

## 60th Anniversary - A Time to Celebrate

By Arnold J. Berry, M.D., MPH  
President



Although I have been a member of the Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists since 1978, this year, while serving as President, I realized that I knew very little about the history of the organization. With the help of Ms. Felicia Reilly, an Archivist at the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, I obtained copies of the original correspondence related to the founding of the GSA and

discovered that we are approaching the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Society. This prompted me to search for more information about the history of anesthesiology in GA and the role that members of the GSA have played in our specialty.

The beginning of our specialty can be traced to Jefferson, Georgia where the first anesthetic was performed. On March 30, 1842, Crawford W. Long, MD administered ether anesthesia to Mr. James Venable. Because he had so feared the pain of surgery, Mr. Venable had delayed having two small tumors removed from the back of his neck. After Dr. Long offered him the possibility that surgery could be performed without pain, Mr. Venable consented to have one of the tumors removed. Dr. Long successfully administered the first ether anesthetic, permitting the surgery to proceed without causing pain to Mr. Venable. Although Crawford Long performed several other surgeries while providing ether anesthesia to his patients, the first public demonstration of anesthesia took place in Boston on October 16, 1846. In 1849, at a meeting of the Georgia State Medical Association, Dr. Long read a description of his original experience with ether anesthesia.

Many tributes have been bestowed upon Dr. Long because of the significance of his discovery and use of anesthesia. The national observance of Doctor's Day is linked to Crawford Long. The Barrow County Alliance in Winder, Georgia decided that there should be a day set aside to honor all physicians. The first Doctor's Day was held on March 30, 1933 in recognition of the first anesthetic, and on March 30, 1958, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted a resolution commemorating Doctor's Day.

Each state is permitted to honor two of their citizens with statues that reside in the Capitol in Washington, DC. On March 30, 1946, a statue of Crawford W. Long, MD was presented to the national government to represent the state of Georgia. The Crawford Long Museum was opened in 1957 in Jefferson, Georgia and remains as a tribute to his discovery and to our specialty.

The development of Anesthesiology as a medical specialty proceeded slowly after the first administration of anesthesia in Georgia. In the early 1900s, very few surgeries were performed at major hospitals, and most anesthetics were administered by general practitioners. By 1920, as surgical techniques improved, more operations took place, and the few physicians interested in anesthesiology were being trained in apprenticeships. It was also around this time that programs were established to train nurses to provide anesthesia at some of the larger medical centers. Although nurses, under the supervision of surgeons, administered most anesthetics in the 1920's, two anesthesiologists, Drs. Thomas Collier and Thomas Tidmore, Sr., established an Anesthesia Department at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta.

In 1937, Perry Volpitto, MD, an anesthesiologist trained by Emery Rovenstine, MD at Bellevue Hospital in New York, established the first academic Department of Anesthesiology in the Southeast at the University of Georgia School of Medicine in Augusta. This was quite significant since there were only four major post-graduate training programs in anesthesiology at the time.

During World War II, there was a tremendous interest in anesthesiology because of the great need for surgical care of injured soldiers. Short training courses in anesthesiology were provided to

physicians to permit them to care for the increasing numbers of trauma patients from the battlefields. As these military trained anesthesiologists returned home after the war, many chose to remain in the specialty. This coincided with a significant increase in the number of anesthesia resident training programs.

In 1946, Dr. William Galvin was recruited to head the Anesthesia Service at Emory University Hospital. Dr. Galvin began an anesthesia resident training

Join the 60th Anniversary  
**Celebration**

Saturday, January 19, 2008  
6:00 p.m. Reception

Honoring GSA  
Past Presidents  
with a stroll down  
Memory Lane!

1948 - 2008

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# Editor's Corner

Carolyn Bannister, M.D.  
Editor, GSA Newsletter



Hello Everyone,  
I hope this finds all of you rested and well-fed (perhaps overfed?) from the holidays. I hope you are making arrangements to attend the winter GSA meeting at Evergreen Conference Center in Stone Mountain Park on January 19. This year is the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the GSA! At this meeting we will hold a Saturday evening reception honoring past presidents of the GSA. Actually the celebration will be to honor all members of GSA who are able to join us. Please plan to attend. The reception should be great fun and a wonderful tribute to GSA members.

The agenda for the winter meeting will include for the first time a dedicated lecture time for residents or fellows from our academic anesthesiology programs, MCG and Emory, to briefly present their research which is ongoing or which they have completed. The four participants were nominated by their program chairs and research directors; they will take 10 minutes to present their work and will have five minutes to answer questions from the audience. They will be invited to display a poster in the back of the lecture hall which also

showcases their work.

Please plan to attend and see what our young colleagues are accomplishing and how they are contributing to new knowledge in anesthesiology. We hope to expand this part of our meeting in the future to have more resident/fellow research presentations and/or poster sessions. This has been a suggestion from our member surveys asking for desirable topics at future educational meetings. So come support our young anesthesiologists.

The agenda will also include an anesthesiology history lecture and several distinguished invited lecturers covering topics from obstructive sleep apnea, neuroanesthesia, the business of anesthesiology and anesthesia practice for the future. Dr. William Hammonds, President of the Wood Library Museum, will give the history lecture. See the article on the upcoming meeting for more information.

I want to thank Arnold Berry and Jet Toney for preparing and sitting for the CME site visit with MAG, our accrediting body for the educational meetings. The site visit is a requirement for all programs that are accredited to provide continuing educational opportunities. Jet and Arnold met with the site visitors at a time when I was unable to participate.

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## 2008 OFFICER NOMINEES

(Election to be held January 19, 2008 at the General Business Meeting)

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# GSA Winter Forum 2008

## Renown Presenters

### Winter Forum looks back to future of specialty

By Thomas M. Fuhrman, MD  
Medical College of Georgia  
Activity Co-Director

The Evergreen Conference Center in Stone Mountain Park will be the site of the Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists' annual Winter Forum on Saturday January 19, 2008. The theme for the meeting is *Anesthesiology: Our Past to the Present*.

There will be seven lectures by a renowned group of invited speakers. In addition four residents/fellows from Georgia's two Anesthesiology residency programs will give presentations showcasing current work from their respective departments.

One of our distinguished presenters will be **Robert E. Johnstone, MD**, Professor of Anesthesiology at West Virginia University and the newly elected Vice President for Professional Affairs of the American Society of Anesthesiologists. He will speak on the *Airway in Trauma*, a topic that every anesthesiologist should review often. Dr. Johnstone's second presentation, *Anesthesia Practice in the Future* promises to be both enlightening and thought provoking for the audience.

A presenter from that state to the south of Georgia, Eugene Fu, MD is an Associate professor of Anesthesiology and Chief of Neuroanesthesia at the University of Miami. His topics include *Anesthetic Challenges in the Patient with Parkinson's Disease* and *Medicolegal Issues in Neuroanesthesia*.

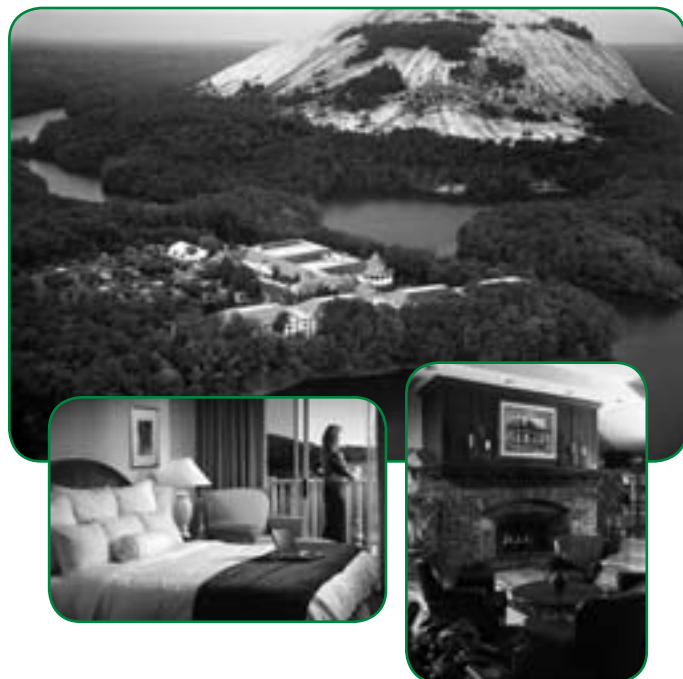
There are varying estimates of the incidence of sleep apnea.

Articles quote numbers stating that 12 to 18 million Americans have sleep apnea. **Brian W. Carlin, MD, FCCP, FAARC**, an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Allegheny General Hospital of Pittsburgh, PA is a Pulmonologist and an expert in sleep medicine. His two topics are *Sleep Disordered Breathing and Anesthesia: What should I do?* and *Sleep and the heart: Implications for Anesthetic and Surgical Management*.

William Hammonds, MD, MPH of the Medical College of Georgia will delve into a historical prospective during his presentation *The Conflict Between Physicians and Mid-Level Practitioners*. It was George Santayna, the philosopher, essayist, poet and novelist who said: "Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it." History occasionally provides solutions, sometimes increases understanding, and almost always provides a better perspective to problems. The last several decades have seen the development of an ugly struggle between nurse anesthetists and physicians. Every anesthesiologist has been impacted in some way by this conflict. In his presentation, Dr. Hammonds will review history to find other struggles between midlevel practitioners and physicians to see if a better understanding and improved perspective on the current conflict can be provided.

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# ASA Director's Report

## 2007 Annual Report to the ASA House of Delegates

(submitted September 2007)

Steven L. Sween, M.D.

ASA Director



### Education and Meetings

GSA continues to host two excellent educational meetings each year. The 2007 winter meeting, "Rock Solid Anesthesia" was held January 20 at the Marriott Evergreen Conference Resort in Stone Mountain Park, just outside of Atlanta. Kathryn Stack, M.D., program director, compiled a talented group of speakers for this one-day event covering a variety of topics related to the practice of anesthesia. In early August, GSA held its annual summer weekend meeting at the King and Prince Beach and Golf Resort on St. Simons Island, Georgia. An extraordinary group of invited speakers discussed topics relating to "Fast Forward-The Future of Anesthesia," under the program direction of Mark C. Norris, M.D. and Stanford R. Plavin, M.D. We were honored to have ASA President Dr. Mark Lema at our summer meeting. I continue to be impressed by the ability of GSA members and staff to coordinate high quality scientific meetings of great value to those who attend. However, I am also quite aware of the easy access at this time to high quality continuing medical education (CME) material and practice management tools, often available at little or no cost in your own home or office. As the costs of sponsoring desirable CME programs continue to escalate, GSA and similar medical specialty societies will need to develop more modern and effective methods to educate and communicate with members. As a step in that direction, GSA has significantly expanded the capabilities of our website (gsahq.org), and expanded the publication of our exemplary GSA Newsletter from two to four issues annually. As the future of anesthesia unfolds, I am certain that the benefits of membership for medical specialty societies will be more closely evaluated and scrutinized by current and prospective members. GSA is committed to continuing in its leading role as the principal and principled advocate for the anesthesiologists of Georgia.

Georgia is home to two fine graduate medical education

Our society is comprised of ASA members from the state of Georgia. We are the Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists (GSA).

### Membership and Leadership 2007

Active	637	President	Arnold J. Berry, M.D.
Resident	134	Past President	Edwin D. Johnston, Jr., M.D.
Retired	90	President-Elect	Howard Odom, M.D.
Affiliate	23	Vice President	Bruce Hines, M.D.
Lifetime	1	Secretary/Treasurer	Jay W. Johansen, M.D.
Disabled	1	ASA Director	Steven Sween, M.D.
Student	4	ASA Alt. Director	Peggy Duke, M.D.
TOTAL	890	ASA Delegates	Carolyn Bannister, M.D.
			Timothy N. Beeson, M.D.
			Arnold J. Berry, M.D.
			Peggy Duke, M.D.
			Jay W. Johansen, M.D.
			William R. "Bob" Lane, Jr., M.D.
			Howard Odom, M.D.

programs in Anesthesiology, one at Emory University in Atlanta and the other at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. GSA promotes and values the membership and participation of its resident component. It is imperative that ASA component societies emphasize the value of membership and support participation of their resident component in as many ways as they can. I am not sure that GSA has been as effective as we should be in promoting membership, citizenship and participation by our physicians in training. However, we are now at least on the right path. Over the past year, resident memberships in GSA have increased from 77 to 134, an increase of nearly 75%!

### Governmental Affairs

GSA continues to be guided and directed in all matters political by Mr. James E. "Jet" Toney, our long-term executive secretary and lobbyist. Without any doubt, Jet's leadership and political wisdom, associations and respect have contributed greatly to the solid foundation that the GSA enjoys in the local political and regulatory arena. However, complacency is a terrible thing, and I see evidence that GSA members are becoming too passive in terms of their political action. That is, 2007 participation in both GSA PAC and ASAPAC is off our previous levels, and essentially not acceptable to sustain our current and future political goals. For that reason, GSA President Dr. Arnold Berry has wisely chosen to bolster and

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# Committee Reports

## Program and Education Committee

**Carolyn Bannister, M.D.**  
Chair

The GSA Program and Education Committee is currently seeking a meeting coordinator (officially, an activity director) for the January 2009 educational meeting. The committee has enlisted activity directors for the educational meetings through the summer of 2009 with the exception of the Winter 2009. Please notify the committee of any interested members who you think would plan an appealing educational meeting.

The upcoming winter 2007 meeting is January 19 at Evergreen Conference Center inside Stone Mountain Park. The theme is "Anesthesiology from the past to the present in the park." Dr. Tom Fuhrman from the Medical College of Georgia and Dr. Carolyn Bannister from Emory University are coordinating the meeting. See the separate article elsewhere in the newsletter for more information. The agenda is also listed on the GSA website. The GSA business meeting will be held during lunch. The anesthesiology history lecture will be given by Dr. William Hammonds, MD, MPH, and President of the Wood Library Museum. The Saturday evening reception will be a celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the GSA. Past presidents of the GSA will be recognized and all GSA members will be honored; it should be a memorable evening so plan to stay for this at the close of the educational sessions.

Dr. Ellen Boney will coordinate the summer 2008 meeting and Dr. Mary Arthur, summer 2009.

The committee appreciates all those who took time to respond to the educational survey conducted over the last year and those who respond to the course evaluations at the meetings. The comments and suggestions for future meetings help meeting coordinators tailor the educational agenda. In response to member requests on the surveys, the January 19, 2008 meeting will have a lecture slot dedicated to presentations from residents/fellows from our academic institutions who are involved in research. Four residents/fellows have been invited to each give a 10-minute summary of their research efforts followed by five minutes of questions from the audience. The presenters will also have the opportunity to display their research posters in the lecture hall. This is a great way to showcase the work these young physicians have accomplished and to recognize their contribution to new knowledge in anesthesiology.

The committee is grateful to Jet Toney and Arnold Berry who successfully defended our CME accreditation with MAG

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## Anesthesia Care Team Committee

**By Howard Odom, M.D.**  
Anesthesia Care Team Committee, Chair



Several years ago, ASA initiated a new category of membership for anesthesiologists called Educational Member. This was one of the many steps along the way toward resuming sponsorship of Anesthesiologist Assistant education. GSA also instituted state-level Educational membership for AAs.

As is required of physicians, AAs must pursue continuing education as part of the biennial state licensing process and the recertification exam required every six years. The two GSA educational meetings held each year provide an excellent opportunity for AAs to meet a portion of the CME requirement.

An important aspect of AAs attending the GSA meetings is that the educational model for AAs is rooted in the problem

solving methodology of physician training. In fact, the accreditation standards for AA programs include the requirement that they be located within an academic anesthesia department or that there be an affiliation with an anesthesia department which has resources appropriate to residency training. The link to anesthesiology resident training is deliberate based on the premise that members of the Anesthesia Care Team are best schooled in the setting where team leaders are trained. Stated another way, residents learn team leadership best when they see how the care team is meant to function.

In the Anesthesia Care Team mode of practice, AAs extend the reach and presence of our care as highly trained, experienced and trusted anesthesiologists. When leading the care team, we owe them a clear plan to implement, communicate pitfalls for which to be on guard and support when they call for guidance or

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## A Time to Celebrate

(Continued from page 1)

program at Emory in 1948, but eight years later, the residency program at Emory became inactive. An external review conducted at Grady Memorial Hospital between 1955 and 1956 indicated that there were 20 to 40 anesthesia-related deaths in the preceding year. To address this issue, the Emory School of Medicine decided that it needed an academic Chairman of Anesthesiology, and Dr. John Steinhaus was recruited for the position. The new Emory anesthesia training program admitted the first resident in September 1958.

### History of the Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists

In a letter to the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Dr. Volpitto described the founding of the GSA. "On January 29, 1948, a Georgia State Society of Anesthesiologists was organized at a meeting held of a group of anesthetists at the Biltmore Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. At this time the constitution was framed and adopted to conform with the constitution sent out by the American Society of Anesthesiologists for state organizations. The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President: Dr. Thomas Collier of Atlanta, Georgia  
 Secretary: Dr. Perry P. Volpitto of Augusta, Georgia  
 Treasurer: Dr. Hayward S. Phillips of Atlanta, Georgia"

Following this request to the ASA, a charter was granted to the GSA on March 21, 1948.

At the organizational meeting of the GSA, there were 20 active members and 5 junior members. With the dramatic

increase in the population of Georgia and the greater number of anesthesiologists being trained in Georgia and across the U.S., the membership of the GSA has now grown to approximately 900.

GSA members have figured prominently in the history of the ASA including three that have served as President: Perry Volpitto, MD in 1965, John Steinhaus, MD in 1970, and John Neeld, Jr, MD in 1999. There have also been three GSA members honored as recipients of the ASA Distinguished Service Award, the highest tribute the Society can pay to an ASA member for meritorious service and achievements. These individuals include Perry Volpitto, MD in 1974, John Steinhaus, MD in 1982, and Carl Hug, Jr, MD, PhD in 2006.

To commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the GSA, a special reception has been planned to honor all of the Past Presidents of the organization. The celebration will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, January 19, 2008 following the day-long Winter Meeting at the Evergreen Conference Center, Stone Mountain Park. I encourage all members to attend the scientific meeting and stay to participate in this special celebration.

### References

1. Paper by Thomas J. Collier, MD: A History of the Various Anesthetics and the Discovery of Same in the State of Georgia, provided by the Wood-Library Museum
2. Steinhaus JE: Anesthesia Education at Emory 1958-1985. Wolfe Publishing, Fernandina Beach, FL; 1996



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## ASA Director's Report

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revitalize the efforts of the GSA Committee on Governmental Affairs (as well as the efforts of other key committees such as the Committee on Long-range Planning). Allen N. Gustin, Jr., M.D. has recently moved to Atlanta from Alabama to join the Emory faculty. Allen has been appointed to vice-chair the GSA COGA to support and complement the ongoing efforts of Richard Muench, M.D., chair of COGA. We are hopeful that Dr. Gustin can bring some of the political fundraising expertise, dedication and accomplishments of the Alabama society to the GSA. We must never under-estimate the value and potential that involvement in the political process brings to our specialty and our profession. At a minimum, every anesthesiologist in Georgia including (especially) its residents in training should be a member of GSA PAC and ASAPAC. Our target should be nothing less.

One of the political successes for the GSA over the past several years has been the solid and respectful relationship that we have developed with our state medical organization, the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG). In fact, three anesthesiologists serve on the MAG Council on Legislation. Although most of the time our interests are parallel, the 2007 session of the Georgia General Assembly created some division between GSA and MAG. The legislative agenda for MAG brought an effort to eliminate existing Certificate of Need (CON) regulations for health care facilities. Obviously, the Georgia Hospital Association (GHA) vigorously opposed elimination of CON, and GHA prevailed in round one of this important debate. Most GSA members have a relationship with a hospital, and many GSA members may enjoy protection or privilege in CON regulation. Perhaps for that reason, a significant majority of surveyed GSA members favor retention

of reasonable CON regulation, creating division not only within the Georgia "house of medicine" but even within our own specialty society. For now the waters are quiet. In times of great potential turbulence, however, GSA is quite certain that whenever possible our goal should be a united physician effort. GSA will make every effort to stay in concert with MAG.

### Honored GSA Members – Congratulations

GSA is extremely proud of and thankful for three of its members who have been recognized in 2007 for their outstanding achievement and extraordinary service to GSA and ASA.

Robert S. Crumrine, M.D.

GSA Crawford W. Long Award for Distinguished Service

Carl C. Hug, Jr., M.D., PhD

ASA Distinguished Service Award

John B. Neeld, Jr., M.D.

ASA Excellence in Government Award

STEVEN L. SWEEN, M.D., Director

### Addendum

*Unfortunately, Dr. Allen Gustin referenced in the above text has elected to leave Emory and Georgia, and will be unable to participate in our efforts to revitalize and strengthen the GSA Committee on Governmental Affairs. Realizing the importance of this turnaround in political action, GSA President-elect Dr. Howard Odom has recruited Dr. Steven Walsh to coordinate and chair the COGA. I am certain that Dr. Walsh will do a great job, but he cannot do it alone. Rather, we all hope for broadening and expanding the participation on the committee to include many GSA members from points all over Georgia.*

## Program and Education

(Continued from page 5)

this year during our site visit. We are fortunate to have the assistance of the staff at Cornerstone Communications. Their efforts on our behalf in securing desirable meeting locations, negotiating contracts for meeting facilities, inviting speakers, advertising the meetings, registering attendees and awarding CME credits under the auspices of MAG are invaluable.

We welcome ideas for improvement of format, dates, location, content, agenda, and potential speakers for the educational programs. This is your Society; one of the important missions is educational opportunities for life-long learning. Please let us know what you wish to have presented in the educational meetings.

We hope to see you in the Park in January! Happy Anniversary, GSA!

## Anesthesia Care Team

(Continued from page 5)

assistance. These are the responsibilities we accept. None of us would choose to measure our performance or effectiveness as care team leaders according to the simplistic rules of anesthesiologist supervision set by payor requirements.

What does offering Educational membership to AAs say about us as the state professional society of anesthesiologists? By inviting our anesthesiologists to come and learn with us at meetings, we acknowledge the role physicians must play to spur the whole team forward as new basic science and clinical knowledge is created. Educational activities at recent meetings have been superb updates with applications for physicians and anesthesiologists. Future meetings will continue to present topics and speakers of excellent quality in conveniently accessible locations.

It is easy to see that Educational Membership has its privileges for AAs. We must not fail to see that it also has individual and collective responsibilities for physicians.

# Resident News

## Keep Your Eye on These Young Physicians

**Carolyn Bannister, M.D.**  
Chair, Program and Education Committee

At the upcoming GSA Winter educational meeting at Evergreen Conference Center, four residents or fellows from the Medical College of Georgia and Emory will present their research during the morning agenda. These physicians were selected by their departments to summarize their research for the GSA. We would like to briefly introduce these speakers now. In addition to their oral presentation they are invited to bring a poster for display in the back of the lecture hall.

Dr. Neel Amin is a fourth year anesthesiology resident at MCG. He was a summa cum laude graduate of the University of Georgia and attended MCG School of Medicine. He has held numerous leadership roles in medical school and is active in the ASA, GSA, AMA and AMSA. He is one of two national finalists in the American History Association resident essay contest for his submission on the evolution of ether in the field of anesthesiology.

His research is in an ASA multi-center smoking cessation study to be completed January 2008. Dr. Al Head is his research mentor. Dr. Amin has accepted a pain fellowship position at the University of Florida for July 2008. His outside interests include teaching clarinet to underprivileged children in the community and training for a marathon for 2008.

Paul García, MD, PhD, is in his second post-graduate year (PGY2) in Emory's Anesthesiology Residency Program. As part of the National Institute's of Health (NIH) Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP), he received his Medical Degree from Emory University ('06) and his Ph.D. from Georgia Tech ('04). Although his Ph.D. is in Bioengineering, Paul acknowledges that his main research focus has been related to the neurosciences, specifically in the interdisciplinary fields: Computational Neuroscience and Neuropharmacology. Currently, Paul is affiliated with the laboratory of Andrew Jenkins, PhD, Assistant Professor in Emory's Anesthesiology Department, where he works on a physiological and mechanistic understanding of the action of intravenous and volatile anesthetics at the GABA(A) receptor. Part of this research was supported by a Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER) medical student fellowship. Previously, Paul has been involved in research on novel computing paradigms, rhythmic motor patterns in inhibitory neuronal networks, and non-linear dynamics and chaos applications in synaptic transmission.

Paul appreciates that some similarity exists between his bench-top experiments which monitor and analyze the neurophysiological actions of general anesthetics on living cells and his clinical work in anesthesiology. Participation in both the research and the clinical worlds, Paul acknowledges is a challenge but he feels that the laboratory work and

the hospital work motivate him, synergistically. Upon completion of his residency, he aims to continue in an academic anesthesiology department as both a clinician and an investigator. Paul is married to Meera García, MD, an attending gynecologist-obstetrician at Northside Hospital. They have two children and live in Decatur.

Drs. Dalton Hanowell and Jay Homburger will also have presentations on the agenda. Biographical information was not available on these physicians at the time of the newsletter.



Dr. Carl Hug (r) is joined by his family in accepting the ASA's Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor given by members of the Society. Dr. Hug was nominated by the GSA. The award was presented at the ASA Annual Meeting in San Francisco last October.

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Editor, Carolyn Bannister, M.D.  
Executive Secretary, James E. "Jet" Toney  
Member Services Manager, Cynthia Thomas

# Update

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E-mail GSA Member Services Manager Cynthia Thomas at [cynthia.thomas@politics.org](mailto:cynthia.thomas@politics.org) with your preferred e-mail address. Include other personal contact information as appropriate to help GSA complete its database rebuild.



# Recognitions

## GSA, MCG 'Giant' honored with endowed chair



Dr. Gramling

GSA icon Dr. Zach Gramling is being honored by the Medical College of Georgia for his leadership in helping expand the institution's Anesthesiology training program nearly a half-century ago. The Medical College of Georgia Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine is upgrading the Z. W. Gramling Endowment to Chair status.

Dr. Gramling is a past-president of the Society and one of the earliest recipients of the Crawford W. Long, M.D. Award, the highest honor the Society awards to persons who demonstrate distinguished service to and within the organization.

The following text is provided by MCG:

*Dr. Zachariah W. Gramling was a giant of a man, in both stature and character, who combined a deep sense of duty with a passionate love of life. He could lead with resolve during difficult times, as he did while serving his country in the Air Force through the Korean War and in seeing his beloved anesthesiology department through difficult times. Yet, affectionately known as the "jolly green giant," he was always ready to share a laugh or spread a little joy through his trumpet-playing.*

*A native of Orangeburg, S.C., he diligently pursued his studies, obtaining a Bachelor's Degree from Charleston College and a Doctorate of Medicine from the Medical College of South Carolina. His successes as a scholar were made possible by his love of trumpet-playing, as he helped put himself through school by performing at local clubs and functions. After interning at Columbia Hospital in Columbia, S.C., he served intermittently in the Air Force through the Korean War, then completed an MCG anesthesiology residency and joined the faculty as an instructor in 1960.*

*Dr. Gramling rapidly rose through the faculty ranks, being promoted to assistant professor in 1961, associate professor in 1964 and professor in 1966. Always popular with students and residents, Dr. Gramling received an Excellence in Teaching Award from the senior class in 1968. In 1972, he was named acting chair. The department faced tough times when Dr. Gramling assumed its leadership. The hospital had only four to six operating rooms and just two residents. He met the challenge with characteristic dedication and good humor, making excellence in resident education his primary goal.*

*Dr. Gramling increased the number of residents to 31 by exemplifying academic excellence—residents during his tenure scored in the 90th percentile on the in-training-examination—and an atmosphere of good fellowship. In addition to bringing national prominence to the Department of Anesthesiology, Dr.*

*Gramling helped establish the School of Allied Health Sciences Department of Respiratory Therapy and the MCG Hospital Shock/Trauma Unit. He served as a consultant to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center and Augusta's Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. He also served as a faculty adviser and helped interview all medical school applicants.*

*Dr. Gramling served as a delegate, secretary-treasurer and eventually president of the Georgia Society of Anesthesiology. He received the association's Crawford W. Long Award honoring lasting contributions to anesthesiology. He was a member of the American Society of Anesthesiologists and served as an ASA examiner. He was a member of the American Medical Association, a member of the Society of Academic Anesthesia Chairmen, a diplomate of the American Board of Anesthesiology and a fellow of the American College of Anesthesiology.*

*He was a major contributor to four refereed publications. Dr. Gramling left a lasting legacy by demonstrating what is possible. His inherent optimism led him to see possibility where others saw insurmountable obstacle. His strong sense of discipline ensured he would work until he made that possibility a reality. Honoring this man requires distinction, reflection of his countless contributions and a commitment to emulate his fervor. We should follow his example of living life with joy and passion—working hard, striving for excellence and making time for a little music.*

*To bring tribute and continue the initiatives so dear to Dr. Gramling, the Medical College of Georgia Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine is upgrading the Z. W. Gramling Endowment to Chair status. A Chair will provide the flexibility and creativity needed for success in an ever-changing medical environment. This Chair will enable growth and development in translational research and education, as this is our future. A Chair will pay tribute to past accomplishments, demonstrate dedication to our patients and optimize education and research. Your tax-deductible contribution to the Z. W. Gramling Scholarship Endowment will ensure that his dream and mission for the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine is fulfilled and never forgotten, so we encourage you to return the form below or visit us at [www.mcg.edu/giving/make.htm](http://www.mcg.edu/giving/make.htm).*

*For more information on gift planning or possible gift of stock, please call 706-721-1939. With your kindness and generosity, we can achieve this goal and pay ultimate respect to the man that inspired the lives of many, and touched the hearts of all.*

# ASA News

## ASA Executive Office: 'Transforming to Excellence'

By Steven L. Sween, M.D.  
ASA Director

Although he may not have been the first to recognize it, I believe it was 2006 ASA President Dr. Fred Guidry who first publicly expressed his major concerns regarding the ASA Executive office's inability to keep pace with what should be reasonably expected from executive leadership and management for our robust professional society at this important time. Realizing that carefully monitoring the performance of the ASA Executive office is well beyond what any one-year traveling ASA President could possibly accomplish, Dr. Guidry wisely recommended the creation of the Executive Office Oversight Committee to the 2006 ASA House of Delegates. The motion easily passed, and the committee was formed.

The committee is comprised of the current ASA executive officers, several ASA past presidents, and the current chair of the ASA Administrative Affairs Committee (a committee of the Board of Directors). During 2007, I was fortunate to serve as the chair of Administrative Affairs and was appointed as one of the members of the first ASA Executive Office Oversight Committee.

Upon completion of the 2006 ASA House of Delegates, Dr. Mark Lema assumed the position of ASA President, having completed two years in preparation as First Vice President and President-Elect, always in close contact with Dr. Guidry and sharing his concerns.

Early in his tenure as 2007 ASA President, Dr. Lema and his Executive Committee discovered that the necessity for change and more urgent measures for quality and process improvement in the Park Ridge office were immediate. With the support of the Administrative Council (all ASA officers), ASA retained The Gordon Group, a highly respected Chicago-based management consultant and organizational improvement team. The findings of their thorough evaluation were reported to ASA leadership in mid-March, shortly after the Interim meeting of the House of Delegates.

The consultant's report not only echoed the concerns identified earlier by Dr. Guidry and Dr. Lema, but revealed numerous and substantive deficiencies not previously known.

Exercising his proper authority and with the support of his Executive Committee and Administrative Council, along with the advice and counsel of the Gordon Group, Dr. Lema tirelessly and courageously orchestrated the activities of the ASA Organization Improvement Initiative (OII), including overseeing the development of a new ASA Strategic Plan.

The ASA OII is a continuing and comprehensive project that will likely span the next several terms of ASA presidents and will hopefully take ASA to the highest level of professional association organization and management. In order to get there, it should be obvious that this 42,000-member organization

will require an executive director with extraordinary credentials in association management and leadership. Once again, Dr. Lema took charge and accepted the resignation of Mr. Ron Bruns, the director of the ASA Park Ridge executive office.

In an unprecedented move, he wisely recruited Past President Dr. Gene Sinclair out of retirement to serve as interim executive director, and Dr. Lema chose the newly appointed Committee on Executive Office Oversight to serve as the Search Committee for the Executive VP-Park Ridge. In an equally brilliant and appropriate decision, President Lema named GSA member and ASA Past President Dr. John Neeld to chair the Executive Search Committee.

In an effort to ensure the highest quality and most experienced and competent applicants, ASA utilized the services of a very respected and successful executive recruitment firm. The selection process that ultimately arrived at the final candidate was extremely comprehensive, thorough if not exhaustive, detailed, fair and honest, efficient and, I believe, very successful. It was an honor to be a member of the search committee, to be associated with such fine and talented people, and to learn from this extraordinary and challenging process. It should come as no surprise to anyone at GSA the incredible poise, diplomatic skill and integrity that Dr. Neeld brought to the leadership of this search team. It is truly amazing that even several years beyond

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*Continued on page 15*

# Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Jay Johansen, M.D.  
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of General Business Meeting - August 5, 2007  
King and Prince, Golf and Beach Resort, St. Simon's Island, GA

**Welcome** – Dr. Berry called the meeting to order. A quorum of members participated.

**Minutes** – The January 20, 2007 General Business Meeting Minutes were published in the Summer 2007 GSA Newsletter. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as published. Motion passed.

**Membership/Approval of Applications** – Dr. Johansen, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the following membership report:

Membership Report for 2007 (As of 07-31-07)	
<b>Current Members</b>	
Active	617
Associate	21
Life	1
Qualified	1
Resident	124
Retired	90
Student Members	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>869</b>
<b>Pending Members</b>	
Active	26
Associate	1
Resident	22
Retired	0
Student Members	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Details</b>	
Paid	544
PAC Contributors	179
<b>Educational Affiliate Members</b>	
Educational Members Total 2007	22
Educational Members Paid	17
Educational Members Pending	5

Dr. Johansen presented a list of names of membership applicants for approval by the full membership. A motion was made and seconded to accept the members as published in the list. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report** – Dr. Johansen presented the following financial report: Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2007 shows Total Liabilities and Equities of \$183,163.28 compared to the June 30, 2006 total of \$178,982.13.

The Profit and Loss Comparison for mid-year 2007-2006 shows a 2007 net income of \$77,630.02 versus \$94,343.83 for 2006. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. Motion passed.

**Program and Education** – Dr. Bannister congratulated Drs. Stan Plavin and Mark Norris for their work as Activity Directors for the current meeting. Dr. Bannister presented the following list of future CME meetings with Activity Directors:

- Summer 2007 -- Program Co-Directors: Stan Plavin, MD, & Mark Norris, MD
- Winter 2008, January 19, 2008, Program Co-Directors: Carolyn Bannister, MD & Thomas M. Fuhrman, MD – Resident Research Topics (4 presentations over one hour total); Research posters will be exhibited in the meeting room
- Summer 2009, August 1-3, King and Prince, Program Director: Ellen Boney, MD "Lowering Your Handicap - Raising Your Revenue: Business of Anesthesia"; 10 % room block increase over 2007
- Summer 2011, July 29-31, -- King & Prince Golf and Beach Resort, St. Simon's Island, Georgia; Staff set to sign contract.

**Director's Report/Federal Update** – Dr. Sween referred members to his report published in the Summer 2007 GSA Newsletter. He urged GSA members to contact him regarding ASA or national issues. Dr. Sween reported that Dr. Andy Harris, an anesthesiologist, is running for the U.S. House of Representatives from Maryland. Dr. Sween encouraged members to contribute to Dr. Harris' campaign.

**Government Affairs State Update** – The following GSA-PAC report was distributed:

GSA PAC Report as of 7-31-2007

	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007
Contributions to PAC	\$19,709	\$17,870	\$15,460	\$11,213	\$40,170	\$40,321	\$29,226	\$48,028	\$21,790
Status of Contributions	189	225	200	208	247	225	225	229	182
Interest Income	\$1,034	\$4,396	\$2,757	\$287	\$694	\$1,478	\$764	\$2,940	\$1,212
Political Contributions	\$1,630	\$42,000	\$10,000	\$78,800	\$16,700	\$67,250	\$13,810	\$11,750	\$2,700
Fund Balance Year End	\$19,234	\$6,464	\$19,234	\$21,144	\$21,277	\$41,847	\$18,207	\$49,201	\$48,448

Dr. Allen Gustin, Vice-Chair, Government Affairs Committee, congratulated Drs. Plavin and Norris for the excellent CME program and faculty. He stated that headquarters staff are working to enable members to contribute to GSA-PAC with credit cards on the GSA website. Among the issues anticipated for the 2008 General Assembly of interest to GSA members are the following:

- Collective effort to save Grady Hospital from closure
- Create an effective state-funded trauma care network
- Defeat a proposed statewide sales tax on services
- Payments for epidurals to treat chronic pain
- Defeat the proposed repeal of CON

Dr. Gustin urged members to contribute to GSA-PAC and to join the Medical Association of Georgia and contribute to its PAC.

## Committee Reports

- Newsletter/Communication - Dr. Bannister stated that each of the quarterly newsletters will be constructed with a theme. She said Dr. Howard Odom will be the Fall Issue Guest Editor and the theme is Residency Education.
- Anesthesia Care Team -- Dr. Odom reported on status of AA program openings and graduation numbers. He reported on status of AA practice act passage in N.C. and other states.
- Resident Section/Liaison -- Dr. John Hackett, Resident Section President, reported that 10 Emory residents and 7 MCG residents attended the current meeting. He stated the Section met on Saturday morning and elected new officers.
- Bylaws amend/ Resident Government Affairs Liaison -  
- Dr. Berry presented a proposed amendment to the

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# 2007-2008 GSA-PAC Contributors

The following members have boosted GSA's public policy clout by contributing to the Committee for Responsible Healthcare Policy (GSA-PAC). During the 2006 election cycle, more than \$60,000 in contributions was presented to candidates who support civil justice reform and laws that promote patient safety.

Naureen Adam, M.D., \$300  
James M. Adkins, M.D., \$100  
Amy Marie Alvarez, M.D., \$20  
Suzana Anic, M.D., \$150  
Travis S. Ansley, D.O., \$20  
Robert Arasi, M.D., \$150  
Rajesh Arora, M.D., \$300  
Michael E. Ashmore, M.D., \$150  
Rony H. Atiyeh, D.O., \$20  
Jaiwant M. Avula, M.B.B.S., \$150  
Daud Azizi, M.D., \$150  
James M. Bailey, M.D., Ph.D., \$150  
Wilmer M. Balaioing, M.D., \$150  
Richard Scott Ballard, M.D., \$150  
Carolyn F. Bannister, M.D., \$500  
Laurie A. Barone, M.D., \$150  
Deborah H. Bauman, M.D., \$150  
Robert C. Baumann, M.D., \$150  
Timothy N. Beeson, M.D., \$300  
Arnold J. Berry, M.D., M.P.H., \$150  
B. Donald Biggs, A.A., \$100  
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Alan S. Black, M.D., \$150  
John R. Blair, M.D., \$150  
Ellen Weinberg Boney, M.D., \$150  
Timothy W. Boozer, M.D., \$150  
John O. Bowden, M.D., \$150  
Richard L. Bowe, M.D., \$250  
Cordell L. Bragg, M.D., \$150  
Jennifer L. Brandenberger, M.D., \$20  
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Gwen K. Davis, M.D., \$150  
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Joel S. Dunn, M.D., \$200  
Paul E. Easley, M.D., \$150  
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Rex B. Foster, III, M.D., \$150  
Dinah L. Franklin, M.D., \$150  
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Maurice B. Gilbert, M.D., \$100  
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Patrice Goggins, M.D., \$450  
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Patrick G. Goodman, M.D., \$20  
Timothy Michael Grant, M.D., \$300  
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James E. Hinkle, M.D., \$150  
Howard Y. Hong, M.D., \$150  
Charles Stephen Hoover, M.D., \$300  
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Jian Jim Hua, M.D., \$300  
Barry Hunt, A.A., \$150  
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Pravin Jain, M.D., \$300  
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Jeffrey M. King, M.D., \$150  
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Gundy Knos, MD, PC, \$150  
Constantine Kokenes, M.D., \$150  
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*Continued on page 15*

## PAC Contributors

(Continued from page 14)

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 Manoj B. Wunnava, M.D., \$20  
 Frederick P. Yilling, M.D., \$150  
 Kerry Trent Zottnick, M.D., \$300

# Attend the 2008 GSA Winter Meeting

January 19, 2008

Details and Registration coming

at [www.gsahq.org](http://www.gsahq.org)

## Editor's Corner

(Continued from page 2)

We all owe great thanks to Arnold and Jet, as GSA was awarded continued accreditation to provide our educational meetings. Thank you again and congratulations to the Cornerstone staff who help plan and offer our educational meetings. Thank you to GSA members who have served as meeting coordinators in the past; you play such an important role in offering educational meetings for the membership.

I want to welcome Dr. Kathy Stack who has agreed to accept and transition into the role of GSA *Newsletter* editor.

I don't think we have a formal title for this role, but I believe I was labeled the Junior Editor briefly when I transitioned into this role several years ago under the able editorship of Dr. Ron Dunbar. Ron was a wonderful mentor and inspiration to me, but it was obvious to me that it would be impossible for anyone to think of filling his shoes as editor. With Ron's guidance and incredible work on the part of the Cornerstone staff the *Newsletter* has actually grown into four editions per year. Dr. Stack has great energy and ideas for future editions. I know she will

continue to solicit and welcome ideas from the membership for improvements to the newsletter. Thank you, Kathy, for taking on this role.

This edition of the newsletter will commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the GSA. Congratulations to the Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists for 60 successful years in the business! We have invited a few members of GSA to provide articles detailing their memories of the "early years." So enjoy the articles! I hope to see many of you at the winter meeting!

# 2008 Committees/Chairs

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bruce Hines, M.D., Chair  
bhines@northsideanesthesia.com

## BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Rickard Hawkins, M.D., Chair  
rshawk007@comcast.net  
Arnold Berry, M.D.  
arnold.berry@emoryhealthcare.org

## JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Arnold Berry, M.D., Chair  
arnold.berry@emoryhealthcare.org  
Edwin Johnston, M.D.  
eddie\_nancybess@bellsouth.net  
Brian Thomas, M.D.  
bltmd@bellsouth.net  
Jordan Wetstone, M.D.  
jwets@earthlink.net  
Carolyn Bannister, M.D.  
carolyn.bannister@emoryhealthcare.org

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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## Secretary-Treasurer's Report

(Continued from page 11)

- Resident Section ByLaws creating the position of Resident Government Affairs Liaison for the purpose of increasing participation by the Resident Section and its members in the government affairs advocacy of the Society. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the amendment.
- Crawford W. Long Award -- Dr. Peggy Duke urged members to consider nominations for the Society's highest honor and to send a recommendation letter to her for consideration by the committee. She stated that the award is not frequently given but rather only given when a person is identified whose service to the Society exceeds the norm.
  - Long Range Planning -- Dr. Tim Beeson distributed a survey to members and asked for their input as to what they believe are the long-term goals of the Society and the areas where the Society should dedicate its resources.
  - Exhibitor Advisory -- Dr. Boney encouraged attendees to visit all exhibitors and reminded attendees that exhibitor fees make the meetings affordable for registrants.
  - Practice Management -- Dr. Jason Williams urged members to contact he or Dr. Raj Arora with practice management questions or concerns.
  - CWL Museum -- Dr. William Hammonds referred attendees to his report in the Summer 2007 GSA Newsletter. A show of hands confirmed interest in supporting the museum's improvement and growth.
  - ASA Distinguished Service Award reception for Dr. Hug -- Dr. Duke reported that a reception will be held October 4, 2007 in San Francisco at the ASA Annual meeting to honor Dr. Carl Hug.
  - Adjourn -- There being no other business, Dr. Berry adjourned the meeting.

## ASA News

(Continued from page 10)

his ASA Presidency, the many and important ways he continues to serve ASA, and advocate for anesthesiologists everywhere.

In the end, the Search Committee named its leading and

final candidate, and the ASA

Executive Committee successfully negotiated the terms of his contract.

The new ASA Executive VP-Park Ridge is John A. Thorner, JD,

CAE. Mr. Thorner brings thirteen

years of Executive Director and

CEO-level association management experience to ASA. He is a 1973

graduate of Duke University with a degree in History, where he was

the managing editor of The Duke

Chronicle. He also holds a Masters

degree in Journalism from Columbia University. In 1977, he received his

Law degree from the University of Georgia.

During his interview, he stated that he believes he uses all three degrees every day by 11 o'clock. He has excellent experience and skills in advocacy, having lived and worked in the DC-metro area for many years. He is a Certified

Association Executive (CAE) from the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE). John has participated with ASAE in several ways, including serving on its Board of

Directors since 2006. Although he lacks experience in healthcare, he will bring a fresh approach and expertise to ASA that has previously been lacking.

John and his wife are parents to five grown daughters. They are excited about their opportunity to relocate to the Chicago-metro area. There is no doubt in my mind that ASA will be a better organization under the executive leadership of Mr. John Thorner. In fact, along with ASA's extraordinary physician participation and dedicated leadership (like Dr.

Guidry and Dr. Lema), I fully believe that his guidance may be the transforming influence on our great society, and enable an advancement in association management and achievement that will take us "to the next level."

**ASA will  
be a better  
organization under  
the executive  
leadership of  
Mr. John Thorner.**



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# GSA Winter Forum 2008

## Faculty

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### Resident/Fellow Research Presentations

*Anesthetic Challenges in Parkinson's Disease Patients*  
Eugene Fu, M.D.  
Miami University

*History of Anesthesia – Our Midlevel Providers:  
What have we learned?*  
William Hammonds, M.D., MPH  
Medical College of Georgia

*Sleep Disordered Breathing and Anesthesia: What should I do?*  
Brian W. Carlin, M.D., FCCP, FAARC (ACCP)  
Allegheny General Hospital

*Airway Management for Trauma*  
Robert E. Johnstone, M.D.  
ASA Vice President for Scientific Affairs

*Medicolegal Issues in Neuroanesthesia*  
Eugene Fu, M.D.

*Sleep and the Heart: Implications for Anesthetic  
and Surgical Management*  
Brian Carlin, M.D.

*Anesthesia Practice in the Future*  
Robert E. Johnstone, M.D.



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