



*The Montlake Cut*

## ***BUT--Some Are Born to Endless Night***

Attentive readers might recall the title of the lead story in the last MONTLAKE CUT introducing our new residents, Brian Hanak and Kelly Collins. My point then was that Kelly and Brian, like most of us who manage to be successful people (through the combination of chance and habit by which William James explained all of life), are among those of whom it can be said, “are born to sweet delight.”

“Auguries of Innocence,” a magnificent poem of clarity and substance by William Blake, begins with long lists of those things that can go well for human beings, counterpointed against those that do not. Blake comes then to this, the center of what he’s trying to show us.

Every night and every morn  
Some to misery are born,  
Every morn and every night  
Some are born to sweet delight.

Some are born to sweet delight,  
Some are born to endless night.

Young people in the early phases of building a career are, of necessity, focused primarily on themselves. While we can see the suffering of others at that point in our lives, we do not feel it very much; real empathy awaits real experience. We have ourselves then been incommoded mostly by those things that we can overcome, such as earning a B+ in differential equations, not an A. Empathy cannot be taught; it requires having suffered at least a little. But, like writing, while it cannot be taught, it can be learned.

Some of learning to be a doctor is to recognize the humanity in the lives of the other: the homeless, the less intelligent, the damaged, the chronically ill, the bothersome. We of sweet delight have little direct experience of those lives suffered by so many of the sick and hopeless people we tend. Even when we are overwhelmed with work, exhaustion, and the demands of the ill, seeking to understand the “endless nights” of others expands our humanity and, in the end, makes us much better doctors.

Technical mastery is only part of it all.

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# *Desperate Situation; Whatda' we do, Dan?*

There was a pretty good turn out when Dan Fouts helped to give combined Neurological Surgery and Orthopedics Grand Rounds; about 300 people showed up to hear what he and Brent Eastman had to say about trauma in the NFL. Rich Ellenbogen and Jens Chapman spoke too, but we get to hear them all the time, and neither of them can throw.

A former All-Pro San Diego Charger quarterback and NFL Hall of Famer, Fouts returned to CBS Sports as an analyst in August 2008. For almost ten years before that, he worked for ABC Sports alongside the legendary broadcaster (and Cougar) Keith Jackson. He was also the play-by-play announcer for ABC's coverage of Pac-10 college football for several years.

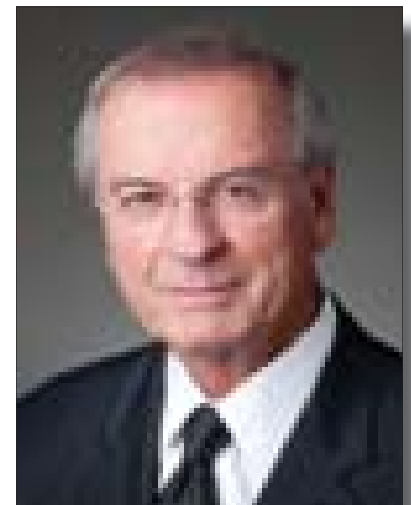


*Dan Fouts, QB*



*And, he can still throw*

Fouts retired from the NFL after 15 seasons with the Chargers, a six-time Pro Bowl selection and many time trauma victim. During the talk, he described his injuries, including a concussion, and identified the perpetrators of the crimes. His years as pilot of the "Air Coryell" offense led to 42 team and 8 NFL records, including most 300-yard passing games. He was NFL and AFC Player of the Year in 1982, and the AFC Most Valuable Player in 1979. Dan Fouts was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1993, after being elected in his first year of eligibility, with all his marbles. He's smart, quick, funny, and knows a lot about trauma.



*Brent Eastman, MD*

Dr. Eastman received his medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco, where he also completed his general surgical residency and served as chief surgical resident. He began his career with Scripps in 1972 in the practice of general, vascular and trauma surgery. He is one of the co-founders of San Diego County's renowned trauma system. Before that system was developed, preventable trauma deaths in the region's hospitals stood at 22 percent. Since the system began in 1984, that percentage has declined to 1 percent. Dr. Eastman has helped develop trauma systems throughout the U.S., England, Australia, Brazil, Argentina, Canada, Mexico, South Africa, India and Pakistan. He can't throw, either.

## *Massin/WSANS Meeting*

On July 13 through 15, the combined meeting of the WSANS and the MASSIN Society was held at the W Hotel in downtown Seattle. The host, Professor Laligam Sekhar, was then just completing his tenure as the President of the State Society as well as Chair of the MASSIN Congress. The neurosurgical community is well aware that Dr. Sekhar is one of our master surgical technicians, but he recently also completed his certification as an interventional neuroradiologist. Now, he can get anywhere inside or outside the blood vessels of the nervous system. Congratulations Sek!

More than 100 neurosurgeons (including 54 International colleagues from 13 different countries, and 51 WSANS members) attended the meeting, which featured a keynote address by Madjid Samii, MD, PhD titled "Optimal Education for Young Neurosurgeons." After the welcoming reception, John Loeser, Emeritus Professor of Neurological Surgery at UW, gave a talk on the history of our discipline in the State of Washington with his usual splendid erudition.

The first day of the conference focused on skull base surgery and tumors, and the second on cerebrovascular and functional surgery, as well as imaging and spine surgery. Local participants had the rare opportunity to meet and exchange information with neurosurgeons from around the world.

The success of the event was insured by the heroic effort of the departmental staff, especially Rosalie Thorpe and Jana Pettit. Organizing an international conference is fraught with misjudgment, misunderstanding, and missed connections. When I was a fellow at NIH 40 years ago, my lab chief (who believed that it was OK to smoke while pipetting many open bottles of volatile solvents) sponsored an international conference on the GLC/mass spec of anticonvulsants. Because I was the lab junior, I was required to help make the arrangements. That was the hardest of my jobs during the two years of my fellowship, aside from preventing Harvey from blowing us all up. [Ed.]

## *Hike to the Heavens - Year 3*

For those of us who remember our attendings only in coats and ties or scrubs (and Art Ward seldom seen not wearing a suit), tee shirts, hiking boots, and shorts on a mountaintop might seem staggeringly informal. Nonetheless, Assistant Professor Louis Kim has again organized an outing for faculty, staff and residents aimed at fun and camaraderie.

***NEWS FLASH...*** On July third, our former residents Leila Khorasani and Patrik Gabikian (both now at the University of Chicago), were married in Pacific Palisades, California.

Congratulations to them both.



# *UW System Welcomes Our New Colleagues at Valley Medical Center*

*UW Medicine, Valley Medical Center Form Strategic Alliance*

The chief executive officers of UW Medicine and Valley Medical Center (VMC) have announced the formation of a strategic alliance in which Valley Medical Center, Public Hospital District #1 of King County, will join UW Medicine effective July 1, 2011. The creation of this alliance follows several months of in-depth due diligence, discussion with respective boards, communication with key stakeholders, and preparation of a strategic alliance agreement, which was approved by the governing boards of both organizations.



*Valley Medical Center*

“This strategic alliance provides exciting opportunities to combine efforts on important initiatives that will benefit patients and the community,” said Dr. Paul Ramsey, CEO of UW Medicine and Dean of the School of Medicine. “UW Medicine and Valley Medical Center share a commitment to providing outstanding clinical care with an emphasis on patient safety and service. This alliance will further support our mission to improve the health of the public and enhance our ability to provide national leadership for healthcare reform.”

Rich Roodman, the CEO at VMC, said, “In my 28 years at Valley Medical Center, the work of the President’s Advisory Council in guiding us toward a strategic alliance with UW Medicine is the most significant and visionary accomplishment that has been made on behalf of our community because it will help facilitate the most comprehensive clinical care available for the people in our community.” The possibilities [made available] from aligning with a world-class organization of this caliber are endless, and well deserved by the people of South King County. I applaud the Valley Board of Commissioners, the UW Medicine Board of Trustees and the UW Board of Regents for their decisions to proceed.”

All of us in the Department of Neurological Surgery are delighted to be formally associated with these new colleagues, and look forward to a long, collegial, and mutually beneficial relationship for our patients and institutions.

## *NEUROSURGERY, NEUROLOGY, EPILEPSY AND PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY @VMC*

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Pager</i>	<i>Cell Phone</i>
<i>Neurological Surgery</i>	Peter Balousek, MD	peter_balousek@valleymed.org	(206) 982-7383	(206) 409-1171
	David Lundin, MD	david_lundin@mac.com	(206) 979-0677	(206) 588-1722
<i>Neurology</i>	Yahua Yu, MD	yahua_yu@valleymed.org	(206) 469-4880	(206) 383-4221
	Joy Zhao, MD	joy_zhao@valleymed.org	(206) 969-1907	(206) 708-9981
<i>Epilepsy Center &amp; Headache Clinic</i>	David Vossler, MD	david_vossler@valleymed.org	(206) 469-0455	(425) 890-0685
	Mark Piker, MD	mark_piker@valleymed.org	(206) 469-0455	(425) 830-2011
<i>Pediatric Neurology</i>	Don Thai, MD	don_thai@valleymed.org	(206) 998-8424	(425) 647-5972
	Kevin Joseph, DO	kevin_joseph@valleymed.org	(206) 993-1058	(443) 722-2878

## *Skull Base Course*

We had our second annual Stryker-sponsored cadaveric skull base anatomy course over the summer, held in the ISIS lab.

This twelve-hour course focused on the anterior and middle fossa, and featured a combination of didactic lectures and cadaveric dissections.

These courses are an invaluable educational opportunity for our residents.



*Everyone gets a turn...*



*...Even the Boss...*



*...And the juniors*

## *New Pediatric Neurosurgery Attending*

When Assistant Professor Amy Lee was a little girl in Seoul, Korea, it is unlikely that she thought much about St. Louis or Seattle. After majoring in finance on a volleyball scholarship at the College of William and Mary, she gave up dollars and spiking the ball to attend medical school at the University of Texas. Dr. Lee trained in neurosurgery at Washington University, and was a fellow in pediatric neurosurgery at St. Louis Children's Hospital. She joins Drs. Ellenbogen, Jeff Ojemann, and Browd as the fourth neurosurgical attending at Seattle Children's Hospital. Her surgical interests are craniofacial abnormalities, spinal dysraphism, and brain tumors.

*Email address:* [Amy.Lee@seattlechildrens.org](mailto:Amy.Lee@seattlechildrens.org)

*Pager:* (206) 469-0511



*Amy Lee, M.D.*



*Lucy at 2 months*

## **BIRTHS**

There is still too much estrogen in the drinking water!

Ryan Morton and his wife provided the department with yet another girl baby, Lucy Madeline, on Thursday, July 7.

But wait, there is more. Trent Tredway and his wife are rumored to have produced a boy!

## **Puzzler:**

Even while acknowledging that he's been declared ineligible for the 75 million dollar grand prize, Minku Chowdhary did again submit one of the correct answers for the last Puzzler: Sigmund Freud introduced the use of gold chloride to stain nerve tissues and then published three important papers describing the structure and function of the medulla and the connections between the posterior columns of the spinal cord, the acoustic nerve, and the cerebellum.

Art Lam, focusing on the more clinically experimental, also correctly answered that the father of psychoanalysis identified the anesthetic properties of cocaine. Freud said of that adventure, "the study on coca was an allotrion [an idle pursuit that distracts from serious responsibilities, Ed.] which I was eager to conclude." The idle pursuit, however, turned out to cause him (and others, including William Halsted) some significant difficulties.

## **New Puzzler:**

**These are going to get a lot harder now...**

Who was Jack Peters and what was his major contribution to medicine? He also had to overcome a serious problem in his career. What was it?

*[Minku: this is un-Googleable. Ed]*

I remain anxious to publish stories, photos, and ideas about what all of us do in caring for sick people. Please let me know the memories of your time here, what you are up to now, and ways in which you think we might find further common ground. Please contact us at the email addresses

**Editor:** Richard Rapport  
rappor@uw.edu

**Associate Editors:** James Pridgeon  
pridgeon@uw.edu  
Mary Gilbert  
mmg@uw.edu