DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

PROFILES IN CLINICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE
A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

MISSION STATEMENT

“To achieve an international leadership role by providing the highest quality anesthetic care and pain management for patients undergoing orthopedic surgery, to advance the science of regional anesthesia, pain management, and orthopedic critical care through clinical and translational research, and to promote educational opportunities to all students of regional anesthesiology and pain medicine.”
In 2012, the Department of Anesthesiology continued to make significant advances in clinical, educational, and research programs, helping to maintain our position as the premier department in the world for the practice of regional anesthesia and pain medicine for orthopedics. These advances are a direct result of the efforts of our extraordinary group of physicians, clinicians, administrators and support staff, who have a clear understanding of the Department’s mission and work tirelessly to achieve our primary goal of providing the highest quality clinical care for our patients.

The Department has grown significantly over the past year, in stride with the growth of HSS as a whole. I am proud to report that along with this expansion, the quality of our patient care continues to improve every year. The testimonials throughout this report highlight the great work of our clinicians, researchers, and educators.

We continue to advance quality of care, focusing on providing an optimal anesthetic experience by minimizing side effects and complications. Our physician investigators, assisted by a dedicated research team, study the role of anesthetics in the development of surgical complications such as blood loss, clotting, and infections, to promote the utilization of the safest anesthetic techniques.

As leaders in the field, our physicians share their regional anesthesia expertise via local, national, and international platforms. In 2012, our doctors traveled the globe, participating in medical missions and training programs in Africa, Asia, South America and the Middle East.

The comprehensive acute, recuperative and chronic pain services provided by our Pain Management Division were expanded via the recruitment of two additional board-certified physicians, one of whom rounds full-time on the HSS inpatient population. Additionally, we maintained our focus on specialty physician teams, and in 2013 our orthopedic critical care program, in partnership with Perioperative Medicine and Orthopedic Surgery, will open the only orthopedic critical care unit in the world. No other Anesthesiology Department in the country can boast this level of focus and care for orthopedic patients.

I hope you enjoy reading about these and other Anesthesiology Department accomplishments in our 2012 Annual Report.

Gregory A. Liguori, MD
Anesthesiologist-in-Chief and Director
In 2012, the anesthesiologists of Hospital for Special Surgery performed 37,785 operating room anesthetics, 85 percent using regional anesthesia techniques. Vast experience in regional anesthesia makes the Department of Anesthesiology at HSS the premier Department in the world for the practice of regional anesthesia for orthopedics. As a leader in the field, HSS anesthesiologists perform ongoing evaluation of current clinical standards, policies and initiatives with the goal of improving safety and providing the highest quality anesthetic care.

In 2012, the Department’s Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QA/PI) staff monitored over 1,000 cases for physician compliance in performing pre-anesthetic site verification, labeling medication syringes, and use of patient identifiers in the holding area. Under the direction of Andy Lee, MD, QA/PI Director, and Maureen Stanton, RN, QA/PI Manager, the QA/PI Committee continued its review of guidelines and policies, developing evidence-based practice improvements to elevate quality to the highest level. Committee members participated in interdisciplinary conferences which provided thought-provoking conversation, educational opportunities and allowed the development of effective guidelines to improve patient safety. In 2012, the Committee developed a monthly newsletter to disseminate information discussed at interdisciplinary meetings to the Department’s attending anesthesiologists. The newsletter provides physicians with current clinical information tailored to their practice, including synopses of meeting discussions and supportive literature, trends in anesthetic procedures at HSS, physician documentation compliance rates and a featured policy.

The Department continues to expand specialty
physician teams to provide patients with the highest level of care specific to their individual needs. In 2012, the Department focused on critical care specialty services to address an ongoing rise in the co-morbidity index for total hip and total knee replacement patients.

Led by Stavros Memtsoudis, MD, PhD, Director of Critical Care Services, Michael Urban, MD, PhD, PACU Director, and Michael Nurok, MBChB, PhD, SDU Director, the Department’s expert team of critical care trained physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants provided care for over 19,000 patients in the PACU and SDU. In November, to accommodate increased patient volume due to operating room expansion, a new 13-bed SDU opened on the hospital’s 5th floor. A 4-bed orthopedic critical care unit, the first of its kind, will open adjacent to the SDU in 2013 and admit the highest acuity patients.

A total of 415 bilateral total knee arthroplasty (BTKA) procedures were performed at HSS in 2012. As the number of BTKA procedures increases, controversy continues to surround various aspects of the practice. A number of published studies suggest that same stage BTKA is associated with increased risk for morbidity and mortality compared to unilateral TKA, yet definitive prospective studies are lacking. While the safety of BTKA has been debated for many years and guidelines were developed at HSS to improve patient outcomes, until recently no national consensus existed to aid physicians and their patients in their decision-making process as to whether, or in what manner, to proceed with same stage BTKA.

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DR. BEATHE DEMONSTRATED COMPASSION AND UNDERSTANDING. HE TOOK THE TIME TO GET TO KNOW ME AND BE AS HELPFUL AND ENLIGHTENING AS HE COULD TO ALLAY MY ANXIETIES. HE IS A VERY SPECIAL PHYSICIAN.

—EXCERPT FROM A 2012 PRESS GANEY PATIENT SURVEY
After years of extensive research, Dr. Memtsoudis and a team of orthopedic surgeons, epidemiologists and biostatisticians produced an extensive body of literature regarding risk factors and mechanisms leading to adverse outcomes after bilateral knee arthroplasty. Following the principles of translational science research, the team sought to transform their collective clinical and scientific knowledge into actionable, evidence-based guidelines to be used by clinicians nationwide.

In September 2012, after an extensive consensus process that included a systematic evaluation of pertinent literature, writing of position papers and a thorough peer review, forty experts representing various specialties at sixteen institutions were invited to participate in a Bilateral Total Knee Arthroplasty Consensus Conference in New York City. Orthopedic surgeons, cardiologists, critical care specialists, internists, pulmonologists and anesthesiologists with expertise in the selection and management of BTKA patients attended the two-day meeting and finalized recommendations for this patient population. A summary statement was drafted and submitted for publication; extensive dissemination of the results will follow via presentations at various subspecialty meetings.

Above: Pain Management physicians Jeffrey Ngeow, MD, Vladimir Kramskiy, MD, David Wang, MD, Semih Gungor, MD, Christine Peterson, MD, Seth Waldman, MD, Dan Richman, MD and Robert Griffin, MD. Right: Our dedicated Pain Management nursing and office staff

EMLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Kate Collins, Pain Management Nurse Practitioner, who was selected as the HSS Employee of the Month in November 2012. Kate has been a member of the Anesthesiology Department since July 2010. A competitive athlete and outdoor enthusiast, Kate was selected for her compassion and commitment to provide our patients with the highest level of clinical care.
COMMITMENT TO EXCEPTIONAL PAIN MANAGEMENT CARE

“I felt like part of the team that cared for me. My pain management care was excellent! All options were provided and explained, and all my needs were addressed, emotional, physical and social.”
—2012 Press Ganey Patient Satisfaction Survey Comment

The Department’s Pain Management Division is committed to enhancing the mobility of patients affected by musculoskeletal pain and improving their quality of life. The Division’s highly trained physicians and clinical staff, directed by Seth Waldman, MD, Michael Gordon, MD, Vladimir Kramskiy, MD, Christine Peterson, MD, and Barbara Wukovits, RN, treat pain from its acute stages to more complex and chronic conditions. In 2012, our pain management teams treated over 29,000 patients. As evidence of their skill, pain control scores reported in Press Ganey patient satisfaction surveys remained in the 99th percentile throughout the year.

In February, the Pain Management Center and interventional pain management physician offices moved to the new 75th Street campus. The Special Procedures Unit (SPU) was relocated as well, providing patients with greater convenience and a more integrated experience.

In 2012, pain management physicians performed over 3,000 interventional procedures in the SPU, including lumbar sympathetic blocks, epidural steroid injections, facet injections and radiofrequency denervation.

Robert Griffin, MD, PhD, joined the interventional

PATIENT PROFILE

Faith Selchick, RN

Faith Selchick is a 27-year-old nurse who works in a chemotherapy infusion clinic at Yale-New Haven Hospital. On June 15, 2002, she was the passenger in a motor vehicle collision, an event that changed her life forever. Faith suffered trauma to her right knee, tearing both the medial and lateral meniscus.

After enduring two surgeries at another institution in an attempt to repair and subsequently remove the tears in her knee, Faith’s pain was becoming increasingly severe. She endured multiple nerve blocks, cortisone injections, daily aggressive physical therapy and countless medications and narcotics to no avail. Faith was unable to attend school and was forced to give up running, her passion in life.

Living in a world of severe pain, at 18, Faith came to Hospital for Special Surgery to meet with Seth Waldman, MD. Dr. Waldman confirmed a diagnosis of complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) in her bilateral lower extremities.

Dr. Waldman began a multi-modal treatment plan, which included a variety of medications and nerve blocks. An inpatient Ketamine infusion gave Faith relief from the magnitude of CRPS for the first time, a treatment she continues today. According to Faith, “Dr. Waldman took me under his care and instilled hope in me. For the first time since CRPS entered my life, I felt optimistic that I would recover and regain my life. He forever changed my world.”

The ongoing care and expertise of Dr. Waldman has allowed Faith to resume a full life and fulfill her dreams to the highest potential. She completed a bachelor’s degree in psychology, enrolled in Duke University’s accelerated BSN program and, graduating at the top of her class, earned a RN, BSN degree. In August 2012, Faith enrolled at Yale University in a full time adult oncology nurse practitioner program, with the ultimate goal of obtaining a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

“To speak of my medical team and recognize their greatness is difficult because I do not know where to begin,” she says. “Donna Lawrence, Nurse Practitioner for the Pain Medicine Division is one of my favorite providers. Dr. Seth Waldman is my angel and I am so thankful for him. It is because of Dr. Waldman that I have been able to go after my goals and achieve them. He has never allowed me to give up, even when my pain was at its worst. He never gave up on me, and most importantly, he believed in me from the very beginning. He genuinely cares about his patients, and the compassion is evident in his face. He is a very special person and Hospital for Special Surgery is fortunate to have him.”
Inpatient Pain Services.

Christine Peterson, MD, November 2012. Over 400 patients were treated in the clinic, a weekly program providing outreach and pain directorship of the ambulatory care pain clinic in pain management staff and assumed the medical directorship of the ambulatory care pain clinic in November 2012. Over 400 patients were treated in the clinic, a weekly program providing outreach and pain control to an underserved patient population.

To improve the clinical management of chronic pain inpatients, the Department recruited a Director of Inpatient Pain Services. Christine Peterson, MD, board certified in internal medicine and pain and palliative medicine, joined the team in this newly created role. Dr. Peterson conducts inpatient rounds and provides consults and follow-up visits to patients suffering from a myriad of complex pain conditions. Working collaboratively with pain management physicians, nurses and an interdisciplinary team, Dr. Peterson provides HSS patients with the highest level of specialized pain management care.

The Pain Management Division developed and revised several publications in 2012 to provide the most up-to-date information to our patients and colleagues. The Ambulatory Surgery Post-Operative Pain Management Discharge Instructions booklet was distributed to educate patients regarding the use of analgesics post surgery, and the Clinicians Guide to Pain Management Services at Hospital for Special Surgery was revised to include the most recent recommendations for treating inpatient pain conditions. The Pain Management Opioid Options list was created to assist surgeons in providing optimal pain relief for patients undergoing unilateral knee surgery, and guidelines for a pre-operative pain management referral were drafted, outlining the types of patients that will benefit from a pre-operative pain consult and the process for obtaining one.

PROFILE IN TEACHING

Swetha Pakala, MD

Dr. Swetha Pakala’s experiences in global health have included both short-term surgical missions and sustainable health efforts. Along with multidisciplinary teams of surgeons and other practitioners, Dr. Pakala participated in an Operation Rainbow mission to Ecuador in 2012, where the teams performed orthopedic surgery on over 80 patients in one week.

Although valuable, Dr. Pakala believes that medical missions are limited in their sustainability, and local infrastructures must be used to build medical workforces to make a meaningful and lasting impact. As such, her goal is to "teach teachers to teach" so that improved care continues in the absence of a medical mission.

Dr. Pakala travels the world teaching providers to safely use regional anesthesia, focusing on utilizing local resources to improve the safety profile of surgery. She has been integral to anesthesia teaching programs throughout Ethiopia, Malawi, Kenya and Uganda, and in 2012 she was selected as a member of the Health Volunteers Overseas Anesthesia Steering Committee of North America. Ultimately, Dr. Pakala hopes to develop lasting collaborations with physicians in under-resourced communities globally, believing that, as leaders in our field, our physicians’ impact in both service and teaching missions will be profound.

LEADING THE WAY IN ANESTHESIA EDUCATION

“The month I spent at HSS will remain one of my fondest memories of residency. The incredible learning environment, the warm support staff and the fantastic clinician educators made the month an unparalleled educational experience. I learned skills that I will carry with me for the rest of my career.”

—Jim Rothschild, MD, 2012 CA-3 resident

The Department of Anesthesiology fosters an educational environment in which the highest level of academic excellence is established. Under the leadership of David Lee, MD, Medical Director, Education, Jonathan Beath, MD, Director, Training Programs, and Mary Hargett, Administrative Director, Education, the Department strives to provide exceptional specialized training to the next generation of regional anesthesia providers.
As leaders in the field of regional anesthesia, the physicians in the Department of Anesthesiology share their knowledge on a local, national and international platform by teaching regional anesthesia techniques to residents and fellows, presenting at local and national conferences and participating in teaching missions in underserved populations throughout the world.

The Department’s 16th Annual Symposium, “Controversies and Fundamentals in Regional Anesthesia”, was held in April 2012 and featured guest faculty from Johns Hopkins Medicine. Over 200 attendees learned about topics including the value of intra-articular injections, the possibility of regional anesthesia contributing to lower cancer recurrence and the use of epidural analgesia to improve patient outcomes. With a ratio of one instructor per two to three students, the regional block workshops were a program highlight, enabling enhanced interaction among participants and the opportunity for comprehensive hands-on training.

The Sixth Annual Program on Pain Awareness, entitled, “Pain Management in 2012: Issues, Challenges and Treatments” was held in September and was designed to address some of the challenging obstacles facing both the pain management patient and care provider. Over 70 attendees participated in a day of interactive discussion with a multidisciplinary faculty. The forum provided presentations on care disparities, gender differences in response to pain, poly-pharmacy and substance abuse, and concluded with an excellent case discussion segment.

Educating residents and fellows is an important focus of the Department,

**TEACHERS OF THE YEAR 2012**

Chris Edmonds, MD, was chosen as 2011-2012 Teacher of the Year by the 2012 graduating fellows. Dr. Edmonds was also the recipient of this award in 2004.

Stephen Harris, MD, was chosen as 2012 HSS Teacher of the Year by the graduating anesthesiology residents of Weill Cornell Medical College.
and Carrie Guheen, MD, continues the Department’s mission to be the most trusted educator through teaching the next generation of regional anesthesiologists. In 2012, Dr. Guheen trained residents at the national American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine meeting in San Diego and national American Society of Anesthesiologists meeting in Washington, D.C. She presented a lecture to participants and taught basic regional anesthesia techniques, use of the ultrasound for nerve blocks, and common applications of regional anesthesia. Dr. Guheen also precepted the Regional Anesthesia Resident Ultrasound Workshop, using 20 live patient models to demonstrate ultrasound techniques for nerve blocks including upper extremity, lower extremity, neuraxial blockade and TAP blocks.

On the international front, the World Health Organization states that “health is a human right” and every human should be entitled to a healthy life and adequate healthcare. Unfortunately, huge disparities in health remain, as low income countries carry a disproportionate burden of disease. Given the global shortage of anesthesia providers, limited training and scarce resources, HSS anesthesiologists routinely participate in international educational endeavors to improve the safety of anesthetic care globally.

In January 2012, John Muller, MD, and regional anesthesia fellow Justo

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“I LOVED MY ANESTHESIOLOGIST. HE WAS SO REASSURING AND I WENT INTO SURGERY WITH COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN HIM.”

—EXCERPT FROM A 2012 PRESS GANEY PATIENT SURVEY
Gonzalez, MD, participated in a medical mission to treat underserved patients in the Dominican Republic. This mission, conducted at Creighton University’s Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) in Santiago, provided necessary orthopedic procedures to 47 patients over a four-day period. More than 50 percent of the procedures involved regional anesthetics, including peripheral nerve blocks and neuraxial techniques. During the mission, Dr. Muller and Dr. Gonzalez also provided perioperative education in regional anesthesia to local providers.

Philip Wagner, MD, spent ten days in Israel teaching regional anesthesia and pain management in October 2012. He participated in a combined anesthesia/orthopedics program at Assaf Harofeh Hospital near Tel Aviv and Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, where he lectured and performed hands-on operating room training.

**International Research Fellowship**

In 2012, the Department began an exciting new partnership with Paracelsus Medical University and Salzburg University Hospital in Austria. In a collaborative research endeavor, residents from the hospital participate in a one-year research fellowship at HSS. After two years of residency, Ottokar Stundner, MD, PhD, joined the research team in January 2012, becoming the first participant in this new program. Dr. Stundner had a very successful, productive and educational year, coauthoring six papers published in high-impact journals and presenting twelve abstracts at domestic and international congresses. His primary fields of work were clinical studies in the peri- and post-operative period and projects in outcomes research and epidemiology.

According to Dr. Stundner, “The research fellowship served as a unique opportunity to broaden my knowledge and perspective, as well as a great way to gain experience in top-class research. Best of all, it allowed me to work together with some of the most scientifically and clinically experienced anesthesiologists in the world. The mentorship I received at HSS was not only an ideal primer for a scientific career, but also a valuable personal experience of collaboration and team spirit.”
Stavros Memtsoudis, MD, PhD, conducts clinical trials research and is the principal investigator of multiple studies evaluating patient outcomes and anesthesiology practices in total joint replacement and complex spine patients. In 2012, he conducted eight clinical studies, published twenty-three papers and thirteen abstracts, and was honored with two prestigious awards for his prolific work.

A key element to the success of the Department’s Research Division is the multi-disciplinary approach of collaboration with HSS colleagues. Recognizing that the high volume of patients at HSS is ideally suited to help answer important questions that are beyond the reach of other institutions, Dr. Memtsoudis spearheaded an interdisciplinary collaboration in the “Peri-Operative ISchemic Evaluation” (POISE-2) clinical trial in 2012. Both the POISE-1 and POISE-2 studies were initiated by the Population Health Research Institute (PHRI), McMaster University, Canada.

POISE-2 was designed to determine whether peri-operative low-dose clonidine and low-dose aspirin prevent all-cause mortality and nonfatal myocardial infarction without excessive risk of major bleeding or clinically important hypotension in patients undergoing non-cardiac surgery.

Aware that major heart problems during or after orthopedic surgeries represent a large scale health problem and encouraged by the data published in the POISE-1 study, Dr. Memtsoudis obtained support from Research Administration and the Department of Medicine in a joint collaboration on the POISE-2 trial. Dr. Memtsoudis and Dr. Linda Russell are co-principal investigators and a research coordinator in the Department of Medicine facilitates the study.

Dr. Memtsoudis began collaborating with Madhu Mazumdar, PhD, Chief of the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology in the Department of Public Health at Weill Cornell Medical College in 2007, and together they established a translational research team of orthopedic surgeons, anesthesiologists, biostatisticians and epidemiologists. The translational science team, most recognized for their work regarding the safety of bilateral total knee replacement surgery, found that the procedure carries a three-fold adjusted risk for in-hospital mortality and that staggering the procedure across several days produces even greater risk. They published thirteen papers on the topic, including a manuscript in *Journal of American Medical Association*, and their findings influenced new guidelines for bilateral TKA at HSS and beyond. In recognition of their significant research contributions, the members of this collaboration were presented with the prestigious Team Science Award from the American Federation for Medical Research, Association for Clinical Research Training, Association for Patient Oriented Research and Society for Clinical and Translational Science in April 2012.

After preparing a proposal outlining his five year commitment to research at HSS, Dr. Memtsoudis received the Anna Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation’s Clinician Scientist Career Development Award in July 2012. The program awards funds to clinicians with a well-defined plan for research activities integrated with clinical responsibilities, with a goal of creating a group of clinician scientists who will establish research careers and become future leaders in academic orthopedics, rheumatology and musculoskeletal specialties.

Dr. Memtsoudis stated, “This award is a big personal honor. It will allow me to pursue a career dedicated to research while maintaining my practice as a clinician, which in today’s environment is becoming increasingly difficult. For that, I am incredibly grateful.”
Annual Interdisciplinary Distinguished Professor in Anesthesiology

Edward Mariano, MD, Chief of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Care Service at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System in California, presented Grand Rounds in December 2012 as the second participating anesthesiologist in Hospital for Special Surgery’s Annual Distinguished Professor Lecture Series. In his lecture, entitled, “Pay for Performance in Pain Management is Here: How Do You Define Quality and Add Value?”, Dr. Mariano provided an overview of value-based purchasing and suggested effective strategies to provide consistent high-quality pain management care for postsurgical patients. During his visit, Dr. Mariano also moderated a Visiting Professor Journal Club for Anesthesiology Department staff, toured clinical areas to view procedures and share best practice information, and met with an interdisciplinary group of the HSS leadership team to further discuss his Grand Rounds presentation.

ADVANCING THE FIELD THROUGH CLINICAL RESEARCH

Clinical research endeavors are fundamental to the Department’s mission of advancing the field of regional anesthesia. Our goal is to improve the patient experience by gaining a better understanding of how peri-operative anesthetics affect patient outcomes. Guided by Jacques Ya Deau, MD, PhD, Director of Clinical Research and Carey Ford, Clinical Research Manager, the twelve members of the Department’s dedicated research team assist our physician investigators with study designs including randomized controlled trials, comparative effectiveness, pilots and medical databases. Publication of research in prominent peer-reviewed journals allows the research team to actively contribute to advancements in the international anesthesia community. To this end, the Department has an enduring commitment to support physician investigators and conduct high quality research. In 2012, 30 full-length manuscripts were published and 23 abstracts were presented at national anesthesia conferences.

Continued Success for the Department’s First Research Fellow

After completing an anesthesiology research fellowship, Anna Maria Bombardieri, MD, PhD, began a clinical fellowship at HSS in 2012. During this time, she continued her research and published three additional papers. Upon completion of the clinical fellowship, Dr. Bombardieri received the Department’s Nigel Sharrock Award for Excellence in Academic Research. Additionally, in November 2012 the Hospital honored Dr. Bombardieri with the Charles L. Christian Award for Excellence in Musculoskeletal Research for her work on cerebral blood flow velocity.
We would not be the leaders we are today without the efforts of our dedicated support team. As we acknowledge their role in our successes, we invite you to learn more about three members of our exceptional team:

**Kelly Culot**
*Physician Assistant, PACU-SDU*

**Role:** I work with my colleagues to facilitate post-surgical management of our patients in the recovery room, consulting with physicians and hospital staff on a case-by-case basis to meet the diverse medical needs of our patients. We use a variety of techniques and practices for controlling pain, while making patient safety our number one priority. My responsibilities include: planning for timely effective treatment, educating patients and families about their post-operative condition, and ensuring patient safety and quality care during and after their stay at our hospital.

**A member of the HSS family since:** October 2004

**Why I love my job:** I love my job for many reasons, but the one thing that stands out the most is the people I have the privilege to work with every day. Our commitment to providing patients with the best possible care in all circumstances is what makes the HSS community such a special place to work.

**Goals:** The emphasis our hospital and each department places on continued professional growth for all employees helps me continue to develop and improve my skills as a physician assistant for the Department of Anesthesiology.

**Raymond Daniel**
*Senior Anesthesia Technician*

**Role:** I maintain anesthesia equipment and supplies in operating rooms and other clinical areas, provide technical support to the Department’s physicians and clinical support staff and work with Materials Management staff and other members of the technical support team to avoid potential supply inadequacies and address any deficiencies. Along with the Department’s other technical staff members, I ensure that our anesthesiologists have everything they need to make the operating rooms run as efficiently as possible.

**A member of the HSS family since:** March 1998

**Why I love my job:** I truly enjoy being a member of the anesthesiology staff and HSS family; I am proud to be part of a team that is integral in providing the best care to our patients.

**Goals:** I am interested in improving my performance through ongoing training and education, and I am grateful that the department enables my continued learning by providing me with the opportunity to attend conferences and avail of other educational opportunities.

**Sarah Kennedy**
*QA/PI Supervisor*

**Role:** My responsibilities include tracking and maintaining compliance for state and federal regulations, maintaining physician and CRNA profiles, managing an anesthesia literature database, collecting and analyzing departmental QA data and maintaining quarterly reports. In addition, I implement QA educational initiatives including orientation for incoming residents and writing our monthly QA newsletter.

**A member of the HSS family since:** August 2009

**Why I love my job:** My co-workers in the Anesthesiology Department are incredibly intelligent and hardworking, as well as being one of the most fun groups of people I know. Being around such dynamic personalities is motivating and keeps me engaged.

**Goals:** In 2012, I accomplished my goal of receiving a master’s degree. I would love to continue in my career path at HSS and plan to support that by obtaining certifications in healthcare quality and healthcare administration.
The Department of Anesthesiology proudly announced the addition of four outstanding physicians to our team in 2012:

**Adam Booser, MD**  
Assistant Attending Anesthesiologist  
After graduating from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Dr. Booser completed an anesthesiology residency at Weill-Cornell Medical Center and fellowship in pediatric anesthesiology at Children’s Hospital of Denver. Dr. Booser is board-certified in anesthesiology and worked as a pediatric anesthesiologist at Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics in Kansas City, MO, prior to joining the HSS staff.

**Swetha Pakala, MD**  
Assistant Attending Anesthesiologist  
Dr. Pakala completed medical school and residency training at the University of California, San Francisco, and joined our attending staff after graduating from HSS’ Regional Anesthesia and Acute Pain Medicine Fellowship. During her fellowship she received the Attending Anesthesiologists’ Award for Clinical Excellence, and was later awarded a traveling fellowship by Health Volunteers Overseas in collaboration with the Society for Education in Anesthesia. Dr. Pakala is board-certified in anesthesiology.

**Robert S. Griffin, MD, PhD**  
Director, Ambulatory Pain Medicine Program  
Dr. Griffin, double board-certified in anesthesiology and pain medicine, received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School and his PhD in neuroscience from Harvard University. He recently completed a residency in anesthesia and a fellowship in pain medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Griffin has conducted research on the relationship between genetics and pain, and is interested in translational and clinical pain research.

**Christine Peterson, MD**  
Director, Inpatient Pain Medicine Services  
Board-certified in internal medicine and pain and palliative medicine, Dr. Peterson received her medical degree from SUNY, Stony Brook, completed an internal medicine residency at Lenox Hill Hospital and graduated from the Memorial Sloan-Kettering pain and palliative care fellowship program. Prior to joining the pain management team, Dr. Peterson worked at Hospice of New York, where she served as the Bronx Regional Medical Director and Medical Director of St. Barnabas Hospice Inpatient Unit.

In addition, fourteen new staff members joined our talented team in 2012. The department welcomed:

- Nancy Blissett  
  LPN/Administrative Assistant for Dr. Kramskiy
- Eric Chen  
  Research Assistant
- Marcus DiLallo  
  Research Assistant
- Victoria Emem  
  Office Manager for Dr. Griffin
- Wesley Hicken  
  Physician Assistant, PACU-SDU
- Alvin Joseph  
  QA/PI Assistant
- Halsey Julien, CRNA
- Kaitlyn LaFerrara, CRNA  
  Mario Nova  
  Physician Assistant, PACU-SDU
- Grace Parreno, NP  
  Pain Management
- Janey Quinn  
  Physician Assistant, PACU-SDU
- Heather Reel  
  Research Assistant
- Matthew Rosenberg  
  Finance Manager
- Latha Swamy, MS  
  Research Coordinator
AWARDS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Chris R. Edmonds, MD
Fellows’ “Teacher of the Year” Award, 2011-2012

Stephen N. Harris, MD
Cornell Anesthesiology Residents’ “Teacher of the Year” Award, 2011-2012

Spencer S. Liu, MD
Team Science Award for Translational Research, awarded by the American Federation for Medical Research, Association for Clinical Research Training, Association for Patient-Oriented Research and Society for Clinical and Translational Science

Stavros G. Memtsoudis, MD, PhD
Anna Maria and Stephen Kellen Clinician Scientist Career Development Award
Team Science Award for Translational Research, awarded by the American Federation for Medical Research, Association for Clinical Research Training, Association for Patient-Oriented Research and Society for Clinical and Translational Science

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

James D. Beckman, MD
Instructor, Anatomy Course, New York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY

Jonathan C. Beathe, MD
Member, ASA Advisory Council

Douglas S. T. Green, MD
Instructor, Bio-Ethics Course, New York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY

Carrie R. Guheen, MD
Instructor, Anatomy Course, New York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY
Invited Speaker, American Society of Regional Anesthesia National Meeting, San Diego, CA

Richard L. Kahn, MD
Instructor, Anatomy Course, New York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY

David L. Lee, MD
Member, Medical School Admissions Committee, Weill Cornell Medical College
Instructor, Anatomy Course, New York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY

Spencer S. Liu, MD
Examiner, American Board of Anesthesiology
Chair, Committee for ASRA AQI Clinical Registry

Stavros G. Memtsoudis, MD, PhD
Director, Bilateral Knee Arthroplasty Symposium, New York, NY
Member, American Society of

2012 NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS
Swetha R. Pakala, MD  
Member, Health Volunteers Overseas 
Anesthesia Steering Committee

Lauren H. Turteltaub, MD  
Instructor, Anatomy Course, New York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY

Michael Urban, MD, PhD  
Invited Speaker, Society for Perioperative 
Assessment and Quality Improvement 
Meeting, Miami, FL

William F. Urmey, MD  
Board of Directors, American Society of 
Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine 
Chair, Distinguished Service Award 
Committee, American Society of 
Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine 
Invited Speaker, American Society of 
Regional Anesthesia National Meeting, San Diego, CA

Seth A. Waldman, MD  
Secretary, New York State Society of 
Interventional Pain Physicians 
Visiting Professor, Neurological Surgery 
Grand Rounds, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY

Philip J. Wagner MD  
Visiting Professor, Postoperative 
& Interventional Pain Management 
Symposium, Sackler School of Medicine / Assaf Harofeh Medical Center, Tel Aviv, Israel 
Visiting Professor, Hadassah Hospital & Medical Center, Department of 
Anesthesiology, Jerusalem, Israel

Jacques T. Ya Deau, MD, PhD  
Invited Speaker, American Society of 
Regional Anesthesia National Meeting, San Diego, CA

**EDITORIAL APPOINTMENTS**

Jonathan C. Beathe, MD  
Scientific Reviewer, Journal of Clinical 
Anesthesiology 
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**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS**

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Scientific Reviewer, Journal of Clinical 
Anesthesiology

Stavros G. Memtsoudis, MD, PhD  
Scientific Reviewer, Anesthesiology 
Scientific Reviewer, Anesthesia and 
Analgesia

Scientific Reviewer, Annals of Internal 
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Scientific Reviewer, Annals of Thoracic 
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Scientific Reviewer, Cleveland Clinic 
Journal of Medicine 
Scientific Reviewer, Clinical Anatomy 
Scientific Reviewer, Critical Care 
Scientific Reviewer, HSS Journal 
Scientific Reviewer, Journal of Clinical 
Anesthesiology 
Scientific Reviewer, Journal of Clinical 
Epidemiology 
Scientific Reviewer, Journal of Clinical 
Orthopedics and Related Research 
Scientific Reviewer, Journal of Critical 
Care Medicine 
Scientific Reviewer, Journal of Thoracic 
and Cardiovascular Surgery 
Scientific Reviewer, Regional Anesthesia 
and Pain Medicine

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Care 
Scientific Reviewer, Current Opinion in 
Anesthesiology 
Scientific Reviewer, Anthropology & 
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Scientific Reviewer, Milbank Quarterly 
Scientific Reviewer, Social Science and 
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Scientific Reviewer, Sociology of Health 
and Illness

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Scientific Reviewer, Regional Anesthesia & 
Pain Medicine

Seth A. Waldman, MD  
Scientific Reviewer, The Medical Letter 

Jacques T. Ya Deau, MD, PhD  
Associate Editor, Regional Anesthesia and 
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GRANTS

“Analgesia after Total Hip Arthroplasty: Peri-Articular Injection vs. Epidural.”
Principal Investigator: Kethy Jules-Elysee, MD
The HSS Anesthesia/ARJR Research Collaboration (HAARC, a group of anesthesiologist and surgeon investigators) designed this collaborative study to assess two different multimodal pain management regimens. This study aims to determine if the peri-articular injection treatment reduces the time until patients are ready for discharge, reduces opioid utilization, and improves patient quality of recovery and satisfaction compared with the patient controlled epidural analgesia regimen. The study is anticipated to complete enrollment in early 2013.

“Comparative Effectiveness of Interventions for Chronic Pain Management.”
National Institute of Health RC2 Award November 2009 – August 31, 2012
Principal Investigator: Charles Inturrisi, PharmD; Weill Cornell Medical College
Co-Investigators: Semih Gungor, MD and Seth A. Waldman, MD
The goals of this project are to establish a retrospective chronic pain data registry for patients of 4 New York City academic hospital-based pain clinics that employ interdisciplinary pain management treatments; use Practice Based Evidence (PBE) methodology to create a comprehensive, prospective chronic pain data registry, using the retrospective registry as a foundation; and use both registries to identify specific pain management interventions that are most effective for specific patient types with chronic pain.

“Chronic Pain Management Costs in a Multi-Institutional Patient Registry.”
Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC) Pilot Award June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2012
Principal Investigator: Bruce R. Schackman, PhD; Weill Cornell Medical College
Co-Investigators: Semih Gungor, MD and Seth A. Waldman, MD
In collaboration with Dr. Inturrisi’s NIH sponsored chronic pain registry, this project will collect cost information from a subset of patients across the four institutions.

“Implementation of Electronic Medical Records to Initiate a Chronic Pain Registry.”
Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC) Pilot Award

June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2012
Principal Investigator: Seth A. Waldman, MD
Conversion of paper based office charts to electronic format enabling participation in the NIH sponsored chronic pain registry lead by Dr. Inturrisi. Registry will include detailed patient characteristics (including severity of illness) and assessments, treatments, interventions and outcomes data that have been standardized across four participating pain clinics during the first year of the project.

2012 SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Original Articles
Della Valle AG, Chiu YL, Ma Y, Mazumdar M, Mentzosdous SG. The metabolic syndrome in patients undergoing knee and hip arthroplasty.


**Abstracts and Presentations**

Bae JJ, Gungor S, Buschiazzo V, Ford C, Grisansen K, Storm H, Christos PJ. Electrical Skin Conductance Monitoring as an Assessment of Postoperative Pain Scores. 6th World Congress – World Institute of Pain (WIP), Miami Beach, FL, February 2012.


Haskins S, Kahn R, Shaw PM, Reid S, Postoperative Pain Control and Block Satisfaction following Brachial Plexus Block for Ambulatory Shoulder Surgery. 37th Annual American Society of Regional Anesthesia (ASRA) Meeting and Workshops, March 2012, San Diego, CA.


Stundner O, Danninger T, Memtsoudis SG. Hemodynamic effects of increasing airway resistance in spontaneously breathing, healthy volunteers. Society of Anesthesia and Sleep Medicine (SASM), October 2012, Washington DC.


Yoo D, Stundner O, MD, Sun X, Chiu YL, Nurok M, Memtsoudis SG. Utilization of higher levels of care among total joint arthroplasty recipients. 37th Annual American Society of Regional Anesthesia (ASRA) Meeting and Workshops, March 2012, San Diego, CA.
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Kevan Stanton, MD

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The 2012 Annual Report of the Department of Anesthesiology is produced by Hospital for Special Surgery’s Department of Anesthesiology and Education & Academic Affairs.

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About Hospital for Special Surgery
Founded in 1863, Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) is a world leader in orthopaedics, rheumatology and rehabilitation. HSS is nationally ranked No. 1 in orthopaedics, No. 3 in rheumatology and No. 16 in neurology by U.S. News and World Report. HSS has also received Magnet Recognition for Excellence in Nursing Service from American Nurses Credentialing Center and has one of the lowest infection rates in the country. For the last three years HSS has received the HealthGrades Joint Replacement Excellence Award. A member of the NewYork-Presbyterian Healthcare System and an affiliate of Weill Cornell Medical College, HSS provides orthopaedic and rheumatologic patient care at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. All Hospital for Special Surgery medical staff are on the faculty of Weill Cornell Medical College. The Hospital’s research division is internationally recognized as a leader in the investigation of musculoskeletal and autoimmune diseases.