



SURVIVAL FLIGHT — MORE TO SAY

There is much more that could be said about the history and evolution of Survival Flight (“Saving Lives in the Sky,” fall 2010). I write to call attention to one more unique and important aspect of Survival Flight operations, and that is the weekly Tuesday morning conference (“grand rounds”) at which flights are discussed, issues raised, problems solved, and all participants learn from one another. This set the tone for Survival Flight to be a learning organization. Credit for this goes to the late James R. Mackenzie, M.D., who was the surgeon and first director of the Emergency Service (now Department of Emergency Medicine) who was instrumental in getting the program off the ground in 1983.

*Richard E. Burney, M.D.
Professor of Surgery, U-M Medical School*

My beloved niece was one of the H1N1 cases mentioned in the article. She died two weeks later, but I know that the team did everything they could to try to make a

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and may be edited for clarity or length.*

difference in her chance to survive.

When I hear the “chopper” go over my house, I always send a mental “thank you for all you do” to ride along with them.

*Charlotte J. Wyche
Cbelsea, Michigan*

I work with the Survival Flight team when they provide transport for us during organ recovery cases. The pilots, nurses and dispatch personnel in Survival Flight all do a great job!

*Larry Slate
Transplant Donation Specialist
U-M Transplant Center*

REASON TO CELEBRATE

We are celebrating our 29th year of cancer survivorship courtesy of the University of Michigan! Gene now volunteers as part of colon cancer prevention research (nutrition) at the University of California, Irvine, and we also volunteer with medical students.

We, too, prefer the print edition of *Medicine at Michigan* — an A+ publication! Keep up the good work!
*Gene and Bea Anderson
Anabeim, California*

CONDOLENCES AND GRATITUDE

I read with sadness in the fall 2010 issue about the passing of Dr. William Oliver, chair of pediatrics during my regular pediatric rotation as an M3 in 1977, and during my chosen pediatrics sub-internship as an M4. During my M3 rotation, I was put on the hot seat twice as “difficult case presenter” for Dr. Oliver — I led Saturday morning peds grand

rounds sessions. These experiences proved to be far less nerve-racking and more rewarding than I had anticipated.

About 6-8 years ago, I spotted a familiar face among physicians at a pediatric grand rounds lecture at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in San Jose, California. (I’ve been a pediatrician in the South Bay/San Jose area since 1982.) The familiar face was that of Dr. Oliver. After many years, he still maintained the energy and interest to assist SCVMC peds residents as a visiting scholar. My condolences go out to his family.

In this same issue, I read the brief story about Dr. Josip Matovinovic. As medical students, each of us was asked to select a faculty member to be our personal advisor. Having heard Dr. M in clinical medicine lectures, I asked him if he would be my advisor. He readily assented. Some weeks later, I and several of his other “advisees” were invited to dinner at his home. This was a wonderful surprise and change from our daily routines. We enjoyed a delicious home-cooked meal, and Mrs. (Natalie) Matovinovic was a warm and welcoming host. Some 33-and-a-half years belatedly, I’d like to thank Mrs. M for her graciousness, and for welcoming us into her home.

*Hanley J. Yoffee (M.D. 1978)
San Jose, California*

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