



2017 Lewis H. Wright Memorial Lecture

# Kathryn E. McGoldrick, M.D., F.C.A.I. (Hon) *to present* 'Airway Management Throughout the Ages'

Susan A. Vassallo, M.D., Chair  
*Lewis H. Wright Memorial Lecture Committee*  
*Past-President, Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology*

The Lewis H. Wright Memorial Lecture is sponsored annually by the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology (WLM) and honors the lecture's namesake, who was a pioneer in American anesthesiology. This year's distinguished presenter is Kathryn E. McGoldrick, M.D., Professor and Chairman Emerita, Department of Anesthesiology, New York Medical College, and current member of the Clinical Learning Environment Review (CLER), Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

Dr. McGoldrick received a B.M.S. degree from Dartmouth College and her medical degree from Cornell University Medical College. She completed her residency in anesthesiology at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital – now the Brigham and Women's Hospital – and then undertook subspecialty training in pediatric anesthesia at The Children's Hospital, Boston. Dr. McGoldrick completed the Yale Management Program for Physicians at the Yale University School of Medicine. She has held hospital appointments at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Boston; Yale-New Haven Hospital, where she was Professor of Anesthesiology and Medical Director of Ambulatory Surgery; and Westchester Medical Center, Valhalla, New York, where she was Director of Anesthesiology and Vice-President of the Medical Staff. She is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha and the New York Academy of Medicine.



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Dr. McGoldrick's other professional activities have included volunteer anesthesiologist positions with Project Hope and with the ASA Overseas Teaching Program in Tanzania; WLM Trustee (1994-2004) and President (2001-2004); President of the Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists (1998-2000); Editor-in-Chief of *Survey of Anesthesiology* (1995-2016); Board of Directors, Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (2005-2013); and President, Academy of Anesthesiology (2010-2011). She has served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Clinical Anesthesia* (1999-2009) and *Current Reviews in Clinical Anesthesia* (from 2010 and currently). Dr. McGoldrick has been an ad hoc reviewer for *Anesthesiology*, *Anesthesia & Analgesia* and *Ophthalmic Surgery and Lasers*. She was the recipient of the 2017 WLM Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. McGoldrick is a legendary and prolific writer. She has authored or edited 17 books, written 87 book chapters and 1,399 editorial commentaries and was awarded four prizes from the ASA for her poetry and literary essays (2006-2009). In 2012, Dr. McGoldrick co-edited *The Heritage of Anesthesia: Patrick Sim's Annotated Bibliography of the Rare Book Collection of the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology*. Patrick Sim, M.L.I.S., the Paul M. Wood Distinguished Librarian of the WLM, conceived of this book, which emphasizes the significance of each rare book in a narrative format. It serves as a comprehensive summary of the WLM treasures from the history of anesthesiology.

Despite her clinical, editorial and administrative accomplishments, Dr. McGoldrick considers herself first and foremost to be an educator. It was her passion for educating future physicians that resulted in her joining the ACGME in August 2016, focusing on the clinical learning environment. Kathryn had become concerned about the increasing rates of depression, burnout and self-harm among residents and wanted to explore potential contributors to these maladies in order to better inform effective interventions. She was alarmed that suicide accounts for 26 percent of deaths for physicians aged 25 to 39 years, as contrasted with 11 percent of similarly aged non-physicians. She believes the current situation blames the victim, suggesting a personal failure of resourcefulness and resilience, rather than addressing the toxicities in the broken, business-oriented, profit-driven health care system. Dr. McGoldrick is worried that the tension between one's core values and the current circumstances of care delivery is causing a moral crisis in some physicians. She hopes for a more compassionate clinical

environment that will promote better work-life integration and provide increased access to psychological support for beleaguered physicians, believing that a systems-level approach might enable physicians to seek needed help without fear of stigmatization or professional repercussions.

In the 2018 Lewis H. Wright Memorial Lecture titled "Airway Management Throughout the Ages," Dr. McGoldrick will highlight sentinel discoveries, procedures and publications critical to the development of airway expertise. She will trace the role of tracheotomy from antiquity to the present. We know that tracheotomies were performed in the 1600s for the treatment of diphtheria. Reeds, quills, feathers and metal cannulae preceded the smooth flexible tapered tubes of today. She will discuss the primitive approaches to airway management that characterized the 60-year period from the 1840s to the early 20th century. Dr. McGoldrick will reference Dr. Crawford W. Long's altruistic and innovative use of ether in 1842 and Dr. William T.G. Morton's public demonstration of inhaled sulphuric ether in the Bulfinch Building of the Massachusetts General Hospital (1846). Dr. Joseph Clover (1825-1882) described maneuvers such as the chin lift, jaw thrust and application of pincers to the tongue. In the 1890s, Sir William Hewitt (1857-1916), an anesthetist, published "Summary of the Causes of Airway Obstruction." In the early 20th century, Dr. Chevalier Jackson (1865-1958), an American surgeon, performed a tracheotomy at the second and third tracheal rings.

Dr. McGoldrick will mention Dr. Magill's introduction of his forceps to aid nasotracheal intubation and Dr. Macintosh's curved laryngoscopy blade. The role of serendipity is emphasized, as both Magill and Macintosh were anesthetists by chance. We will recall again the contributions of Dr. Arthur Guedel, Dr. Noel Gillespie and Dr. Archie Brain. Dr. McGoldrick will describe the combination of events, influences and individuals that enabled anesthesiology to progress from a craft and trade to a profession characterized by expertise in airway management.

On behalf of the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, we thank Dr. McGoldrick for her commitment to clinical anesthesia, academic medicine and scholarly research. With this year's Lewis H. Wright Memorial Lecture, the audience will be reminded of the wonderful accomplishments in airway management that brought our specialty recognition and respect.