

ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

THOUGHTS AND UPDATES FROM DR. W. P. ANDREW LEE

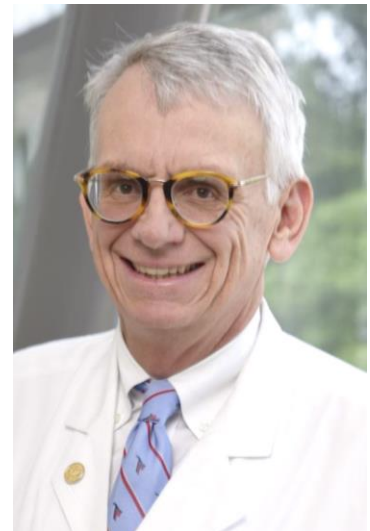
January 13, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

I write to share the news that **Charles W. Whitten, M.D.**, holder of the Margaret Milam McDermott Distinguished Chair in Anesthesiology and Pain Management, has informed us of his decision to step down as Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Management after 17 years of dedicated leadership.

After completing undergraduate studies at Southern Methodist University, Dr. Whitten earned his medical degree from UT Southwestern Medical Center. He pursued an internship in anesthesiology at Baylor University Medical Center and returned to UT Southwestern for a residency in anesthesiology, followed by a fellowship in transplant anesthesiology.

He joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1988 and quickly assumed increasing responsibilities, including Director of the Division of Cardiovascular/Thoracic Anesthesiology, Director of Anesthesiology Services at Parkland Memorial Hospital, Director of the Anesthesiology Residency Program, and Vice Chair of Educational Affairs. He became the Department's Interim Chair in 2007 and was named Chair in 2008.



Under his leadership, the Department grew into one of the largest academic anesthesiology departments in the country, with 255 anesthetizing locations, 12 pain clinics, and eight intensive care units. It employs 225 faculty, of which 54% are women – a proportion significantly higher than the national average for academic faculty in anesthesiology. The Department provides subspecialty clinical care and anesthesia training programs in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery, pediatrics, intensive care, obstetrics, acute pain, pain management, transplant, undersea and hyperbaric medicine, and neurosurgery.

Dr. Whitten has developed a pain research team of basic scientists and physician-scientists, including faculty with the Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute, the departments of Neuroscience and Psychiatry, and collaborators at UT Dallas who are collectively working to study the fundamental mechanisms of pain and developing novel pain treatments.

Dr. Whitten's research interests include the physiological changes of veno-venous bypass during orthotopic hepatic transplantation; perioperative inflammatory responses; perioperative hemostatic alterations; and economic factors influencing academic anesthesiology. His investigation of perioperative coagulopathies and the effects of aprotinin, desmopressin, and epsilon-aminocaproic

acid has greatly contributed to the field.

Dr. Whitten has been an active member of the Society of Academic Anesthesia Chairs, in which he has held multiple leadership positions, and the Association of University Anesthesiologists.

I am pleased to announce that J. William Harbour, M.D., Chair and Professor of Ophthalmology, will chair the committee that will conduct a national search to identify Dr. Whitten's successor. Other members of the Search Committee are:

- Jeffrey Cadeddu, M.D., Professor of Urology and Radiology
- Corey Kershaw, M.D., Professor of Internal Medicine
- Nisa Kubiliun, M.D., Associate Professor of Internal Medicine
- Barbara Gaines, M.D., Professor of Surgery; Chief, Division of Pediatric Surgery
- Romaine Johnson, M.D., Professor of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, and in the Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health
- Nader Pouratian, M.D., Ph.D., Chair and Professor of Neurological Surgery, and in the Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute
- Todd Roberts, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Neuroscience
- Douglas Sammer, M.D., Professor of Plastic Surgery and Orthopaedic Surgery
- Parsia Vagefi, M.D., Professor of Surgery; Chief, Division of Surgical Transplantation
- Herbert Zeh, M.D., Chair and Professor of Surgery
- Steven Bloom, M.D., Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Career Development (*ex-officio*)

The search will begin shortly. In the meantime, Stephen Kimatian, M.D., Professor of Anesthesiology and Pain Management and Vice Chair for Pediatric Anesthesiology, will serve as Interim Chair of the Department, effective Jan. 14.

We are grateful for Dr. Whitten's wide-ranging contributions and dedication to our institution. In his nearly five decades here, he has laid a strong foundation upon which we will continue to advance anesthesiology clinical care, research, and education at UT Southwestern.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andy". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D.

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Dean, UT Southwestern Medical School