A Celebration of Forty Years

Milestones and Pioneers

We Salute

Gertie F. Marx, M.D.
(1912-2004)
FRIEND, INSPIRATION and PHILANTHROPIST
This booklet is dedicated to and salutes the life and career of Gertie F. Marx, M.D., beyond any comparison the most admired, beloved, and influential member of the first forty years of the existence of the Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology -- SOAP!

A Reminiscence
The SOAP 2007-2008 “Repository Task Force” was charged to begin the retrieval, preservation, and organization of our heritage of documents and artifacts describing the origins and accomplishments of this organization for reference and as a tribute to those who contributed at each step of our growth. In addition, the Task Force was asked to assist Dr. Linda Polley and Dr. Barbara Scavone in their efforts to make the 2008 Annual Meeting a fitting “Celebration At 40 Years!” The Task Force members have prepared this souvenir booklet in commemoration of a few, but by far not all, of the many notable people and events of SOAP’s “First Forty Years.”

The SOAP 2007 - 2008 Repository Task Force
Bacon, Douglas
Bassell, Gerard M.
Baysinger, Curtis L
Caton, Don
Clark, Richard B
Cohen, Sheila E.
Douglas, Joanne
Finster, Mieczyslaw
Giesecke, Adolph
Gutsche, Brett

Hustead, Robert F.
James, Frank M.
Lockhart, Ellen M.
Minzter, Beth
Pue, Alex (Vice Chair)
Santos, Divina
Smith, Bradley E. (Chair)
Smith, Michael
Zuspan, Kathy
BEGINNINGS

In 1948, U.S. maternal and neonatal mortality rates were unbelievably high by today’s standards. Anesthesia accounted for 3 to 10 percent of all maternal mortality, yet in 1971 the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) reported that in hospitals delivering over 500 babies annually, fully 97 percent of all mothers received some form of anesthesia, but only 12 percent of these received their anesthetic from the hands of a physician and only 25% from a nurse actually trained in anesthesia! Only 24 percent of hospitals offering obstetrics reported 24 hour availability of either an anesthesiologist or nurse anesthetist. Hicks et al reported that even in 1975 only 39 training programs employed a full time physician at the head of Obstetric Anesthesia training!

In mid century most mothers received heavy narcotic-scopolamine sedation during labor (“Dammerschlaf”). Delivery rooms were often quiet due to anesthetized mothers and sedated newborns. The “saddle block” technique had been introduced by John Adriani in 1946, but did not catch on rapidly. Epidural anesthesia (caudal route) for vaginal delivery had been introduced in 1942 by Robert Hingson, but was rarely used outside of a few universities. Hingson joined the Hopkins staff in briefly in 1949, but was not successful in popularizing his technique.

In 1940, there is thought to have been only one person practicing full time Obstetric Anesthesia in the entire United States, Dr. Bert Hershenson at Boston Lying-In Hospital (BLI). He later wrote the first book dedicated to U.S. Obstetric Anesthesia. In the early 50’s he was joined by pioneers Chester White and Jess Weiss at the BLI, who began to espouse regional block. About the same time Herb Ebner in Providence became a strong advocate and became the first anesthesiologist named as an Associate Fellow of the ACOG!

In 1949 Virginia Apgar left the Chair of Anesthesiology at Columbia University in New York and took up full time Obstetric Anesthesia. Frank Moya joined Virginia Apgar in New York in 1957 and he was joined by Sol Schnider for four years before Schnider migrated to San Francisco in 1963. Moya attracted Bradley Smith (in 1960 the first ever Obstetric Anesthesia Fellow), Mieczyslaw Finster, Paul Poppers, and others. As a full time Obstetric Anesthesiologist from 1959-1962 at Johns Hopkins, Robert Hustead made strong progress in introducing continuous lumbar epidural.

John J. Bonica, in Tacoma and Seattle became an early advocate of lumbar paravertebral block and lumbar epidural block in obstetrics. Otto C. Phillips stirred alarm with his reports on maternal mortality due to anesthesia in the Baltimore area. At Yale, Fred Hehre, a former Apgar resident, became the first truly influential champion and reporter of the benefits of lumbar epidural in obstetrics, beginning in 1956.

In 1964, and again in 1965, Bradley Smith began correspondence with several others in an attempt to raise interest in a study group for Obstetric Anesthesia. In 1965, Sol Schnider surveyed teaching programs and found only 15 people around the country interested in even forming a mailing list to circulate pertinent Obstetric Anesthesia reprints. At this time, it was Otto Phillips, then Chair of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Committee on Maternal Welfare (later the Obstetric Anesthesia Committee) who began to refer to the idea of an “Association of Obstetrical Anesthesiologists.”
James Elam and Robert Bauer corresponded in 1967 regarding Phillip's suggestion. In March 1968, Elam and Phillips agreed on plans for an initial organizational meeting for which Elam obtained funding. Finally, on Saturday, May 25, 1968, the organizational meeting of the group, which later became known as SOAP, was held at the O'Hare Airport in the Admiral's Club Lounge. Those present at this first meeting included Bauer, Elam, Smith, Hustead, Richard Clark, and James Evans. These six became known as the “Founders” of SOAP.

Clark, Evans and Smith were delegated to begin work on a constitution for the group. They represented divergent views of the direction in which the group should plot its course. Smith hoped to merge SOAP activities into the ASA: Clark felt that affiliation with one of the major societies was important and sensed that resistance in the ASA would make that route impractical. He believed that establishing a section under the American Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) could be feasible.

In order to further explore guidance from potential members on these constitutional issues, Smith (now in the role of Chair of the ASA Obstetric Anesthesia Committee) advertised and convened an “interest group” meeting at the ASA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. on October 20, 1968. (In a grand gesture, the incoming President of ASA, John Bonica, left his own ASA Presidential dinner party, came to the meeting, and offered firm support for the formation of SOAP.)

To further this exploration, Smith advertised and convened another “interest group” meeting at the Annual Meeting of the ACOG on Monday, April 28, 1969 in Miami Beach. Several anesthesiologists, including Fred Hehre, Gertie Marx, Bob Hustead, Dick Clark and Ed Hanish attended, as did several obstetricians including Frank Greiss and William Gottschalk.

The initial interest of ACOG in affiliating was not sustained, and despite the enthusiasm of this, as yet small, group, the ASA decided against encouraging anesthesia specialty groups. However, although SOAP was clearly the first, other specialty societies similar to SOAP began to appear, and ASA eventually reversed its position. Not only were the activities of the specialty groups encouraged, but several, with SOAP again the first, obtained direct representation in the ASA House of Delegates.

Temporarily rebuffed, the group decided to go ahead on its own. Hustead volunteered to host a nationwide invitational meeting in Kansas City, Kansas in connection with a continuing education program on Obstetric Anesthesia problems and procedures. This meeting convened September 19 - 21, 1969 at the University of Kansas in Kansas City. Those in attendance were later christened the 64 “Charter Members” of SOAP (listed in this book.) At the first formal business meeting on Sunday, September 21, 1969 it was decided that a new organization had been born, and it should be called the Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology. (See attached note by Adolph Giesecke describing how the name came about.)

The 1970 Annual Meeting was convened in Nashville, Tennessee on September 26-27, 1970, by its host, Smith, with Hustead presiding. There was still no charter or constitution. There were 64 registered enrollees, bringing the total SOAP membership to 91. Since the O'Hare group had never presented their proposed constitution and bylaws, they were again charged to do so by the next meeting.
The 1971 Annual Meeting was convened in Atlanta from April 23 - 25, with Evans as host and Smith presiding. Approximately 74 attended. The CME program was jointly sponsored by Emory University, Departments of Anesthesiology, Gynecology/Obstetrics, and Pediatrics. In addition to a long discussion of the practical financial side of Obstetric Anesthesia practice, the business meeting laboriously and carefully reworked the report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and the first by-laws of SOAP were adopted. The official SOAP membership had increased to 185 names.

The 1972 Annual Meeting was convened in Denver, Colorado on March 24-26, by the co-hosts, Alice Basford and Ed Crawford, with James Evans presiding. Business included extensive discussion and acceptance of further amendments to the new articles of organization. Because the newly enacted bylaws included an attendance requirement, the official membership rolls were purged down to 78 members.

Wouldn’t you like to know more of SOAP's 40 year history? So would we all! Unfortunately, much of it is LOST! The records of SOAP, our achievements, a glimpse of the personalities of our pioneers, their tribulations and the history of our evolution is GONE!

The 2007-2008 SOAP “Repository Task Force” pledges our best efforts to begin the restoration of this priceless heritage. Each present or past SOAP member can help the Task Force by finding and preserving documents or artifacts from SOAP's history. Contact Felicia Reilly, Archivist, Wood Library-Museum, Park Ridge, Illinois, e-mail: f.reilly@ASAhq.org or a member of the “Repository Task Force.”

Robert F. Hustead, Richard B. Clark, and Bradley E. Smith
The venue was terrific. We were sequestered in a conference room on the top floor of a hotel in Kansas City with large picture windows on one wall overlooking the city, the river and the airport, but we were paying attention to business. The business of the day was the possible formation of a new society. The group was large: twelve to fifteen and I dare not try to name them. Dr. Bradley Smith has produced a list but I could not guarantee its accuracy. Dr. Robert Hustead, the host, opened the meeting and posed the important question, “Should we form a society?” Those in favor stated that the traditional societies did not satisfy our need for a forum of discussion, research and study to advance the science and practice of obstetrical anesthesia. Those opposed countered with opposition to endless proliferation of subspecialty societies, which would weaken the fabric of the ASA and its political influence. After considerable discussion we decided to form the new society.

I enjoy doodling during these kinds of meetings. I was drawing pictures of those in the room and playing alphabet games on my pad. Dr. Hustead then asked, “Who should we invite to be members?” We decided we wanted to be an interdisciplinary society and include anyone who might be interested in the parturient and the fetus: obstetricians, anesthesiologists, and pediatricians. I wrote those down on my pad. Then Dr. Hustead asked the really tough question, “What will we call the society?” Immediately the motion was made to call it the Virginia Apgar Society. Those in favor argued that Dr. Apgar’s name was synonymous with progress in neonatology and maternal safety and that we should honor her in this significant way. Those opposed held that Dr. Apgar had indeed devised the neonatal evaluation system, but that she had abandoned the practice of OB anesthesia in favor of a cushy, desk job with the March of Dimes. The discussion went on for an hour and promised to go on much longer. I looked at my pad, and “Society of Obstetricians, Anesthesiologists and Pediatricians” or SOAP jumped into my mind. I made the substitute motion, saying that this would be the cleanest society in the world. The group massaged the name to “Society of Obstetrical Anesthesia and Perinatology” and this name passed without dissent.

What’s in a name? A wonderful productive, enduring society which has done phenomenal good for parturients, neonates and those physicians interested in their welfare.

Dr. Giesecke can be reached at the above address or by e-mail: adolph.giesecke@utsouthwestern.edu.
<table>
<thead>
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<td>Washington Hilton Hotel (at the 1968 ASA Annual Meeting)</td>
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<td>2006</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>40th Annual</td>
<td>April 30-May 4, 2008</td>
<td>Renaissance Chicago Hotel Chicago, IL</td>
<td>Barbara Scavone</td>
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</table>
FOUNDERS of the Society for Obstetrical Anesthesia and Perinatology

Robert O. Bauer, M.D. *
Richard B. Clark, M.D.
James O. Elam, M.D. *
James A. Evans, M.D. *
Robert F. Hustead, M.D.
Bradley E. Smith, M.D.

*deceased

SOAP CHARTER MEMBERS

(Persons enrolled at the first nationally advertised called meeting on September 21, 1969 were designated “CHARTER” members of SOAP)

Bashir Ahmad
Henry Aldis
M. Dennis Barton
M. Derick Boldt
Elwyn S. Brown
Marion A. Carnes
George Cassady
Donald Caton
Richard B. Clark
Thomas M. Conley
Bruce Darrow
Preston V. Dilts, Jr.
James A. Evans*
Mieczyslaw Finster
Donald W. Freeman
Alice F. Gambill
Adolph H. Giesecke
James E. Gildea*
Bill A. Gillen
Donald A. Goss*

William Gottschalk*
Frank C. Greiss
Brett B. Gutsche
James O. Hanson
Edward C. Hanisch*
M.P. Hast
Frederick W. Hehre*
Robert Hodgkinson*
Ernest L. Hopkins
Robert F. Hustead
Miles D. Hyman
George B. Jackson
Francis M. James
Max J. Kartchner
David Katz
Jacob Kay
H.F. Khater
Geoffrey Logan
Henry S. Lim
Richard O. Lundborg

John H. McClure
Donald E. McIntosh
Marjorie L. Malenofski
Antonio Marasigan
Gertie F. Marx*
Carlos Mendez-Bauer
Joseph Messick
Donald H. Morrison
Frank Ostapowicz
Otto C. Phillips*
Alfred N. Poindexter
Hiroshi Sankawa
Paul W. Searles
Donald M. Sherline
Sol M. Schnider*
Bradley E. Smith
A.O. Tetzlaff
Edwin G. Waldrop
Augusta Webster

*Known to be deceased, February 12, 2008
PAST PRESIDENTS

1969-1970 Robert F. Hustead, M.D.
1970-1971 Bradley E. Smith, M.D.
1971-1972 James A. Evans, M.D.
1972-1973 Alice Blanche Basford, M.D.
1973-1974 Preston V. Dilts, Jr., M.D.
1974-1975 Sol M. Schneider, M.D.
1975-1976 Brett Gutsche, M.D.
1976-1977 Charles P. Gibbs, M.D.
1977-1978 David Ralston, M.D.
1978-1979 John C. Morrison, M.D.
1979-1980 Francis (Frank) M. James, III, M.D.
1980-1981 Gerard W. Ostheimer, M.D.
1981-1982 Michael H. Plumer, M.D.
1982-1983 Thomas H. Joyce, III, M.D.
1983-1984 Graham McMorland, M.B., Ch.B.
1984-1985 Robert Hodgkinson, M.D.
1985-1986 John B. Craft, Jr., M.D.
1986-1987 Richard Clark, M.D.
1987-1988 Desmond Writer, M.B., Ch.B.
1988-1989 Samuel C. Hughes, M.D.
1989-1990 Virginia Williams, M.D.
1990-1991 Jay S. DeVore, M.D.
1991-1992 Sanjay Datta, M.D.
1992-1993 Lloyd F. Redick, M.D.
1993-1994 Richard Rottman, M.D.
1994-1995 Barbara Leighton, M.D.
1995-1996 Mieczyslaw (Mike) Finster, M.D.
1996-1997 Sheila E. Cohen, M.B., Ch.B.
1997-1998 Gerard M. Bassell, M.D.
1998-1999 David J. Birnbach, M.D.
1999-2000 David H. Chestnut, M.D.
2000-2001 Alan C. Santos, M.D., M.P.H.
2001-2002 Valerie A. Arkoosh, M.D.
2002-2003 Joy L. Hawkins, M.D.
2003-2004 Richard N. Wissler, M.D.
2004-2005 M. Joanne Douglas, M.D., F.R.C.P.
2005-2006 William R. Camann, M.D.
2006-2007 David J. Wlody, M.D.
RECIPIENTS OF THE SOAP DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

2000  Gertie F. Marx  
2001  Mieczyslaw Finster  
2002  Robert Bauer  
      Richard B. Clark  
      James O. Elam  
      James Evans  
      Robert Hustead  
      Bradley E. Smith  
2003  Brett Gutsche  
2004  Sheila Cohen  
2005  Frederick Zuspan  
2006  Felicity Reynolds  
2007  Francis M. James

THE FREDERICK W. HEHRE, JR. LECTURES

Frederick W. Hehre, M.D., was one of the earliest OB Anesthesiologists (see "Beginnings ... and Biographies) and was a "Charter Member" of SOAP. At the time of his death, the Board of Directors established the tradition that the "Keynote Speech" of each Annual Meeting, by a widely acclaimed and senior contributor from a field pertinent to OB Anesthesia would be selected by the President and the Program Committee and would be honored by the title "The Fred W. Hehre, M.D. Lecturer".

THE FREDERICK W. HEHRE, M.D. LECTURERS

1981  Gertie F. Marx  
    “Monitoring the Mother During Labor”  
1982  L. Stanley James  
1983  Edward Hon  
    “Whose Distress....Mother? Fetus? Doctor?”  
1984  Phillip R. Bromage  
    “Evolution and Revolution in Obstetrical Anesthesia”  
1985  Sol M. Schnider  
    “The Fellows Made Me Do It”  
1986  Frank C. Greiss, Jr.  
    “Evolution of the Placental Circulation: Comments on Clinical Implications”  
1987  John J. Bonica  
    “The Mechanisms and Pathways of the Pain of Childbirth”  
1988  Tony Yaksh  
    “New Horizons in the Control at the Spinal Level of the Sensory and Autonomic Responses to Pain”  
1989  Francis M. James  
    “Lessons Learned from Obstetric Anesthesia”  
1991  Milton H. Alper  
    “History of Anesthesia at the ‘Old Boston Lying-In’ Hospital”
1992  Bradley E. Smith
  “Frederick W. Hehre, Jr., M.D.: Visionary of the Past, Example for the Future of Obstetric Anesthesia”
1993  Frederick P. Zuspan
  “New Thoughts on an Old Disease: Preeclampsia/Eclampsia”
1994  Felicity Reynolds
  “In Defense of Bupivacaine”
1995  Ronald Melzack
  “Current Concepts of Pain”
1996  Charles P. Gibbs
  “Obstetric Anesthesia: USA”
1997  Mieczslaw Finster
  “Abandoned Techniques and Drugs in Obstetrics and Obstetric Anesthesia”
1998  Gershon Levinson
  “Controversies During a Career in Obstetric Anesthesia”
1999  Sheila E. Cohen
  “What’s New, What’s Hot? A 25 Year Retrospective of Obstetric Anesthesia...Lessons for the New Millenium”
2000  Michael J. Cousins
  “Persistent Pain: A Disease Entity”
2001  M. Joanne Douglas
  “Looking to the Past to Find a Vision for the Future”
2002  David M. Dewan
  “Obstetric Anesthesia 1977-2002 A Personal Perspective – From Consilience to Victory”
2003  Donald Caton
  “Medical Science and Social Values”
2004  Samuel C. Hughes
  “Maternal Mortality: What Have We Learned and How Do We Use It?”
2005  James C. Eisenach
  “Pain and Delivery – Why, What, and When?”
2006  David Chestnut
  “Lessons Learned from Obstetric Anesthesia”
2007  David J. Birnbach
  “Malpractice or Improved Communication The Importance of Improved Communication Between Anesthesiologists, Patients, and Colleagues”
2008  Alan C. Santos
  “See One, Do One, Teach One: Is This What Women Really Want?”
RESEARCH IN EDUCATION AWARD

The Research in Education Award was established in 2001 by the SOAP Board of Directors and first given at the May 2002 Annual Meeting in Hilton Head, South Carolina. The criteria are:

- Abstracts may focus on the education of medical students, residents, patients, obstetric care providers, or the community.
- All health care providers (anesthesiologists, fellows, residents, obstetricians, nurses, etc) are eligible as long as they are a member of SOAP or sponsored by a SOAP member.
- A $500 cash award is provided.

THE RECIPIENTS

2002 (There were 2 recipients)
David Birnbach: “The Use of Video Tapes of Specific Errors as an Adjunct to Teach Epidural Technique”
Raymond Glassenberg: “The Virtual Larynx: Teaching Intubation Skills with Fewer Patients”

2003
Raymond Glassenberg: “The Virtual Spine”

2004
M. T. Sproviero: “Measuring Resident Performance during an Obstetric Anesthetic Scenario on a High Fidelity Human Patient Simulator”

2005
Moeen Panni: “What Experiences Are Anesthesiology Trainees Receiving?”

2006
Paul Preston: “Simulation in Labor and Delivery: Full Team In Situ Drills in a Large HMO”

2007
Steven Lipman: “Maximized Learning in Limited Time: Using Health Failure Modes Effects Analysis (HFMA) in Simulated Obstetric Crisis Drills – Poor Communication is the Highest Ranking Team Deficiency”

Curtis L. Baysinger M.D.
Gerard W. Ostheimer, M.D. was a prominent member of SOAP from 1973 until his untimely death in 1995 (see accompanying biographies). Toward preserving his memory and honoring his service to SOAP, in 1997 the Board of Directors attached his name in perpetuity to the existing tradition that annually a highly respected and active SOAP member be asked to present a complete search and commentary on the literature pertinent to OB Anesthesia which had appeared in the previous year. The assignment was already considered a honor, which is even more emphasized by its status as a lecture-ship named for a highly respected physician.

THE GERARD W. OSTHEIMER LECTURERS
("WHAT'S NEW IN OBSTETRIC ANESTHESIA")

1998  David Campbell
1999  McCallum Hoyt
2000  Linda S. Polley
2001  B. Scott Segal
2002  David H. Wlody
2003  Audrey S. Alleyne
2004  Lawrence C. Tsen
2005  Brenda A. Bucklin
2006  Roshan Fernando
2007  Alison Macarthur
2008  Ruth Landau

Beth H. Minzter, M.D.
THE ZUSPAN AWARD
(Provided by Perinatal Resources, Inc.)
Purpose of Award: The purpose of the Zuspan award is to promote collaborative research and scholarship between Obstetricians and Obstetric Anesthesiologists by rewarding the top research paper co-authored by an Obstetrician interfacing with an Obstetric Anesthesiologist. At least one co-author of the abstract must be an Obstetrician.

Award: $2,000, given by Perinatal Resources, Inc. to one recipient annually. The recipient is chosen from a group of potential candidates following oral presentation of their papers at the SOAP Annual Meeting. Judging for the award is done by a group of SOAP members selected by the Annual Program Committee and approved by the SOAP Board.
Year started: 1997

RECIPIENTS
1997    Yasser Y. El-Sayed, M.D.
1998    A.H. Shennan, M.D.
1999    Kenneth Leveno, M.D.
2000    Yasser Y. El-Sayed, M.D.
2001    Patrick S. Ramsey, M.D.
2002    Laura M. Goetz, M.D.
2003    Anthony G. Maratea, M.D.
2004    Errol R. Norwitz, M.D.
2005    Mughina Siddiqui, M.D.
2006    Geraldine O'Sullivan, M.D.
2007    Ronald B. George, M.D.

Kathryn J. Zuspan, M.D.
In the late 1970s, Gertie F. Marx, M.D. envisioned the idea of publishing a digest that would showcase articles from the international literature and would be of interest to those involved in the care of parturients and their infants. Her publisher at the time, Elsevier-North Holland Biomedical Press, liked the idea and began working with Marx to bring the concept to fruition with publication of the first edition in 1981.

At first, most of the abstracting for OAD was performed by Dr. Marx herself in the libraries of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and the New York Academy of Medicine. She typed all abstracts, with the contributing editors providing commentary and limited editing. Gertie then collated the copy and forwarded it to the publisher for typesetting, printing and distribution.

The first publishing arrangement lasted only three years. Elsevier informed Dr. Marx that the production and distribution costs exceeded subscription income; thus, publication would cease. Marx believed strongly in the worth of OAD, however, and so an arrangement was reached with Elsevier to assign the copyright and ownership to her, so that OAD could continue to be published.

In late 1983, Dr. Marx approached Robert Hodgkinson, M.D., Director of Obstetric Anesthesia at the University of Texas, San Antonio and an OAD contributing editor from the digest’s inception, to take over production and distribution using the facilities at his university. Volumes four, five and the first two issues of volume six were produced in this manner. Dr. Marx searched the literature, prepared the abstracts, distributed abstracts to the contributing editors, collated the typescript and then transferred the manuscript to Dr. Hodgkinson who edited the copy and used the University of Texas Press for typesetting and production.

After Dr. Hodgkinson’s untimely death in July 1986, Gerard M. Bassell, M.D. joined Dr. Marx as co-editor of OAD. With the able assistance of Robert McKay, M.D., all phases of editing, production and distribution were carried out in Wichita, Kansas through a new corporate identity, “OAD, Inc.” Six years later, “OAD, Inc.” was sold to Raven Press, and volume 13 began publication under new ownership but with the same editorial process. Subsequently, Raven Press became a part of Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins.

At the end of the 21st volume, after 15 years as editor, Dr. Bassell became “Editor Emeritus” and Dr. McKay began 2002 as the Editor-in-Chief. Dr. Marx’s will, effort and tireless endeavor sustained the publication during the early years. During periods without an industry publisher until development of the relationship with Raven Press and Lippincott Williams & Wilkins that continues to this day, Gertie always saw OAD as her “baby.” The digest is read in more than thirty countries and still retains Gertie’s original idea of providing information in a digest format with a clinical message. OAD is one of Gertie F. Marx, M.D.’s many gifts to obstetric anesthesia education.

Gerard M. Bassell, M.D.
THE HISTORY AND CURRENT STATUS of the OBSTETRIC ANESTHESIA AND PERINATOLOGY ENDOWMENT FUND (OAPEF)

In 1986 when I was co-president of SOAP, two prominent and beloved members of SOAP, John Craft and Robert Hodgkinson, passed away. I considered how to memorialize them, and decided on an endowment fund for contributions to be made in the memory of deceased members, or to honor living persons. Thus was born the Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology Endowment Fund (OAPEF), which was incorporated in 1987. As of this writing, over $200,000 has been collected and disbursed for worthwhile projects in education and research related to obstetric anesthesia. The contributions of SOAP members have made this possible and are tax deductible.

You may have noticed a place on the SOAP registration form for OAPEF contributions. My original intent was to have SOAP members make donations to the memory of, or in the honor of revered and departed persons, and then have their names listed in the newsletter. This has largely not happened. It still seems like a good idea! I have spoken with the SOAP Treasurer. Publishing these tributes may be possible in the future.

The honored and legendary Dr. Gertie Marx established another fund that is similar to OAPEF, which is to promote education and research within SOAP. This is the Gertie Marx Education Fellowship Fund (GMEFF). With her passing in 2004, she made a generous endowment in her will that will fund the GMEFF. Although OAPEF and GMEFF are related, the funds cannot be co-mingled.

OAPEF donations total about $5000 to $10,000 a year. These have been used to fund starter grants as well as donations to FAER. Additionally, interest generated from the OAPEF, and now GMEFF accounts hold the promise of even greater amounts becoming available for future grants. A Disbursement Committee has been formed to determine how best to evaluate funding requests and make recommendations to the SOAP Board on an ongoing basis. The SOAP Board of Directors will continue to study the OAPEF – GMEFF relationship, and bring more order and direction to both of these worthwhile endeavors. A report in the SOAP newsletter is expected in the near future.

In the meantime: Keep Donating!

Richard B. Clark, M.D.
I had the great honor of meeting John Bonica in 1960 when he invited me to prepare a chapter for his obstetric anesthesia text. John was the most thoroughly engaging, energetic and productive man I have ever met.

John’s family migrated from his birthplace of Filicudi, Sicily to Brooklyn in 1928. When his father died four years later, 15 year old John became the breadwinner. John worked his way through high school, and Long Island University. An unusual source of income was his professional wrestling. In a professional wrestling career from 1934 to 1950 John had 1,485 “legitimate” matches (several in Madison Square Garden) and over 2000 shorter matches as “The Masked Marvel” for Ringling Brothers Circus. He became Canadian Light Heavyweight Champion in 1939, and in 1941, for seven months was World Champion! He is in the Professional Wrestlers’ Hall of Fame.

John graduated from Marquette Medical School in 1942 and began his half century marriage with Emma. After internship and anesthesiology training at St. Vincent’s in New York, in 1944 he became Chief of Anesthesiology at Madigan Army Hospital. It was here that John developed his lifelong interest in pain syndromes. After his Army service he became the second anesthesia physician in private practice in Washington state. His hospital became one of the first in the U.S. to offer “24/7/365” obstetric anesthesia by physicians. His classic text “The Management of Pain,” was first published in 1953. It was the first textbook on the diagnosis and treatment of pain in the world! His second classic text “Principals and Practice of Obstetric and Anesthesia and Analgesia” was published in 1967.

He was Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology at Seattle from 1960 to 1978, President of ASA in 1967-1968, President of the World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiology in 1980 - 1984, and President of the International Association for the Study of Pain. He was an invited visiting professor in 110 universities in 72 countries. He wrote or edited 41 books and contributed chapters to 60 other books. He published 274 scientific articles, two thirds of which were on pain or obstetric anesthesia.

He was the first “foreign” physician in over 250 years to receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Medical Science by the University of Siena, Italy. He also received an honorary degrees and medals from Northwestern University, the Swedish Medical Society, and the German Neurophysiologic Society. He was elected Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal College of Surgeons, (which is limited to 20 members worldwide).

In 1969 he became a Grand Officer of the Knights of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy - the highest award given by the President of Italy to foreign nationals. Later he was made a hereditary Baronet of Sicily. Finally, in 1990 he was personally honored by Pope John Paul II “for his contribution to the improvement of the welfare of people worldwide.”

Bradley E. Smith, M.D.
Bonica, John J., M.D. - Bibliography

Bonica, JJ: Autobiography. The History & Special Collections Section of the UCLA Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library:
   http://www.library.ucla.edu/biomed/his/bonica/johnjbonicaautobiographicalstatement.html
   Am J Obstet Gynecol. 1972 May 15;113(2):166-75
BONICA JJ. Obstetric analgesia and anesthesia in general practice.
Donald Caton, M.D.

Donald Caton graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1962. After completion of an anesthesia residency at the University of Virginia under Douglas Eastwood (1967), he began a two year post doctoral fellowship at Yale under the direction of Nicholas M. Greene working with D. H. Barron, acknowledged as a founder of reproductive physiology. He then moved to the University of Florida with a joint appointment in Anesthesiology and Obstetrics and Gynecology, the former department headed by its newly appointed chair Jerome H. Modell.

At the University of Florida, Caton founded the first division of obstetric anesthesia. He was present at the first Annual Meeting of SOAP and is a “Charter” member. Over the next 35 years Caton served on the committee for 15 PhD candidates and supervised more than 10 post-doctoral research fellows. Supported by an NIH Career Development Award and grants from the Josiah Macy Foundation, the Welcome Trust and private corporations, he published extensively in endocrine, physiology and clinical journals. His research focused on patterns of intra-uterine growth, oxygen requirements of the normal fetus and regulation of the uterine blood flow during the ovarian cycle and pregnancy. He was the first anesthesiologist elected to membership in the Society of Gynecological Investigation and the Perinatal Research Society. He was also a member of the Association of University Anesthetists and the Academy of Anesthesia.

Throughout his career Caton published papers dealing with the history of anesthesia. These dealt with early concepts of placental transport, founders of obstetric anesthesia and some of the factors which shaped anesthesia practice. In 1999 the Yale University Press published his book What a Blessing She Had Chloroform: the Medical and Social Response to the Pain of Childbirth from 1800 to the Present. It won several awards including the David Little prize as well as a special commendation from the British Medical Association. In 2004 he was designated the History of Anesthesia Laureate, an international award bestowed every four years by the Wood Library Museum (WLM).

Caton served as a trustee of the Wood Library Museum (1989-2001), including three years as its president. He has given many named lectures including the Fred Hehre Lecture at the 2003 meeting of SOAP and the Lewis H. Wright Lecture at the 1997 meeting of the ASA.

Donald Caton, M.D. - Bibliography

BOOK

BOOK CHAPTERS

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Caton D: Medical science, social values, and the pain of childbirth. Int J Childbirth Edu 17:8-11, 2002
Richard B. Clark, M.D.

Richard was born in Little Rock in 1933 and graduated from the University of Arkansas School of Medicine in 1958. He trained in anesthesiology at the Lahey Clinic in Boston, and served in the U.S. Army 1961-1963, mostly at Landstuhl, Germany. After a pleasant interlude in private anesthesia practice in Pensacola, he returned to his home to become Director of Obstetric Anesthesiology at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock.

Like me, Richard obtained funding from the Federal Maternal and Infant Care Project, which allowed him to spend the majority of his time in obstetric anesthesia at a time when there were few full timers. During the next 30 years he trained many OB Anesthesiology Residents and Fellows, and became Acting Chairman of the entire University of Arkansas Department of Anesthesiology in 1973-1974. He has presented by invitation many talks and papers in several universities and in Austria and Germany. He was elected an Associate Fellow by the ACOG in 1971, and given the Distinguished Service Award from SOAP in 2002.

Richard pursued many research interests including methoxyflurane analgesia, transplacental reversal of narcotic depression by naloxone, chemical resuscitation of the newborn, reversal of scopolamine sedation by physostigmine, dopamine in the treatment of spinal hypotension, the incidence of spinal hypotension in Cesarean Section, placental transfer of neostigmine, and investigations into local, national and international medical history.

Richard was a strong colleague among the “Founders” of SOAP and was at the critical very first meeting of the organization which became “SOAP” on May 16, 1968. (He was “elected” (drafted) to keep our minutes of the meeting.) Therefore, he will forever be a member of the “Chicago 6”. Always very active from then on in SOAP, he has attended almost every SOAP meeting. He recalls with particular pleasure the 1982 meeting at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, an area of unsurpassed beauty. Richard and his friend Robert Hall hosted the SOAP meeting in Salt Lake City in 1985 and they shared the Presidency of SOAP the next year.

During that same year two prominent members of SOAP, John Craft, and Robert Hodgkinson passed away. After searching for a method to honor them, Richard hit on the establishment of the Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology Endowment Fund (OAPEF). The original idea was to encourage donations, in the names of these and other departed SOAP members, to advance education and research. This project was greeted with enthusiasm by the membership, and generous contributions resulted. These contributions continue today, although seldom are deceased SOAP members honored.

Dr. Clark became a Professor Emeritus in 1996, but continues to be active in his home department, lecturing several times a week, editing the departmental newsletter, “The EtherNet,” continuing historical scholarships, and writing trenchant letters to the editor of the local newspaper. He and Nancy celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August, 2007, and they have four children, Murray, Raymond, Diana, and Brett, and three grandchildren, Nathan, David and Arianna.

Bradley E. Smith, M.D.
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Sheila E. Cohen, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.A.

Professor Sheila Cohen is a transplant from Great Britain, where she graduated Medical School and did her “House Officer” training at Manchester University. After six months as an obstetric resident, she switched and completed anesthesia residency at the Westminster Hospital in London in 1973, receiving the “Fellowship Prize” of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal College for the year's best exam performance.

Later that year she joined the Stanford University faculty and has served her entire career there specializing in obstetric anesthesia. She became Co-Director of Obstetric Anesthesia at the Stanford University Hospital, and Director from 1986 until 2002, during which period the annual delivery rate increased from 2000 to the current 5400. Under her direction, the obstetric anesthesia group has grown to six faculty, with an active fellowship and clinical research program.

Sheila was promoted from “Professor” to “Professor Emeritus” in 2006, and still maintains close involvement with the activities of her beloved “OB Group”. Her academic output includes 64 journal publications, 78 presented abstracts and 30 book chapters (many in the most popular and respected OB Anesthesia texts). In addition to her clinical and academic skills her diplomacy is exemplified by the many Stanford intradepartmental and institution wide committees on which she served as member or Chair. She has served on the Obstetric Anesthesia Committee of the ASA not quite, but almost, continuously from 1980 until the present, serving in the prestigious post of Chairman, as well as ASA Liaison to ACOG from 1988-1991. She has been on the Editorial Boards and Reviewer Boards of several journals.

She has been honored with invitations as a visiting professor or to lecture on numerous occasions both in the U.S. and overseas. She has also been a featured “Keynote Speaker” invited by such foreign national anesthesia societies as the Japanese Society in Kagoshima, the Taiwanese Society (Taipei), the All Asian Society (ASEAN) at Kuala Lumpur, the Scandinavian Society in Stockholm and the Obstetric Anaesthetists Association, along with many others.

In 1994 Dr. Cohen received the “Special Achievement Grant” by Anesthesiology News, and since 1994 has continually been listed in “Best Doctors in America.” She has received several Stanford awards for teaching, and has personally mentored 33 Fellows in Obstetric Anesthesia while at Stanford. She served as President of SOAP in 1996-1997 and spent many years as a member of the SOAP Board of Directors. In 1999, she was invited to present the Frederick W. Hehre Lecture at the SOAP Annual Meeting. She received the SOAP Nils Lofgren Award in 2002 and the SOAP Distinguished Service Award in 2004.

In “semi-retirement” Dr. Cohen is working on a new California state-sponsored project to identify and reduce sources of maternal mortality in the state and is a co-leader of a related task force aimed at improving management of maternal cardiac arrests. More than 30 years ago Sheila married an equally famous and productive Stanford academic anesthesiologist, Professor (now Emeritus) Richard I. Mazze, M.D.

Bradley E. Smith, M.D.


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James O. Elam, M.D.
(1918-1995)

Jim Elam weighed only two pounds when born in Austin, Texas in 1918. The fact that he lived was a miracle for those times. After graduation from the University of Texas in 1942, he finished Hopkins Medical in 1945, an internship in the U.S. Navy, and postgraduate study in physiology at the University of Minnesota. Here he remembered using mouth to mouth breathing for the first time.

In his second year of surgery training at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, because of his growing interest in respiratory physiology, he switched to anesthesiology training and graduated from the Iowa program under Stuart Cullen in 1951. Sands tells us he spent mornings in the O.R. and afternoons in the biophysics laboratory. During this time he acquired a prototype of the first infrared carbon dioxide analyzer directly from the inventor, Liston. Elam quickly showed that CO₂ elimination by existing anesthesia systems was inefficient. In 1953 he moved to the Roswell-Park Institute and subsequently, with Elwyn Brown and Raymond Ten Pas, revolutionized the design of absorption canisters.

After a period as Chairman of Anesthesiology at Kansas he moved on to become Director of Obstetric Anesthesia at the University of Chicago “Chicago Lying In”. During this period he worked with SOAP’s Frederick Zuspan, and was a key figure in pulling together the group of SOAP “Founders” (see “Beginnings”). Although Elam was important to OB Anesthesia, undoubtedly his single most important contribution to medical care came with his trailblazing description of mouth to mouth rescue ventilation in the NEJMedit in 1954.

He is acknowledged by all as the modern “father” of rescue ventilation. He worked closely with Safar, Gordon and others to successfully “spread the gospel” of these methods. In 1959 Elam’s booklet “Rescue Breathing,” was distributed nationally, and was widely acclaimed. By 1960, mouth to mouth rescue breathing had been adopted by the National Academy of Science, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the Medical Society of the State of New York and the American Red Cross. Elam, Safar, and Archer were instrumental in initiating the CPR Committee of the American Heart Association that has had such amazing world wide impact. In 1960 Elam was recognized by the United States Army with a Certificate of Achievement, and in 1962, the Medical Society of the state of New York presented him with its highest honor, the Albert O. Bernstein Award.

He never lost his drive to invent and improve. He produced what was at the time, a revolutionary automatic ventilator, the “Roswell-Park” (later to become familiar as the “Air Shields Ventilator”), which for many years was ubiquitous in American operating rooms. During his period as an obstetric anesthesiologist, he published the first description and experience with “micracatheters” for continuous subarachnoid anesthesia for use in obstetric labor. At the time of his death he was working on still more advances, including several prototype models of a hypopharyngeal airway which might have found the niche now occupied by the LMA, had he lived to perfect it.

(Excerpted, modified, and edited from: Sands, RP, ASA Newsletter 63:1999)
Ivankovic AD, Elam JO, Huffman J.
Methoxyflurane anesthesia for cesarian section.

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technic employing hyperbaric lidocaine.

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Effect of maternal hypercarbia on the newborn infant.

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CARBON DIOXIDE ELIMINATION IN SEMICLOSED SYSTEMS.
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RUBEN HM, ELAM JO, RUBEN AM, GREENE DG.
Investigation of upper airway problems in resuscitation. 1. Studies of pharyngeal x-rays and performance by laymen.

CLEMENTS JA, SHARP JT, JOHNSON RP, ELAM JO.
Estimation of pulmonary resistance by repetitive interruption of airflow.

BABBAGE ED, ELAM JO, BAUER RO.
Mechanical ventilators.

ELAM JO.
Channeling and overpacking in carbon dioxide absorbers.

SAFAR P, ESCARRAGA LA, ELAM JO.
A comparison of the mouth-to-mouth and mouth-to-airway methods of artificial respiration with the chest-pressure arm-lift methods.

TEN PAS RH, BROWN ES, ELAM JO.
Carbon dioxide absorption: the circle versus the to-and-fro.
I am proud to say that Jim Evans was one of my five colleague Founders of SOAP. He was SOAP's third President. I would like to believe I had something to do with the course of the career that brought him to Chicago that day. I first met Jim Evans in 1961 when we shared a lab at the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC). Jim was at the time a first year OB resident who was busy collaborating with a famous obstetrician Kermit Krantz in showing that the human placenta could continue to work outside the body. Jim started the work as a medical student.

He was born in Wichita (where I have lived for 30 years), and graduated Kansas Medicine in 1961, where he was Alpha Omega Alpha. After beginning in obstetrics, I believe I helped to influence him to switch to anesthesiology at K.U. where he was befriended by the Chair, Dr. Evan Frederickson. After finishing in 1964, he took an additional Fellowship year at Kansas during which he explored radiologically the spread of anesthetics injected into the epidural space. He also demonstrated the ease with which an epidural catheter could go astray out a vertebral foramen, causing a “failed” epidural. That same year he studied the effects of anesthetic agents on the surface properties of dipalmitoyl lecithin as a means to further evaluate surfactant properties of the lung.

At the completion of his Fellowship he briefly joined another Founder, Jim Elam at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Medical School, but soon was required to serve as Chief of Anesthesiology at nearby Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska from 1965-1967, finally rejoining Frederickson and John Steinhaus at Emory where he became Director of Obstetric Anesthesia at the huge Grady Hospital from 1967 to 1972, and Director of the Master Anesthesia Technology Program (1971-72). He served as Director of the Department of Anesthesiology at Georgia Baptist Hospital in Atlanta and as Medical Director of the Nurse Anesthesia Training Program (1972-1975), then as Chief of Anesthesia at The Medical Center of Columbus from 1976 to 2001 and as Medical Director of the School of Anesthesia for Nurse Anesthetists at The Medical Center of Columbus, Georgia (1976-1980).

Jim's research was significant. His intriguing demonstration of the discontinuity of the epidural coverings has never been fully appreciated by anesthesiologists. He was a superb and devoted clinical anesthesiologist who was also a devoted teacher of all classes of health professionals as attested by several of his publications. (see list)

Jim had the biggest of hearts, took great delight in his seven children and three grandchildren, and was revered by his community.

Robert F. Hustead, March 2008


Miesczyslaw Finster, M.D.

Mike hasn't described his earliest life to me. I gather it was tough. He was born in Lwów, Poland before the Nazi invasion. Others have said Mike walked across Poland to escape. He managed to obtain his medical education in Geneva, then interned at Flushing Hospital in New York before entering the Columbia University anesthesia program. Although we met briefly there, Mike was off in Oxford with Geoffrey Dawes supported by an NIH grant when I was a Fellow, so we really didn't become close until the mid 60's.

In 1962 he was appointed Director of Obstetric Anesthesia at Columbia. He demonstrated a genius for identifying, attracting, and training outstanding colleagues. For example: A.H. Conney, L. Stanley James, Benjamin G. Covino, Hisayo ["June"] Morishima, Paul Poppers, Hilda Pedersen, Lester C. Mark, Edwin T. Bowe, Karlis Adamsons, Brett G. Guttsche, Alan Santos, Walter U. Brown, Beth Kuhnert, Richard M. Smiley, Elmer Zsigmond, and many other significant academicians.

In 1964 a caudal needle had passed through a mother’s anterior sacral plate causing an accidental injection of local anesthetic into the fetal scalp. Investigation of the anatomy and toxicology of this accident by his team became a major factor in the nationwide move away from caudal to lumbar epidural in obstetrics.

Mike and his colleagues always adhered to a high standard. Their reports on why thiopental to the mother usually caused little harm to the fetus even though it readily crossed the placenta was an early demonstration of the importance of distributional kinetics. Such new thinking propelled Mike's group quickly into the forefront of the study of the transplacental passage, pharmacokinetics, and maternal and fetal toxicity of anesthetics.

An example of the respect with which he is viewed was the worldwide response to his joint paper with Gertie Marx which focused attention on the growing problem of maternal death due to failed management of the airway. Then in 1980 Mike and Gertie spoke out concerning the etiology of several incidents of maternal paraplegia associated with the use of a then contemporary formulation of 2-chloroprocaine. Their statement was a key motivator in the identification of the offending element and its elimination.

Mike's many textbook chapters are found in the most highly respected anesthesiology textbooks, and he has received many honors. He has been a "Consultant" to the N.I.H. Perinatal Research Branch, and was designated an "Expert" by the FDA Center for Drug Evaluation. He was awarded the Associate Fellowship of the ACOG and the Niels Lofgren Award and the Lifetime Service Award of SOAP.

He has been an invited "Visiting Professor" in 30 U.S. medical schools and 17 foreign countries. He has presented by invitation nearly every prestigious named lectureship in anesthesiology in the U.S. and in many other countries. He has been a member of several prestigious editorial boards, and has served ably as both the President of SOAP and for three years as Chair of the Committee on Obstetric Anesthesia of the ASA, and as Vice Chair, then Acting Chairman of the Columbia department.
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Adolph H Giesecke, M.D.

“Buddy” Giesecke finished anesthesia training under the charismatic M. T. “Pepper” Jenkins at Parkland Hospital in Dallas in 1963. Although he was interested in management of anesthesia in trauma patients. In 1966 Dr. Jenkins “volunteered” him to try to increase the safety and comfort of anesthesia for the 12,000 parturients treated yearly at Parkland. In a brief three years he succeeded in influencing OB anesthesia practice in Dallas, in Texas and, in the nation.

Cyclopropane under the mask was the standard for emergency C-seCTIONS. The obstetrician raced to deliver the baby before it became anesthetized. Maternal deaths from aspiration were common. While encouraging regional blocks, when GA was needed “Buddy” advocated rapid sequence induction followed by nitrous oxide and a succinylcholine infusion. The new technique was soon adopted statewide in Texas, which reduced, but did not entirely solve the problems. “Buddy” and colleagues also demonstrated the usefulness of pre-induction Milk of Magnesia in reducing the morbidity of aspiration. His enthusiasm caused this advance to spread from OB to the care of trauma patients.

Following a suggestion of Dr. Richard Morris, a Fellow in OB anesthesia, a careful study showed that toxemic parturients treated with MgSO4 required half the dose of controls. Subsequent experiments in cats confirmed that the interaction also occurred with non-depolarizing neuromuscular blockers.

In 1969, Dr. Giesecke organized and produced the first major film on OB Anesthesia ever shown at an ASA Annual Meeting. A huge audience watched segments produced by Otto Phillips on maternal mortality; by Fred Hehre on epidural analgesia; by Mike Finster on neonatal scalp blood gas monitoring; by Giesecke on general anesthesia for operative deliveries; by Sol Schnider on choice of vasopressors for hypotension during regional analgesia; and by Brad Smith on resuscitation of the depressed newly born. The entire film was a terrific success.

Dr. Giesecke spent a sabbatical year as the “Fulbright Lecturer and Guest Professor” in Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany, where he was an early participant in the development of ventilation during bronchoscopy. After serving as Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston, he returned to Dallas in 1973 to renew his focus on the anesthetic management of trauma.

From 1981 until 1992 he was the “M. T. Jenkins Professor and Chairman” at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. His chairmanship was marked by amazing growth in clinical services and numbers of faculty and residents. He continued studies of fluid therapy in shock and trauma. He became President of the International Trauma Anesthesia and Critical Care Society and won its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003. He was also President of the Texas Society of Anesthesiologists and was awarded its Distinguished Service Award.

In retirement Dr. Giesecke has turned to writing about history and the education of paramedical personnel. Looking back after 47 years in academics, Dr. Giesecke feels that his contact with over 500 residents, who
were thirsty for knowledge, and the wonderful years in OB anesthesia were the most interesting aspects of his career.

Giesecke, A.H. - Bibliography


William Gottschalk, M.D.
(1926-1984)

Bill Gottschalk was possibly the only SOAP member who continued to actively practice both obstetrics and anesthesiology throughout his career. He was a “Charter” SOAP member and attended most of the meetings until his death.

He grew up in Brussels. His father was a famous Professor of Sociology, attorney, and frequent cabinet level officer of the government. (His diplomatic passport aided in their escape from Europe to the U.S.) His father later became Vice-President of the World Bank. Bill’s mother was a successful investor. His brother became President of the World Chamber of Commerce. They visited a cousin in Princeton, one Albert Einstein.

The family was genuinely disappointed when Bill chose “only” the study of medicine. On the other hand, I always suspected that his greatest pride was that at age 18 and at 5’8” and 140 pounds he had become a fully qualified paratrooper of the 101st Airborne during WWII!

After the war, he returned to Brussels for his medical degree. He found time to study under a master photographer (later Bill sought out and became acquainted with Ansel Adams) and also began collecting art and art objects. In my opinion, his ability to predict trends in collectibles was amazing. He returned to America for training in Obstetrics/Gynecology at Downstate Medical Center in New York, Mass General, and Duke. Among his many obstetric friends were Hellman, Flowers, and Eastman. He then joined the faculty of Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn where he practiced OB-GYN with several illustrious colleagues.

However, around 1967 he was diagnosed with a severe form of generalized arteritis, which eventually was responsible for his fatal coronary occlusion. Already interested in problems of anesthesia in obstetric patients and convinced that he needed a practice that was “less stressful than obstetrics” (a direct quote to me in 1967), he chose anesthesia! He fully trained in anesthesia at the University of Miami and became “boarded” in anesthesiology.

Later, he joined the Northwestern faculty, then moved to the University of Illinois across Chicago to become Professor, but also continued to practice both obstetrics and anesthesiology. Later he moved to Rush, continued a limited obstetric practice as well as becoming Director of Obstetric Anesthesiology.

He was in frequent demand as a “visiting professor” and speaker at other universities and received many honors and was appointed to many committees. His leadership abilities were acknowledged in many ways. He was chosen as the Acting Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at University of Illinois between permanent chairs, then only seven years later became Acting Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology at Rush during a similar turnover. He was chosen to organize and direct the Midwest Anesthesia Conference in Chicago, and was serving as President of the Illinois Society of Anesthesiologists at the time of his death.

“The William Gottschalk Professorship” for the Professor and Chairman of Anesthesiology at Rush Medical School was established and endowed to honor and perpetuate the memory of his cultured, diplomatic, compassion-
ate, yet humorous devotion to advancing the practice of medicine.

Bradley E. Smith, M.D.

William Gottschalk, M.D. · Bibliography

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Dystocia on Mount Olympus.
Brett B. Gutsche, M.D.

Professor Brett B. Gutsche is without a doubt one of the two or three most beloved, respected, emulated, productive and influential members in SOAP’s 40-year history! He is a “Charter Member”, and has missed very few of the ensuing SOAP Annual Meetings, nor has he failed to appear somewhere on the program for most of them!

Brett graduated from Rochester Medicine in 1961, then internship, anesthesiology and a year at Duke as an N.I.H. Fellow (hyperbaric medicine) finishing in 1965. (He is a second Fellowship at Columbia in 1974-1975) He was Chief of Anesthesiology, Alaska Native Hospital in Anchorage from 1965 to 1967.

He joined the Penn faculty in 1968, remaining there throughout his career. In 1968 he persuaded Robert Dripps that 24-hour obstetric anesthesia coverage was necessary by his care of Dripp’s pregnant daughter. He subsequently mentored scores of fellows and hundreds of residents, including at least three presidents of ASA (Ellison, Apfelbaum, and Moore).

Brett has authored at least 97 manuscripts, chapters and abstracts. He has been or still is an Associate Editor and reviewer for all of the journals with an interest in Obstetric Anesthesia, and has delivered more than 400 invited lectures at 45 domestic and foreign universities and professional societies (and often, where he was needed to improve care or encourage, even at small hospitals or small concerned groups). His audiences appreciate that the latest science and sense of social responsibility are being blended and filtered by a practical physician!

Professor Gutsche has accumulated many offices. These include: SOAP President, 1975-1976; SOAP Director or other Board of Director posts, 1974-1994; Delegate from SOAP to the ASA House of Delegates 1990-1992; and many others. His honors abound: SOAP’s Nils Lofgren Award in 1993; the SOAP Distinguished Service Award 2003; the Lindback Award at HUP for outstanding teaching; the Robert Dunning Dripps Award SOAP 1974-1994; the Joe Dannemiller Lectureship; the Distinguished Service Award of the Pennsylvania Society of Anesthesiologists; the Francis Joe Dannemiller Memorial Award for Educational Excellence in Anesthesiology; and Brett has long been listed in “The Best Doctors in America.”

A revealing activity of Brett’s character is his major volunteer work in numerous developing nations and places. These include Vietnam, Poland, Brazil, Grenada, Asia and recently the Ukraine. He served on the Medical Board of Project HOPE from 1974-1987 and as a Medical Consultant in Anesthesiology to Project Hope from 1974-1990.

Brett and Mary Gutsche were about to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary when she passed away in January 2008. Mary had been a key fundraiser for the University of Pennsylvania, was an Associate Chairman of the Philadelphia Antiques Show and President and Treasurer of the Women’s Committee of Penn Medicine Faculty. His daughter Marcia is an executive at Boston Childrens Hospital; son Stuart is an orthodontist, and second son Stephen works for Blue Cross (the “enemy” as Brett jokingly puts it). In his spare time Brett acts as a guide for the New York Metropolitan Opera and dotes on his four grandchildren. Brett is now a Professor Emeritus in Penn’s Departments of Anesthesia and of Obstetrics and Gynecology.
Brett Gutsche's life exemplifies the accomplishments and character for which we all strive. He remains a role model for us all!

Theodore G. Cheek, M.D.

Brett B. Gutsche - Bibliography


Frederick W. Hehre, Jr., M.D.  
(1923-1980)

I took over Fred Hehre's former job as Director of Obstetric Anesthesia at Yale's Grace New Haven Hospital in mid-October 1962. I am honored that for the rest of his life he referred to me as "Big Son." It was only after I matured some that I began to realize the important role Fred had played in the birth of modern obstetric anesthesia.

Fred was from a distinguished family of college professors and musicians. He finished high school in Kearny, New Jersey in 1941, college at Columbia in 1944, and Medicine at Columbia in 1947. In 1948 he became one of Virginia Apgar's last anesthesia residents. He served on the Columbia faculty from 1950 to 1958, even during two years of duty in the Army in New York City!

In 1958 Fred became Director of Obstetric Anesthesia at Yale under Nicholas Greene. (They were less than a year apart in age, and were close friends the rest of Fred's life.) Although the use of continuous lumbar epidural for labor was all but unknown in obstetric practice in the U.S. in 1958, by 1972, he and colleagues reported 50,537 consecutive obstetric anesthetics at Yale without a single anesthetic mortality. In an enthusiastic but methodical manner Fred and his group explored and published on many practical problems of epidural anesthesia in obstetrics.

Fred's radiographic images of catheters migrating outside of the spinal canal are still classics and are shown frequently in textbooks, as is his radiographic demonstration of the effects of vena cava compression on the spread of epidural solutions. Presciently, Fred observed in 1960: "...many if not most of the fatalities associated with conduction anesthesia in obstetric patients are the result of improper anesthetic management".

Less widely known is Fred's participation in the development of electronic fetal monitoring. Fred was intricately involved in developing electronic fetal monitoring with its "Father," Dr. Edward H. Hon, and the "Father's Father" Dr. Orvan W. Hess.

Fred became Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology at Boston University in 1975. He was a Charter Member of SOAP and, despite his administrative duties he participated in most of the SOAP meetings until his untimely death from a massive coronary in 1980. He published 53 works, mostly dealing with aspects of OB Anesthesia. He received many honors and awards and was invited to speak at various universities eight to ten times a year.

He was a yachtsman who enjoyed just being on the water more than racing. He was an avid builder of model ships who despised kits and used surgical silk for the rigging. For years he had a vast model train installation in his basement. He was a great fan of college wrestling!

After Fred's death SOAP chose to memorialize his character, his example, and his achievements with the first named lectureship established by SOAP (Frederick W. Hehre, Jr. Lecture). It is awarded to physicians or scientists who have made significant contributions to the science and clinical practice of Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology.

Bradley E. Smith, M.D.
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Robert Hodgkinson, M.D. (1922-1986)

Robert Hodgkinson, M.D. was a medical graduate of Cambridge University, United Kingdom. He was very proud that he had for several years been a postgraduate Fellow in Fleming’s laboratory (although AFTER Fleming’s discovery of penicillin.) This led to an early interest in clinical investigation. He was publishing as early as 1951 from his clinical experiences and investigations at his practice in West Middlesex Hospital Isleworth, Great Britain.

His earliest publications focused on the toxicity of chloramphenicol and particularly the resulting aplastic anemia. Later he described the effects of ethaverine in the treatment of angina and reserpine in hypertensive patients. At this time he developed a relationship with Parke, Davis, and Company (the makers of chloramphenicol) and moved to the United States where he was associated with Parke-Davis Clinical Research for several years.

He continued to publish, particularly on the effects of an antimalarial combination of amodiaquin and primaquine. Interestingly, he was instrumental in arranging supplies of thiamylal (Surital®) for the large-scale U.K. study of intravenous anesthesia by Dundee and Riding. He spent the next nine years before entering anesthesiology residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York, at Merck Sharp & Dohme as Director of International Medical Research.

Dr. Hodgkinson completed anesthesiology residency and a fellowship in obstetric anesthesia with Gertie F. Marx, M.D. at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (AECOM) in the early 1970s. For the next four years he remained in the Bronx as Chief of Obstetric Anesthesia at the Jack D. Weiler Hospital of AECOM. There he published landmark reports on one of the earliest uses of ketamine in obstetrics, and even more important, a series of papers studying the neurobehavioural effects of meperidine, thiopental and general and spinal anesthesia received by mothers at delivery on their newly born infants.

Bob became Director of Obstetric Anesthesia at the University of Texas at San Antonio as Associate Professor (and subsequently, Professor) in the Department of Anesthesiology and remained there until his sudden death in July 1986. While there he solidified his reputation in obstetric anesthesia by a series of landmark reports.

His study comparing the hemodynamic effects of different anesthetic techniques in cesarean section for preeclampsia was very important. The illustrations from this article have probably been seen by every attendee at a lecture on the anesthetic management of preeclampsia. He showed the effects of obesity on anesthetic spread in the epidural space in pregnancy, and his last effort was the leadership of a multicenter study along with some of SOAP’s best known members comparing the efficiency of cimetidine versus mineral antacids in reducing stomach pH in mothers before cesarean section.

Bob hosted a fine SOAP Annual Meeting in 1984. He was President of SOAP in 1984-1985. He also successfully hosted the 16th Annual SOAP Meeting in 1984. From 1983 until his sudden death in mid-1986, Dr. Hodgkinson co-edited the Obstetric Anesthesia Digest with Gertie F. Marx,
M.D. He was devoted to excellence in research and was a strong influence on improving research in Obstetric Anesthesia.

Gerard M. Bassell, M.D.

Robert Hodgkinson, M.D. - Bibliography


Hodgkinson R, Husain FJ. The duration of effect of maternally administered meperidine on neonatal neurobehavior. Anesthesiology. 56:51-2, 1982


Samuel C. Hughes, M.D.
(1946-2008)

Samuel C. Hughes, M.D. died on January 20, 2008, at the age of 61 after a year-long battle with pancreatic cancer. Sam was a Past President of SOAP and was a dedicated SOAP participant and leader for 28 years.

He was revered by colleagues and the public for his compassionate care to countless underserved patients. Julie Gerberding, M.D., who is now director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, worked with Sam many years in San Francisco. She states "His commitment to the safe care of people with HIV brought sanity to the operating room in an era when some clinicians were too frightened to take care of infected patients. He set the highest standard for integrity and professional ethics."

"Dr. Hughes was highly respected by all at San Francisco General for his patient care, his scholarly work and his interactions with colleagues,” said Sue Carlisle, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Dean for San Francisco General, “He was a master teacher who always gave his full attention to the task at hand. He will be greatly missed.”

Sam, born and raised in Wilmington, Delaware, received his undergraduate education at the University of New Hampshire and served in the U.S. Army in Belgium. He was graduated from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia followed by clinical training in Anesthesiology at New York University Medical Center. He took his Obstetric Anesthesia Fellowship with Sol M. Schneider, M.D. at UCSF, then joined the UCSF faculty in 1980, soon rising to full Professor of Anesthesiology, and remained on staff until his death.

His career interests included the clinical use of peridural opioids for labor and postoperative analgesia, the toxicity of local anesthetics, neurobehavioral changes of maternal analgesics on the newborn, and placental transfer of a variety of anesthetic and other agents.

He co-edited a major textbook, wrote over twenty book chapters, forty original scientific articles and editorials, supervised thirty fellows and trained hundreds of residents. He served on numerous committees for the San Francisco General Hospital, community service organizations and national societies.

Of all his professional activities, Sam was most passionate about the International Journal of Obstetric Anesthesia (IJOA). He joined the editorial board at its inception and became an editor in 1993. He adamantly believed that the journal provided a very needed forum for exchange among obstetric anesthesiologists. His hard work, and considerable finesse and diplomacy succeeded in the elevation of the status of IJOA to its present association with respected professional societies and acceptance as an indexed journal of the National Library of Medicine.

By invitation, Dr. Hughes presented hundreds of lectures nationally and internationally and was a visiting professor at twenty-five renowned global medical institutions. These trips also allowed him to indulge his passion for travel, haut cuisine, and fine wine. At home or abroad he was an enthusiastic patron and supporter of the arts, especially the opera and the ballet. But, he was also a passionate award-winning gardener.

Our multifaceted, gifted, and productive friend leaves Obstetric Anesthesia a tremendous legacy!

Mark A. Rosen, M.D.


Robert F. Hustead, M.D.

Bob Hustead was a Founder of SOAP, and its first President. He was the organizer of the first SOAP Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Kansas on September 19-21, 1969, and never missed a SOAP meeting until 1978.

Born in Pueblo, he attended Yale on a scholarship, then graduated from Yale Medicine in 1954. In 1952 he started an “externship” in obstetric anesthesia night coverage at Yale. The then Head of Anesthesia, Dave Little, soon put med student Bob in charge of the “OB anesthesia “Night Service”, a post which he retained well into his anesthesia residency. He was in Nicholas Greene's first group of residents, but later Bob chose to follow his friend Little to Hartford where he finished.

Bob entered the Army in 1957 and was assigned to the prestigious Army Chemical Center at Edgewood, Maryland, which required “Top Secret Clearance.” There he began attending OB/GYN grand rounds at Hopkins where he met Dr. Nick Eastman, who invited Bob to spend his weekends providing anesthesia and classes in OB anesthesia and infant resuscitation at Hopkins. Bob had been developing the Hustead needle since 1953 and introduced it to Hopkins at this time. In his “Day Job” Bob was working with Peter Gruenwald studying the mechanical properties of the lungs of stillborn infants. The team was the first to prove that hyaline membrane disease was due to deficient pulmonary surfactant.

In 1959, after discharge, Bob joined the faculty at Hopkins under Don Benson, and was in charge of anesthesia at the Women's Clinic. Virginia Apgar visited frequently and they became fast friends. But Bob was determined to raise his children “near home” and joined Kansas University at Kansas City in 1961. There, while the Chairs of Obstetrics and Anesthesiology were pleased, Obstetric Anesthesia was met with coolness by fellow anesthesia staff, who had never been required to provide such services. Only the OB residents and an intern on the OB service named Jim Evans (later a SOAP Founder) wanted to learn obstetric anesthesia. After a good attempt, in 1963 he found a more a willing private practice in Kansas City, Missouri.

Bob was already a member of the ASA Maternal Welfare Committee and was already friendly with its Chair, Otto C. Phillips (see Beginnings). Bob's new colleagues fully supported his OB efforts and his research. Later, in 1967 a new Anesthesiology Chairman and a growing improvement in attitudes toward Obstetric Anesthesia at Kansas University Medical Center convinced Bob to return to Kansas University. The new Chairman, Ray Parmley personally suggested the 1969 Seminar which was the platform for the formal launch of SOAP.

After this success, however, in 1973, Bob and wife Joy (a CRNA), moved to Wichita to set up obstetric anesthesia in a private setting with great initial success. However, in 1977 business considerations caused Joy and Bob to leave their beloved Obstetric Anesthesia and to move completely into Ophthalmic Anesthesia. With characteristic enthusiasm Bob studied the anatomy, invented new techniques and with increasing frequency was invited to teach and lecture. His book with Jim Gills, Ophthalmic Anesthesia, Slack Publishing, 1993, was well-received. In 1986 Bob helped to found his second subspecialty society, the Ophthalmic Anesthesia Society (OAS), in San Luis Obispo, California, which is still strong and growing.
In 1978 Bob and Joy survived a terrible private plane crash which required prolonged intensive care and rehabilitation for them both. But they both sprang back full force and returned to ophthalmologic anesthesia. All nine of their children earned advanced degrees and they have 16 grandchildren. In 2007 Bob experienced a stroke, but his old resilience has again brought him back. Live long and prosper, Bob and Joy Hustead! You are loved and admired!

*Bradley E. Smith, M.D.*

Robert F. Hustead, M.D. - Bibliography


**HUSTEAD RF. PHYSIOLOGY OF THE NEWLY BORN.**


Frank James is a SOAP Charter Member, served as President of SOAP in 1979-1980, and received the SOAP's Nils Lofgren Award in 1998 and the SOAP Distinguished Service Award in 2007. His honors and positions outside of SOAP are also many and impressive.

Frank James was born in Philadelphia, graduated from Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, in 1957, and from Hahnemann Medical College (Alpha Omega Alpha) in 1961, interned at the old and lamented Philadelphia General Hospital and promptly left for service in the Air Force from 1962 to 1964. He returned to the University of Pennsylvania anesthesia residency from 1964 to 1966 and remained on the faculty until 1968, when he joined the Wake Forest Medical School faculty. At Wake Forest he was awarded either the Golden Apple award or the Bowman Gray Award for his teaching each year from 1971 through 1974. He served as Head of the Section of Obstetric Anesthesia from 1977 to 1983, then Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology from 1983 until 1998, and finally as Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education beginning in 1998.

In addition to his service to SOAP, he has been the President of a phenomenal list of the most prestigious bodies dealing with Graduate Medical Education. He was on the Residency Review Committee for Anesthesiology from 1989-1995 and its Chair from 1994-1995. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education from 1998 to 2000; and was President of the American Board of Anesthesiology in 1999-2000. From 1994 through 2000 he served on the American Board of Medical Specialties.

Dr. James has been the President of the Society of Academic Anesthesiology Chairs from 1986-1988: President of the Association of University Anesthesiologists 1994-1996; and President of the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research from 1995-1998. He has served on a host of important committees for the ASA, particularly in executive and governance planning activities.

He has been invited to present some of the most prestigious lectureships, including SOAP's Fred Hehre Lectureship in 1989; the Wesley Bourne Lectureship of Magill University; the Rovenstine Lectureship of the ASA in 1998; and he was awarded the rare distinction of Fellowship in the Royal College of Anesthetists in 1995. He received the Distinguished Faculty Service Award of Wake Forest University School of Medicine in 1987; the Distinguished Service Award of the North Carolina Society of Anesthesiologists in 1998; the Distinguished Alumnus Award of his alma mater, Hahnemann School of Medicine, and he received the Ralph Waters Award of the Illinois Society of Anesthesiologists in 2003.

Characteristically, he remains active in service to others. He was on the Swarthmore College Alumni Council from 1986-1993 and was its President in 1991-1993. In retirement, he is a Board member and active participant of several North Carolina service and church-based activities, the YMCA and United Way, and has served Arts Council of Winston-Salem, and several other activities. Frank and Dell have been married 47 years. She is a writer and artist, and they raised three talented children. Together they are just what we would all like to grow up to be like! SOAP salutes you, Frank and Dell!

Bradley E. Smith, M.D.
Francis M. James, III · Bibliography


Gertie F. Marx, M.D. (1912-2004)

Gertie F. Marx, M.D. was a SOAP Charter Member and ensured that her Fellows attended meetings and joined SOAP. Gertie, as she preferred to be called by young and old alike, influenced the development and safety of obstetric anesthesia worldwide in her own unique way for more than 40 years. The immense influence she exerted within SOAP was gained from the respect with which she was held by all who knew her. The impact of her leadership and financial generosity to SOAP and to obstetric anesthesia practice and research will continue for the foreseeable future.

Gertie Florentine Marx was born in 1912 in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, and attended medical school at Frankfurt. However due to the changing political situation, in 1936 she moved to Bern, where she finished her medical degree. She formed a lifelong attachment to the city. In 1937 she moved to New York and began an internship at New York’s Beth Israel Hospital.

This was a time when female physicians were a rarity in hospital practice. Years later, she often humorously shared the trials and tribulations she experienced during this stage of her career with a rapt audience of residents. It was during this period that Dr. Marx developed an interest in anesthesiology, trained in anesthesiology at the same hospital, and then joined its attending staff, where she served for more than a decade.

In 1955, Dr. Marx was recruited by Louis R. Orkin to the fledgling Department of Anesthesiology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx where she remained for the next 40 years, retiring as Professor Emeritus. It was there, at the Jacobi Hospital obstetric service where she was able to fulfill her passion for assuring the comfort and well-being of pregnant women and improving the outcome for their babies.

Always a tireless worker and teacher, it seemed that any unusual occurrence suggested a study to her. This trait resulted in a lifetime of research. In fact she published more than 150 original articles, many chapters in textbooks, a monograph on maternal physiology with Louis R. Orkin, an obstetric anesthesia text entitled Parturition and Perinatology, and a textbook of obstetric anesthesia that she edited with Gerard M. Bassell, M.D.

The driving force behind her prodigious academic output was not a yearning for recognition or academic advancement, but a heartfelt wish to reduce morbidity and mortality in pregnancy, to improve newborn outcome and, most importantly, to assure access to safe, effective pain relief to any woman desiring it regardless of class, creed or ability to pay. The very large numbers of residents and fellows who she trained invariably carried her convictions with them into practice.

She was driven by love for her fellow human. In her eyes all humans deserved respect. Woe betide the resident who blamed the laboring woman for a failed attempt at epidural block or for a complaint of inadequate pain relief after an epidural was in place. The parturient was always right and it was up to the anesthesiologist to succeed in alleviating a woman’s labor pain regardless of the demands placed on him/her.

Although she was a stern taskmaster in this regard, the residents fortunate enough to spend time with her in obstetric anesthesia universally
adored her. She was a friend to residents in need, gave wise counsel to many a resident struggling with personal or family problems, and her sage advice was freely given where she thought it would benefit. A plain speaker, Gertie did not mince words, did not suffer fools gladly, yet demonstrated at all times a tolerance for those not possessed of her knowledge and common sense.

Dr. Marx may hold the all-time record for the greatest number of SOAP meetings attended. She was always ready with cogent comment and criticism whose impact was not lessened by her diminutive physical stature. She would often be heard bemoaning the fact that “ridiculous extrapolations were being made from studies on a few rats. I take care of humans” she was wont to say. Not that Gertie eschewed the use of laboratory animals when appropriate. No, her complaint was the indiscriminate drawing of conclusions from inappropriately chosen animals or from numbers too small to demonstrate reliable clinical extrapolations.

Professor Gertie F. Marx was honored many times during her long career. She was invited to present numerous eponymous lectures and taught in scores of anesthesiology departments as a “Visiting Professor.” In 1988, the American Society of Anesthesiologists honored her with its Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor that can be bestowed on an American anesthesiologist. She joined Virginia Apgar, M.D. as only the second woman to receive this award.

In 1993, Dr. Marx received the prestigious College Medal of the Royal College of Anaesthetists in London. At the reception attended by Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen asked Gertie what she did. Gertie’s reply: “Your Majesty, I take care of mothers and their babies.”

Gerard M. Bassell, M.D.

Marx, Gertie F. - Bibliography

Gerard W. Ostheimer, M.D.  
(1940-1995)

Gerry Ostheimer dedicated his career to the growth and development of obstetric and regional anesthesia. He was Professor of Anesthesia at Harvard Medical School, Editor-in-Chief of Regional Anesthesia, and Vice Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts. Gerry was former Interim Chairman at BWH and past president of both SOAP (1980-1981) and ASRA (1991-1992).

Born in Poughkeepsie, New York, Gerry was offered contracts from three major league ball clubs upon graduation from high school and again after his freshman year in college. Fortunately for medicine, he declined these offers and graduated from University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and its anesthesiology residency. He was a fellow in cardiovascular anesthesia research at Mayo for a year and then completed a research fellowship at MGH. He joined the Harvard faculty at the Boston Hospital for Women in 1972 with Milton Alper and Jess Weiss. He became a key organizer of the fusion of Peter Bent Brigham, Robert Breck Brigham, and Boston Hospital for Women into Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and in 1983 became their Director of Obstetric Anesthesia.

During Gerry’s stewardship the program expanded to provide anesthesia support for over 10,000 deliveries annually, and in the mid-1980s was acclaimed by Anesthesiology News as the best unit in the U.S.1. He was very active in international initiatives to advance obstetric anesthesia and frequently sponsored worldwide guests to visit BWH to observe both obstetric and regional anesthesia. Dr. Ostheimer was co-editor of Analgesia and Pain Relief in Obstetrics2 which, with contributions from five continents, compares and contrasts the evolution and current practice of obstetric anesthesia among diverse regions of the world.

In 1984 and 1992 his Manual of Obstetric Anesthesia was published and appreciated by scores of residents in anesthesiology. In 1994 Gerry’s two-volume Obstetric Analgesia and Anaesthesia influenced fundamental changes in the practice of obstetric anesthesia services throughout the world.3 His lifetime publications include over 200 manuscripts, 65 original letters, 75 reviews and chapters, 10 books and monographs, and 40 abstracts. Gerry was a commanding and eloquent speaker; he was visiting professor on at least 75 occasions nationally, and was invited to deliver 11 special or endowed lectures. As Editor of Regional Anesthesia from 1990 until his death, Gerry guided the journal’s growth into an internationally recognized and highly respected bimonthly publication serving a worldwide community of regional anesthesiologists, obstetrical anesthesiologists, and pain physicians.

Gerry was a truly gifted teacher. He inspired a profound respect for obstetric and regional anesthesia, and his acumen for teaching clinical medicine was superb. A memorial describes “…obstetricians consulting him for obstetrical opinions. With his deep resounding voice and a calm demeanor that bespoke utter command and control of the situation, Dr. Ostheimer had an unequaled presence…”4 Gerry Ostheimer’s profound contributions as a leader in the fields of obstetric and regional anesthesia remain alive in the myriad physicians he trained, in whose practices his influence continues. His generous
counsel, kind soul, and loyal friendship remain sorely missed and not forgotten.

Beth Minzter, M.D.


Gerard W. Ostheimer - Bibliography


Despite the terrific contributions of Hershenson, Bonica, Apgar, and Moya, in my opinion the most effective voice shouting for improvement in obstetric anesthesia care between 1957 and 1970 was that of Otto C. Phillips. In 1957, with Frazier, he began to publish a series of eye opening surveys of causes of obstetric anesthesia mortality. He took them before committees of the AMA, ASA, and ACOG, and these bodies listened! As a reflection of the respect of his contemporaries, it might be noted that Apgar was the second anesthesiologist ever to receive the honor of “Associate Fellowship” in ACOG, and Otto was the third!

Dr. Phillips took his medical degree at the University of Maryland, and after military service trained in anesthesia at the Lahey Clinic with Dr. M.J. Nicholson, finishing in 1951. He returned to Baltimore in private anesthesiology practice, but as he became more interested in public health and academics, he became Chief of Anesthesiology at the (then called) Baltimore City Hospital, then Head of Anesthesiology at Magee Women’s Hospital in Pittsburgh, then in 1968 became Chair of the Anesthesiology Division of Western Pennsylvania Hospital in Pittsburgh.

Otto became an early Chairman of the ASA’s (then called) Committee on Maternal Welfare (it is now known as the Obstetric Anesthesia Committee) and was its Chair longer than any other person. Governmental agencies called him for consultation frequently, and he was the first anesthesiologist consultant to the “Maternity and Infant Care” Projects during their formative and organizing period, beginning in 1966.

Most of his 44 journal publications deal with obstetric anesthesia matters. In addition to his public health oriented publications he is particularly remembered for his still quoted paper on neurologic complications following lidocaine intrathecal anesthesia for saddle block. Many will remember him for the design (along with RL Duerksen) of the “Phillips Laryngoscope” blade.

He was an invited speaker in many universities and before many professional organizations and Continuing Medical (and Nursing) Education Seminars. He received many honors and awards, but was particularly proud of the award from Western Pennsylvania hospital of the “Golden Headed Cane” to the physician of that staff who most exemplified the classic characteristics of physician, teacher, and investigator.

Otto was very encouraging and helpful to the formation of SOAP (see Beginnings). He had to drop out of the formatory process for a time due to overwhelming responsibilities in Pittsburgh. However, he returned to full participation in 1969, was a Charter Member of SOAP and attended many SOAP Annual Meetings.

He kept himself surprisingly fit. I well remember the night when at Denver altitude, the then 53 year Otto challenged a “jock” young man (who is today one of the leading officers of ASA) to a push-ups contest! As I remember it, Otto won easily at something around 30 pushups. He was a wonderfully skilled jazz pianist, but never played unless sincerely coaxed.

Tragically, he acquired viral cardiomyopathy in the O.R. and suffered a prolonged decline from inadequate heart action at a time before heart transplants were commonplace. I still miss him!

Bradley E. Smith, M.D.
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Sol M. Schnider, M.D.
(1929-1994)

Sol Schnider was born in Yorktown, Saskatchewan, received his medical degree from the University of Manitoba, and did family practice in Swift Current, Saskatchewan for four years. He began anesthesiology residency at Columbia in 1957, and joined its faculty in 1959. In 1962 he inaugurated the Division of Obstetric Anesthesia at UCSF as its Director. He was a Charter Member of SOAP and President for 1973. At the first SOAP meeting he unsuccessfully advocated the name “The Apgar Society” to honor Virginia Apgar.


He was the “E.V. Rovenstine Memorial Lecturer” of the PGANYSA in 1990 Gaston Labat Lecture of the ASRA in 1993. He was honored as Honorary Fellow of the College of Anesthetists, Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1990. He was the Royal College of Surgeons Faculty of Anesthetists Rank Visiting Professor at the Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics in 1982. He is still honored at UCSF by the “Sol M. Schnider Distinguished Lectureship” in recognition of Sol’s tremendous contribution to anesthesia obstetrics, and gynecology, and his excellence as a clinician, teacher, and investigator.

Dr. Schnider mentored 55 Fellows in Obstetric Anesthesia, many of whom have gone on to faculty positions throughout the United States and Canada. He and his colleagues developed a chronic maternal fetal sheep preparation in 1966 to study the effects of a variety of anesthetic drugs, adjuvants and complications on uterine blood flow and fetal well-being. He published 103 journal articles, 76 abstracts, and 38 book chapters. He edited three textbooks including “Anesthesia for Obstetrics.”

Sol Schnider, the man, lived life to the fullest. His love of music, from “disco to divas” was legendary. His personal friends included numerous opera legends and his knowledge of this art form was truly remarkable. He enjoyed food and wine and planned his restaurant reservations as carefully as his lectures when he traveled. His life was one of remarkable accomplishment and service to others.

(Edit for brevity) “SOAP Newsletter” Spring 1994,
by Samuel C. Hughes, M.D.


Bradley E. Smith, M.D.

I first met Brad Smith near the start of my OB Anesthesia career when I toured several of the few university departments that had existing OB Anesthesia programs. Brad had been the first ever OB Anesthesia Fellow in the country, at Columbia, and had followed Fred Hehre as Chief of OB Anesthesia at Yale, but when I met him he was Chief of OB Anesthesia at the University of Miami. He was the first person to have full time support from a federal “Maternity Infant Care Project.” Just before I met him he had become (after Ebner, Apgar, and Phillips) the fourth anesthesiologist ever to be awarded the “Associate Fellowship” of the ACOG.

Brad served as Chairman at Vanderbilt from 1969 to 1993. Those 24 years made him briefly the longest serving Chair of all his contemporaries. Despite his Chair duties, he continued to devote at least one clinical day a week to OB Anesthesia until 1990. He was the second Chairman of the ASA OB Anesthesia Committee, organized two of the three formational meetings of SOAP, was SOAP’s second President, and served on the SOAP Board of Directors for several years. He will become a Trustee of the WLM this year, and is currently Chair of the SOAP Repository Task Force.

At Vanderbilt, he expanded his faculty from seven to 42, the resident staff from 12 to 58, and the support staff from three to 171. His department published over 536 reports during this time. In addition, Brad served on Committees of the National Research Council and the FDA, three terms on the RRC, and was for eight years a “National Faculty Member” of the CPR program of the American Heart Association, and ten years on Anesthesia Committee of the U.S. Pharmacopeia.

He has been President of the Tennessee Society of Anesthesiologists, SOAP, and the Society for Computers in Anesthesiology, and has received the Distinguished Service Award and the Nils Lofgren Award from SOAP. He has been Chairman of the Tennessee Council of Medical Specialty Societies, and is currently a Delegate of the Tennessee Medical Association. He was a member of the Board of Directors of ASA for 14 years (an all-time record), served on seventeen committees of ASA and was chairman of seven. In 1996 he was General Chairman of the ASA Annual Meeting.

Brad first authored 105, and coauthored 76 other reports, chapters and abstracts, and has received several large pharmaceutical, NIH and NASA grants. He has presented, by invitation, over 300 invited lectures away from home, and has served as an invited “Visiting Professor” in 48 American and 24 foreign universities, and has served on the editorial boards of five national and international journals.

Brad and Gretchen celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary on May 31, 2007! Gretchen still, as for the past 18 years, is actively directing a rescue activity, “Feline Hotline.” His son, Bradley G., is a lawyer, and his daughter, Ione, is a veterinarian.

Richard B. Clark, M.D.
Smith, BE · Selected Bibliography


Frederick P. Zuspan, M.D.

Frederick P. Zuspan, M.D. is the first Obstetrician/Gynecologist to receive the SOAP Distinguished Service Award. His greatest contribution to Obstetric Anesthesia has been his leadership role in promoting collaboration between obstetricians and anesthesiologists.

“Dr. Z” or just “Z” as colleagues know him, has a well-founded understanding and appreciation for the practice of anesthesia. He trained in the early 1950s when OBs often provided regional anesthesia for laboring patients. As an OB/GYN resident he learned regional techniques from two anesthesia greats—Jay Jacoby, M.D. at Ohio State and Robert Hingson, M.D. at Case Western Reserve. This served him well at his first job in a 60-bed United Mine Workers hospital in Kentucky. For lack of other personnel, Z initially performed the duties of surgeon, OB/GYN and Anesthetist, using local or regional techniques. Though unusual by today’s standards, it was not so for Appalachia in 1956. In the 1990s, for similar reasons, Dr. Z provided anesthesia for his own cases while working as a medical missionary in remote Africa.

Dr. Z is best known as a chairman, clinician, researcher, author and editor. He excelled at building OB/GYN departments into centers of excellence and did so as Chairman at the Medical College of Georgia, the University of Chicago and Ohio State University. In his career he trained over 200 residents or fellows and increased the number of medical students choosing OB/GYN. He also led a group of six OB/GYN Chairmen in forming Perinatal Seminars, a non-profit organization providing continuing education to practicing physicians. In his honor, Perinatal Seminars established and funded a SOAP award to encourage collaborative research and scholarship. This annual award goes to the top research paper co-authored by an Obstetrician and Obstetric Anesthesiologist.

Dr. Z is a prolific researcher and author whose CV lists over 240 peer-reviewed medical publications and 40 textbooks. His primary research interest is hypertension in pregnancy and he is considered a world authority. In 1960 he developed and promoted the use of intravenous magnesium sulfate to treat preeclampsia/eclampsia. This is now considered the standard of care worldwide.

Z founded the Journal of Reproductive Medicine in 1967, was editor-in-chief of the Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hypertension in Pregnancy and served on advisory boards for five other medical journals. In 1969 he became an associate editor, later editor and now emeritus editor of the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. In his role as editor, he welcomed obstetric anesthesia research and maintained quality by recruiting respected Obstetric Anesthesiologists as section editor and reviewers.

Dr. Z has long recognized the value of sharing ideas between obstetricians and anesthesiologists. Through his career he worked closely with some of the greatest including James Elam, M.D. at the University of Chicago. At SOAP meetings and on its Board of Directors he collaborated with many more.

Z became Professor Emeritus at Ohio State in 1991 and was honored with the Frederick P. Zuspan Chair in OB/GYN. Married for 65 years; his three children include an obstetrician, an obstetrical anesthesiologist and a schoolteacher.

Kathryn J. Zuspan, M.D.
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And finally, to one another as members of this enjoyable Task Force! We find great joy in the company of one another!

Bradley E. Smith, M.D. and Alex Pue, M.D.  
Task Force Leaders

4/2008