

May 12, 2023

## Our Discipline

We would like to take this opportunity to share some of our accomplishments and to keep you informed of what is happening with the Discipline of Anesthesia.

Our primary aim of training outstanding clinicians remains and, as a Discipline, we are dedicated to achieving this goal.

Dr. Geoff Warden, our current Research Director, has each resident working on a project and brings a wealth of experience with his PhD in Clinical Epidemiology.

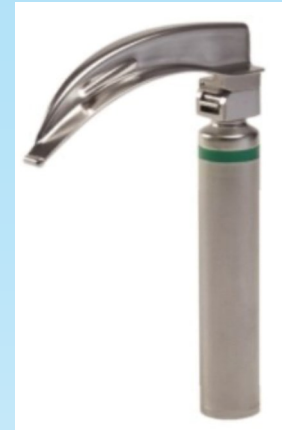
Our Simulation Program has adapted due to changes required as a result of COVID but we have innovated and are back on track with our monthly program. Thank you to Dr. Noel O'Regan, the Simulation Director, and the rest of the Memorial Simulation Subcommittee.

Our residents completed the oral exam on April 18. I would like to express my gratitude to our colleagues who were so generous with their time in helping the residents prepare.

We have had another great year of Tuesday morning rounds thanks to Dr. Sushil Sancheti, our Continuing Professional Development Lead. Rounds are also available in a recorded format on D2L: <https://online.mun.ca/d2l/login/>

If anyone has any questions, comments, or concerns, please send me an email: [gzbitnew@mun.ca](mailto:gzbitnew@mun.ca) or call me at 709-864-4969. We are all trying to give our best to our patients and our learners.

All the best to you,  
Dr. Geoff Zbitnew  
Interim Chair Discipline of Anesthesia



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### Important Dates

- May 18, 2023  
- Discipline Meeting
- June 2, 2023  
- Senior Resident Celebration
- November 10, 2023  
- Discipline of Anesthesia  
Research Day
- January 27, 2024  
- Discipline of Anesthesia Faculty  
Retreat

## Mission Statement Update

We had great contributions from many faculty for suggestions on the update of our Discipline Mission Statement:

***To provide excellence in anesthesia care, pain management and perioperative medicine through the formation of competent, culturally sensitive anesthesiologists; the pursuit of discovery through scholarship, research, and innovation; the provision of compassionate, high standard care through professional development, guidance of national and international standards, and continuing quality assurance for all people and communities of Newfoundland and Labrador.***

## About the Residency Training Program

As many of you know, we are undergoing Royal College accreditation review of the Anesthesia Residency Training Program in 2024. Our Program Director, Dr. Peter Collins, has always strived to give the residents the best training possible and has done an enormous amount of work in preparing for our review.



## Message from the Program Director

I am thrilled to have our newsletter back up and running! It has been a busy year so far and there are certainly a lot of new and exciting changes to our residency program.

First off, our program is fresh off of our CaRMS match. We had a record number of applications this year and offered a huge number of interviews. Our efforts were rewarded with 4 new residents that we can't wait to welcome into our program.

Also, it is my pleasure to congratulate our senior residents who successfully sat the applied component of their Royal College exam. It is through their hard work and the efforts of our dedicated staff and faculty who prepared them for success! This represents a colossal effort and it's something to be very proud of. This time of year is always bitter sweet: we get to celebrate the successes of our trainees but have to say farewell to some. We all look forward to your future accomplishments!

With the ending of one academic year comes the start of an exciting new one. In an effort to start the new year on the right foot we are launching an ambitious new QI program. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Alexander Badour (currently in PGY2) and the survey responses of residents and staff we are hoping to engage in a cyclic process of program improvement. Stay tuned for the many opportunities to make things better. We need your help to improve our already great training program!

If we have a shining star in our discipline, it's definitely our commitment to resident wellness. It is through no small effort of Dr. Ainsley Decker that our resident wellness and mentorship initiatives are, quite literally, world class.

Some things on our busy social schedule:

Save the date for our day of celebration in honour of our senior residents. We will be celebrating at the home of Dr. Stephen Crummev on Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

I would also like to whet everyone's appetite for welcoming our new PGY1's! I will be having a family-friendly welcome party at my house for all faculty, staff and residents! Tentative dates are still being finalized so stay tuned for further details!

I look forward to using this newsletter to update all of you on the exciting new changes and improvements to our program, as well as the incredible accomplishments of our amazing residents!

*Dr. Peter Collins*

## Research

Memorial Anesthesia placed second at the Resident Research Symposium with a project by Dr. Garrett Tingley and medical student, Alexander Norman, on Acute Pain Service Involvement with Posterior Cervical Decompression and Fusion patients resulting in lowered pain scores and reduced length of stay by almost 2 days. We look forward to their presentation at the Anesthesia Research Day this fall.



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*Save the date: Friday, November 10, 2023 - Discipline of Anesthesia Research Day*

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## Anesthesia Faculty Retreat

The Discipline did not have an opportunity to meet in person for some time. We held an annual retreat at The Pantry on Saturday, January 28, 2023. This was a great opportunity for all faculty to interact and discuss what has been happening with the Discipline. We are planning to meet annually on the last Saturday in January - all faculty are welcome to attend. We will try to have a virtual option going forward.

We are required to provide 4 multiple choice questions per royal college exam candidate who is sent to exam. As we usually send 4 candidates per year, this totals 16 questions annually. We would like the entire Discipline to assist in the development of these questions and it is expected that all GFT faculty will provide 2 MCQs per year.

It is also expected by the Dean that all GFT faculty submit annual progress reports. Failure to comply could result in valid dismissal.

We are, in fact, missing administrative support in the Discipline for our faculty and program size. The Medical school is working on a solution for this.



## UGME

We have had challenges in accommodating clerks for their integrated anesthesia experience during their surgery rotations. If there is anyone interested in accepting learners, please contact:

[marion.barnes@med.mun.ca](mailto:marion.barnes@med.mun.ca) or [gzbitnew@mun.ca](mailto:gzbitnew@mun.ca)

There is currently a huge human resource deficit in Anesthesia providers across Canada, and these early experiences really help attract people to our specialty.

We have to remember that completion of evaluations is essential to accreditation of the Memorial Undergraduate Medical Education Program. We are working

to improve compliance with standard 9.8 on Timely Summative Assessments. The office of **UGME wants all summative evaluations completed within 4 weeks of the end of a rotation.** CACM will be reassessing Memorial's compliance with standard 9.8 in August 2024 and we are striving for 100% compliance.

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*Memorial clinical faculty appointments come with access to the Health Sciences Library resources, including UpToDate®.*

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## Ongoing Research Projects in The Discipline of Anesthesia

Below is a list of ongoing projects. If anyone has an additional project to add, an idea for a new project, or a grant application, please contact our Clinical Research Director, Dr. Geoff Warden - [gwarden@mun.ca](mailto:gwarden@mun.ca)

Prevention of Persistent Pain with Lidocaine infusions in Breast Cancer Surgery: A Multicentre, parallel-group, blinded, 1:1 randomized controlled trial of 1,150 patients undergoing breast cancer surgery.

Site Leads: Dr. Geoff Zbitnew and Dr. Kathryn Sparrow

The Efficacy of Chest Compressions in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation on Manikins Wearing Ballistic Body Armor  
Dr. Chris Hung PGY1

Pre-anesthetic Clinic Recall: A Cross-sectional Study on Patient Recall before Surgery  
Dr. Alicia Barron PGY1  
Lauren Hemphill CC3

Preoperative Hyperkalemia: Can Anesthesia Intervention Decrease Potassium Levels before Surgery?  
Dr. Darragh Monaghan PGY1  
Henry Power CC3

Provider Satisfaction and Wellness Pre-Post Global Health Mission  
Dr. Lesley Johnston  
Dr. Michael Bell PGY1

*Continued on next page*

## Ongoing Research Projects in The Discipline of Anesthesia

A Retrospective Single-centre Study Comparing Discharge Time of Spinal Chloroprocaine and Hyperbaric Bupivacaine in Ambulatory Surgery and Procedures of Short Duration

Dr. Mark Acerman PGY2  
Dr. Brittanie Labelle PGY3  
Claire Pratt CC4

Penicillin Allergies in Elective Surgeries: A Quality Assurance Review and Evidence for Relabelling

Dr. Stefanie Goodland PGY3  
Haley Walsh CC3

Anesthesia Residency Curriculum: A Resident-Driven Quality Improvement Project

Dr. Alexander Badour PGY2  
Dr. Peter Collins

The Impact of Covid Restrictions on Anesthetic Delivery for Short Urologic Procedures:

Kirkland Lockyer CC3

The Virtual Anesthetic Clinic: A Patient and Provider Satisfaction Survey

Dr. Soleil Chahine PGY2  
Gerald Howard – Graduate Student

The Implementation of Decision Tool for Emergent Cesarean Sections: A Quality Improvement Project

Dr. Lara Witt PGY2



Dr. Garrett Tingley 3<sup>rd</sup> from left

Personal Electronic Device Ambulation and Association with Length of Stay in Elective Patients Undergoing Hysterectomy

Dr. Kelly Au  
Dr. Alyssa Nikola PGY3

The Impact of Erector Spinae Plane Block on Length of Stay for Patients Undergoing Lumbar Spine Surgery

Dr. Meghan Wentzell PGY3  
Paunez Sadri CC3

Perioperative Anesthesia Intervention: Decreasing Length of Stay in Surgical Patients with a High Risk of Post-Operative Pain

Dr. Garrett Tingley PGY3  
Alex Norman CC4

Erector Spinae Plane Block in Patients Undergoing Posterior Cervical Decompression Fusion Surgery: A Case Series

Dr. Sushil Sanchetti  
Dr. Garrett Tingley PGY3

The impact of Thromboelastography (TEG) on Blood Product Usage in Cardiac Surgery

Dr. Lesley Johnston  
Dr. Joe Otto PGY5