

## **The Pediatric Anesthesia Division at the Tufts-New England Medical Center and the Floating Hospital for Children**

**Author(s): A Kalra, A Schure**

**Affiliation(s): Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts**

**History:** The Floating Hospital for Children in Boston is one of the oldest children's hospital in the United States. Reverend Rufus B Tobey was shocked by the sight of exhausted parents and their sick infants on the docks of Boston Harbor, trying to find relief from the heat of their crowded downtown tenements. He came up with the idea of taking the sick babies and their mothers for a day cruise around the harbor, and his proposal received widespread support. On July 25th, 1894, the "Floating Hospital" was born on a rented boat named the "Clifford." Each day, babies were treated on board, mothers learned how to care for and feed their children safely, and everyone - patients, parents, doctors, nurses, volunteers and crew enjoyed the "beneficial harbor breezes." In 1906, a second, 170 feet long, ship was built to meet the growing needs of the community: It offered larger inpatient facilities as well as an intensive on-board training and research institute for pediatrics. Unfortunately in 1927, after cruising the harbor for 33 years, a fire destroyed "The Boston Floating Hospital" ship. The hospital was re-established as an on-shore facility in affiliation with the Tufts University School of Medicine. The "Floating Hospital" no longer floated in the Boston Harbor, but continued to provide excellent medical care for children.

**The Floating Hospital Today:** The Floating Hospital for Children is a well-established pediatric tertiary care facility, an integral part of the Tufts- New England Medical Center, as well as a major academic institution, the principal pediatric teaching and research site for Tufts University School of Medicine. The hospital provides a full range of services in all pediatric subspecialties, including level 1 pediatric trauma care: The Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Institute, established 1982, was the world's first dedicated pediatric trauma center. The Neonatal and Pediatric Intensive Care units are state of the art facilities with a complete scope of diagnostic and therapeutic modalities.

**The Department of Anesthesia and the Pediatric Anesthesia Division:** Established in 1950 by Dr. Benjamin Etsten, the department maintains a prominent role within Tufts-New England Medical Center and Tufts University School of Medicine. In the mid 1950's, Robert N. Reynolds, MD created the Pediatric Anesthesia Division. Today, Tufts- New England Medical Center has a total of 23 operating rooms, located in the Main OR and a very active Day Surgery Unit. Anesthesia services are provided for a large variety of procedures ranging from minor ambulatory surgery to complex operations like pediatric liver transplants or open-heart surgery. The Pediatric Anesthesia Division also covers a number of offsite locations, including MRI, CT, Interventional Radiology, Radiation Oncology, Nuclear Medicine as well as the Pediatric Cath lab. In our residency program, pediatric anesthesia training is a continuum rather than a single rotation. Exposure to children is strongly woven throughout the entire training. Residents have their first encounter with pediatric anesthesia during their CA-1 year. CA-3 residents may elect subspecialty rotations in pediatric anesthesia with emphasis on the critically ill child, the premature infant, neonatal emergencies, liver transplants, and cardiothoracic anesthesia. Last year we provided anesthesia to about 3748 children including 200 neonates.

Current faculty includes a team of 7 fellowship trained pediatric anesthesiologists:

- Iqbal Ahmed, MD. F.R.C.A. Director, Pediatric Cardiac Anesthesia
- Aykut Bilge, MD. Director, Pediatric Anesthesia Fellowship Program
- Jonathan Griswold, MD. Chief, Pediatric Anesthesia Division
- Aman Kalra, MD
- Annette Schure, MD
- Pacifico Tuason, MD
- Audrius Zibaitis, MD

**The Pediatric Anesthesia Fellowship Program:** The Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts-New England Medical Center offers a full 1-year ACGME accredited advanced fellowship in Pediatric Anesthesia. Two positions are available each year. The curriculum is designed to provide our fellows with a comprehensive experience and the skills necessary to safely anesthetize children of all ages and levels of complexity. In addition to rotations through the Neonatal and Pediatric Intensive Care units here at the New England Medical Center, outside rotations in Pediatric Pain and Pediatric Cardiac Anesthesia at Children's Hospital Boston assure a well-rounded training in Pediatric Anesthesia. Weekly pediatric conferences are part of the didactic schedule and participation in active research is strongly encouraged.