



# DACC Newsletter 2018

The University of Chicago  
Department of Anesthesia & Critical Care



AT THE FOREFRONT  
**UChicago**  
**Medicine**

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# CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

In a few days, we will mark the end of calendar year 2018. An exciting year for our department and me personally. As I mentioned in my initial message to our alumni community right after I started my new position in March, I wanted to have a greater and better outreach to our alumni, our wider "DACC family". The end of the year lends itself to reflection of what happened in the last 12 months but also to an outlook for what we plan in 2019. Therefore, we decided to start a regular newsletter to our DACC family, which we plan to send out twice a year. Welcome to edition number one.

## Trauma is Here

Without a doubt, the biggest new development in our institution in 2018 was the opening of the new UCM trauma center on May 1. After 35 years of absence, UCM has again a level-1 trauma center. Now, hospitals don't get to open new level-1 trauma centers that often and understandably there was substantial institutional "anxiety" how well our planning would prepare us for day 1. In hindsight, we must not have feared. The opening - and subsequent



trauma operations - went without a hitch and our department distinguished itself among many as being extremely well prepared. This is quite a remarkable accomplishment and on behalf of our department leadership, I wanted to thank **Dr. Allan Klock**, **Dr. Jeff Tung**, and **Dr. Michael O'Connor** for their outstanding leadership in planning the opening and each and every

current DACC member for their incredible team effort and rising to the occasion. I know I can speak here for both of us, our former chair Dr. Jeff Apfelbaum and myself, that it makes us incredibly proud of our department to having witnessed such an outstanding performance.

## New Leadership in the Residency Program

Within our department, there were several leadership changes and new appointments in 2018 - please see below for the details. We have appointed a new residency program directorship team with **Dr. Junaid Nizamuddin** as new program director and **Drs. Alli Dalton** and **Sara Nizamuddin** as associate program directors. We are excited about their enthusiasm for resident education and wanted to thank both **Dr. Jennifer Hofer** for an outstanding job as program director and **Dr. Jerry Klufta** for serving as interim program director (and his

continued role as vice chair for research). Our residents have been and continue to be in the best of hands!

## Awards & Accolades

Over the last year, members of our department have received several major awards and accolades. To name but a few, **Dr. Keith Ruskin**, section chief of neuroanesthesiology and avid aviation enthusiast, has been elected Fellow of the Aerospace Medical Association and the Royal Aeronautical Society in the UK. **Dr. Barbara Scavone**, section chief for OB anesthesia, was awarded Teacher of the Year by the Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology. **Dr. Alan Schurle**, last years' chief resident and current critical care fellow, has won an unprecedented third Pritzker ETHos Award for Excellence in Teaching and Humanism by the Pritzker School of Medicine.

## Looking Ahead

In September 2018, we had our first **DACC leadership retreat** in many years (at the former McDonald's HQ and Hamburger University in Oak Brook). The retreat helped us to not only understand the current challenges we face but also, where we as a department are headed over the next years and how to get there.

### *So where are we headed?*

As I mentioned before in personal conversations, when I came I found a department that had and has incredibly high standards and quality in virtually every aspect of our tripartite mission. The only area that requires a bit more "love" is research and I joined the department to make this happen. Over the course of the next academic years, DACC will see a significant investment in clinical and translational research and we recently appointed **Dr. Sajid Shahul** as **vice chair for clinical research** to plan and implement a complete relaunch of our clinical research mission. Our goal is clear: we want to be the academic anesthesiology department in Chicago and become one of the leading departments in the nation. It will be a marathon, not a sprint, but we will take one-step a time to make this happen. And we have already started!

## Save the Dates



2019 will see much more activity for our alumni. On Friday, **August 23, 2019**, we will launch an annual **Ovassapian Lecture** to honor **Dr. Andranik Ovassapian** and offer our alumni an opportunity to come to Chicago and visit their old “home”.

**Dr. Michael Roizen**, the former DACC chair and now chief wellness officer at the Cleveland Clinic has agreed to be our inaugural speaker!

We have not finalized details about the whole event weekend, but we’d like to create something like an alumni weekend that brings together current and former DACC members and friends, and allows families to come visit Chicago when it’s really nice (and toasty). Please stay tuned - Theresa Cumming will coordinate the organization and you will hear from her.

On a personal note, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank **Dr. Jeff Apfelbaum** for the incredible job he has done as chair the past 17 years and for being such a wonderful help in making my own transition into the new job as smoothly as it possibly can be. Thank you! It is really the honor of a life time to having been chosen to leading this wonderful department and I am beyond excited to making it the best it can be!



On behalf of our department, we wish you a Happy New Year!

Peter

Peter Nagele, MD, MSc  
Professor and Chairman  
December 2018

## DACC'S NEW CHAIRMAN

Dr. Nagele joins us from Washington University in St. Louis where he served as the Chief of the Section of Trauma Anesthesiology and Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Genetics.



Originally trained in Austria, Dr. Nagele received his medical education at Leopold -Franzens University in Innsbruck and completed his residency in anesthesiology and critical care medicine at the University of Vienna. He pursued postdoctoral training in the laboratory of Michael Crowder at Washington University where his work, published in PNAS, provided the first in vivo evidence for the molecular mechanisms of both xenon and nitrous oxide. After he completed his training, he joined the faculty

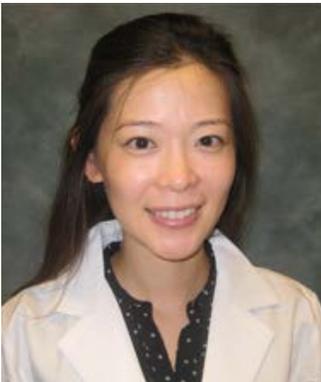
of Washington University and continued to pursue a clinical research career in perioperative cardiovascular medicine while developing his clinical practice as a trauma anesthesiologist. Dr. Nagele's NIH funded research focuses on understanding how genetic background influences the way patients respond to drugs and how it affects perioperative outcomes. As a physician-scientist, he discovered that novel heart biomarkers may predict heart attacks in patients undergoing non-cardiac surgery. He has also conducted work suggesting that brief inhalation of a mild anesthetic nitrous oxide, commonly known as laughing gas, may rapidly improve severe depressive symptoms and suicidal ideation, research that has been funded by the NIH, the American Foundation for the Prevention of Suicide, and the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation.

Throughout his career, Dr. Nagele has been very productive academically, having authored numerous publications. He has also received a number of awards including the American Society of Anesthesiology's 2012 Presidential Scholar Award, the Elmer-Zsigmond Award from the International Society for Anesthetic Pharmacology, the Billroth Prize from the Vienna Medical Society, and the Ziskind-Somerfeld Research Award from the Society for Biological Psychiatry. He has served as the Associate Editor of the journal *Anesthesiology*, and participates in a number of professional societies including serving as the President-elect for the International Society of Anesthetic Pharmacology since 2017. Throughout his career, he has sustained a commitment to mentoring clinicians and physician scientists and was honored by Washington University School of Medicine with the Mentor of the Year award in 2014.

# APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS



**Dr. Sajid Shahul** was promoted to Professor of Anesthesia & Critical Care and Vice Chair for Clinical Research in the department. Dr. Shahul will serve as the point person for all things related to clinical research and to implement our ambitious strategy to become one of the leading academic anesthesia departments in this field.



**Dr. Jihye Ha, Clinical Associate**, has been appointed as Medical Director of the DCAM operating rooms. Dr. Ha obtained her M.D. at the University of Chicago and received her residency training in anesthesiology from our institution as well.



**Dr. Jeffrey Tong**, Assistant Professor, was appointed as Director of Trauma Anesthesia.

Dr. Tong is a retired lieutenant colonel and 25-year veteran of the British Army Medical Corps, with extensive operational experience in combat casualty care following nine deployments in the Balkans, Middle East and Afghanistan.



**Dr. Barbara Scavone**, chief of the section of obstetric anesthesia, has been appointed Vice Chair for Academic Development effective August 1, 2018. As such, she is a member of our department's executive committee. In her new role, Dr. Scavone will be assuming responsibilities from **Dr. Jerome Klafra's** role as Vice Chair for Education and Academic Affairs. He will focus his efforts on education and ensuring the continued success of our student programs, residency and fellowships.

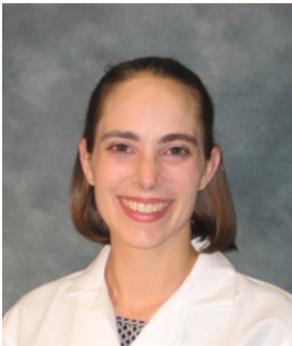
Drs. Jennifer Banayan, Frank DuPont and Jennifer Hofer (L-R) were promoted to Associate Professor of Anesthesia & Critical Care



## Meet our new Residency Directors



Dr. Junaid Nizamuddin  
Program Director



Dr. Allison Dalton  
Associate Program Director



Dr. Sara Nizamuddin  
Associate Program Director

# ANESTHESIA TECHNICIANS OF THE YEAR

December 19, 2018 the Department of Anesthesia & Critical Care recognized the tireless efforts and dedication provided by our excellent anesthesia technicians. This year we the faculty, CRNAs, residents and fellows all voted for the top recipients of this award. Out of 30 technicians, 5 stood out. Our winners for 2018 were Marie Fisher, Ruben Reed, Kevin Johnson, Angel Valencia and Zane Shelly. Congratulations to all!



# CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEDICINE & SCIENCE

**Magdalena Anitescu, MD PhD** Associate Professor gave an interview to WGN News on the topic of opioid and pain management - [WGN INTERVIEW](#)

Anesthesiology featured article in November, 2018 journal written by DACC Faculty, **Robert Fong, MD PhD** Assistant Professor and **Jimmy Xie, MD**, Associate Professor - [Article Here](#)

**Anna Clebone Ruskin, MD**, Assistant Professor - article published in Anesthesia & Analgesia - [Pedi Crisis Mobile Application Article](#)

**Ming Xu, Ph.D.**, DACC Professor, has article published in UChicago News describing how genome-edited skin stem cells can be used to stifle desire for cocaine and protect against an overdose when tested in mice. [Article Here](#)

**Dr. Michael O'Connor**, Professor, was awarded the 2019 Presidential Citation from the Society of Critical Care Medicine for outstanding contributions to the society.

Congratulations to **Dr. Daniel Rubin**, Assistant Professor, on receiving funding for his study from the Carol and George Abramson Fund for Aging and Longevity. Dr. Rubin's pilot study titled: "Validation of a Mobile Application for Perioperative Functional Capacity Assessment in Older Adults" will focus on using mobile technology to estimate functional capacity in older adults through a 6-minute walk test and during passive wear time of the device.

# CALLING ALL ALUMNI & FRIENDS

Please share your successes with us by going to our [ALUMNI](#) page. By doing so, you also authorize us to include your information in future newsletters.



Official Department T-Shirt – Order yours today!

For more information or to place an order, please contact Theresa Cumming

[tcumming@dacc.uchicago.edu](mailto:tcumming@dacc.uchicago.edu)



# YOUR PARTICIPATION COUNTS

Our department's vision - to become one of the leading academic anesthesiology departments in the nation - is ambitious, but achievable. Quite simply, every gift makes a difference, and every gift, regardless of size, is appreciated.

## Give to Anesthesia & Critical Care

Please type in "Department of Anesthesia and Critical Care" in the text box when making gifts online. Your contributions - regardless of size - will have a huge impact on the success of our department. Thank you!

Follow us on Facebook at [ANESTHESIACHICAGO](https://www.facebook.com/ANESTHESIACHICAGO)

Twitter @UChiAnesChiefs

## SAVE THE DATES

FRIDAY AUGUST 23, 2019  
INAUGURAL ANDRANIK OVASSAPIAN LECTURE  
SPEAKER: DR. MICHAEL ROIZEN  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

SATURDAY AUGUST 24, 2019  
DEPARTMENT & ALUMNI PICNIC  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 19, 2019  
ANNUAL ASA ALUMNI GATHERING  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

FRIDAY - SUNDAY DECEMBER 6-8, 2019  
33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON CHALLENGES FOR CLINICIANS  
THE DRAKE HOTEL, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS