



# Regional Anesthesia News

Summer 2005 Volume 3



## ■ Calendar of Upcoming Events 2005:

- > July 23-24, 2005, RASCI workshop, Iowa City, Iowa.
- > July 30-31, 2005, RASCI workshop at the Hershey Medical Center.
- > Sept. 14-17th, 2005, XXIV Annual ESRA Congress, Berlin, Germany.
- > October 21-23, 2005, ASA in New Orleans.
- > October 29-30, 2005, RASCI workshop, Iowa City, Iowa.
- > November 17-20, 2005, ASRA Fall Pain Meeting and Workshops, Miami, Florida.
- > November 18-22, 2005, 4th International ESRA Conference, Cape Town South Africa.
- > December 17, 2005, 4th Annual NYSORA Symposium, New York, New York.
- > Sept. 30 -Oct. 2, 2005, 12th Annual Hands on Workshop in Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine White Oaks Conference Resort & Spa, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada.

For information, contact:

Internet:

[www.uhn.ca/programs/rapm/docs/pain\\_medicine\\_2005.pdf](http://www.uhn.ca/programs/rapm/docs/pain_medicine_2005.pdf)

E-mail:

[Christine.Drane@uhn.on.ca](mailto:Christine.Drane@uhn.on.ca)

## ■ Links:

Useful Websites Related to Regional Anesthesia

- > <http://www.arrowintl.com>
- > <http://www.nysora.com/>
- > <http://www.asra.com/Main.html>
- > <http://www.regionalblock.com>
- > <http://www.painrounds.com/>

## ■ Recommended Study in an Orthopedic Journal:

- > <http://www.ejbj.org/cgi/content/abstract/87/5/974>

This study discusses the benefits of an interscalene block for major shoulder surgery. This is something your shoulder surgeon's might like to see.

If there are any events you would like to add to the next newsletter please email me at [kelly.marciniak@arrowintl.com](mailto:kelly.marciniak@arrowintl.com)

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## ■ International News Story

### > Regional Anesthesia in Ghana:

The Army Regional Anesthesia Initiative recently traveled to Ghana in west Africa as representatives of the anesthesia component for the Doctors for United Medical Missions (DRUMM). This mission was coordinated by the president of DRUMM John Sampson from Johns Hopkins as part of his Regional Anesthesia Initiative. The mission also partnered with ProHealth from Nigeria. Dr. Trip Buckenmaier C LTC WRAMC-Wash DC and Giselle McKnight M Ms WRAMC-Wash DC, the research coordinator from Walter Reed participated in this mission. I spoke with Giselle McKnight about the goals of this program and the importance of regional anesthesia in achieving optimal pain management in the surgical cases performed.

There are less than 10 anesthesiologists for the entire country of Ghana with support from about 20 nurse anesthetists. The goal of the 2 week mission was to augment existing health care resources in a medically underserved area by providing the training in regional anesthesia to perform necessary surgeries.

The case mix on this trip was made up primarily of hernia repairs and hysterectomies in which the anesthesiologists used spinals in combination with lumbar paravertebral blocks and the occasional general anesthesia. Other missions have focused more on the orthopaedic procedures which are very appropriate to the regional techniques used in other countries.

While not all, a large number of the cases done in austere environments lend themselves to regional techniques. The difficulty obtaining supplies, maintaining antiquated equipment and not having qualified providers' makes general anesthesia not the optimal choice. There are also shortages in nursing staff and narcotics for post-op care. These issues are the same ones which physicians are challenged with in military environments.

Refer to this short piece in the ASRA newsletter about regional anesthesia in austere environments.

[http://www.asra.com/Newsletters/Nov\\_03.pdf](http://www.asra.com/Newsletters/Nov_03.pdf)

Regional anesthesia techniques are having an extraordinary impact in military medicine, civilian care and now these techniques are becoming a critical component in allowing surgeries in developing countries; surgeries that we take for granted in the US but can totally alter the quality of life for the people in countries like Ghana.



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## ■ Educational Opportunity:

- > Center of Excellence in Outpatient Regional Anesthesia: Mini-Fellowship Training Program, Date: April 2005 - October 2005.
- > UPMC South Side is conducting a Mini-Fellowship for practicing anesthesiologists seeking a greater understanding of outpatient regional anesthesia techniques. This two-day course is being directed by Brian A. Williams, MD, MBA, Associate Professor of Anesthesiology at the University of Pittsburgh. The course is individually scheduled to accommodate the busy schedules of interested participants. The two-day program, co-sponsored by Arrow International, is observational, and provides 22 CME Category 1 credits toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award.

Scheduling is done by contacting the Conference Manager Matthew Bottegat at 412-432-3619, or by email [bottegalm@upmc.edu](mailto:bottegalm@upmc.edu). Another option is to pre-register online at: <http://ccehs.upmc.edu>. Click the On-line Registration link and scroll to the "UPMC Center of Excellence in Outpatient Regional Anesthesia Mini-Fellowship Training Program" section on this page. The coordinators suggest that applicants choose 3-5 back-to-back weekdays in which attendance would be possible. The coordinators will then confirm the surgical caseloads on the selected back-to-back dates, in order to make for the most worthwhile educational experience.

Registration is \$350. Attendees are responsible for arranging travel and accommodations. The coordinators will gladly work with applicants to recommend nearby hotels, etc.

## ■ Local News Story:

Charleston, South Carolina (click on link)

<http://archives.postandcourier.com/archive/arch05/0605/arc06122371536.shtml>

## ■ In the Next Issue :

- > Resources on reimbursement.

Presented by: Kelly Marciniak, [kelly.marciniak@arrowintl.com](mailto:kelly.marciniak@arrowintl.com), Regional Anesthesia Sales Specialist, Voice Mail: 800-821-2737, Box 1302. [www.arrowintl.com](http://www.arrowintl.com) If you do not wish to receive this newsletter please click here: [No Thanks](#).

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