

June 20, 2022



# CTS INSPIRATIONS

## CTS NEWS

### President's Message

With CTS and ATS conferences behind us, I am very much looking forward to the warm weather and many sun-filled days ahead! Summer is my favorite season for many reasons: time to recharge with family, friends, and vacation. I especially enjoy the lingering sunlight hours late into the evening, and although the number of hours in a day have not changed, it feels as though I get a few additional hours per day! I am sure that many of you have plans for gatherings and travel, I encourage you to stay safe and practice good hygiene as COVID-19 continues to surround our lives. I wish you all a wonderful and safe summer!



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Cao". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michelle Cao, DO  
Stanford University

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Drs. Casaburi and Soo Hoo's eloquent memoriams celebrating Paul Selecky and Brian Tiep remind us that it is possible to lead with humility and grace, that truly great leaders inspire those around them to be not just good, but *better*. It is important for all of us to know upon whose shoulders we stand. Important for us to remember so that we may shine their light forward.

## PAUL SELECKY OBITUARY

*By: Richard Casaburi, PhD, MD  
Rehabilitation Clinical Trials Center—Professor of Medicine  
Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center*

Another giant is gone. Paul Anthony Selecky, MD, of Huntington Beach, California, passed away on March 20, 2022.

Paul was born in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania on November 1, 1938, the second eldest of seven children. He attended undergraduate and medical school at the University of Pennsylvania, earning his medical degree in 1964. He completed his internship in the U.S. Navy and continued his naval duties in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii until 1968. He then migrated to southern California, where he would spend the rest of his life. Dr. Selecky completed his Internal Medicine residency and Pulmonary Medicine fellowship at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in 1973, working under Karlman Wasserman. He joined the faculty at Harbor-UCLA and remained until he joined the medical staff at Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian in Newport Beach in January 1980.

During his thirty-six years at Hoag, Dr. Selecky served as Medical Director of Pulmonary Medicine, Medical Director of the Sleep Center, and Medical Director of Continuing Medical Education. He also served as Chair of the Division of Pulmonary Medicine, Chair of the Critical Care Committee, Chair of the Healthcare Ethics Committee, and Chair of the Infection Prevention Committee. Paul was an active volunteer for many professional organizations, including the American Sleep Disorders Association, the American Association of Respiratory Care, the American Lung Association, and the National Association for Medical Direction of Respiratory Care. He served as President of the California Thoracic Society from 1982 to 1983. He was a founding member of the California Sleep Society and started the annual Hoag Sleep Conference in 2000. In 1993, he received the Pottenger Award from the American Lung Association of California for his outstanding volunteer service in the prevention and control of lung diseases, and he received the ALA's Volunteer Leadership Award in 1997. He was a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and a Fellow of the American Association of Respiratory Care. He was a Clinical Professor of Medicine at UCLA. He retired from practice in 2016 and became a member of the Honorary medical staff of Hoag.



In his personal life, Paul met his future wife, Andrea Novak, while they were in high school. They married in 1962, while Paul was in medical school and Andrea as a newly registered nurse. They started their family soon thereafter, with five children born between the years 1963 to 1972. When not at work, Paul was a very devoted family man. He also was a man of faith and was always deeply involved in his church. A funeral mass was held at St. Bonaventure Church on April 9, 2022. Friends of Paul interested in learning the depth of his commitment to faith and family might be interested in viewing the recording of the mass at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWZDwPp-zHM>

I especially recommend the eloquent, heartfelt and moving eulogy presented by his son Mark (himself a physician) starting at minute 58 of the recording.

Paul is survived by his wife of 60 years, Andrea, five children, 20 grandchildren, a great grandson, and five siblings.

Much of the above, I've abstracted from obituaries presented elsewhere, but I'd like to add a few personal notes. Paul was an immensely respected physician. When the American Thoracic Society decided to initiate an annual "Outstanding Clinician Award", Paul was the first awardee. When I first developed an interest in Pulmonary Rehabilitation in the 1980s, Paul, who had developed an innovative program at Hoag Memorial, was the first person I approached. When Tom Petty and I edited a text on Pulmonary Rehabilitation in the early 1990s, Paul wrote the chapter "Sexuality and the Patient with Lung Disease". Only Paul could address this issue with such grace and sensitivity. I've not seen a better treatise on this subject in the years since.

## BRIAN TIEP OBITUARY

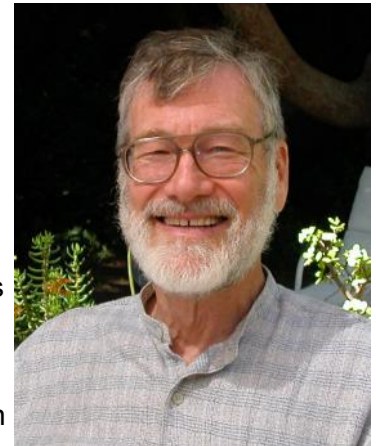
By: *Richard Casaburi, PhD, MD*  
*Rehabilitation Clinical Trials Center—Professor of Medicine*  
*Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical center*  
*and*  
*Guy Soo Hoo, MD*  
*Pulmonologist*  
*Los Angeles, CA*

Our community and the California Thoracic Society has lost one of its shining lights. Brian L. Tiep, MD passed away unexpectedly on April 30, 2022, just a week after celebrating his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday and still active in his work at City of Hope.

He was one of the few people who can claim Los Angeles as his birthplace. He had several California ties including undergraduate education at UC Berkeley, residency training at the Sepulveda VA, and pulmonary fellowship training at the City of Hope.

He dedicated his life to the care to patients with pulmonary diseases and, in particular, COPD. He was especially active in smoking cessation and pulmonary rehabilitation. He was an original proponent of pulmonary rehabilitation, serving as the Medical Director of pulmonary rehabilitation at Casa Colina Hospital and, at the time of his death, at the City of Hope. He has been a member of numerous committees and organizations involved with pulmonary rehabilitation and has been on the Board of Directors of the Pulmonary Education and Research Foundation almost since its founding in the 1980s. He spoke widely and frequently on his work and was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly of the American Thoracic Society in 2020.

Many of us knew him in professional circles, but others will attest to achievements as an inventor and innovator. He had a passion for applied physiology, biomedical engineering, and biofeedback. He had an extensive list of inventions and patents. Many would say that he invented the core technologies for oxygen conservation, including the Oxymer® pendant and pulse dose devices. He also invented numerous feedback devices and transducers, an electronic peak flow meter, an oximeter ear sensor, a high flow nasal oxygen cannula, and non-medical devices such as an auto inflatable survival raft and music stand extension device. He also reveled in creating whimsical medical animation for his lectures, with training from the American Film Institute.



He was an extraordinary musician, proficient in banjo and violin with tutelage in advanced violin under Mischa Lefkowitz of the LA Philharmonic. Brian and his daughter often played for the attendees of medical and patient meetings. He displayed his skills at local restaurants on weekends, joyfully playing the requests of patrons.

Brian was the most humble, kind and caring of souls. He seemed to have a perpetual twinkle in his eye and during conversations could always be counted on for a delightful (or occasionally painful) pun or two. He leaves behind his wife Patricia (of 53 years) and his daughter Rebecca, who often joined him on his musical outings. He will be greatly missed.

## Meet Brooks Kuhn, MD, MAS CTS Treasurer



**Brooks Kuhn, MD, MAS**

*CTS Treasurer*

*Assistant Professor, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine*

*Co-Director, UCD Comprehensive COPD Clinic*

*Medical Director of the Department of Respiratory Care*

*University of California, Davis*

### **What's your story?**

When I was young, my mother started a non-profit called Roots of Peace that aims to remove landmines and promote farmers to cultivate the once fallow land. The business started as a family affair, with me and my siblings staffing fundraisers and mailing invitations, but grew into a multinational NGO and the largest development group in Afghanistan. My father left a career in Silicon Valley to join my mother to help make Roots of Peace and now all my three siblings take part truly making it a family business.

While wanting to find my own path, this upbringing impressed upon me the importance of service to others, especially the underserved. Medicine--coupled with my proclivity for the sciences--offered a chance for me to serve in my own way.

### **What are you passionate about? What in your life currently makes you feel the most fulfilled?**

My family. I met my wife Uppinder during residency and now we are the fortunate parents of three children: a soccer fanatic 7-year old boy, a strong and artistic 4-year-old girl, and a 2-month-old daughter. I am passionate about the care of patients, especially those with Alpha-1 Antitrypsin deficiency and COPD, but my family is my source of strength.

With the incredible stress we all have managed these past trying years, I have made a concerted effort to focus on what is in my power: the patients under my care, the processes and institutions I have a voice to change, and my family. This has helped me feel more fulfilled and to turn my anxiety about world politics, social inequity, and the pandemic into action.

### **How would you describe yourself?**

The hardest question for sure. Perhaps I answer with what I aspire to be: thoughtful. Thoughtful in my approach to patient care by being mindful of my biases and learning ways I can better help

serve my community. Thoughtful in how I interact with those I work with to assure their voices are heard and they feel part of the team. Thoughtful about the barriers others around me of different genders, sexual orientations, and ethnicities face in medicine. I don't have the answers to many of the problems I face, but I am ready to learn from others and change my approach accordingly.

**Have you read any good books?**

I just finished reading Andy Weir's latest book "Project Hail Mary." I appreciate his attention to scientific and narrative detail. With the challenges of the past few years, I have found myself reading a lot of science fiction novels. Sometimes it helps to go to a different planet to unwind.

**What's a story of yours that you don't get to tell often enough?**

My wife, Uppinder's, story is worthy to tell. Her parents had three daughters in rural Punjab with little opportunity for them to pursue education and careers. They moved to the United States, leaving behind family and jobs, to move to California. Her parents worked multiple challenging jobs to provide for them. Her father retired a school principal and his three daughters all were able to achieve advanced degrees: MBA, JD, MD. I love sharing the story of their path as immigrants to become foundational members of our state. My wife and I reflect how amazing our marriage is. Who would have guessed a boy whose family has lived in the north bay area for 6 generations would grow to marry a woman from a small village in Punjab.



## CSRC Legislative Day Promoting Senate Bill 962

By Krystal Craddock MSRC, RRT, RRT-NPS, AE-C, CCM

Every year, the CSRC meets with members of Congress to share the respiratory care profession and bring awareness to legislation that may impact our profession. This year we met virtually and brought attention to senate bill (SB) 962, which was sponsored by the CSRC and written by Senator Brian W. Jones. SB 962 would allow Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCP's) who met the College of American Pathologists (CAP) standards to be medical directors and technical consultants in moderate complexity labs (i.e. blood gas labs).<sup>1</sup> According to CAP, a medical director of a moderate complexity lab is defined as a physician or a PhD with a license to practice respiratory care.<sup>2</sup> They also allow RCP's with bachelorette degrees to be the technical consultants in these types of labs.



The greatest impact SB 962 would have on the respiratory care profession is by permitting RCP's to be technical consultants in their blood gas laboratory. Currently, in 11 states including California, require laboratory personnel or Clinical Lab Scientists (CLS's) or physicians to perform technical consulting responsibilities.<sup>1</sup> Some of the responsibilities of a technical consultant includes completing competencies annually and biannually, performing audits in preparation for credentialing visits, and managing continuous quality improvement and control.<sup>2</sup> All of these important responsibilities are necessary for laboratory licensing and are duties that the RCP team members in the laboratory are already familiar with. All states at a minimum must follow Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) standards under CMS, which do not require that a technical consultant be a CLS or physician in a blood gas lab.<sup>1</sup>

The CSRC has engaged the CLS's of California in regard to this bill. There are approximately 28,500 CLS's in California, with a projected job growth of an additional 8,000 by 2028.<sup>3</sup> Many of these scientists work in high complexity labs and there has been a higher need of these necessary clinicians with the appearance of COVID. This proposed bill would help alleviate the burden on CLS's during the time of a workforce shortage that has been seen in this field across the state. This bill requires a majority vote and resides in the senate appropriations committee.<sup>1</sup> The passing of this bill would provide an avenue to allow interdisciplinary collaboration providing support and layering to assure labs continue to run safely and up to the national CLIA standards.

### References

1. SB-962 Healing arts: clinical laboratory technology: moderate-complexity laboratories. <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov>. Published April 5, 2022. Accessed May 10, 2022. [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220SB962](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB962)
2. Current CAP Guidelines. Cap.org. Published 2020. Accessed on May 10, 2022. <https://www.cap.org/protocols-and-guidelines/current-cap-guidelines>.
3. Long term occupational projections. Projectionscentral.org. Published 2021. Accessed May 10, 2022. [https://projectionscentral.org/Projections/LongTerm?AreaName=&AreaNameSelect%5B%5D=7&Name=lab&NameSelect%5B%5D=119&items\\_per\\_page=10](https://projectionscentral.org/Projections/LongTerm?AreaName=&AreaNameSelect%5B%5D=7&Name=lab&NameSelect%5B%5D=119&items_per_page=10).

## Southwest Journal of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Volume 24 Issues 2 - 4

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<a href="#">April 2022 Medical Image of the Month: COVID Pericarditis</a>	Imaging	Youkhana S	2022	24	4	62-63	4/2/22
<a href="#">April 2022 Critical Care Case of the Month: Bullous Skin Lesions in the ICU</a>	Critical Care	Wat M	2022	24	4	57-61	4/1/22
<a href="#">Deciding the Future of Healthcare Leadership: A Call for Undergraduate and Graduate Healthcare Administration Education</a>	Editorials	Robbins RA	2022	24	3	55-56	3/28/22
<a href="#">Leadership in Action: A Student-Run Designated Emphasis in Healthcare Leadership</a>	Critical Care	Hamity M	2022	24	3	46-54	3/25/22
<a href="#">Time for a Change in Hospital Governance</a>	Editorials	Robbins RA	2022	24	3	43-5	3/17/22
<a href="#">March 2022 Medical Image of the Month: Pulmonary Nodules in the Setting of Diffuse Idiopathic Pulmonary NeuroEndocrine Cell Hyperplasia (DIPNECH)</a>	Imaging	Jokerst C	2022	24	3	40-42	3/2/22
<a href="#">March 2022 Pulmonary Case of the Month: A Sore Back Leading to Sore Lungs</a>	Pulmonary	Wesselius LJ	2022	24	3	36-39	3/1/22
<a href="#">MSSA Pericarditis in a Patient with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Flare</a>	Critical Care	Anis A	2022	24	2	32-35	2/24/22
<a href="#">Diagnostic Challenges of Acute Eosinophilic Pneumonia Post Naltrexone Injection Presenting During The COVID-19 Pandemic</a>	Pulmonary	Breuer M	2022	24	2	26-31	2/14/22
<a href="#">February 2022 Medical Image of the Month: Multifocal Micronodular Pneumocyte Hyperplasia in the Setting of Tuberous Sclerosis</a>	Imaging	Jokerst C	2022	24	2	23-5	2/2/22
<a href="#">February 2022 Imaging Case of the Month: Between A Rock and a Hard Place</a>	Imaging	Gotway MB	2022	24	2	14-22	2/1/22

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