



e-NEWSLETTER

March 20, 2020



Dear Colleagues,

Last night, my neighbors did a crazy thing. At 7:30 pm, they came out of their houses, stood on their front steps and rang bells, and banged pots to say thank you to healthcare workers. They gave a shout-out to all of you. Thank you for helping our community, families and each other get through this pandemic.

The Globe and Mail acknowledged the outstanding work of our two anesthesiologists **Drs. Alberto Goffi** and **Andrea Rigamonti** from St. Michael's Hospital, we invite you read the [full article](#).



DR. ALBERTO GOFFI and ANDREA RIGAMONTI
Source: The Globe and Mail

Wuhan teaches us “this too will pass” with appropriate interventions. Anesthesiologists and intensivists are role models of calm - it's in your DNA. Other will look to you for guidance. We need to support each other - please social distance but don't emotionally distance.

What is our department doing? Lots!

Ventilator shortages

- Today, **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau** announced that a company founded by **Dr. Joseph Fisher**, [Thornhill Medical](#), will supply ventilators and portable ICU devices. Dr. Fisher has developed a portable ICU that includes an oxygen concentrator, ventilator, suction, and invasive monitoring system that is battery operated. Please see the message from PM Trudeau <https://www.cpac.ca/en/direct/cpac2/427800/pm-trudeau-provides-update-on-federal-covid-19-response/#>
- Dr. Fisher and colleagues have also developed a low-cost and low-tech device that can be built from local parts and assembled in operating rooms. It is designed to ventilate more than one patient on a single ventilator. Dr. Fisher published the scheme of a simple manifold improvised from readily available respiratory/ventilator components. The design will soon be illustrated on the website. It has not approved for use but is worth of studying.



Communications

- Our [department website](#) is providing tools and resources that are relevant to COVID-19 including protocols, videos, e-learning tools and other information. Please forward selected material related to COVID-19 to communications.anesthesia@utoronto.ca. Thanks to **Drs. Vincent Chan, Matteo Parotto, Naheed Jivaj** and **Laura Bosco** for helping organize the site.
- As many of us have turned to social media to learn from our counterparts around the world and to join discussions. If you would like to venture onto Twitter to engage in the online community, **Dr. Nan Gai** has prepared a [guide for using Twitter](#) as a health professional.

Protection Strategies

- **Dr. Clyde Matava** will be sharing several videos that demonstrate strategies to avoid contamination when patients cough during induction or extubation, please check our website for the [educational resources](#). **Dr. Gianni Lorello** recommends covering the patient's face with a green towel during extubation.
- Evidence to reduce anxiety regarding the directive to use surgical masks rather than N95 for management of non-COVID-19 patients or person under investigator for COVID-19 patients can be found at this [link](#).

What can you do? Lots!

- Learn how to protect yourself by watching a PPE video. Add a cap to the gear.
- Upgrade your ICU skills through education tools on the website. Anesthesiologists may need to be deployed to ICUs. **Dr. Brian Cuthbertson** and others are developing more tools.
- Enjoy Anesthesia Anecdotes: 15 volunteers have offered to help with daily uplifting messages. Messages will be shared shortly.

Please stay informed, stay calm and stay safe.

Best wishes,

Bev

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