

Arthur E. Guedel Memorial Anesthesia Center



The Guedel Center

The center offers an outstanding collection of rare and contemporary anesthesia literature, audiotape and videotape resources, as well as the ability to research specialized topics.

Guedel Center Update

By Selma Harrison Calmes, M.D., President, Board of Trustees

This is an update on what's happening with the Guedel Memorial Center. As very briefly reported in our last article (*CSA Bulletin* 2003; 52:37-38), the Guedel Center had been experiencing a financial "crunch" and uncertainty about its purpose. A Board of Directors meeting was held June 5, 2004, and a number of important decisions were made.

The most important decision, a unanimous one, was that the Guedel should continue, but "refocus" itself and make many more outreach efforts. The Board felt there should be much less emphasis on subscribing to journals, but rather, a focus on outreach to the state's anesthesiologists, especially our residents. Outreach could be, among other things, through the vehicles of exhibits at meetings and academic institutions, and by developing web-based material. None of these efforts will cost the CSA as they can be funded by membership donations as in the past. Our historic link with the CSA needs to continue, and a letter requesting that was sent to CSA President Linda Jo Mason, M.D. Our link with the ASA's Wood Library Museum is continuing through my position as chair of their Liaison Committee.

Guedel Center Update—Cont'd

Changes have already taken place at the Guedel! Instead of paying for 43 anesthesia journals, we now subscribe to only nine, and further cuts are planned in the next two years. The Guedel's room is being renovated with funding from Pacific Medical Center. There will be an updated appearance, better lighting and better AV capability after the renovation. A videotape of the anesthesia equipment was digitized and put on DVD for further editing; this will be posted on the Guedel web site when it is finished. The link from the CSA Web Site was lost in the CSA Web Site redesign. Work to re-link us is taking place now. Finally, the previous librarian resigned July 15, and a new one, with extensive experience in web sites, will take his place. Funding for the librarian is entirely from the Pacific Medical Center.

Although this has been a difficult time for the Guedel as it struggles with funding and purpose, there is opportunity. This "struggle and opportunity" was very much the theme of Dr. Arthur Guedel's (the center was named for him, the California anesthesiologist who made the most contributions to the specialty) own life, so we symbolically fit with the challenges through which he went. For example, when the state Supreme Court confirmed a lower court decision that nurses could practice anesthesia with the operating surgeon as their supervisor, Guedel (who attended court every day of the original trial in Los Angeles) was devastated and retreated to the High Sierras for a month. He emerged stronger and energized, and then put together his famous book, *Inhalation Anesthesia*. This was a pivotal basic anesthesia text that went through four editions.

The Guedel needs your help at this critical point in its life! First, **be sure to give a contribution to the Guedel when you pay your dues**. This helps preserve the history of our specialty. If you have special interests or ideas, or would like to participate in any way, we need you! Contact any Board member or me, and we'll find some way for you to contribute. Board members are as follows: Bob Buechel (Campbell), Tom Cromwell (Belvedere), Clyde Jones (San Diego), Gil Kinyon (San Diego), Merlin Larson (UCSF), Peter McDermott (Camarillo), Lucien Morris (Seattle), Doug Roberts (Santa Barbara—CSA Liaison), Larry Saidman (Alameda/Stanford), Stanley Samuels (Stanford), Laura Slaughter (Nipomo), and John Severinghaus (UCSF). I think we can look forward to a new Guedel over time, with everyone's help.