

Editor's Note

Peter Southorn, M.D.

Believe it or not, the Alumni Association lists more than 500 anesthesiologists. Considering this number, I was absolutely delighted when Mark Warner, M.D., our department chair, suggested we initiate a newsletter to hopefully strengthen ties that we all have to each other and the Mayo Clinic. I hope that you will find the contents of this newsletter interesting and that it will serve to provide you with a progress report of what is happening in the department. At this stage, as we attempt to get the newsletter off the ground, nothing is fixed in stone, and we very much want to hear your ideas about what you would like to see and read in it. We will certainly try to reprint any newsworthy item about alumni forwarded to us, and we would be very interested in printing any pictures of alumni. (The latter will be promptly returned after we have obtained a copy for the newsletter.)

In this first issue, Scott Atchison, M.D., from Sioux Falls, SD, has written an account of the actions and deeds of Rungson Sittipong, M.D., a wonderful man known by so many of you. To bring you up to date with what is happening in Rochester, there follows a description of some of the things occurring in our residency program, research programs and clinical practice. Finally, there is a description of how Sonja Dawson, wife of another much revered colleague, Brian Dawson, M.D., became responsible for designing the prototype of the triple shield of WFMC.

Please write, and send me your photographs to make this magazine a valuable resource to all of us. I can be contacted at the department or by e-mail at southorn.peter@mayo.edu. With your help, I look forward to getting this worthy project off the ground.

Our Friend Rungson

Scott Atchison, M.D.



Dr. Rungson Sittipong (right) was too modest to be photographed alone but agreed to have his picture taken with Dr. Peter Southorn (left).

Like a fine Thai emerald, our friend Rungson Sittipong, M.D., has many facets.

One is his intellect. He is one of the brightest mathematical and pulmonary physiology minds I have ever encountered. (His background is with giants in pulmonary physiology such as Hyatt, Fowler, Black and Rehder.) However his knowledge is not limited to science, and his appreciation for the arts is remarkable. Leisure time spent with Rungson is a chance to learn much about classical music, especially his favorite, opera. The contradiction is that such a mind could actually seek revenge from "the slot machine that steal all my money last night!"

Commitment to teach. As evidenced by his multiple Mayo Graduate School of Medicine "Teacher of the Year" awards, Rungson is a great mentor and friend. His prodigious memory about people's names,

birthdays, etc., and his generosity to others is remarkable. Hundreds of residents have learned techniques and clinical pearls from him. I, for one, am sure that to this day I would not understand the difference between static and dynamic pulmonary compliance if he had not explained it to me so perfectly. (I can still see in my mind his well-worn copy of Comroe's Pulmonary Physiology.)

Clinical expertise. Rungson is one of the most capable clinical practitioners I have ever observed. He is as comfortable with a bronchoscope as with a needle. No one could demonstrate knee block technique better than Dave Byer, Duane Rorie, Lee Nauss and Rungson.

Sense of humor and command of the English language. No one at the Mayo Clinic can express himself as efficiently and with more fun than Rungson. My personal favorites include: "operation over, open eye!" "block spotty like leopard." "I meet you for lunch at fifteen minute after ten-thirty." "You not like Manhattan I fix for you or are you just unfriendly?" "This donut no better than

the first three I eat." And no day would be complete without his signature "what going on?"

I have many, many great stories about Rungson. Almost all of them are funny and demonstrate his humanity. I love the way his pants start to fall down whenever he gets all gloved up and sterile for a spinal block. "Ooie, my pant, my pant!" The driver, born and raised in the tropics, behind the wheel of his International Scout, as we slide through an intersection on the ice against a red light. "Four-wheel drive not work today." And finally, as we are all in the conference room of the cafeteria at Rochester Methodist Hospital one morning awaiting the arrival of the tardy presenting resident. Dr. Sessler: "Who is supposed to present this morning?" Dr. Gould: "The schedule says XX XXX." Rungson: "Oh, oh, I think he not make it because he still asleep on my couch this morning after poker game last night."

We all have great memories of working with and learning from "The Great Sittipong".

Resident Education Update

Steven Rose, M.D.

We were extremely pleased with the results of the 2002 NRMP "match". Sixteen outstanding candidates for residency training matched with our program. The visiting medical student program appeared to be an effective tool in helping recruit high-quality medical students again this year. As always, we appreciate the help of our alumni in this process!

This year we welcome 18 new residents in Clinical Anesthesiology. They and the medical school from which they graduated are as follows: **Margaret (Peggy) Allen** – Mayo Medical School, Rochester, MN; **James Borowiec** – University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, WA; **Stephanie Carroll** – Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI; **Thomas Comfere** – Heinrich-Heine-Universitat Dusseldorf, Germany; **Timothy Curry** – State University of New York at Buffalo School of

Medicine, Buffalo, NY; **Daniel Diedrich** – University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN; **Christopher Duncan** – University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN; **James Dyer** – UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Camden, NJ; **Maria Eaton** – University of Nebraska, Omaha, NE; **Michael Ebbert** – University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN; **Del Kirkpatrick** – University of California San Francisco School of Medicine, San Francisco, CA; **Daryl (DJ) Kor** – University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN; **Kenyon Kruse** – University of North Dakota School of Medicine, Grand Forks, ND; **Eric Nygren** – Mayo Medical School, Rochester, MN; **Matthew Offerdahl** – University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN; **Anita Pai** – Texas A & M University College of Medicine, College Station, TX; **Matthew Ritter** – St. Louis University Health Science Center, St. Louis, MO; and **Susan Scott** – University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI.