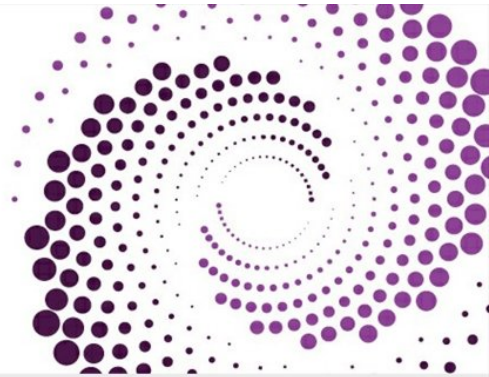


August 2022

UPMC

LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE

Department of
Critical Care Medicine



In Partnership with University of Pittsburgh



A Message from Our Vice Chair for Education

Dear Critical Care Medicine alumni,

It's hello and goodbye time. We recently welcomed 27 Adult and Pediatric fellows, who begin one-, two- and three-year fellowships on their journeys to become critical care attendings. A few weeks earlier, we had a great farewell to the Class of 2022 and toasted their success with our first integrated in-person graduation celebration in two years.

Life is slowly returning to a new normal, yet the pandemic's latest variants still have the heft to disrupt our work lives, as alumnus Tor Tønnessen can attest. He's had to cover double duty in the ICU in Oslo, Norway, while the very infectious Omicron BA.5 hits his colleagues. We profile Tor in this issue.

We also profile two of our recent graduates, whose career paths highlight the myriad directions possible after an MCCTP fellowship. Other features include our adult and pediatric Critical Illness Recovery Centers and the modern-day version of the Freedom House ambulance service that was launched in the 1960s by Peter Safar.

As always, I look forward to hearing the direction critical care medicine is taking you.

Best wishes,

[Lori Shutter](#), MD, FNCS, FCCM
Vice Chair for Education



L to R: Mitchell J. Brown, Emily Lovallo, MD, Phil Hallen, and John Moon; Inset: Peter Safar, MD training Freedom House paramedics

Unemployed to Trained EMTs

Peter Safar would have loved to know that two of his earliest Freedom House paramedic trainees from the 1960s—Mitchell Brown and John Moon—spoke at the 19th Annual Safar Symposium in May 2022. "We were unemployable Black men from the Hill District. We were given a chance by Dr. Safar," remembered John Moon. The Freedom House ambulance service was the first in the country to be staffed by trained EMTs and become a national model for the nascent field of ambulance services. Freedom House 2.0 is a 21st century iteration of the Safar paramedic training being facilitated by UPMC.

[Read More About FH2.0 and the Safar Symposium](#)



Alumnus Profile: Tor Inge Tønnessen
Professor and Senior Physician,
Oslo University Hospital Rikshospitalet

"The clinical training as a CCM Fellow in Pittsburgh and the continued connection

with Pittsburgh afterwards have had a major impact on my medical career," said [Tor Tønnessen](#) (CCM '92), who maintains strong research contacts with former Pittsburgh colleagues. Tor is head of the Research Group for Experimental and Clinical Studies in Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine and head of the Biosensor Research Group at Rikshospitalet and the University of Oslo. He is the inventor of IscAlert, an implantable biosensor that provides continuous and real time detection of tissue ischemia. The sensor is in clinical trials in Norway.

Outside of research and clinical work, Tor loves music and theater and has written and been an actor in many shows and cabarets that have played in Oslo theaters. His medical mini-musical *Daily There's a New Exam to Pass* was performed live at the Scandinavian Society of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine (SSAI) Congress in Oslo this year. And like many Norwegians, Tor is an avid cross-country and slalom skier.

1950s Scandinavia: Foundation of Modern Intensive Care Medicine

As congress president for SSAI, Tor Tønnessen presided over the 2022 SSAI Congress "Monitoring Life" held in Oslo in June. Michael Pinsky, MD, from Pittsburgh was one of 130 lecturers from 15 countries. His presentation "European export of intensive care medicine to USA: The history of Society of Critical Care Medicine" drew the attention of an Oslo journalist.

[Read The Translated Article](#)

Class of 2022 by the Numbers

- 20** Adult fellows graduated
- 7** Pediatric fellows graduated
- 16** Faculty positions across U.S.
- 6** Undertaking a second fellowship at UPMC
- 3** Faculty positions at UPMC
- 2** Profiles of newly graduated intensivists (*see below*)



Jason Brotherton, MD

Internal Medicine-Critical Care Medicine Fellow '22
Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Arizona

The University of Arizona sounds like a good fit for your skills and background. what appealed the most?

The most appealing aspect is the opportunity to communicate my experiences and failures working in global health through lectures, cases, and journal clubs. I also look forward to providing mentorship for future global health workers.

How did you become an NIH consultant for global critical care?

Over the years, I have been fortunate to be around and mentored by many brilliant clinicians working in resource-variable contexts. These relationships have allowed me to absorb much of their wisdom. Coupled with my on-the-ground experience in Africa, this has positioned me to be a part of the new Global Critical Care Medicine Department at the NIH.

Michael Certo, MD, MM

Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Fellow '22
Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellow, UPMC

You've just finished one fellowship and started another. How come?

The PCCM fellowship helped me realize how important it is to have physicians who live at the intersection of critical care and palliative care. I want to practice at that juncture, with patients and families who are confronting the end of life and very difficult conversations and choices.

Do you see your future in pediatric critical care of palliative medicine?

My goal is to practice both with an academic focus in bioethics. For me, all three areas are intrinsically linked: within some extremely complicated clinical situations, they all seek the right thing, for the right patient, at the right time. They produce a level of professional and personal meaning and fulfillment found in few places.





Critical Illness Recovery: Two Centers

Ericka Fink, MD, MS (CCM '05), and Brad Butcher, MD, each direct a Critical Illness Recovery Center for children and adults, respectively. Their work focuses on a Post Intensive Care Syndrome (PICS): the vast array of health problems associated with a long ICU stay, from cognitive or brain dysfunction and muscle or bone weakness to balance issues and changes in memory, thoughts, feelings, or sleep patterns.

[Watch: Early rehab for acute brain injury children](#)

[Read More About Critical Illness Recovery Centers](#)

Quick News

- The Neurocritical Care fellowship is one of five programs nationally to be [first to receive ACGME accreditation](#).
- Children's Neuroscience Institute receives [\\$1 million gift](#) from Alba Tull
- [Melinda Hamilton](#) (CCM '03) graduates from ELAM Leadership Program

Tell Us What You Think

Please [click here](#) to provide us with your feedback and suggestions. Thank you in advance for your time and insight.

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