



Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

e-NEWSLETTER

March 23, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

A special thanks to the hospital chiefs and those who worked exceptionally hard in the operating rooms and ICUs over the weekend. Provided below is a short department update.

What happened over the weekend?

PPE Protocols: Intubation is a high-risk intervention and personal protection equipment levels need to be appropriate. A new protection protocol that was developed at UHN is being reviewed by other hospital sites – [PPE Process for Preoperative Patients](#). Protocols are rapidly changing so please stay informed about your local policies. We will post major updates on the [website](#).

Getting critical information to you: The goal of the department website is to provide up-to-date information. An “editorial board” was created to carefully select and curate material. The board includes **Drs. Vincent Chan, Matteo Parotto, Laura Bosco** and **Naheed Jivraj**. Forward selected and key articles to their attention via communications.anesthesia@utoronto.ca

Canadian Anesthesiologists’ Society (CAS) Townhall: The CAS held an excellent discussion during the townhall meeting last night. A link to the video will be uploaded to the website asap. Another CAS Townhall will be held next Sunday (time pending). It will focus on PPE. We will forward any notices of CAS Townhalls to you.

Developing city-wide ventilator inventory: We are developing a city-wide Toronto Academic Health Science Network (TAHSN) registry of anesthesia machines and ventilators located in departments of anesthesia. Surveys will be sent shortly. **Dr. Robert Byrick** is working with the CPSO to identify ventilators and anesthetic machines located in out of hospital premises sites. This week, we will search veterinary hospitals and other unconventional sites for ventilators and anesthesia delivery units.

Studying safe approaches to ventilating multiple patients: A research team has been developed at UHN to studying strategies to safely use a single ventilator for multiple patients. The aerospace industry via **Minister Navdeep Bains** has offered to help. This approach is based on a design developed by [Dr. Joe Fisher](#).

Dr. Joe Fisher’s team at Thornhill Medical is moving towards increasing the production of mobile ICUs. Please see a press release sent Friday, March 20, 2020 about the portable ICU system developed by [Dr. Joe Fisher](#).

Education modules to enhance ICU skills: Dr. Brian Cuthbertson is developing more tools. Some tools are already available on the website.

Listserv update: Please send names and email addresses of NON-FACULTY department members such as clinical associates so they can be added to listserv to anesthesia@utoronto.ca for communication updates.

CAS Townhall take-home points

- PPE remains a common cause of concern.
- We need to aggressively protect ourselves and each other.
- Donning and doffing needs to be practiced, observed and coached.
- Each site needs to appoint a safety coach, someone who oversees techniques.
- Neck protection is often overlooked. Exposed skin needs to be cleaned post-intubation.
- Shower after intubation if the neck is unprotected in a gown.
- Plan your doffing strategy as you don your PPE. For example, where are my gown ties?
- Another CAS Townhall webinar will be held next weekend, which will again focus on PPE.

You are an amazing team. Keep informed, keep safe, keep well

Best wishes,

Bev

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