

# The Gasbag Gazette

Edmonton Zone Anesthesiology Community

Fall 2010



## Welcome Back

The summer blew by as fast as the leaves (and snow) are falling now. We hope your summer had some time to enjoy a vacation and take some time out from the hectic world of healthcare.

Thank you to all who entered the Name the Newsletter Contest. Dr Rabuka's submission was chosen as the letter's new name.

We welcome Dr. Mike Murphy as the new Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine.

In this issue you will also find a plethora of baby announcements, news from the Resident and Fellow coordinators, a piece on Ron Gregg's retirement party and sadly, a reannouncement of Dr. Rob Kelly's passing this past May including a very special piece by Jelka.

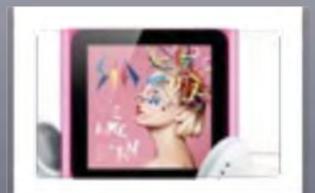
Please continue to send in news items you feel are important for the Zone Anesthesia Community to be aware of and we can post them here.

Regards,

John Koller  
Jelka Lujic

## Name the Newsletter Contest

Congratulations to Dr. Shannon Rabuka at the UAH for coming up with our Name the Newsletter contest.



# Residents

The residency program's annual research day was held as usual at the Mayfair Golf and Country Club. Overall it was felt to be very successful and many excellent resident research projects were presented. We held our annual 'welcoming the new residents' BBQ at Lily Lake Resort for a change this year. Despite the long drive and poor weather almost everyone turned up and the conversation continued past closing time. After that, the residents spent the rest of the summer free of structured academic teaching so that they could really dive into the clinical side of anesthesia. Beginning August 25th and continuing until the written exam our 8 PGY5 residents will once again be taking Wednesday mornings off for studying prior to attending academic half-day in the afternoon.

Dr. Brent MacNicol will briefly present the program's direction at rounds at each hospital site this fall. This will be an excellent chance to speak your minds as it were. He also wants to remind everyone that his office is open every Wednesday in CSB 8-133. Feel free to stop by. He can be reached at 407-3811 or (better) via email at [brent.macnicol@ualberta.ca](mailto:brent.macnicol@ualberta.ca)

Academic half-days begin September 8

Anesthesia Crisis Resource Management Sessions for residents - November/December

CaRMS Interviews - January 26-27, 2011

Accreditation - February 14-15, 2011

## University of Alberta - Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine - Residents 2010 - 2011



# Fellows

Alive and well.

The clinical research fellowship program now boasts ten fellows all of whom have decided to 'do porridge' and complete another year or two in our fellowship program in pursuit of further subspecialty training. We have six fellowships to offer: regional anesthesia, pain medicine, cardiac anesthesia, pediatric anesthesia, transplantation and most recently a research fellowship was added to the selection box.

There are several reasons why sane, qualified anesthesiologists would opt to do a fellowship but we aim to carefully select those with a genuine single-minded interest and passion in their chosen sub-specialty. However, we are all now aware of a degree of healthy competition in the anesthesia job-market which has created a little anxiety and launched some graduates into looking for fellowship training. A number of staff colleagues I have spoken to are concerned that modern-day training programs with their restrictions on residents hours of work may yield graduates with inadequate experience and that a year of fellowship training may address this shortfall. I understand the sentiment but I emphasize that our program is not intended as the 'R6 year'. Our brave International Medical Graduates who have to navigate the immigration, labour market, licensing and privileging maze which is made increasingly difficult these days, come in search of a unique opportunity to undertake clinical training in a highly challenging setting and take advantage of the academic opportunities which are not insignificant. Forty to fifty percent of the fellow's year is contractually and jealously protected for academic and educational activities. That allotment of time is used for clinical training, education, research, teaching and other academic pursuits. If you look across Canada and compare what is on offer elsewhere it becomes very apparent that our fellows get an exceptionally good deal. Many fellows take advantage of the research and QA opportunities and quite honestly produce stellar projects from start to finish in twelve months. It is possible. Overseas colleges are increasingly demanding clear educational objectives and structure to a fellowship program before giving approval and we are rising to the challenge and sending out a clear message that our fellows will be well-educated and not simply used as a quasi locum service. I receive excellent quality applications in my pigeon hole on a daily basis and we aim to select those who are both committed to learning and able to function effectively in our sometimes peculiar environment.

Barry Finegan firmly established the fellowship program and to date over fifty anesthesiologists from various points of the globe (as shown on the map above) have come through the program in the last eleven years. This is a credit to our department. But we are more than delighted that a select number of our local graduating residents have joined us this year. Should we not encourage all our residents to go the extra mile with their education and training? A bonus for us all is that a good number of fellows have stayed on staff.

We have had some new additions to the program this summer. Dr Jabu Moyo who is originally from Zimbabwe, trained in anesthesia in Sheffield in the UK and is now spending a year in the pain medicine program. Dr Kelly Byrne originally from New Zealand has already spend a year as a cardiac fellow in Melbourne and has joined the regional anesthesia program alongside Dr Vivian Ip who, similarly, has already been a fellow in Toronto. Then we have three graduates of our own school of anesthesia: Dr Osamah Alshankiti who is doing Regional, Dr Sunita Broemling and Dr Graham Steel who are both in pediatrics.

Some may ask what do we gain by having a fellowship program? Except to say, that teaching fellows keeps us on our toes and that new blood and new ideas keep us alive, vital and in tune with the global anesthesia community; this question is for you to answer.

I thank you all for assisting and encouraging our fellows, particularly when they first arrive. In particular I wish to acknowledge Mike Buss, Derek Dillane, Ban Tsui, Tim Yeh, John Koller, Lucy Entwistle and Michael Zaugg for coordinating the various programs.

Mark Simmonds



# Making a Mark



Hi

The Making a Mark has been set for February 10-13, 2011, again in Toronto. The names of the R5 Residents who will be attending has already been passed on to the company organizing the event. However, if there are staff who are planning on taking their FRCPC exam in 2011, they may be interested in attending Making a Mark. Could you please forward this to all Anesthesia Staff physicians, with the request that they get ahold of me for the contact information, should they wish to attend as well.

Thanks,  
Dan Gray



# Dr. Mike Murphy



Thanks to Jelka and John for offering me an opportunity to submit a piece to the Newsletter. I thought it might be worthwhile to introduce myself and briefly present some of my philosophy about life, work and leadership.

Born in Halifax in 1954, I was at the tail end of the post WW2 baby boom. I married Debby Dempsey in 1977 and we have 3 children: Amanda, now 27, a PGY1 in Plastic Surgery at Dal; Ryan 24, a sous-chef at Vue De Monde in Melbourne, Australia; and Ted, 16 years old and a rising high school senior. I completed medical school at Dal in 1978, and then a rotating internship, also at Dal in 1979. I then worked for a year as an emergency physician from 79-80 at the Victoria General Hospital in Halifax where I was bitten by the bug: I wanted to do Emergency Medicine as a career. However, at that time Emergency Medicine was not recognized as a specialty by the Royal College so I picked a specialty that I thought was 'close'...anesthesia. After two years of anesthesia training the Royal College announced that it would recognize EM as a specialty so I took two years and went to Denver Colorado to train in EM. Grant Innes, the Chair of EM at the U of C was a Chief Resident with me in Denver in 1983-84, as was Ron Walls, currently the Chair at Harvard, and originally from Prince George, BC! I then returned to Dal to complete my final year of training in anesthesia. I am currently certified by the Royal College in both EM and Anesthesia (as well as the American Boards of EM and Anesthesia). As an early RC certificant in EM I found myself in the company of the likes of Brian Holroyd, Terry Sosnowski, Mike Bullard and Brian Rowe now all in Edmonton; Greg Powell, Ingrid Vicas, and Bob Johnston in Calgary. I held a variety of administrative positions in Emergency Medicine and EMS between 1986 and 2001, all the while practicing anesthesia with subspecialty interests in airway management, thoracic anesthesia, acute pain and liver transplantation:

86-91: Chief of EM Victoria General Hospital, Halifax  
91-96: Chief of EM at the IWK Children's Hospital, Halifax  
93-96: Chief of EM at McMaster University Medical Center  
95-2001: Executive Director of Emergency Health Services NS

In 2001 we moved to Charlotte, North Carolina where I worked in EM at Carolinas Medical Center and in Anesthesia at Lincoln Medical Center. The last two years of this tenure were virtually full time anesthesia. In Sept of 2005 we returned to Halifax where I took the position of Professor and Head of the Dalhousie Department of Anesthesia, and as Clinical Chief of Anesthesia at the Capital District Health Authority (CDHA). The academic network included the Halifax Infirmary, the Victoria General Hospital, the IWK Center for Children and Women's Health and the St John Regional Hospital. The CDHA has four hospital departments of anesthesia: three in the academic sphere (HI, VG and Hants Community) and one private practice hospital (Dartmouth General). Quite an interesting mosaic of specialty and general, urban and non-urban, academic and non-academic facilities and groups!

Enough of the past! It is only important to the extent that it informs the future. Churchill put it more elegantly: "Those that fail to learn from history, are doomed to repeat it." And a more important bit of Churchillian wisdom: "If we open a quarrel between the past and the present, we shall find we have lost the future." Not a bad jumping off point! I am excited to be joining what I believe is a diverse and highly talented collection of anesthesia providers in Edmonton. I look forward to meeting each and every member, finding out what is valued by individuals and departments, and drawing us together over common goals and agendas. A key role of any leader is to position the individuals, and the departments they comprise, for success. That will be a key agenda of mine. I believe that great leaders run ahead 'opening doors' for their colleagues, while at the same time remaining vigilant for threats and opportunities. I believe that sound departments are built on a foundation of clinical excellence. The greatest departments lever this asset to train the finest clinicians and earn the recognition of peers by developing new knowledge and advancing the specialty. I also regard the residency training program as the 'jewel in the crown' of an academic department.

I work in urban, academic centers because I enjoy the challenge of complex cases, and I suspect the same is true of anesthesia providers in the Edmonton Zone. Part and parcel of that opportunity is a duty to embrace the challenge of creating the next generation of clinicians, and the quest for new and better ways of delivering care. The modern Academic Health Care Network is forged from diverse facilities committed to clinical care, research and education while at the same time embracing the fundamental values of empathy, respect compassion and industry.

It is sometimes dangerous to speculate where our specialty is headed over the next decade or so. But I think most of us can speculate with some measure of confidence that:

- regional anesthesia will become increasingly important because it reduces post op pain, reduces hospital stay, enhances OR efficiency.
- that ultrasound will replace much of what we use nerve stimulators, swan ganz catheters and EKGs for now.
- core research foci will include post operative neurocognitive dysfunction, lung protective modes of artificial ventilation, novel anesthetic drugs and techniques, induced and permissive anemia, an airway management device will render the difficult and failed airway obsolete.

The University of Alberta has laid down the challenge of becoming one of the great universities of the world ('top 20 by 2020'). We have our work cut out for us to position our Department of Anesthesia in that mix....but I suspect we have a reasonable crack at it!

See y'all Oct 1!

# Dr. Ron Gregg Retirement Party



August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010

## Ronald C Gregg's Retirement Event

One of the great characters of the Edmonton Anesthesia Community retired this past spring. The announcement came as a great surprise to many but no one was happier with this decision than Ron himself. To commemorate this historic event, a function was held at the Sawmill Restaurant on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This was one of the largest gatherings of anesthesiologists, surgeons, OR and Recovery Rooms personnel in years. We know for sure that 346 meals were served that evening. However, there were many other people present from all walks of life and of course Ron's family was extremely well represented. People came from near and far. Dr. Sue Ferreira flew in from Vancouver Island especially for this event. It was also a very enjoyable evening which included entertainment. During the cocktail hour Dr. Gregg was 'piped in' by the Edmonton Boys Pipe Band. This surprise had special meaning for Ron as he once was a member of that band.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was none other than Dr. Gerry Moysa who kept us in stitches most of the evening with his wonderful, 'off the cuff' ,witty, remarks. Political correctness was not something any of us were overly concerned about that evening and Gerry made that very clear from the beginning. Even the clergy were embarrassed by some to the things that were said!!

Speeches were made by: Dr. Bob Burns (Past President of the AMA), Dr. Jim McMillan (Orthopedic Surgeon), Brian Knight (Chief of Anesthesia Misericordia Hospital), Ms. Debbie Elliott (OR Nurse Misericordia Hospital) Kevin Gregg (Ron and Nancy's son) Mr. Don Schurman (Former CEO UAH), Dr. Gary Lobay ( Head of Plastic Surgery, UAH), Dr. Brendan Finucane (Former Chair of Anesthesia, University of Alberta) and there was a huge line-up of people hoping to get a chance to say something about Ron. There were many funny stories told about Dr. Gregg during his 40 odd years of clinical practice in the Edmonton Region. It was very clear from the comments made that evening that Dr. Gregg was a highly respected anaesthesiologist. We also learned that Ron was a very capable medical politician and that many of the benefits our discipline enjoys today were due to Ron's political savvy when he represented us at a Provincial and National level both as AMA President and President of CAS. Numerous pictures were shown of Ron at various stages of his life and undress and this picture display was accompanied by a well known modern song, which 'in the end' was an ideal selection. Donna Finucane arranged these pictures for the presentation and dubbed in the accompanying music provided by Gerry Moysa.

Ron himself was quite touched by the occasion but shed 'nary a tear'. After all it was his decision to retire and he did it with great gusto and he finished up with a very 'down to earth' speech outlining why he decided to 'get out of this game while the going was good'. In honour of this very special occasion Ron once again received a beautiful oil painting by Ortega named 'The Bullfighter'. A number of physicians in Edmonton region have received this gift before and Ron was deeply honoured to receive it yet one more time!

This was a very special occasion for the Gregg family and they were there in force and Nancy Gregg deserves enormous credit for organising one of the most successful retirement parties in the history of the medical community in Edmonton. Debbie Kiraly contributed enormously to the success of the evening also. Thanks to all who helped make this such a memorable event.

Congratulations Ron on a very successful career and on behalf of the Edmonton Anesthesia Community, we wish you the very best of luck in your retirement and we will miss your presence and hearty laughter in our operating rooms and at our meetings.

Respectfully,  
Brendan Finucane FRCPC



# SITE BULLETIN BOARD

(IF YOUR SITE IS NOT ON THE BOARD, **GET INVOLVED** FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER AND SEND A SHORT SUMMARY OF WHAT'S GOING ON AT YOUR PRIMARY PLACE OF WORK TO: [anesthesiamailbag@me.com](mailto:anesthesiamailbag@me.com))

## RAH

The Lois Hole Hospital in the new Robbins Pavillion opened in May of 2010. We made a smooth transition to the new facility which houses obstetrical and gynecological patients.

Liza Noonan

## GNH

Nothing to report.

Mike Auld

## STURGEON

No news to report.

Bob Boman

## MIS

Tentatively (most likely) we will be having a presentation of "Remifentanyl on Labour" on June 4. This will most likely be preceded by an evening presentation on Obstetrical Analgesia the evening before.

All future resident grand rounds will be made available to all sites (plus Medicine Hat). The dates I have are: March 12, April 16, May 14, and June 11.

By the time your issue comes out, we will quite likely have revived the Edmonton Anaesthesiologists Society.

Not to toot my own horn but barring objections from administration, I will be taking over as site chief at the Mis, some time in March. The English have a song about this, "The working class can kiss my ass, I've got the foreman's job at last!" (Sung to Oh Taunenbaum).

Brian Knight

## UAH

The christmas dinner will be held at the Sutton Place hotel on December 18th this year.

Tim Yeh

## Stollery Children's Hospital

Activity continues to increase and plans to rennovate the Pediatric OR are continuing to develop. New expansion to the Pediatric Emergency department will be a welcome relief to the overcrowding that currently exists. Further increases in inpatient beds including much needed PICU beds are in the works too.

John Koller

# Babies

Anish (UAH) and Adrionne Chari have announced the birth of their first child, Oscar, on Thursday July 8. He weighed 8 lb, 8 oz



Thomas Ethan Freed born Jan 12, 2010 to Adam (GNH) and Jennene



Gabriella and Alexandra Bateman  
Born July 7 2010  
Kendall Bateman (GNH)



Carson Frederick Lane born June 4, 2009  
Cam and Dayna Lane (GNH)



Lola Violet and Max Joseph, born 27 Jan 2010; 4lbs 1oz each, now well over that!! Born (of course...) to Jill Griffiths and Mark Ewanchuk (GNH)





## CAMTA

Members of the Edmonton Anesthesia Community once again packed their hockey bags and departed for Ecuador this past February. Dr. John Lilley from the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Dr. Teresa Eliasson from the Stollery Children's Hospital, Dr. Derek Dillane and Dr. Saifee Rashid from the University of Alberta Hospital, Andy Escalona RRT from the Misericordia Hospital and myself joined The Canadian Association of Medical Teams Abroad's ([www.camta.com](http://www.camta.com)) ninth mission to Quito to provide Orthopedic care to Ecuador's most impoverished citizens.

The team cared for amazingly grateful Ecuadorians needing hip replacements, foot, hip and soft tissue procedures. The majority of the 13 million people in Ecuador have minimal access to proper orthopedic care. In Ecuador the majority of club feet are left untreated. Ecuador has a particularly high incidence of hip dysplasia. Hip arthroplasties not only

change the lives of our patients but break the cycle of family poverty with better employment opportunity through improved mobility.

The surgical team also travelled to Cuenca, the 3rd largest city located in the Ecuadorian highlands to introduce a second Surgical Implant Generation Network ([www.sign-post.org](http://www.sign-post.org)) system, a legacy that will continue to heal the poor for decades to come.

CAMTA is a registered charity that is generously supported through financial contributions and donated goods. Please consider a gift to help poor people with joint problems. View a video of the CAMTA mission at [www.camta.blogspot.com](http://www.camta.blogspot.com) and contact me at [glennnday@shaw.ca](mailto:glennnday@shaw.ca).

Sincerely,  
Glenn Day, RRT,  
University of Alberta Hospital

**“Please consider a gift to help poor people with joint problems”**

# Dr. Rob Kelly



Robert Kelly KELLY, Robert James February 7, 1967 - May 14, 2010 It is with sadness that we announce the death of a loving dad, son, brother, uncle, friend and colleague, Rob Kelly on May 14, 2010 at the age of 43. Rob passed away suddenly and peacefully in his sleep. Rob leaves to mourn his daughters Ceara (12) and Brynne (10), the absolute loves of his life; Ceara and Brynne's mom, Yvonne Young; his mom and dad, Don and Cathy Kelly; his brothers and sisters Dave (Maureen), Maureen (Robert), Janet (Greg), Colin (Sarah), Kevin (Diane), Bill, Mike (Kris). He also leaves his 20 nieces and nephews, and his close friend, Wendy Chow. His brothers-in-law, Jeff McKague and Rick Long and Murray Young, and his sisters-in-law, Shauna and Carmen Young, will miss him too. Rob was born and raised in Edmonton. He was a medical graduate of the U of A and worked as an anaesthetist at the University of Alberta Hospital. He did his

anaesthesia residency in Vancouver and loved his years there. Rob's first love and passion were his daughters, Ceara and Brynne. Rob put his love for his daughters into every day of his life. He encouraged Ceara's love of reading, reptiles and mammals. He loved zoology; he and Ceara have a ball python (named Rabbit) that scares everyone. He embraced Brynne's love of being cuddled, telling jokes and dance. He learned to do 'dance hair' and makeup for their dance competitions and was so proud of this new found ability. He loved world history; he helped calm his older patients by talking to them about their experiences in life and war and their memories. He had two cats, Swazi and Java, and loved his fish tanks. He loved photography, the mountains, camping with Ceara and Brynne, hiking, his cars and cycling. Cycling with Jeff and Terry and friends are such big memories; the faster and hillier it was, the better. We will remember the big family dinners any day of the week with kids and adults everywhere, good wine and beer and Rob's curry and steaks. A Memorial for Rob will be at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday May 20, 2010 at The Derrick Golf and Winter Club, 3500 - 119 Street, Edmonton. Donations can be made to the SPCA (where he got Swazi) or The Cross Cancer Institute. Ceara says 'Dad, I love you so much and wish you could be here with us.' Brynne says: 'Dad, I miss you.' Yvonne says: 'Rob, thank you for the most wonderful family I could have wished for. We will keep you alive in our hearts forever.'

Dear Rob,

It is with deep sadness that I am telling you goodbye. I will miss you.

When I first heard that you had left us, I was choked.

Suddenly I had so many regrets.

What if I hadn't arrived late as usual in the morning? I could have stopped to talk to you in pre-op. What if I hadn't been so busy that Thursday with emergency cases, coordination and teaching? I would have called you in your room as I did sometimes when you looked like you needed a break or just wanted to talk?

What if... Unfortunately, this painful question will not bring you back.

I will always remember you as a cheerful, fun person to work with. Whenever I had professional questions, you always had a good answer.

These last years were not the easiest in your life, but you always seemed to find strength when you talked about your girls Ceara and Brynne. Suddenly, a wonderful sunny smile would show on your face. They meant the world to you.

The last time I spoke to you, in the operating room, you had just given me a break and we then spent some time talking about our lives, our worries, our doubts, but also our hopes. You had so many plans. You were so excited to go this summer on a road trip to Alaska with your brother and all the kids, renovate your new house, go for a bike tour with friends. You spoke about Wendy and a possible future together.

But now you are gone.

It hurts to even think about it.

Dear Rob, please rest in peace and don't worry, you will be able to watch your girls and protect them from up there.

Jelka Lujic  
Edmonton

