

# 2003 Western Anesthesia Residents' Conference

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**I**t's unanimous! The 2003 Western Anesthesia Residents' Conference was a huge success! The 41st annual event was hosted by Stanford University on April 4-6 at the Sheraton Hotel in sunny downtown Palo Alto, California. Approximately 165 attendees were on hand at this year's WARC, attending from twenty institutions in the Western U.S. and Canada. Faculty, fellows, residents and medical students were all invited to share in this annual exchange of innovation and education. In the words of Stanford Department of Anesthesia Chairman Ronald G. Pearl, "The WARC demonstrated that the future of academic anesthesia is bright." We couldn't agree more.

After starting off Friday evening with a cocktail reception at the Sheraton, and the Chief Resident's and Chairman's dinners, the conference got into full swing on Saturday and Sunday with 34 oral and 57 poster presentations. Five theme-based oral presentation sessions included Monitoring and Technology, Airway, Regional Anesthesia and Pain Management, Anesthesia Practice and Patient Safety, and Education. Speakers were given 10 minutes to present original research or other interesting and educational material. In keeping with the nature of the Resident-directed conference, residents were given priority in follow-up questioning. After all resident questions were taken, the floor was opened up to faculty comments and questions. Concurrently, throughout the WARC weekend, a separate hall displayed poster presentations on original research and interesting case presentations by residents, fellows and students.

A Saturday evening reception and dinner was held at the Schwab Center on the beautiful Stanford campus. Dr. Mark Rosekind, an internationally recognized expert on the effects of fatigue and sleep deprivation on human performance and safety, gave a highly entertaining talk relevant to all anesthesia providers.

At the conclusion of the conference, an awards presentation named the top presenters in both the oral and poster categories. Awards were given based on judging that occurred throughout the weekend. Award recipients included (in no particular order):

- Nir Hoftman (UCLA), Oral presentation: Peripheral Venous Pressure as a Predictor of Central Venous Pressure During Orthotopic Liver Transplantation
- Tobias Moeller-Bertram (UCSD), Oral presentation: The Ratio of the Elliptical Bronchial Areas Determines the Probability of an Object Entering

## **2003 Western Anesthesia Residents' Conference-Cont'd**

One Mainstem Bronchus Versus the Other- Changing the Angle on an Old Paradigm

- Adam Kozowski (U of Colorado), Oral presentation: The Distribution of the Sodium Channel Isoform PN1 in the Peripheral Nervous System
- Mary Kouri (Virginia Mason), Oral presentation: 2-Chloroprocaine for Spinal Anesthesia, a Comparison to Lidocaine in Human Volunteers
- L. Michelle Noles (U of Oregon), Poster presentation: Intraoperative Magnetic Resonance Imaging for Neurosurgical Procedures
- Chris Nunn (U of Washington), Poster presentation: Transesophageal Echocardiography is Superior to Transthoracic Echocardiography in Differentiating Intracardiac vs. Extracardiac Lesions
- Andrew Seltzer (U of Washington), Poster presentation: Use of 10.0 mm Endotracheal Tube to Retrieve a Dislodged Tooth from the Airway of a Patient with a Difficult Airway

Congratulations not only to those mentioned above for outstanding presentations, but also those presenters not mentioned. Participation in the WARC is an excellent way to develop presentation and research skills and inspires others to get involved. We hope that each attendee will continue to stay involved in the future and continue to have educationally rewarding WARC experiences.

Finally, special thanks are in order for those responsible for planning and support of the WARC weekend. Residents Larry Chu, Ross Seibel, Andrea Fuller, Cathy Brummel and Ed Mariano took time from their busy resident schedules to organize and ensure an entertaining and educational weekend. Faculty committee members Tim Angelotti, John Chow, Mike Rosenthal, Larry Saidman, and John Brock Utne, as well as Stanford Chairman Ronald Pearl, also deserve a great amount of credit. And, of course, where would we have been without Janine Roberts and Kim Kurtis, two of the most helpful resources we've ever worked with! We also wish to thank our industry sponsors, the Sheraton Palo Alto, the Schwab Center, Dr. Mike Rosekind, and those unnamed doing behind-the-scenes work. Above all, a sincere thank you must be extended from Stanford to those participating Western Anesthesia programs in attendance. Without the amazing contributions and support of the residents, fellows, students and faculty of each of the programs, the 41st Annual WARC would have been unsuccessful. Overall, WARC was a memorable experience, full of new ideas and inspirations, and we look forward to the 42nd Annual WARC to be held in Denver, Colorado, in 2004. See you there!