Anesthesia Message

Volume IV, Issue 5

Message from the Director

As we all live in the hope that warmer weather and signs of Spring will soon arrive, my hope is that you all had a Happy Easter season.

I extend a sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the internal review. The review was quite positive, with all but one of the four areas of concern successfully addressed by the residency program committee. The remaining issue, faculty assessment, is being addressed by a new faculty assessment process which is going to be piloted by faculty who volunteer to participate. Faculty members will soon be given information about the process, which will commence as soon as possible. The research issue is being very actively addressed by Drs. O’Leary and Sampson. A new Discipline Resident Safety Policy (another requirement) has been written and accepted by the Residency Program Committee. Finally, there are new lectures addressing the curricular deficiencies identified in ethics, cultural, and legal concerns. Another area requiring evaluation and energizing is intraoperative teaching. A program once well-known for its OR teaching, our program is not as consistent as it had been in this regard. I would encourage all our teachers to share our collective wealth of knowledge, including our practical and experience-based knowledge, with our residents. Not everything is in a book. Everyone can contribute to our residents’ clinical education. Dr. O’Leary is presently working on operating room teaching resources.

Formal practice orals exams are scheduled to take place May 12 starting at 4:30pm. I would greatly appreciate your assistance, particularly for our seniors.

Michael Bautista

Clerkship Preparation Course

We still require people to fill the following times for the course in June. If you are available for any of those dates and times email Krista at Krista.Cole@med.mun.ca

Airway Workshop, June 18, 2014
Bag mask ventilation: 1 tutor from 9:30 to 12 noon
Intubation: 1 tutor from 9:30 to 12 noon and 2 tutors from 1:30 to 4 pm
Monitoring: 1 tutor from 9:30 to 12 noon

Practical Skills, June 24, 2014
IV Station: 1 tutor from 1 to 5 pm
EKG Station: 1 tutor from 1 to 5 pm

Cardiac Workshop, June 25, 2014
First Five Minutes and Mock Code: 2 faculty for 9 am to 12 noon; 2 faculty for 1 to 4 pm; 2 residents for 1 to 4 pm

CaRMS Match

The CaRMS Match results were released on Wednesday, March 5. The five medical students who will be joining our program are: Catherine Davis and Sherry Jin, University of Toronto, Eric (Lingwell) Meng, Western University, James Roherty, Memorial University, and Kinsha Yip, University of Saskatchewan.
We look forward to Catherine, Sherry, Lingwell, James and Kinsha becoming Anesthesia residents in July.
Anesthesia Research Strategic Plan 2014

It is with great gratitude that I wish to acknowledge Dr. Susan O’Leary for her detail-oriented facilitation and assistance in production of the Discipline of Anesthesia Research Strategic Plan 2014. This Research Strategic Plan is a ‘living document’ that will guide the Anesthesia Research Committee and those active in research over the next three to five years. At the end of this 5 year plan, the goal is to promote the creation of a culture and environment for research in clinical anesthesia, and support anesthesiologists with active research to achieve their desired goals and endpoints. Specific outcome measures include research grants, presentations and publications as well as overall project completion, awards and local recognition. The Research Strategic Plan 2014 is available in the anesthesia office from Krista Cole.

One goal of the strategic plan is to communicate the research activity of the Discipline of Anesthesia. With that in mind, in this Anesthesia Message you will find a copy of the Poster by Drs. Jadon Harding & Steven Howells titled: Anesthesia Information Management system Use in Canada that was to be presented at the 2013 CAS Annual meeting in Calgary. Unfortunately due to flooding, the meeting was cancelled, so the poster has not been viewed.

Anesthesia Research Message

By Sonia Sampson, Anesthesia Research Director, Memorial University of Newfoundland

SURA

The Summer Undergraduate Research Award (SURA) has had 4 successful recipients within the Discipline of Anesthesia. Drs. Pridham, Major, Bautista and Sampson have successful SURA students to start July 2014. This award supports a first or second year medical student to participate in a well-defined research project and allows for monetary support of that student for a four to six week time period. Congratulations to those recipients. We are looking forward to hearing more about your projects!

Anesthesia Research ‘Day’

On May 28th, the Anesthesia Research Day will take place at the Hungry Heart Café. Residents will be presenting in two categories: Research Proposals and Research Projects with results. Residents, please submit your abstracts to Krista Cole.

I would also like to invite staff with active research projects to give a five to seven minute presentation on their project to allow communication of research activity within the department, and perhaps inspire other staff to become involved in research activity. Please contact Sonia Sampson if you are interested.

MESC Forum

On May 30th and 31st, the MESC Forum will contain some familiar faces. Dr. Katie Carten’s abstract submission titled: Anesthesia residents using in-situ simulation to educate operating room nursing personnel on high risk, low frequency anesthetic events. Also named on the abstract are Stephanie Power-Macdonald (medical student) and Dr. Sonia Sampson. Dr. Pridham also has an abstract titled “Assessment of the Horizontal Integration of Anesthesia in General Surgery at Memorial University of Newfoundland—A Pilot Project” Co-Authors Dr. Pridham, Dr. Thiessen, Steve Sharlin and Heidi Thorne-Coombs (Research Assistant).

ANESTHESIA INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM USE IN CANADA

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Introduction

There is little published data on the use of anesthesia information management systems (AIMS) in Canada. A survey was undertaken among English-speaking Canadian academic anesthesiology departments to determine current use of AIMS and attitudes and factors affecting their adoption.

Methods

In December 2011, after receiving Health Research Ethics Authority approval, an Internet survey (SurveyMonkey) was e-mailed to forty (40) English Canadian university affiliated site chiefs. Each site chief was given six weeks to complete the survey. A reminder was sent midway through the survey period.

Adoption (1-S) and non-adoption (6) of AIMS was categorized as follows:
1. Currently using
2. Currently using, but planning to upgrade
3. In process of implementing
4. Purchased, but implementation not started
5. Intending to purchase
6. Not using or intending to purchase

Factors for acquiring an AIMS, were ranked using a 5 category Likert scale.

Non-adopters were asked about barriers to implementation.

Results

AIMS Adoption Rate

Currently Using 24% Planned to Use 14%
Not Using or Intending to Purchase 62%

Intending to Purchase

17% (12 of 70)

Purchased but Implementation Not Started 5%

Currently Using but Planning to Upgrade 3%

Discussion

AIMS were in current use, being implemented, or intending to be purchased in 86% of responding sites, or 45% of all sites contacted. The rate is similar to previous reports of adoption rates in the United States and greater than in Europe.1,2

The main motivating factors for AIMS adoption were those targeted toward patient safety, and collecting data for quality assurance and research purposes. Financial, administrative and information technology support were felt to be the main barriers to implementation.

The limitations of the study were responder bias and the response rate of only 52%. This response rate is typical for physician completed electronic surveys.3,4 Despite these limitations, appropriate insight into the adoption of AIMS across Canada can be made. No information is available about sites that did not respond, despite the follow-up e-mail midway through the survey period.

References