The Department of Anesthesia at McMaster University celebrated its 40th Anniversary at Liuna Station in Hamilton on November 17, 2012. One-hundred and seventy-three past and present faculty, alumni, residents and staff were treated to a wonderful evening of dinner, music and dance. Highlights included a beautiful piano and violin musical prelude by Dr. Richelle Kruisselbrink (PGY5) and her sister Radine, a silent auction and a live band. The proceeds from the silent auction went to Lifebox; a not-for-profit international organization providing pulse oximeters to improve the safety and quality of surgical care in low-resource countries. Through generous bidding on a variety of auction items, a total of $3293.00 was raised for this worthy organization. Dr. Norm Buckley opened the evening by welcoming past Chairs of the Department, Drs. Donald Catton, Ron Browne, David Morison and Homer Yang who were all in attendance. Dr. Joel Hamstra provided a fascinating history of the Department of Anesthesia at McMaster University as well as anesthesia practices in Hamilton. Dr. Emad Maximous was presented with the first Dr. George Bobawi Award for Exemplary Educational Contribution in the Community. The evening’s guest speaker was Dr. Brian Goldman, an ER Physician and host of CBC Radio’s White Coat, Black Art, presented the interesting and provocative aspects of being both a physician and public media figure. Special thanks to Drs. Joanna Rieber, Alena Skrinskas, Michele Cappello, Mrs. Mary Gahagan and Dr. Liz Ling for organizing the event and ensuring everyone had a wonderful time.

Our Anesthesia Education Website is now up and running! You can access it by our Department homepage http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/anesthesia/

Click on Anesthesia Education on the left hand panel to get to the site or you can get to it directly via http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/anesthesi.education/index.html

Over the next few months, we will continue to update and add to the Dept of Anesthesia webpage as a robust repository of information and communication to make sure you’re “in the know”! Put us on your homepage and happy navigating!

Interested in submitting an article for the Department’s next newsletter— Focus on the History of Anesthesia? Let us know!