Chair’s Message

This edition of the Morpheus Reporter is replete with outstanding news of successes in the department. Indeed, it’s a little difficult to know where to start! In this edition, we have concise summaries of the highly successful Shields Research Day where the 2010 Shields Lecture was given by Dr. Jim Eisenach, Editor-in-Chief of Anesthesiology. In addition, we had an important international conference - the 8th International Conference on Mechanisms of Anesthesia (MAC 2010) - which was coupled with the 2nd International Conference on Neurotoxicity of Anesthetics, and was coordinated at the University of Toronto by Dr. Beverley Orser. Details on the TAS – coordinated by Drs. Slinger, Wong and Salman – are also included herein.

In this 9th issue of the Morpheus Reporter, we have also introduced the notion of a UT Department of Anesthesia Alumni Association. Under the leadership of Dr. Steve Brown (the association’s inaugural President, and an Assistant Professor of Anesthesia who’s based at North York General Hospital), you will learn more about how you can get involved in this important new initiative. Dr. Brown draws your attention to an important reception at the Ontario Medical Association’s Anesthesia Section Committee meeting on October 1st to which all are invited. We have also included a brief but very enlightening article on our first featured alumnus – Dr. Bill Stoyka from St. Michael’s Hospital, written by a future outstanding alumnus, Dr. Mandy Lam, a PGY3 resident in our program. In addition, we welcome our 18 new residents (all outstanding candidates) and we congratulate Dr. Saroo Sharma as the recipient of one of the inaugural Currie Fellowships from the Wilson Centre for Research in Education.

Global health and social responsibility more broadly, is becoming an increasingly important concept at the University of Toronto, and is indeed a component of the UT department’s strategic plan. Dr. Paula Meyler, a very recent graduate of our residency program, has provided us with an interesting snapshot of her experience in providing Haitian earthquake relief. Dr. Greg Silverman – a former UT resident and now an Assistant Professor at Mount Sinai Hospital – also provides us with information on the status of our plan, future initiatives.

At the beginning of the summer, we wished all of our recent graduates’ congratulations and wished them well in their undoubtedly interesting and fulfilling careers. As the summer ends, we now turn our minds towards instituting important elements of the department’s strategic plan which you can review on the departmental website. Please read this addition of the Morpheus Reporter. It provides us with lots of interesting information about our colleagues, and helps us appreciate our profession all the more.
UT Anesthesia Alumni Association
By: Dr. Steve Brown, North York General Hospital

We are pleased to announce the formation of the UT Department of Anesthesia Alumni Association. As its inaugural President, I would like to welcome all of you to participate in this exciting new initiative.

Alumni are graduates of our residency and fellowship programs, and former faculty who gave years of service to the profession while at U of T. The formation of an Alumni Association will help foster vital links between the University program, hospital-affiliated programs, and the community at large. Strengthening these links has the potential to advance both institutional and individual professional goals.

With your help we can create a comprehensive program to support Alumni, assist in networking, and build a sense of continuity. Enhanced website capabilities and database maintenance, Alumni newsletters, recognition events and awards, and graduate exit surveys are just some ideas discussed at the Departmental Planning Retreat in December 2008.

Please join us on Friday, October 1st at the Toronto Hilton (Governor General’s Room) from 1700-1800 hrs for an informal meeting to discuss the UT Department of Anesthesia Alumni Association. This will immediately follow the Annual Business meeting of the OMA Section on Anesthesiology. We welcome your ideas and suggestions and we also need interested volunteers to get this project going.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me with your thoughts.

Featured Alumnus: Dr. Bill Stoyka, St. Michael’s Hospital
By: Dr. Mandy Lam, PG Resident

Beginning his diverse medical career in 1960, Dr. William Stoyka has seen the huge evolution of anesthesiology from its humble beginnings. He enrolled in the University of Toronto medical program in 1960. In stark contrast to today’s academic hospitals, Wellesley Hospital was in desperate need of interns. His fourth year of medical school was spent there as a trainee, where he had the chance to do both epidurals and deliveries on the same patients; administer general anesthetics, and then scrub in for surgeries. Having experienced all ends of the spectrum, he knew early on that anesthesiology was the career for him.

Dr. Stoyka began his residency in anesthesia at St. Michael’s Hospital, and completed his final year doing research with Dr. Lucien Morris, during which he won the CAS resident research award for his work in methoxyflurane. He began his career as staff anesthetist at Toronto General Hospital, but subsequently went home to St. Michael’s Hospital where he has been staff for 40 years. He pursued further research in neuroanesthesia and won numerous honors and grants for his research.

In 1987, Dr. Stoyka took on the position of Chairman of the Anesthesia Department at King Fahad National Guard Hospital in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He stayed there for two years, acting also as associate professor of anesthesiology and surgery. In this important position, he broadened his scope of clinical practice, but also discovered that administrative work was not something he wished to pursue. Returning to St. Michael’s Hospital in 1989, he found his niche as a clinician and teacher, and has not left his role since then.

Outside of work, Dr. Stoyka leads a very diverse personal life. He is married with children and grandchildren. He and his wife enjoy traveling and spending time in their cottage up north. Golfing and fishing are among some of his many hobbies. One of his unique talents includes breeding French bulldogs. The Stoyka’s travel North America entering, and winning dog shows in different cities, and they are known as the top French bulldog
breeders in Canada. They have had offers of $40,000 for their dogs, but he has refused them. In his own words, “they are like family.”

After over forty years of a very successful career, Dr. Stoyka takes great pride in his professional life, and to this day, maintains that anesthesia is the best specialty of all medical professions. It has provided him the ability to pursue different roles both inside and outside of work, at different points in his career. It is a specialty that keeps you up to date in all aspects of clinical medicine. Furthermore, he always enjoys having residents and medical students, teaching them, as well as learning from them. Trainees love hearing his stories in the era of ether and cyclopropane, rubber tubes and blind nasal intubations, as well as the mysterious “nitrous oxide parties.” His advice for budding anesthesiologists? Learn the basics well, and never forget that medicine involves a lifelong career of learning, as he is still doing so to this very day.

**Welcome to our 18 new residents for July 2010!**

*Submitted by: Dr. Mark Levine, Director, Postgraduate Education*

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new residents to the program. We were, once again, fortunate to be able to select many excellent candidates for our program. This year we will be joined by 18 PGY 1 residents – 15 Canadian Medical Graduates (CMG) and 3 International Medical Graduates (IMG). Our CMG’s come from as far afield as UBC in the west to McGill in the east. Two of these residents will be joining the Clinician Investigator Stream. Our 3 IMG’s were trained in Tehran, Ireland and the Dutch Antilles. In addition, we also welcome two PGY2 residents who will be transferring to our program from other sites. Please give these new trainees a word of welcome and encouragement as they commence their training in Toronto!

In the past year, under the enthusiastic stewardship of Dr. Marianne Graham, our curriculum has undergone significant revision and this process will continue into the new academic year. The most substantial change so far has been the introduction of a more hands-on approach to the teaching of airway and vascular access skills. All our PG1 residents now participate in a series of teaching sessions in a “skills lab”, aimed at providing, not only the theoretical background information, but also the practical skills required for expert management of the airway. Future plans include incorporation of similar technology in the teaching of regional anesthesia to junior residents and the use of portfolios to document acquisition of the “non-Medical Expert” CanMEDS competencies.

In a recent survey, Dr. Matt Kurrek and colleagues identified a significant gap in training and knowledge across Canada in the expanding area of Office Based Anesthesia. They demonstrated that very few Canadian Anesthesia Training programs provide formal training or rotations in this important area. As a result, under the expert guidance of Dr. Kurrek, we made changes to the program to address this deficiency. Our residents will now receive formal teaching in this area and, during community anesthesia rotations, will have an opportunity to spend at least 3 days in Out of Hospital settings, with anesthesiologists who have expertise and practical experience in this domain. A description of the competencies required for provision of OBA have also been included in the recently developed National Curriculum – a competency based curriculum designed to provide guidance to programs, residents and examiners with respect to required competencies for graduating anesthesiologists.

**Hot off the press:** all our PGY5 residents completing their training this year passed their Royal College Examinations. Congratulations to the 2010 graduates!

**PG1 ANESTHESIA RESIDENTS – 2010**

Amir Abrishami  
Zolfakar Al-Mousawy  
Samuel Fook Hang Au
And, Congratulations to our Recent Graduates!

In June 2010, a graduation ceremony was held to recognize the achievements of our graduating PG5 residents. Please join us in congratulating them on their success, and in wishing them well in their future endeavors!

![Image of graduation ceremony]

Saroo Sharma (PGY5 Resident): Recipient of the Currie Fellowship, 2010

We are very pleased to announce that Dr. Saroo Sharma (PG5 Resident), has won one of two Currie Fellowships through the Wilson Centre for Research in Education. This award – valued at $35,000 per annum – will support her research exploring interprofessional perceptions of the Anesthesiologist’s role. Dr. Sharma’s work is currently focused on obstetrics, where poor interagency working has been shown to be a major contributor to material morbidity and mortality. She hopes to build on her exploratory work in this under-researched area, to eventually design and implement interprofessional educational interventions which are based on robust evidence and a sound theoretical framework.

The Currie Fellowship Program at the Wilson Centre, the first of its kind in the world, will create leaders in health professional education research by offering financial support to candidates who demonstrate leadership potential and academic excellence. Richard J. Currie is a celebrated Canadian businessman. He was Canada’s CEO of the year in 2001 and has received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Retail Council of Canada.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Sharma on this wonderful success!

New Faculty Appointments

Please join us in welcoming the following new faculty members to the University of Toronto, Department of Anesthesia:

**Full-Time Faculty:**
- Dr. Christian Arzola, Assistant Professor, UHN-Mount Sinai Hospital
- Dr. Anuj Bhatia, Assistant Professor, UHN-Toronto Western Hospital
- Dr. Ilavajady Srinivasan, Lecturer, The Hospital for Sick Children
- Dr. Julia Voigtlaender-Bolz, Assistant Professor, St. Michael’s Hospital

**Part-Time Faculty:**
- Dr. Jennifer Bender, Assistant Professor, St. Joseph’s Hospital
- Dr. Sylva Brose, Assistant Professor, North York General Hospital
- Dr. Suzanne Lilker, Lecturer, St. Joseph’s Hospital
- Dr. Vicky McCarthy, Lecturer, St. Joseph’s Hospital
- Dr. Peter Menikefs, Lecturer, St. Joseph’s Hospital
Academic Promotions

Please join us in congratulating the following UT Anesthesia faculty members who achieved academic promotion, effective July 1, 2010:

Promoted to the rank of **Full Professor**:
- Dr. Jose Carvalho (UHN-Mount Sinai Hospital)

Promoted to the rank of **Associate Professor**:
- Dr. Pam Angle (Women’s College Hospital)
- Dr. Mrinalini Balki (UHN-Mount Sinai Hospital)
- Dr. Isabel Devito (UHN-Mount Sinai Hospital)
- Dr. Cameron Guest (Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre)
- Dr. Anahi Perlas (UHN-Toronto Western Hospital)

Promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor:
- Dr. Duminda Wijeyasurena (UHN-Toronto General Hospital)

Awards and Announcement

**CAS Awards – June 2010**

*Submitted by: Dr. David Mazer, Vice Chair, Research*

The UofT Department of Anesthesia was very well represented at the recent Canadian Anesthesiologists Society Meeting in Montreal. It is my pleasure to acknowledge and congratulate the following members of our faculty on their recent research successes which were announced at the meeting:

**CAS/Abbott Laboratories Ltd Career Scientist Award in Anesthesia**

Dr. Marcin Wasowicz
“Expanding the role of the anesthesiologist beyond the operating room: 1. The association between platelet inhibition and major adverse cardiac events in patients undergoing non-cardiac surgery after previous percutaneous coronary intervention 2. Use of volatile anesthetics within intensive care setting. An assessment of the clinical application of pharmacological post-conditioning and novel approach for post-operative sedation”

**Canadian Anesthesiologists’ Society Research Award**

Dr. Kong Eric You-Ten (Co-investigators: Drs. Catherine Wong, Christian Arzola, Naveed Siddiqui and Zeev Friedman)
“The impact of simulation on the proficiency of performing cricothyrotomy on a hybrid porcine larynx-high fidelity patient simulator”

**Dr Earl Wynands/Fresenius Kabi Research Award**

Dr. Beverley Orser (Co-investigators: Drs. David Mazer, Irina Lecker, and Xuanmao Chen)
“Seizures associated with antifibrinolytics: Mechanisms and treatment strategies”

**CAS/GE Healthcare Canada Research Award in Perioperative Imaging**

Dr. Anahi Perlas (Co-investigators: Drs. Maria Cino, Louis Liu, Vincent Chan and Nicholas Mitsakakis)
“Bedside ultrasound assessment of gastric volume: Validating a mathematical model using gastroscopic examination”

**Richard Knill Competition, 1st place:**

Dr. Albert Tsui (Co-investigators: Drs. Neil Dattani, Philip Marsden, David Mazer, Mostafa El Beheiry, and Gregory Hare)
“Methemoglobin as a potential biomarker for anemic stress: a role of neuronal nitric oxide synthase in mice”

**Best Poster – Education and Simulation in Anesthesia**

Dr. Sylvain Boet (Co-investigators: Drs. Dylan Bould, Heinz Bruppacher, Deven Chandra and Viren Naik)
“Self debriefing versus instructor debriefing: A prospective randomized trial.”

**Best Poster – Obstetric Anesthesia**

Dr. Aleksandra Dlacic (Co-investigators: Drs. Luis Furtado, Clarita Margarido, Mrinalini Balki and Jose Carvalho)
“The epidural electric stimulation test does not predict labor epidural analgesia patterns”
Congratulations also to 2 of our residents who presented in the Residents’ Competition:

Dr. Mandeep Singh (Co-investigators: Drs. Peter Liao, Saif Kobah, Hisham Elsaid, Duminda Wijeysundera and Frances Chung)
“Proportion of undiagnosed obstructive sleep apnea in a surgical population”

Dr. Mark McVey (Co-investigators: Drs. Marcin Wasowicz, Terrence Yau and Keyvan Karkouti)
“Do high FFP: RBC ratios reduce mortality in cardiac surgery?”

In addition, including Dr. Tsui above, 4 of the 6 Richard Knill Competition presentations were from UofT:

Dr. Finola Naughton (Co-investigators: Drs. Duminda Wijeysundera, Gordon Tait and Scott Beattie)
“ACE inhibitors reduce 30 day mortality after non-cardiac surgery”

Dr. Christoph Ellenberger (Co-investigators: Drs. Gordon Tait, Nicholas Mitsakakis and Scott Beattie)
“Chronic perioperative beta blockade is superior to acute postoperative beta blockade”

Dr. Peter M. Spieth (Co-investigators: Drs. Alysson Carvalho, Andreas Güldner, Michael Kasper, Stephanie Spieth, Stefan Uhlig, Paolo Pelosi, Haibo Zhang, Thea Koch and Marcelo Gama de Abreu)
“Pressure support ventilation improves lung protection and oxygenation as compared to pressure controlled ventilation in a porcine model of experimental lung injury”

Please join me in applauding and celebrating all of these excellent achievements.

The Dr. John Granton Teaching Award: Dr. Simon Abrahamson
Submitted by: Dr. Brian Kavanagh, Chair

I am delighted to announce that Dr. Simon Abrahamson has been awarded the inaugural Dr. John Granton Teaching Award. This award identifies the best teacher in critical care medicine, as chosen among the trainees across the University of Toronto system.

The award is especially important because anesthesia is but one of several specialties involved in the practice - and teaching- of critical care medicine, and this award is voted upon by trainees in all the critical care-related specialties.

Many will already know that Dr. Abrahamson is widely acknowledged as a master teacher - a reputation that has been well earned through many years of exemplary practice, and this latest award adds to his already lengthy list of prestigious awards for outstanding teaching.

Please join us in congratulating Simon.

Dr. Scott Beattie: Renewal of R. Fraser Elliott Chair
Submitted by: Drs. Brian Kavanagh and Gerald O’Leary

We are delighted and proud to announce Dr. Scott Beattie has been reappointed for a second term as the prestigious R. Fraser Elliott Chair in Cardiac Anesthesia at the University Health Network and the University of Toronto; he is the inaugural holder of the Chair.

Dr. Beattie graduated from McMaster University (MD, PhD) and was on faculty there in the department of anesthesia until his recruitment to the University Health Network and the University of Toronto in 2000. He is the inaugural holder of the R. Fraser Elliott Chair.

An international authority on perioperative risk stratification and management, Dr. Beattie has trained multiple students, led many professional consensus and guideline panels, and is the Associate Editor of the Canadian Journal of Anesthesiology.

A prodigious researcher, Dr. Beattie has produced over 100 peer-reviewed publications in such journals as Circulation, JAMA, BMJ, Lancet, Ann Int Med and Anesthesiology; he currently holds almost $1.5M in peer-reviewed funds, and is regularly invited to speak at leading international forums.

Please join us is congratulating Dr. Beattie and in wishing him ongoing success with his program.
Recent Research Successes: Drs. Wijeysundera, Hare and Kavanagh

Submitted by: Dr. David Mazer, Vice Chair, Research

It is my pleasure to acknowledge and congratulate the following members of our faculty on their recent successes:

First, Dr. Duminda Wijeysundera successfully defended his PhD, which was based on a very impressive body of high-impact published work.

Second, Dr. Greg Hare won a prestigious SCA/IARS Mid-Career research award from the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists.

Third, Dr. Brian Kavanagh ranked first (out of 52 applicants in the Respiratory Panel) in the June CIHR operating grant competition.

And finally, congratulations to Dr. Mrinalini Balki (Mount Sinai Hospital) on receiving the Zuspan Award for the second consecutive year at SOAP for the best Multidisciplinary Contribution to the 42nd Annual Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology Meeting, San Antonio, May 2010

New Appointments

Dr. Eric Goldszmidt: MSH Deputy Chief, Anesthesia

Submitted by: Dr. Gerald O’Leary, Vice Chair, Clinical Practice

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Eric Goldszmidt on his new position as MSH Deputy Chief, Anesthesia, effective July 1, 2010. Dr. Goldszmidt obtained his MD at McGill University (1996) and completed his anesthesia residency at the University of Toronto (2001) and obtained his FRCPC, Anesthesia (2001). Dr. Goldszmidt joined the Department of Anesthesia at Mount Sinai and UHN in 2001. Over the years he has actively participated on hospital and professional committees and he is the Deputy, Business Manager of the UHN-MSH Anesthesia Associates Executive Committee. He currently holds the rank of Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesia, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. He has published journal papers, book chapters and abstracts on obstetric anesthesia. He also teaches undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Many thanks again to Dr. Gordon Fox for his leadership as MSH-Deputy Chief of Anesthesia over the past almost 10 years. He will continue to provide clinical care at MSH.

Dr. Patricia Murphy: Vice President (VP) Medical Staff Association

Submitted by: Dr. Gerald O’Leary, Vice Chair, Clinical Practice

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Patricia Murphy on being elected as the Vice President (VP) Medical Staff Association. This position is a 3 year commitment and during this time the VP transitions to the role of President. The responsibility is to represent the medical staff both at the MAC and Board of Trustees of the University Health Network and at the University of Toronto. The Vice President attends the Medical Advisory Council and the Board of Trustees monthly meetings and also has a voting seat on the Board of Trustees of the hospital. Dr. Murphy commenced her new role on May 1, 2010.

Dr. Frances Chung: Associate Editorial Board, Anesthesiology

Submitted by: Dr. Brian Kavanagh, Chair

It was with great pleasure and pride we learned of Dr. Chung’s appointment to the Associate Editorial Board of Anesthesiology, the profession’s leading academic journal. Appointment to this board recognizes her accomplishments and stature as a leading contributor in the peer-review process for ranking and selecting the best research from the profession on a worldwide basis. The impact factor for anesthesiology has risen steadily and this, in the end, is due to the quality of the peer-reviewed process in manuscript selection.

Dr. Chung’s selection to this board is a major coup for the university department of anesthesia and a source of pride for her colleagues. I am additionally proud to say, that with three members of our department now on this board, we are by far better represented than any other university department.
Haiti Earthquake Relief
Submitted by: Dr. Paula Meyler, Resident

This spring Dr Catherine Wong and I participated in the University of Miami’s Project Medishare, which provided post-earthquake medical outreach in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. On January 12 2010, a 7.0 earthquake devastated the country of Haiti, wiping out most of its already vulnerable health infrastructures. The University of Miami in partnership with Project Medishare had been working in this country since 1994, providing sustainable medical outreach and development. This prior foundation quickly allowed for a field hospital to rise up off the dusty airport tarmac within hours, while a network of medical volunteers was mobilised. The logistics of building a hospital from scratch still boggles our minds. When we arrived at the hospital, it was a scene unlike anything you could imagine. Giant white tents that house various medical wards rose up from the ground as fully garbed OR personal wandered around under the tropical sun. There was an adult medical/surgical ward in one tent, where rows upon rows of cots were lined up on the makeshift plank flooring. A string of twine stretched from one side of the room to the other so that IVs could be hung for each patient. The pediatric ward was in an adjacent tent, which also housed the country’s only ICU and PICU beds. An emergency room and rehabilitation unit were also built under open air tents.

After a brief orientation to the dynamics of our new hospital, we were immediately set to work. The ORs were housed at the back of the pediatric ward, where three open concept operating rooms were pieced together. The back of the ORs had stockpiles of donated surgical and anesthetic equipment, along with a rudimentary autoclaving system. Catherine and I worked alongside three American staff anaesthesiologists, as well as a nurse anesthetist. We were lucky to have a healthy anesthesia team staffing the ORs during our week as other weeks saw all operations come to a standstill - no anesthetists means no operations.

The cases were always a challenge as we tinkered our way around old anesthetic equipment, monitors that never seemed to work, and American drugs that could not always be refrigerated. We learned how to make use of our clinical skills when the blood pressure cuff quit and reverted to the basics when confirming endotracheal tube placement in a setting devoid of sophisticated end tidal CO2 detectors. We learned how to make do with what we had, fashioning arm boards out of discarded cardboard and meticulously rationing other resources so that nothing ever went to waste. We even had to rebuild a Draeger anesthesia machine from scratch midpoint in the week. Photographic documentation of this engineering feat was obtained in hopes of garnering extra credit from Dr Levine ...

Our cases ranged from crush injuries, burns, amputations, obstetrics, trauma from ongoing civil unrest, and the occasional elective hernia repair under TAP block. We worked from sunrise to sunset, and often into the early morning hours with a team of dedicated and relentlessly enthusiastic personal. Our chief medical officer often joked that he wasn’t sure he could go back home after spending a week of hearing only ‘yes we can’. Even when the sporadic air-conditioner would give out midday and turned the OR into an oven, we stayed cool and carried on by turning our scrub pants into capris as the surgeons sliced the back of our tops open to allow for more aeration.

But the truth be told, Catherine and I felt we had derived for ourselves far more than any service we had provided. We had an unbelievable opportunity to learn and grow as clinicians, and further develop our understanding of anesthesia in a global context. Above all, the reward of having someone look you in the eye before they went off to sleep and tell you they loved you for caring enough to come and help, was beyond anything we could have prepared for. Needless to say, we are already booking time off to come back.
The University of Miami and Project Medishare still continue their work in Port-Au-Prince but the tent hospital has recently been replaced by a freestanding hospital. The organization relies solely on volunteers from a wide-range of medical backgrounds including doctors, nurses, pharmacists and physiotherapists, who are willing to stay for at least one week. We also would encourage any staff or resident interested in volunteering their time to please contact Project Medishare as the need for anaesthesiologists in the upcoming months is critical. We would also like to thank West Jet for donating flights for Haiti Earthquake Relief.

**Strategic Plan: Global Health Program**

*Submitted by: Dr. Greg Silverman, UHN-Mount Sinai Hospital*

To fulfill our commitment to the larger community around us, the UofT Department of Anesthesia has started the “Global Health and Social Responsibility in Anesthesia” program. There are many compelling reasons why our department should become involved in global health outreach and make it a priority. There are geopolitical reasons for addressing gross disparities in healthcare; ensuring better living standards abroad, helps to prevent failed states and promote global stability. Beyond theoretical motivations are the simple altruistic instincts that drive most physicians, the moral imperative to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Global health outreach can effect real, positive development in partner communities, it is intellectually challenging and rewarding, and it feels “good”.

The initial activities of the UofT program have been the small but important steps necessary to build the firm foundation for the accomplishment of the program’s primary goal: addressing the worldwide shortage of trained-anesthesia personnel through the establishment of sustainable, education-based partnerships with the developing world. An easy way of working towards this goal would be to offer regular, recurring faculty support to the existing CASIEF-led anesthesia-training project in Rwanda, but as the largest academic department of anesthesia in the country we can surely do something more than this, something truly special.

The initial focus of the Global Health program has been to identify resource personnel within the department who can be used to further develop the skills and knowledge of other interested faculty members. There are many staff within the department who have been successfully working overseas for years, and who have amassed invaluable experience providing anesthetic care under conditions unimaginable to most of us. These “greybeards” of Global Health will be a vital resource for teaching the current generation of Anesthesiologists how to give a safe anesthetic in remote and/or austere conditions, which often means using “historic” equipment and drugs that haven’t been seen in Canada for many years. The tendency amongst the newer generation to routinely adopt the most modern technologies and drugs in the name of patient safety, is not necessarily a helpful one when the only option is halothane and a drawover vaporizer, with only an EKG and manual BP cuff for monitors. Before we can expect to teach others, we must first prepare ourselves to work in challenging conditions and ensure that we are more help then hindrance when we arrive overseas to “teach”. We need to be exquisitely competent in our basic skills and knowledge, and proficient with drugs and equipment from our anesthetic past, which means developing a slightly different skill set from the one we routinely use in the highly sophisticated OR environment of the developed world.

We also need to fully understand the countries in which we are going to work and operate from a medical context (e.g. understanding the common tropical diseases), but also from a social, economic, and political context; these are the factors which have influenced how the indigenous healthcare system has developed, and they will continue to determine how care might realistically be provided in the future. Teaching sophisticated, technology-based techniques is not necessarily a desired or useful improvement in nations where such equipment is too expensive to purchase and/or maintain, or where its acquisition will mean the diversion of funds away from more basic, life-saving resources. Real improvements can come from simply instilling the fundamentals of modern anesthetic practice we take for granted on a daily basis; our culture as Anesthesiologists of standardization, vigilance, emergency preparedness, and teamwork is far from universal but can make a real difference in improving patient outcomes abroad.

The Global Health program is also working on developing an educational curriculum for both our faculty and trainees. New lectures have already been introduced into the residency program which address relevant public health topics, such as the role anesthesia can play in lowering the global burden of surgical disease. Further educational opportunities will be offered to interested residents as part of the UofT Centre for International Health 2-year certificate course in Global Health. Training for both academic and community physicians will be offered via our contribution of teaching faculty to the CASIEF Anesthesia in Challenging Environments course; this course is offered annually and is expected to grow in the coming years in terms of size and scope. We will also be establishing regular telemedicine rounds on relevant global health topics in conjunction with other
academic departments of anesthesia across the country. This will not only keep us abreast of the latest happenings in anesthesia and global health, it will also encourage a sense of fellowship with other departments and remind us of the scope of our common goal: to improve healthcare for those living in the poorest nations of the world.

In conjunction with the development of training and education infrastructure, we will also be identifying opportunities for faculty and trainees to do clinical work, conduct research, and teach overseas. While the focus will be on developing a UofT-led educational project overseas, many faculty may choose to remain active with the projects or missions to which they’ve already established a commitment. Ideally we’d like to provide a range of different opportunities for staff and trainees in recognition of the different levels of commitment people will be able to offer. The department will construct a database of personnel who are active overseas and who may be willing to act as mentors or supervisors for less experienced faculty or trainees. This will help interested persons choose a project which meets their individual needs and skills, and which has an established ethical and operational track record in humanitarian work. We would obviously like to support the CASIEF initiatives in Rwanda and elsewhere, but it would be nice to imagine an additional UofT-led project which was broadly supported by our faculty, and which could be developed to satisfy the specific education and training needs of our own department. This long-term goal is one we want to implement after collective and careful consideration as a department. What is encouraging is the interest level that already exists within the department for such an initiative. We will aim to take this broad base of support and develop a project we can all take pride in and contribute something to over the coming years.

Annual Shields Research Day 2010
Submitted by: Dr. Zeev Friedman, Chair, Annual Shields Day and UHN-Mount Sinai Hospital

On May 7, 2010, over 310 faculty, fellows, residents and affiliated staff of the University of Toronto, Department of Anesthesia, came together to celebrate the outstanding research and education projects which our colleagues and trainees engage in. This event was in fact held for the 31st time, although this was my first time as Chair of this very successful annual event. Clearly, the success and popularity of this event is a reflection of the fascinating cutting-edge research that was presented, as well as the excellent leadership provided by the previous Shields Day Chair, Dr. Guy Petroz (The Hospital for Sick Children).

This year, a total of 67 abstracts were submitted. Twenty-two of these were presented orally with the remainder presented as posters. Awards for the best presentations by residents, fellows and students as well as the new David Bevan Award for overall best poster were presented.

The Annual Shields Lecture was given by Dr. Jim Eisenach, Editor-in-Chief of Anesthesiology. Dr. Eisenach graciously noted that he has never participated in an event of this caliber whereby the whole university department comes together to allow trainees to present their research, and to celebrate our colleagues’ research-related achievements on a broader level. The scope and quality of the research that we may sometimes take for granted was something he has not witnessed anywhere else.

All in all, we should be collectively proud of this wonderful day. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event, and to those who organized it. We look forward to welcoming you to the 32nd Annual Shields Research Day on Friday, May 6, 2011.

TAS 2010: Toronto Anesthesia Symposium
Submitted by: Dr. Aliya Salman, Mount Sinai Hospital

The Toronto Anesthesia Symposium and the Dr. Alexander Relle Memorial lecture was held at the 89 Chestnut Residence and Conference Centre on April 17th and 18th 2010. This year’s theme was “Anesthesia and Outcomes”. Like every year, the event was sponsored by The Department of Anesthesia, UHN/MSH and the University of Toronto. The Co-directors of the conference are Dr Peter Slinger (TGH), Dr David Wong (TWH), and Dr Aliya Salman (MSH).

Saturday’s program was initiated by Dr. Peter Slinger as the moderator of the fist session. The first lecture was presented by Dr. Slade, who is a Professor of Anesthesiology and vice chair of the Division of Anesthesiology and Chief of Critical Care Medicine at Columbia University, New York. This talk was followed by Dr. Taylor’s talk on the safe surgery check list. Dr Taylor is the Surgeon-in Chief of UHN, Toronto. The second session was moderated by Dr. Len Eisen, and included the Dr. Alex Relle Memorial Lecture given by Dr, Monk, Professor of Anesthesiology at Duke University Hospital, Durham. The day’s
remaining speakers included Drs. MacDougall, McCluskey, Wijeyssundera and Carvalho. Since the audience was comprised of mostly anesthesiologists practicing in community hospitals, there was a particular interest in Dr. Carvalho’s talk on post partum pain management.

Sunday’s program focused on workshops covering various topics. These included an A/W workshop conducted by Dr. Cooper; aseptic techniques for neuraxial anesthesia techniques by Dr. Zeev Friedman; ultrasound for ultrasound placement by Drs. Balki and Salman; and, ultrasound-guided peripheral nerve blocks by Dr. Awad. This concluded a very successful workshop this year, with lots of positive feedback provided by the conference participants.

Ms. Rusty Stewart coordinated this conference, and I thank her for her hard work and dedication which surely made this conference a huge success.

Mechanisms of Anesthesia (MAC) 2010 Conference
Submitted by: Dr. Beverly Orser, Co-Chair, MAC2010 and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

The Department of Anesthesia, University of Toronto hosted over 220 medical and scientific delegates from 19 different countries during the 8th International Conference on the Mechanisms of Anesthesia (MAC 2010) and the 2nd International Conference on Neurotoxicity of Anesthetics. The goals of the meetings were to bring together clinicians and scientist to discuss advances in our understanding of therapeutic and off-target effects of anesthetics in the central nervous system.

Lectures and workshops were presented on topics ranging from the molecular binding sites for anesthetics to EEG recording and consciousness. Keynote lectures were presented by Dr. Mervyn Maze (USCF) who is credited with advancing the clinical use of dexmetomidine, and Drs. Uwe Rudolph (Harvard University) and Gregg Homanics (Univ Pittsburg) who designed mutant mice for the study of receptor targets for anesthetics. Additional topics included the neurotoxicity of anesthetics from Rodd Eckenhooff (Univ Pennsylvania), Vesna Jevtovic-Todorovic (Univ Virginia) and Zhongcong Xie (Harvard Medical School) and parallels between sleep and anesthesia from Nick Franks (Imperial College, London).

The Canadian Journal of Anesthesia will publish special supplemental issue that will summarize some of the new knowledge presented at the meeting.

We extend our thanks to members of the local organizing committee (Drs. Katznelson, Siddiqui, Tarshis, You-Ten, Venkatraghavan, Rigamonti, Meineri, Ju, Hoskin). We would also like to thank Dr. Brian Kavanagh, Ms. Wendy Kubasik, Ms. Jessica Black, and Ms. Jenny Katsoulakos for the organizational support provided, and Dr. Donald Miller, Editor-in-Chief of the Canadian Journal of Anesthesia. Financial support from Baxter, Hospira and Fresenius Kabi Canada was also most appreciated.
ISURA

Submitted by: Dr. Vincent Chan, UHN-Toronto Western Hospital

This year, the 7th Annual International Symposium for Ultrasound and Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine (ISURA) was held from June 4-6, 2010 in Toronto Hilton Hotel. This event attracted more than 180 anesthesiologists from Canada, USA, Europe, Asia, South America, Australia, UK and the Middle East. The scientific program was comprehensive consisting of three days of ultrasound-guided regional anesthesia topics and 2.5 days for interventional pain procedures. Thanks to the teaching provided by our international and University of Toronto faculty (26 faculty members in total), the meeting was very well-received by all in attendance.

I would like to thank the organizing committee, Ms. Christine Drane and the 14 exhibitors and sponsors for making this meeting another success.

Upcoming CME Courses

Submitted by: Dr. Peter Slinger, Director, CEPD Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obstetric Anesthesia Conference and Workshop</td>
<td>September 24-25, 2010</td>
<td><a href="mailto:obanesthesia@mtsinaion.ca">obanesthesia@mtsinaion.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conquering the Hurt: The Trajectory from Acute to Chronic Pain Symposium (The Hospital for Sick Children)</td>
<td>November 4, 2010</td>
<td><a href="mailto:li.conferences@sickkids.ca">li.conferences@sickkids.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Workshops for Ultrasound Guided Nerve Blocks</td>
<td>November 5-7, 2010</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christine.drane@uhn.on.ca">christine.drane@uhn.on.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perioperative Transesophageal Echocardiography Symposium</td>
<td>November 6-7, 2010</td>
<td>Julie Nigro: <a href="mailto:julie.nigro@uhn.on.ca">julie.nigro@uhn.on.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Care Canada Forum</td>
<td>November 7-10, 2010</td>
<td><a href="http://www.criticalcarecanada.com">www.criticalcarecanada.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual UT Anesthesia Faculty Development Day</td>
<td>November 11, 2010</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anesthesia@utoronto.ca">anesthesia@utoronto.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obstetric Anesthesia Day (Women’s College)</td>
<td>November 26, 2010</td>
<td>Pamela Angle: <a href="mailto:pamela.angle@wchospital.ca">pamela.angle@wchospital.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mendelsohn Lecture – Mount Sinai Hospital</td>
<td>November 26, 2010</td>
<td>Allison Ho: <a href="mailto:cme@nygh.on.ca">cme@nygh.on.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto Anesthesia Practice</td>
<td>November 27-28, 2010</td>
<td>Allison Ho: <a href="mailto:cme@nygh.on.ca">cme@nygh.on.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Workshop for Ultrasound Guided Nerve Blocks</td>
<td>December 3-4, 2010</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christine.drane@uhn.on.ca">christine.drane@uhn.on.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Workshop for Ultrasound Guided Nerve Blocks</td>
<td>February 11-13, 2011</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christine.drane@uhn.on.ca">christine.drane@uhn.on.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tremblant Anesthesia Meeting</td>
<td>February 2011</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jordan.tarshis@sunnybrook.ca">jordan.tarshis@sunnybrook.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Workshop for Ultrasound Guided Nerve Blocks</td>
<td>March 4-5, 2011</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christine.drane@uhn.on.ca">christine.drane@uhn.on.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto Anesthesia Symposium, “Recent Advances in Airway Management”</td>
<td>April 9-10, 2011</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rusty.stewart@uhn.on.ca">rusty.stewart@uhn.on.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UT Anesthesia Annual Shields Research Day</td>
<td>May 6, 2011</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anesthesia@utoronto.ca">anesthesia@utoronto.ca</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recent Publications

Submitted by: Dr. David Mazer, Vice Chair, Research

For the period December 2009 - June 2010

Bell JD, Park E, Ai J, Baker AJ.
PICK1-mediated GluR2 endocytosis contributes to cellular injury after neuronal trauma. 


Margarido CB, Arzola C, Balki M, Carvalho JC.
Anesthesiologists' learning curves for ultrasound assessment of the lumbar spine.

Goldszmidt EA, Macarthur AA, Silversides CB, Colman JB, Sermer MC, Siu SD.
Anesthetic management of a consecutive cohort of women with heart disease for labor and delivery.

Chin KJ, Singh M, Velayutham V, Chee V.
Infraclavicular brachial plexus block for regional anaesthesia of the lower arm.

Baker AJ.
What is the role of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation for hypoxic failure during an influenza pandemic?

Duffin J.
The role of the central chemoreceptors: A modeling perspective.

Vargas-Caballero M, Martin LJ, Salter MW, Orser BA, Paulsen O.
Alpha5 Subunit-containing GABA(A) receptors mediate a slowly decaying inhibitory synaptic current in CA1 pyramidal neurons following Schaffer collateral activation.
*Neuropsychopharmacology.* 2010 Mar; 58(3):668-75.

Clarke H, Kay J, Orser BA, Golish J, Mitsakakis N, Katz J.
Gabapentin does not reduce preoperative anxiety when given prior to total hip arthroplasty.

Kurrek MM, Twersky RS.
Office-based anesthesia.

Balki M, Cristian AL, Kingdom J, Carvalho JC.
Oxytocin pretreatment of pregnant rat myometrium reduces the efficacy of oxytocin but not of ergonovine maleate or prostaglandin F 2 alpha.

Seet E, Yousaf F, Gupta S, Subramanyam R, Wong DT, Chung F.
Use of manometry for laryngeal mask airway reduces postoperative pharyngolaryngeal adverse events: a prospective, randomized trial.

Lupu CM, Kiehl TR, Chan VW, El-Beheiry H, Madden M, Brull R.
Nerve expansion seen on ultrasound predicts histologic but not functional nerve injury after intraneural injection in pigs.

Perioperative practical experiences in using a level 2 portable polysomnography.
*Sleep Breath.* 2010 Mar 16. [Epub ahead of print]


Martin LJ, Zurek AA, MacDonald JF, Roder JC, Jackson MF, Orser BA. Alpha5GABAA receptor activity sets the threshold for long-term potentiation and constrains hippocampus-dependent memory. *J Neurosci.* 2010 Apr; 30(15):5269-82.


Likosky DS, Fitzgerald DC, Groom RC, Jones DK, Baker RA, Shann KG, Mazer CD, Spiess BD, Body SC. Effect of the perioperative blood transfusion and blood conservation in cardiac surgery clinical practice guidelines of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons and the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists upon
clinical practices.

*Anesth Analg.* 2010 May 20. [Epub ahead of print]

Jaecklin T, Otulakowski G, Kavanagh BP.
Do soluble mediators cause ventilator-induced lung injury and multi-organ failure?


Curley G, Kavanagh BP, Laffey JG.
Hypocapnia and the injured brain: more harm than benefit.


Peltkova V, Engelberts D, Otulakowski G, Uematsu S, Post M, Kavanagh BP.
Hypercapnic acidosis in ventilator-induced lung injury.


Ngiam N, Peltkova V, Engelberts D, Otulakowski G, Post M, Kavanagh BP.
Early growth response-1 worsens ventilator-induced lung injury by up-regulating prostanoid synthesis.

*Am J Respir Crit Care Med.* 2010 May;181(9):947-56.

Abrishami A, Khajehdehi A, Chung F.
A systematic review of screening questionnaires for obstructive sleep apnea.


Differences in the control of breathing between Himalayan and sea-level residents.


Differences in the control of breathing between Andean highlanders and lowlanders after 10 days acclimatization at 3850 m.


Hayter MA, Friedman Z, Katznelson R, Hanlon JG, Borges B, Naik VN.
Effect of sleep deprivation on labour epidural catheter placement.


Tsui AK, Dattani ND, Marsden PA, El-Beheiry MH, Grocott HP, Liu E, Biro GP, Mazer CD, Hare GM. Reassessing the risk of hemodilutional anemia: Some new pieces to an old puzzle.

*Can J Anaesth.* 2010 May 29. [Epub ahead of print]

Beattie WS.
How should we play our hand when holding an ACE?

*Can J Anaesth.* 2010 May 29. [Epub ahead of print]

Bhatia A, Lai J, Chan VW, Brull R.
Pneumothorax as a complication of the ultrasound-guided supraclavicular approach for brachial plexus block.


Halpern SH, Banerjee A, Stocche R, Glanc P.

*Can J Anaesth.* 2010 Sep; 57(9):817-22.


Singla NK, Singla SK, Chung F, Kutsogiannis DJ, Blackburn L, Lane SR, Levin J, Johnson B, Pergolizzi JV Jr. Phase II study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the oral neurokinin-1 receptor antagonist casopitant (GW679769) administered with ondansetron for the prevention of postoperative and postdischarge nausea and vomiting in high-risk patients. *Anesthesiology* 2010 Jun 3. [Epub ahead of print]

**People News**

**Congratulations to Jennifer Morris!**

Please join us in congratulating Jennifer Morris (postgraduate Program Assistant, UT Anesthesia) and her new husband, Peter Ennis, on their wedding which took place on Saturday, June 19, 2010. A surprise bridal shower was held for Jennifer in June at a “secret” location on the UT campus, attended by administrative staff from all the affiliated hospitals. Jennifer was indeed surprised – to the point of speechlessness! Jennifer and Peter plan to honeymoon this December.

Please join us in wishing Jennifer and Peter all the best that love brings as they embark on their new lives together!

**A New Addition to the Fischer Household**

Dr. Howard Fischer is pleased to announce the birth of his second son, Ethan Fischer, born July 7, 2010, 7lbs 12oz. Mother, father and big brother Matthew (5 years old) are all well...other than being a bit tired! Congratulations!

[Ethan and big brother Matthew are pictured at left]

**And, a New Addition to the Silverman Household**

Dr. Greg Silverman and his wife are proud to announce the birth of their second child, Nyan, on August 5, 2010 at Mount Sinai Hospital (of course!). Congratulations to the Silverman family, who are all doing very well. Dr. Silverman’s daughter Raya, is pictured holding her little brother Nyan on the right.
2010 Stepping Stones Fall Workshops
Submitted by: The Centre for Faculty Development, University of Toronto at St. Michael’s Hospital

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facilitating Groups in IPE: Getting Started</td>
<td>September 14th</td>
<td>8:30am-12:30pm</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/programs/p-wkshop-091410.html">http://www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/programs/p-wkshop-091410.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching 101 Part 1 (of 2)</td>
<td>September 28th</td>
<td>8:30am-12:30pm</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/programs/p-wkshop-093010.html">http://www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/programs/p-wkshop-093010.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Internationally</td>
<td>September 30th</td>
<td>8:30am-12:30pm</td>
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<td>Setting the Stage: How to Use AV Effectively and Become a</td>
<td>October 18th</td>
<td>8:30am-12:30pm</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/programs/p-wkshop-101810.html">http://www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/programs/p-wkshop-101810.html</a></td>
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<td>Better Presenter</td>
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<td>Teaching 101 Part 2</td>
<td>October 26th</td>
<td>8:30am-12pm</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/programs/p-wkshop-092810.html">http://www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/programs/p-wkshop-092810.html</a></td>
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<td>You Can Do It! Managing Challenging Teaching Situations &amp;</td>
<td>November 9th</td>
<td>8:30am-12:30pm</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/programs/p-wkshop-110910.html">http://www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/programs/p-wkshop-110910.html</a></td>
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<td>Problem Learners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Dossiers</td>
<td>November 18th</td>
<td>8:30am-12:30pm</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/programs/p-wkshop-111810.html">http://www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/programs/p-wkshop-111810.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology Enhanced Health Professions Education (Part 1</td>
<td>November 29th</td>
<td>1:00 to 5:00pm</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/programs/p-wkshop-112910.html">http://www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/programs/p-wkshop-112910.html</a></td>
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<td>of 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Healthy Teacher</td>
<td>December 2nd</td>
<td>8:30am-12:30pm</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/programs/p-wkshop-120210.html">http://www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/programs/p-wkshop-120210.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>What’s My Style? Develop your Leadership Agility</td>
<td>December 9th</td>
<td>9am-12pm</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/programs/p-wkshop-120910.html">http://www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/programs/p-wkshop-120910.html</a></td>
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For complete details, visit the CFD website: www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca, call 416-864-6060 x6546, or email mccaffreyj@smh.ca

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The Morpheus Reporter

Please keep in touch!
Faculty, Residents, Fellows, Alumni and Staff – send us your news, updates, articles and photos to share!
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