The Department of Anaesthesia, Intensive Care & Pain Management is a dynamic and very productive department of Sultan Qaboos University Hospital (SQUH). Our key roles are in the operating theatre, anaesthetising patients for all surgical specialties and subspecialties and in the Intensive Care Unit, managing critically ill patients. The Department provides twenty-four hour elective and emergency anaesthesia services to the entire hospital, including referrals from other health institutions. We manage a 25 bed Intensive Care Unit. We are also involved in inserting venous access devices, both implantable and percutaneous, to patients from various clinical departments. Pain management is also part of departmental functions with acute and chronic pain management services. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation is a significant function of this Department and now cardiothoracic anaesthesia has also been added. The Department forms a solid part of SQUH Trauma and Disaster management services.

The pre-Anaesthesia Assessment Clinic (PAC) has been fully functional since March 2009. Patients who have to undergo surgery are assessed here for surgical fitness at the Out Patient Department (OPD) level. This was initiated with the main aim of reducing inpatient cancellations—a key factor in improving hospital efficiency. The clinic is being run Saturday to Wednesday from 8 am to 2 pm.
**Highlights of the Year 2009-2010**

The annual Scientific Session of the Oman Society of Anaesthesia and Critical Care was held in December 2009 at Sultan Qaboos University. Dr. Rajini Kausalya, Dr. Amarnath Shetty, Dr. Sinnakirouchenan, Dr. Mohamed Al Ismaili and Dr. Pradipta Bhakta all acted as moderators. The theme of the Session was “Anticoagulation and Regional Anaesthesia”.

The Department organised 2 workshops on Ultra-

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**Staff**

**Medical Staff**
Karin Nollain, Senior Consultant
Suresh Chengode, Senior Consultant
Ram Narayan Rao, Consultant
Sinnakirouchenan, Consultant
Rajini Kausalya, Consultant
Ali Al-Abady, Consultant
Nasser Al-Kernyani, Consultant
Mohammed Al-Ismaili, Consultant
Jaswinder Sharma, Senior Registrar
Binoy Zachariah, Senior Registrar
Pradipta Bhakta, Senior Registrar

Pradeep K. Sharma, Senior Registrar
Jyoti Burad, Registrar
Aravind Narayanan, Registrar
Devaraj N. Dyamanna, Registrar
Hatem Abd El Ghany, Registrar
Amr A.H. Sewan, Registrar
Qutaiba Tawfiq, Registrar
P. Madhanagopal, Registrar
Ahmed Khamis, Registrar
Ali S. Faris, Senior House Officer
Hussain Hamdan, Senior House Officer
Aja K. Arora, Senior House Officer
Prasad Fonseka, Senior House Officer
Vishnu Prasad, Senior House Officer
Khadija Al-Abri, Senior House Officer
Zainab Al-Breiki, Senior House Officer
Zahra G. Ahmed, Senior House Officer

**Support Staff**
Leena Chacko, Coordinator
Ibrahim Al-Farsi, Coordinator
Mohammed Al-Badi, Technician
Maheswariammma, Technician
sound in Anaesthesia and Critical Care along with the Anaesthesia Department of Royal Hospital. The workshops were held at Sultan Qaboos University in May and December 2009 respectively. Both the workshops were facilitated by international faculty. The response was very positive and both workshops were very successful.

The Department also participated in the Quality Day, which was held in SQUH in March 2010, presenting posters related to the Pain Management and the Pre-anaesthesia clinic.

NEW SERVICES
The Department is proud to have introduced the new service of performing peripheral nerve blocks and vascular access under ultrasound guidance. The new ultrasound machine, which corporates the latest in portable ultrasound technology for clinical applications, has been a boon for the Department and has made it possible for this latest service to be initiated in the department. This machine is also going to be effectively put to use in the Intensive Care Unit for haemodynamic measurements and transthoracic echocardiogram.

NEW SUB-SPECIALTY
In this period, anaesthesia for paediatric and neurological surgeries with postoperative intensive care monitoring started its services which are now fully operational.

Teaching Programmes
UNDERGRADUATE CLINICAL PROGRAMME
The 6th year medical students carry out a compulsory two week rotation in the Department participating in the clinical activities. Students are given ‘hands-on’ experience, on both manikins as well as patients, under the close supervision of anaesthesiologists. This is in order to witness and learn airway management, endotracheal intubation, intravenous cannulation, fluid management and monitoring of the anaesthetised patient. The tutorials are aimed at making the student understand the use of airway adjuncts, respiratory equipment, central venous and arterial cannulation, regional blocks, and drugs used in anaesthesia and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The main topics of these lectures are pre-anaesthetic evaluation, management of patients under anaesthesia; postoperative pain relief; the pharmacology of anaesthetic drugs; acid base and electrolyte disorders, and hypovolemic shock. The lecture is given by senior doctors in the department on a rotation basis followed by a 30 minute case discussion.
POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME

Oman Medical Specialty Board (OMSB)
A 4-year residency programme in anaesthesia was started in September 2007 under the OMSB. Two residents were enrolled in this programme. An exit examination is planned at the end of 4 years; after the successful completion, the residents would do a further year of specialised training. The Department is actively involved in developing the curriculum, accreditation and examination processes for this programme.

TRAINING COURSES & CME ACTIVITIES
The Department is actively involved in the teaching of training courses organised by the SQUH Training Directorate. These include the Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) provider course, ACLS recertification course, Basic Life support (BLS) provider course, BLS recertification course, AED (Accident & Emergency Dept) course and the Pain Management course. Every Saturday there is a CME session in the Department covering topics of recent interest in anaesthesia and intensive care. Doctors of the Department present interesting topics beneficial to the staff. Residents are encouraged to attend. Members of the Department are also part of OSAAC which is involved in regular CME activities and scientific sessions.

Clinical & Diagnostic Services
A total of 5,591 anaesthetic procedures were carried out in 2010 compared to 4,761 in 2009 and 4,056 in 2008.

<table>
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<th>No. of Patients</th>
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<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
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<th>August</th>
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<tr>
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<td>384</td>
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</table>

Figure 1: Anaesthesia Statistics 2010
Research

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Sickle Cell Disease in Adult Patients and Intensive Care Management- A 5 Year Retrospective Study in the ICU of SQUH

Project Code: MREC# 348; Dates: 2010
Value: Unfunded; Project approval: Sultan Qaboos University
Investigators: Dr. Qutaibah Tawfic, Dept. Anaesthesia, SQU

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS & BOOKS

Journal Publications


CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

Conference presentations

International


**National**

1. **Chengode S.** Cardiac patient for non-cardiac surgery. 3rd International Conference and Annual Meeting of Oman Society of Anaesthesia and Critical Care. Muscat, Oman, November 2009.


**SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS**

**International**