

UVM Anesthesia News

A Newsletter From The University of Vermont Department of Anesthesiology

Volume 3 Issue 2

Autumn 2008

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Department of Anesthesiology

Fletcher Allen Health Care

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Old And New Friends

One of the best things about working on my UVM Anesthesia history project these last few years, other than fame and fortune, is the opportunity to reconnect with former UVM Anesthesia colleagues like Dick Pease and John Mazuzan.

Dick Pease was a Vermont original who had two anesthesia careers – first as a general practitioner pouring ether part-time in Morrisville from 1950-1963 and, after an anesthesia residency, running UVM's Anesthesia Division at DeGoesbriand Hospital. In 2005 he told me, "I enjoyed every minute of it (*the DeGoesbriand*), particularly the teaching because it was a one-to-one situation and all of our students were anxious to succeed. It was an ideal situation." Dick passed away earlier this year (pg. 4), more than twenty years after he retired. He will be missed.

John Mazuzan is, of course, the founder of our modern UVM Anesthesia Department and he remains one of the wisest and most interesting men I have ever known. Back when he was my boss, I was incredibly intimidated by his intellect and force of personality. Although our relationship has changed over the years, I'm still intimidated, but it doesn't seem to bother me as much anymore. His help with my history project has been incalculable, although he would deny this. On page two, you can read about a new endowed scholarship honoring "Mazu" and, on page three, John shares some of his thoughts on his career and thirteen-year retirement.

Finally, on an unrelated note, please check out the article "**The War Goes On**" in the September 17th issue of J.A.M.A. (at <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/300/11/1280> for A.M.A. members), written by UVM Anesthesia's newest faculty member, Dr. Ian Black. From 2006-2007, Ian was the Chief of Anesthesia of the 28th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, Iraq. I think you'll enjoy his thoughtful article on transitioning to life in Vermont. Have a great winter and stay well.

Joe Kreutz MD

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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Welcome to the autumn edition of the UVM Anesthesia News. Fall, in all of its glory, has arrived in Vermont. This is a busy time

of the year in the department. We are preparing for a new resident recruitment season while, in July, we welcomed six new anesthesia residents and said so-long to a wonderful class of senior residents. We also concluded a successful match for residency candidates who will enter our program in July of 2009. The academic and humanistic records of the medical students entering our field amazes me, and I am pleased to say that we competitively attract some of the very best of these candidates.

You might be interested in knowing what our senior residents are doing after graduation. Of the six graduates, four have started fellowships: Dr. Chuck Eastwood in pediatric anesthesiology at Cincinnati Children's, Dr. Kathy MacDonald in regional anesthesiology at Dartmouth, Dr. Tim Waring in cardiac anesthesiology at Massachusetts General Hospital, and Dr. Nick Watson in critical care medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. These are all quite competitive fellowships and we are proud that our residents are successful in garnering these positions. Dr. Mike Sutherland has joined our department as a junior attending and we are enjoying working with Michael. Dr. Michelle Engelken will fulfill her obligation to the United States Air Force upon graduation. We know all six of these residents will be excellent anesthesiologists and, not only do we wish them our best, we look forward to following their careers.

I also want to share some exciting news that we received last spring. The John E. Mazuzan Jr. M.D. Endowed Scholarship Fund is being established in 2008 by the Andrew Family Charitable Foundation, Inc. This scholarship is being created as part of the University of Vermont Medical Alumni Association Challenge Program, which matches endowed scholarship gifts of \$100,000 with another \$100,000, creating a perpetual scholarship that begins with a balance of \$200,000. Let me



quote from the UVM College of Medicine announcement of this award: "The Mazuzan Scholarship will provide annual scholarship assistance to one or more UVM medical students with financial need. In keeping with Dr. Mazuzan's personal history and his passion for the study of history, the donor requests the following

preferences to guide the choice of recipients: Preference is to be given to Vermonters, especially those from the central Vermont region surrounding Dr. Mazuzan's hometown, Northfield; and for those who were undergraduate history majors or have otherwise demonstrated a passion for history." On behalf of the entire Anesthesiology Department, I would like to thank Mr. Jim Andrew, a friend and colleague of Dr. Mazuzan, who through his foundation provided this gift. This is a wonderful kindness which recognizes Dr. Mazuzan's many contributions to the medical school and the state that he loves.

I hope all the readers of this newsletter have a productive and enjoyable autumn. Please enjoy reading the rest of this edition of UVM Anesthesia News. As always, we very much enjoy hearing from you, so please feel free to send Joe or me an email.

Howard Schapiro MD

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This Is No Humbug III

The 3rd Annual Mazuzan-Abajian Classic Golf Tournament was held June 14th at The Links at Lang Farm and raised over \$900 for the Johns' Fund. Thirty-two participants competed in an 18-hole scramble format competition. Individual skills winners included David Johnson MD (longest drive on the fairway, for the second year in a row), Patricia Crease RN (farthest from the hole but still on the green), Jon Stebbins JD (longest drive with a sand wedge), and Michael Wulfschuhle (closest to the pin). Once again, the honorary tee shot was struck



by Dr. Chris Abajian, who easily cleared a 40-yard marsh with a 9 iron. Tournament sponsors included Vermont National Country Club, The Links at Lang

Farm, Pulcinella's, Moe's Southwest Grill, Ken's Golf Shop, The Northern Lens, Ryan Adams Photography, and Organon USA. If you are interested in participating next year, please contact Mitchell Tsai MD at mitchell.tsai@vtmednet.org.

New Residents and Pain Fellows Arrive

Six new CA-1's and three new Pain Fellows hit the ground running on July 1st. They are:

Residents

Arpita Badami MD

Albany Medical College

Internship: Dartmouth-Hitchcock Med Center

Christopher Bondi MD

Northeastern Ohio Univ College of Medicine

Internship: Akron City Hospital

Anthony Fritzler MD

Wayne State Univ College of Medicine

Internship: Henry Ford Hospital

Jennifer Hay MD

Univ of Kentucky College of Medicine

Internship: Fletcher Allen Health Care

Yash Patel MD

Ross Univ School of Medicine

Internship: Prince George's Hospital Center

Elrond Teo MBBS

St. Barts & Royal London School of Medicine

Internship: Fletcher Allen Health Care

Pain Fellows

Amanda Colgan MD

Univ of Kansas School of Medicine

Residency: Univ of Kansas Medical Center

Shaina Drummond MD

Univ of Kansas School of Medicine

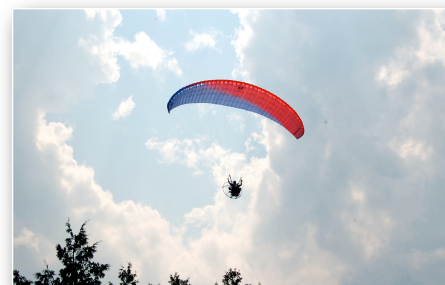
Residency: Univ of Southern California Med

Jason Lewis MD

Univ of Louisville School of Medicine

Residency: Univ of Louisville Hospital

Gratuitous 2008 Anesthesia Summer Picnic Photos



Dr. Keith Leverenz drops in.



Drs. Mark Hamlin, Bill Paganelli, Kevin Abnet, David Johnson, and Tim Dominick water-ski on Lake Champlain, setting some sort of dubious department record.



John Mazuzan Jr. MD

Dr. John Mazuzan was chairman of the UVM Anesthesia Division/Department from 1977 until 1995. In an October 2008 chat, John reflects on his career and retirement. Excerpts:

John, does it feel like thirteen years since you retired?

Hmm ... it does and it doesn't.

Did you miss anesthesia after you retired?

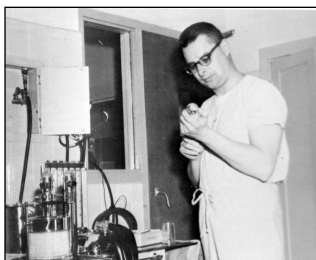
No, not really. When I retired, I made a pact with myself that I wasn't going to go up to the hospital, hang around and go to conferences. I had done my anesthesia bit, I had other interests now. I kept myself busy and still saw people, I just didn't see them in the O.R. I didn't have to get in the funny pajamas every day. I knew, more or less, when I was going to retire and I didn't get kicked out. I left on my own terms, so what else can you ask for?

What part of the chairman's job did you enjoy the most?

The administrative challenges. They made you worry and fret and stew, but I enjoyed them. The committees I was on were productive and I found that it was a second life apart from the clinical work, so if one bored you, you could always shift over to the other for a while. But I never wanted to do administrative work exclusively, I didn't want to leave clinical anesthesia and become a dean or something. I was a dean a couple of times, always a part-time job, but I was foolish enough to take the job without the title. I think I was the head of graduate medical education longer than anybody. Everybody else who did it was named an associate dean, but I did it for no pay and with no title. For which I'm very proud.

You always did a little anesthesia too.

Oh yeah, I still came to the O.R. lots of days.



I still remember seeing you give nasal prong halothane. You were the only person I ever saw do that.

Right. A desperation move. (laughing)

What was the biggest challenge you faced as chairman?

Staffing. Heck, staffing is probably still a big challenge. Do you have enough people or too many? In anesthesia, you always have to anticipate your needs.

What was the worst part of being chairman?

Malpractice suits. I was never personally involved in one, but when we had a malpractice suit, I always felt that I had to get involved and help defend the thing, because these were my people and I had to support them.

Can you tell me more about the John E. Mazuzan Jr. M.D. Endowed Scholarship Fund?

Well, as I understand it, the scholarship is part of a scholarship plan that UVM College of Medicine has established. It's an endowed scholarship to be given yearly, in which the college matches the amount of money donated by a benefactor, in this case Jim Andrew.

I found it interesting that the scholarship is to be given to a medical student with an interest in history.

That's Jim Andrew, he put that in there. I didn't know anything about it. Jim has always considered me as some sort of historian, but what he really means is that I have a long memory, especially for things that we've done together. Jim has been a good friend for a long time. We've always enjoyed each other's company. I've known his family, his kids, I went to his kids' weddings. I went to lunch with him two weeks ago at the noodle palace up at the end of the street.

What keeps you busy these days?

I'm on the board of directors of the Visiting Nurse Association, so I'm seeing another part of medicine that an anesthesiologist usually doesn't get to know. I'm on the long-term care committee, I'm a natural to be on that because Carol is receiving some of that care. I'm also the longtime head of the awards committee at the medical school. Fortunately, over the years I finally got it organized so a lot of good staff work makes it a lot easier. You do get smarter, sometimes, when you get older.

Do you still keep up with the goings on of our department?

Howard comes to see me every six weeks or so for lunch and brings me up to date on new people he's hired and that kind of stuff.

Does he ever ask you for advice?

Once in a while, but that's not really the purpose of the visits. I probably couldn't give him any advice anyway, things have changed so much. He's not going to come to me for advice on what kind of anesthesia to give, or administrative things. It's a totally different ballgame that you people are playing in than I ever did.



George Sabin and Al Mackay

Joe Kreutz MD, a 2007 Wood Library Fellow, has been researching UVM anesthesia history - part 4 of a series.

Etherizers, like John Dodds, and nurse anesthetists, like Maude Smith Hinsdale, were not the only pioneers of early UVM Anesthesia – until the late-1940s, many anesthetics at Burlington area hospitals were administered by surgeons. Among the many significant past faculty of the UVM Department of Surgery, two men stand out for their contributions to anesthesia – George Sabin and Al Mackay.

George Sabin graduated from UVM College of Medicine in 1900 and joined UVM's faculty two years later. It was the start of a remarkable fifty-year surgery career. He was an unusual surgeon for his era, mild-mannered and well-liked, "The kindest man in the care of the sick that I have ever known," Al Mackay said. In the early-1920s, Sabin became interested in spinal anesthesia and introduced its use at UVM, probably using procaine. For the next 25 years, the majority of spinals at UVM would be performed by surgeons.

Al Mackay, a 1932 UVM College of Medicine grad, is best remembered as the chairman of UVM's Department of Surgery from 1942 till 1969. Legendary for his intellect and technical skill, Mackay was a formidable presence in the O.R., unlike his mentor George Sabin. Forgotten after all these years is Mackay's tenure as UVM's anesthesia instructor from 1933 till 1937, succeeding John



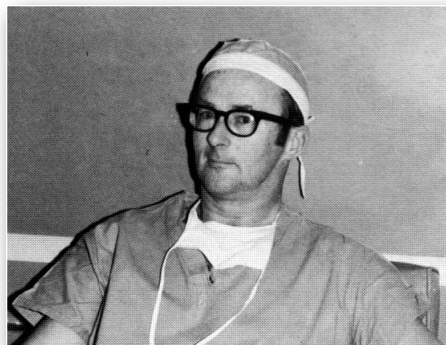
Dodds – a position Mackay held without any formal anesthesia training. More importantly, he spent time on the anesthesia service of Boston City Hospital during his surgical training in the late-1930s. This experience allowed Mackay to fill the critical role of anesthetist and teacher of UVM's nurse anesthetists (Betty Wells, Jackie Roberts, and others) during John Abajian's 1942-1946 absence. John Abajian never forgot his friend's help and it cemented a cordial relationship between the two chairmen that endured for decades.

Next issue: A Place That People Go to Die: Vermont Hospitals in the Early 20th Century

Alumni News

We and your fellow UVM Anesthesia alumni are eager to hear from you! Please write to us or just stop by our offices next time you're in the area.

Richard Pease MD, an attending in the UVM Division of Anesthesiology from 1969 until his retirement in 1984, died February 3rd after a brief illness. Dick was born January 4th, 1923 in Proctor, VT, and was a 1949 graduate of UVM College of Medicine. After his internship in Stamford, CT, Dick was a



general practitioner in Morrisville, VT for thirteen years, where he was a jack-of-all-trades, including pouring ether and doing spinals at Copley Hospital. His anesthesia skills were self-taught, except for a six-month mini-residency at Mary Fletcher Hospital in 1958, where he participated in UVM's early work with halothane. After a psychiatry residency and two-year stint as an assistant professor of psychiatry at Syracuse VA Medical Center, Dick completed an anesthesiology residency in Syracuse and was hired at UVM by John Mazuzan in 1969. He worked primarily at DeGoesbriand and Fanny Allen Hospitals, specializing in regional techniques of all types. Dick is survived by Claire, his wife of 65 years, children, John, Brian,

Gretchen, Cindy, Peter, and Heidi, twelve grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his son, Richard. Contributions in Dick's memory can be sent to the Burlington Dismas House, 96 Buell St., Burlington, VT 05401.

John Mazuzan Jr. MD, beloved former chairman of the UVM Anesthesia Department, celebrated his 80th birthday with his wife, Carol, other relatives, friends, and colleagues at Juniors Restaurant on March 30th (his actual birthday fell on April 2nd). Despite feeling a bit under the weather, "Mazu" endured the attention with his usual patience and grace. Since over 150 attendings, CRNA's, AA's, residents, and pain fellows have joined the UVM Anesthesia family since John's retirement in 1995, it seems appropriate to mention that John is a 1954 UVM College of Medicine graduate who was hired by Chairman John Abajian in August 1959. By the early-1960s, he was UVM's anesthesia residency director and responsible for the daily operation of Mary Fletcher Hospital's operating rooms, and by the end of the decade, John was "defacto chairman" of the UVM Anesthesia Division, a position he officially assumed in 1977.



Upcoming Events

14th Annual Vermont Perspectives In Anesthesia
March 5 - 8, 2009, Stowe, VT

Preliminary Program:

Thurs. March 5: Perioperative Management of Sleep Apnea, Anesthesia for Spine Surgery and Spinal Cord Injury, Choosing an Anesthesia Information System, Accelerating Ileus Recovery After Major Abdominal Surgery.

Fri. March 6: Transfusion Medicine for the Anesthetist, Management of Cardiac Valvular Disease for Non-cardiac Surgery, Acupuncture for the Anesthetist.

Sat. March 7: Workshops on Ultrasound Guided Regional Blocks, Acupuncture, and the Difficult Airway with Emphasis on the Video Laryngoscope, the Johns' Fund Lecture (meeting registration not required for attendance).

Sun. March 8: An Overview of Cancer Pain for the Anesthesiologist, OR Efficiency Revisited, Peripartum Anesthesia Dilemmas.

More information is available at: <http://cme.uvm.edu/>



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Tax-deductible contributions to The Johns' Fund (named in honor of former UVM Anesthesia Chairmen John Abajian, Jr. MD and John Mazuzan, Jr. MD) and the UVM Anesthesia Research & Development Fund are welcome and should be directed to Howard Schapiro MD, Chair - UVM Dept. of Anesthesiology, Fletcher Allen Health Care, 111 Colchester Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401.