EDITORIAL

REUNION OF AUB ANESTHESIOLOGY
AT THE ASA 2009 NEW ORLEANS

The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) President elect Alexander A. Hannenberg, M.D. considers attending the ASA Annual Meeting as being “a kid in a candy store”. There is nowhere else with the quality, quantity and variety of stimulating, relevant and useful education that the ASA meeting provides. In addition to its scientific value, there is a social aspect, too, in a gathering of thousands of individuals with a common professional interest, yet varying backgrounds. The ASA 2009 was held in the lovely city New Orleans (Fig. 1).

The department of Anesthesiology of the American University of Beirut (A.U.B.) delegates every year members of its faculty to participate in the ASA Annual Meeting. The meeting 2009 was a pleasant occasion for the reunion of the Faculty and Alumni of the Department of Anesthesiology who participated in the meeting (Fig. 2-6).

The reunion was organized by Dr. Ghassan Kanazi, the Chairman of the Department, in the presence of Dr. Anis Baraka, the former Chairman, as well as Dr. Marie Maroun and Dr. Aliya Dabbous Faculty of the department who presented scientific posters based on their departmental research (Fig. 7, 8).

The ASA scientific program was very rich, covering the up-to-date refresher courses and panel discussions, in addition to other scientific activities such as the poster presentations and the special sessions celebrating research. Also, the ASA program included the different Memorial lectures such as the Rovenstine lecture, the John W. Severinghaus lecture and the Lewis H. Wright lecture.

Dr. Edmond I. Eger II, M.D. was selected to deliver the Severinghaus Memorial lecture which was established 2008 when John W. Severinghaus, M.D. himself was the first lecturer on “Translation Science”. Dr. Eger introduced the “MAC” principle and taught us the basic concepts of anesthetic uptake and distribution. Despite the many honors and awards bestowed on him, Dr. Eger says “it is important to remember the mentors in our life”. The title of his lecture was “after you, please”.

Dr. Peter J. Pronovost, M.D., Ph.D. delivered the traditional Rovenstine lecture about “reduction of central venous catheters infection”. He stressed that strong leadership, teamwork and personal responsibility will be required to reshape long-entrenched attitudes, which will lead to truly exceptional patient care.

Dr. Lusian Leap, M.D. delivered the Wright Memorial lecture about “patient safety; are we making progress?”. Dr. Leap asked some provocative questions about the safety of the hospitals 2009, and what needs to be done to accelerate progress in safety initiatives.

The scientific program of ASA included other important sessions covering “simulation in anesthesia practice”, as well as the role of the Anesthesiologist outside the O.R., and during disasters. The traditional Technical Exhibit of the ASA introduced us to the up-to-date anesthesia machines, ventilators and monitoring facilities including pulse oximetry and cerebral oximetry. The problem of the difficult airway and the different techniques of video laryngoscopy which facilitate tracheal intubation were exhibited.
The ASA 2009 New Orleans was an occasion to meet many of our Pioneers of Anesthesia in USA including Alon Winnie (Fig. 9), Michel Todd (Fig. 10), Ronald Katz (Fig. 11) and Carin Hagberg (Fig. 12). Also, we were happy to meet Dr. Angela Enright, the President of the World Federation of Anesthesiologists (Fig. 13).

Goodbye ASA 2009. We look forward to the ASA 2010 at San Diego, and to the WCA 2012 Buenos Aires.

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Fig. 1
Dr. Anis Baraka at New Orleans airport

Fig. 2, 3
Members of the AUB Department at the exhibit area of the ASA
Fig. 4, 5
Members of the AUB Department before the Reunion dinner

Fig. 6
The Reunion Dinner

Fig. 7
Dr. Marie Maroun at her poster

Fig. 8
Dr. Aliya Dabbous at her poster

Fig. 9
Dr. Alon Winnie and Dr. Ramez Salem at the dinner arranged by Dr. & Mrs. Tony Nader
Fig. 10
Dr. Anis Baraka and Dr. Michel Todd, the Chairman of Anesthesiology, Iowa University

Fig. 11
Dr. Ronald Katz. A pioneer researcher of muscle relaxants

Fig. 12
Dr. Caren Hagberg. The Editor of Benumof’s Airway Management

Fig. 13
Dr. Angela Enright, the President of the WFSA in front of the stand of the 15th World Congress of Anesthesiologists (WCA) Buenos Aires 2012