

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

November 2007, Issue 2

- New Medical Director
- Notes from The Program Director
- Notable Events
- Increasing Our Visibility
- Student and Alumni News
- Contact Information



Master of Science in Anesthesia Program

Case Western Reserve University
11100 Euclid Avenue, Lakeside 2532
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-5007
www.anesthesiaprogram.com

NORCIA STEPS INTO MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S ROLE

Matthew P. Norcia, M.D., Vice Chairman of Education in the Department of Anesthesiology and Co-Director of the department's residency program, has joined the Master of Science in Anesthesia program as the Interim Medical Director. Dr. Norcia replaces Donald M. Voltz, M.D., who left in July to accept a position at MetroHealth Medical Center, a major teaching affiliate of the MSA program. Dr. Norcia's appointment was effective October 1.

Asked about what attracted him to the new position, Dr. Norcia said, "I'm interested in expanding the knowledge and understanding of the entity of the Anesthesiologist Assistant to more people in the medical field."



Dr. Norcia, who received his medical degree from Case School of Medicine in 1991, maintains multiple responsibilities at the medical school. He is also Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Chief of Liver Transplant Anesthesiology. Dr. Norcia received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Akron. He was born and raised in Canton, Ohio, and has four daughters. And what does he like? The Buckeyes, Corvettes, and cigars.

We are happy Dr. Norcia has joined the MSA program and know that the experience and knowledge he brings will be a tremendous asset to the MSA program's operations.



NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

JOSEPH M. RIFICI, AA-C, M.Ed.

The MSA program extends a warm welcome to Matthew P. Norcia, M.D., who was appointed Interim Medical Director of our program in October. I have worked with Dr. Norcia for over 15 years in the OR; now I have the pleasure of working with him on medical education issues and meeting program goals for the upcoming year. Dr. Norcia's distinguished leadership in the Department of Anesthesiology will be a great asset as we work to train our students in the competent delivery of anesthesia, further the growth of the MSA program, and increase its national and international prominence. I would like to thank Dr. Norcia for his interest in joining our program, in adding another responsibility to his already active schedule, and for the vision and insight he has provided in the short time he has been with us.

I would also like to thank all those who clinically instructed our students during the past year. The MSA program relies on the help and support of persons too numerous to mention in this newsletter. It would be inappropriate, though, not to mention several clinical instructors who have received the highest praise from our students during the year. By way of our clinical instructor evaluation form, students have the opportunity to provide written feedback on their instructors' clinical supervision, instructional and organizational skills, and professionalism. Our students have acknowledged Sheryl Adamic, Shawn Duvall, Todd Lewis, Joe Peachman, Angelique Scott, and George Yung as instructors who have gone beyond the requirements of their teaching role in providing guidance and opportunities for students to learn and succeed. In many other instances our students have verbally commented on the patience,

encouragement and knowledge of their instructors. To all our instructors, I am profoundly grateful for the real concern you have shown for student learning and practice.

Finally, I would like to remind you of the MSA program's holiday party, which will be held this year on December 1 at Nighttown in Cleveland Heights. Invitations are in the mail, so please plan on joining us for great food, fabulous music, and warm conversation.

Notable Events

TALKING IT UP AT CASE'S HEALTH PROFESSIONS FAIR

The MSA program participated in the second annual Health Professions Fair, held in Case Western Reserve's Thwing Center Ballroom on October 12. The American Medical Student Association sponsored this event attended by pre-medical students as well as students interested in applying to graduate health programs, research programs, dental schools, and veterinary schools.

The MSA program was one of 40 or so programs and schools that participated in this year's fair. Our booth was visited by more than 30 students, many of whom have seen our flyers around campus and are newly aware of the MSA program and the AA profession. We answered questions ranging from *What is an AA? to I'm interested! How can I learn more?* Several students who met us at the fair have called to schedule shadowing experiences. Spreading the word about our program and the profession makes all the difference! Thanks to all of you who take the opportunity to "talk it up."

AN EVENING WITH BALDWIN WALLACE'S PRE-MED SOCIETY

The MSA program was invited by Shaili Shah, a student officer of the Baldwin Wallace College Pre-Medical Society, to speak on Baldwin Wallace's campus on September 25. We presented information about our program and the Anesthesiologist Assistant profession to approximately 35 students. Dr. Chirag Shah, an anesthesiologist from Lakewood Hospital and uncle of Shaili, also spoke at this event. Baldwin Wallace's Pre-Medical Society is comprised of students interested in healthcare professions. The Society's faculty advisor is Dr. Joseph Yavornitzky, a 1984 graduate of Case Western Reserve's School of Dentistry and a lecturer in Biology at Baldwin Wallace.

Laura Bishop, Education Coordinator, staffing MSA program booth at Health Professions Fair



MSA PROGRAM'S PRESENCE AT ASA CONFERENCE

Written by Mary Spencer and Laura Burch, MSA II students and our AAAA student representatives



Joseph Rifici, Laura Burch, Mary Spencer, and Judith Wolkoff in front of the Anesthesiologist Assistant Programs booth at the ASA Conference

Just recently we had the great pleasure of being the student representatives from Case to attend the American Society of Anesthesiologists 2007 Annual Meeting in San Francisco. We were not quite sure what to expect (except for some free pens), but we were definitely excited to spread the word about AAs. Our booth was comprised of representatives from the Emory, South, and Case programs. At the conference, Pete Kaluszyk, AA-C, M.Ed., and Joseph Rifici, AA-C, M.Ed., were also there making themselves available to answer questions.

To our great surprise, there were so many people at the meeting that already knew about AAs and countless remarks were made on how they wanted us in their state. A few of the states that seemed very excited were Oregon, Washington, Connecticut, and California. It was an inspiring moment for us as students in this profession to see such a positive response to who we are. We had a great experience in San Francisco and want to thank the program for the opportunity to attend.

Increasing Our Visibility

MARKETING EFFORTS

For those who have not yet heard about our program, it is time to get the word out. We have been brainstorming, designing, and creating flyers and posters to explain who we are and what we do. We have posted these flyers on Case Western Reserve's campus and hope to have them posted soon on the bulletin boards and in the career centers of local colleges and universities.

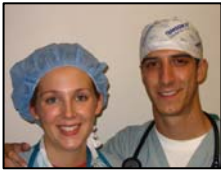
MSA students and graduates, you can help us out. If you plan to make a visit to your undergraduate alma mater over the holidays or on your breaks, please stop by the MSA office to pick up some flyers to drop off during your visit. We welcome any ideas you may have to increase the visibility of our program.

SHADOWING FIGURES

From August 2007 to date the MSA program office has answered more than 100 calls and e-mails requesting information about our program and the profession. Since the end of July, we have facilitated 33 shadowing experiences to prospective applicants. The willingness of our clinical instructors and students to host shadowers helps us grow! Nine of these visitors applied to our program this year; four will submit their applications next year or upon completion of their current course of study.

If you know of anyone who is interested in the MSA program, suggest that they tour University Hospital Case Medical Center and shadow an Anesthesiologist Assistant in the operating room setting. They can learn first hand what it is like to be an AA student and have the opportunity to talk to our program director, instructors, and students.

Student and Alumni News



NOTES FROM THE STUDENT CHIEFS MATTHEW CIOTTI AND MARY HLADKY

Hello to all AAs and MSA students reading the second issue of *The Anesthesiologist Assistant*. The Fall semester is nearing its end. I am glad to report that I have been receiving great feedback from the second year MSA students regarding their rotations. They are thoroughly enjoying each rotation and gaining valuable educational and clinical instruction from all rotation sites. I am also happy to report that the first year MSA students are progressing very well not only in the classroom but also in the clinical setting. I would like to take this time to thank all the clinical instructors for providing us students with the tools and knowledge we will someday need to be successful AAs.

Just a reminder, TAC presentations will continue to be given each Tuesday afternoon, and Basic Science lectures will be given each Wednesday afternoon for the remainder of the semester.

For current MSA students, remember that exams are rapidly approaching. The Clinical Comprehension and Basic Science exams will be administered on Friday, November 30. First years, be sure to coordinate with your classroom instructors regarding your other examinations. Second years, remember that our NCCAA certification examination application is due on December 15.

I hope to see everyone at the MSA holiday party and wish all a healthy and happy holiday season!
-Matthew J. Ciotti

ALUMNI NEWS

Melanie Guthrie, AA-C, and Lance Carter, AA-C, have been appointed Program Director and Assistant Program Director respectively for the new Master of Science in Anesthesia program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. The program will start its charter class in January 2008. Melanie is a 1997 graduate and Lance a 2007 graduate of Case Western Reserve's MSA program.

Note to All Alumni - The MSA program is gathering current contact information on our alumni. We would like your e-mail address, phone number, occupation, place of employment, and mailing address. Please drop us an e-mail (info@anesthesiaprogram.com) providing this information so that we can stay in touch.

Class of 1973

The Anesthesiologist Assistant program at Case Western Reserve University started in 1969 and graduated its first class in 1973. Here is what some of those from the Class of '73 are doing today. The pictures are from when they were students in the program.



James E. Gavacs, AA-C
Anesthesiologist Assistant
University Hospitals of Cleveland/
Case Medical Center
Cleveland, Ohio



Michael S. Kovach, AA-C
Anesthesiologist Assistant
Lakewood Hospital
Lakewood, Ohio



Jack R. Kless, MSN, CRNA
Director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program
Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio



Gholam H. Meah, AA-C, MBA
Chief Anesthetist
Atlanta Medical Center
Atlanta, Georgia

Advertisements

Greater Houston Anesthesiology, P.A., (GHA)

is a private practice that provides leading perioperative and anesthesiology services for the foremost medical facilities in, and surrounding, Houston, Texas.

GHA was the first to bring AAs to Texas, and now we are actively hiring AAs to join our team!

THE CHOICE IS YOURS . . .

CHOOSE from several locations
CHOOSE flexible schedule
CHOOSE optional call and overtime
CHOOSE from outstanding benefit options
CHOOSE sign-on bonus
CHOOSE competitive salary

If you are ready for a Texas-sized opportunity, CHOOSE GHA.

Katherine M. Chalkley, MS
Recruitment Specialist
kchalkley@choosegha.com
713.458.4162 phone
713.458.4262 fax

Advertise in *The Anesthesiologist Assistant*. Advertising in our newsletter gives you:

- Targeted and local distribution – Our newsletter is distributed to current students, alumni, faculty and instructors, pre-medical society advisors, and Ohio AAs.
- Low cost – For a nominal fee, you may advertise in a single issue or in each issue of our newsletter. Our newsletter is distributed four times a year on a quarterly basis.
- Year around exposure – The current issue of our newsletter, as well as prior issues, is easily accessible on the home page of our web site for year around exposure.

Contact Information

To advertise in *The Anesthesiologist Assistant*, please contact us for detailed information at (216) 844-8077 or info@anesthesiaprogram.com

To submit news or request information, contact Laura Bishop at laura.bishop@UHhospitals.org or (216) 844-8077