



459 Chandlee Drive
Berwyn, PA 19312
16 May 2011

Dear Dr. von Stade, AKA Leelee,

On 1.31.11 when I fell on an icy grate going into the Silvertree Conference Center for my anesthesia meeting, I did not anticipate the adventure about to unfold. While Dr. Purnell and Rachel provided the diagnosis of a fractured olecranon and my primary care in the AVH emergency room, I was put on your OR schedule the next day, 2.1.11. As a healthcare provider it is always unsettling to find ourselves needing any surgical care, but to be in unfamiliar surroundings and needing to have surgery was more than a bit than I anticipated. I will admit to googling you when I returned to my hotel room from the ER, and thought you had to have "ortho game": double Ivy education and withstood the "Good Ole Boy Jock" environment of Parkland. My evaluation was spot on. Your warm and professional demeanor was reassuring and reinforced my confident in your abilities. The range of motion I have thus far achieved is an added testament.

I have been in PT since late February and will continue since I still have more I want to accomplish. My range of motion is progressing very well and my primary PT keeps saying "sweet repair" as he takes my arm through it's paces. I am working very hard to rebuild strength to the reluctant triceps and I often have these late night "talks" as to why they should cooperate and not keep me awake. I am determined to get the max results and realize I need to walk through the pig pen to get the green pastures. Not much of a surprise to find I am a bit impatient. I returned to my work as a nurse anesthetist starting at the end of March; part-time for 3 weeks and then to full time days and in May, back to the call schedule. I have been fortunate to have great co-workers who have been so supportive during this ordeal.

While I still have strength and endurance work ahead of me, I was finally able to manage a rolling pin and my cookie cutters. Although it took several days for me to produce them, they are a very small token of my deep appreciation. I would have preferred to meet you over coffee or on a chairlift, but it was my good fortune to meet you at my hour of need. Please convey to Dr. Purnell, Rachel and Dan my thanks for their excellent care. Note I am not planning on visiting any medical facilities when I am in Aspen next year.

With deep appreciation,

M. Patricia O'Connell, CRNA