Message from the Chair

Warren S. Sandberg, MD, PhD

After what seemed like a long winter, Spring has finally arrived. Spring is the season of growth, and the Department of Anesthesiology has been experiencing its own growth. From new leadership to directorships to major study contributions, the department is always blossoming with new achievements.

First, congratulations to Eric Delpire, PhD, for being appointed the first B.H. Robbins Director in Anesthesiology Research. He is one of the most influential research scientists in the field and deserves the recognition.

Speaking of research, kudos to our VAPIR team for handling the large data set needed to contribute to the study published in the New England Journal of Medicine on saline versus balanced crystalloids for intravenous fluid administration. Their reputation for quality work precedes them, and it is great to see the benefits of their work.

At the beginning of the year we welcomed Jeanette Bauchat, MD, as chief of the Obstetric Anesthesiology Division. We are fortunate to have recruited her here to Vanderbilt.

With Spring also comes the announcement of our new PGY-1 class of residents and chief residents for 2018-2019. We look forward to working with them and seeing what they can achieve.

On the clinical faculty front, we have also welcomed several new members, and the clinical vice chairs and division chiefs are working hard to consolidate OR schedules every day. This growth in both faculty numbers and influence over the use of our personnel should help ease the staffing crunch we have experienced over the past year. I am very thankful to all of the faculty for their flexibility and grace under pressure, as we have met every clinical need and served all of our patients extraordinarily well.

Finally, for each of the accomplishments mentioned above, there are dozens more that are improving the department and the service we provide our patients, and, again, I am personally grateful (and proud!). I am excited to see what else our department can accomplish as the days get warmer and longer. Don't forget to enjoy the nice weather.

Delpire appointed the B.H. Robbins Directorship

Eric Delpire, PhD, director of Basic Science Research in the Department of Anesthesiology, has been appointed the first B.H. Robbins Director in Anesthesiology Research, one of the newly formed endowed directorships at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. His endowment was celebrated on Monday, Jan. 22, 2018.

He explained the appointment means the Anesthesiology Department and the Medical Center acknowledge his success and want

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VAPIR contributes to major VUMC study

On Feb. 27, 2018, the New England Journal of Medicine published a research study conducted by a team at Vanderbilt University Medical Center which found that patients who receive a balanced fluid that closely resembles the liquid part of the blood have better outcomes than patients who receive a saline solution containing only sodium chloride. The team examined more than 15,000 intensive care patients and more than 13,000 emergency department patients who were assigned to receive saline or balanced fluids if they required intravenous fluids.

Continued on page 2
Adam Levine, MD, was the featured guest speaker of the 2018 Dr. Bradley E. Smith Endowed Lectureship on Medical Professionalism. His topic was “Ethical and Professional Issues of Anesthesiology ReEntry.” Levine is professor of anesthesiology, perioperative and pain medicine, otolaryngology and pharmacological sciences for Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and serves as the executive vice chair for the Department of Anesthesiology of the Mount Sinai Health System. Throughout his academic career, Levine has developed innovative programs of simulation-based education and assessment.

Photo by Jenelle Grewell

(Pictured left to right: Michael Pilla, MD, Brain Gelfand, MD, Matthew McEvoy, MD, Adam Levine, MD, Bradley Smith, MD, and Warren Sandberg, MD, PhD.) Levine was presented this plaque after speaking at the 2018 Dr. Bradley E. Smith Endowed Lectureship on Medical Professionalism by various members of our department and Smith, a former chair of the Department of Anesthesiology.

Photo by Jenelle Grewell

If that sounds to you like it would be a lot of data to analyze, you would be correct. Thankfully, the Vanderbilt Anesthesiology & Perioperative Informatics Research (VAPIR) Division were a part of this study. Led by Jonathan Wanderer, MD, MPhil, the team took on the task of writing the code that extracted the data needed for the study.

According to Wanderer, the code generated a massive data set on a weekly basis and it required a lot of work to make sure the output was correct, comprehensive and formatted in a way that would allow for statistical analysis in an easy way.

Senior Database Administrator Karen McCarthy explained that the unique challenge of this project was the amount of time it spanned. The project started in 2015 and grew, requiring multiple code revisions. “Even though we keep all our code and documentation with it, when somebody leaves, some knowledge leaves as well. When somebody new picks it up, it takes some time for them to get into the project,” she said. Other challenges included pulling information from multiple sources and reaching out to different areas for information.

Business Intelligence Analyst Frank Aline revealed that the team collaborated to check the integrity of the data upon export. His role specifically was to review the revision needs, make changes to the code accordingly and ensure the data were exported correctly.

The team had to perform a lot of data analysis and understand where data are missing or potentially erroneous and, according to Wanderer, the team needed to have confidence in the data that were collected.

As for why VAPIR was picked for this project, Wanderer explained that while there are many teams across the organization that work with large data sets, VAPIR has a particular expertise in acute care, as well as perioperative areas, and the team was familiar with these types of data. “I think we have a good reputation for doing this sort of detailed, high quality work that you need to do to get a data set of this size together,” he said.

The project has received a lot of attention, from being published in the New England Journal of Medicine to being featured on National Public Radio. As a result, VUMC encouraged its medical providers to stop using saline as intravenous fluid therapy for most patients. Aline explained that the work done on a daily basis by the VAPIR team, whether big or small, is pleasing and satisfying when they can see improvements to patient care.

“It’s really cool to see a project that has taken the number of years it has taken to have that outcome at the end where you are seeing the benefits of it or reading about the benefits of it,” McCarthy said.

Wanderer further expressed that it’s great to see what VUMC can do as a community. This project required different skill sets from a lot of different people across the whole organization. “We can really accomplish a lot working together, and it’s exciting that the trajectory in the future is really embracing this approach to pragmatic clinical trials and helping to fulfill the vision in becoming a learning healthcare system,” he elaborates.

As for the future of VAPIR and how it relates to this project, Wanderer said the team is in the process of trying to take some of the new things developed for this group of patients and generalize them to ICU patients at large for future retrospective work.

Wanderer revealed that VAPIR has already started on another project and is in the grant proposal period. It will also use large data sets. “We are already plugged into what might be the next big thing,” he explains.
Ehrenfeld recaps special assignment with U.S. Surgeon General

In January and February, Jesse Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH, professor of Anesthesiology, was on special assignment where he was appointed temporary special advisor to the U.S. Surgeon General and his team. The top priority of his assignment was to work on the development and execution of our national opioid strategy.

“A lot of what the Surgeon General’s office does is think about the best ways to communicate messages related to the health of the American people,” Ehrenfeld said.

Ehrenfeld mentioned that it has recently been reported that less than 50 percent of Americans think there is a cure and treatment for opioid addiction. “A key priority for the White House and the Surgeon General is to educate the American people to let people know that there is hope and there is evidence based treatment available for opioid addiction,” he said.

Ehrenfeld was on orders with the U.S. Navy as a reserve officer. His background in healthcare policy, work in anesthesiology and pain management and experience in healthcare strategy led to his receiving this opportunity. Ehrenfeld explains, “I was delighted to receive this cross agency opportunity, which allowed me to use my unique skill set to advance the work of the Surgeon General and the Department of Health and Human Services.”

Specifically, Ehrenfeld helped develop pieces that will be published in peer-reviewed literature and rolled out strategies for messaging. According to Ehrenfeld, some of the communications tools he helped develop are already being used in the field today, but there are some pieces still undergoing the approval process. “Getting these messages out across our nation requires a long term approach and the partnership with a variety of stakeholders across the nation, in healthcare and beyond. Ultimately, all of this work is about trying to keep our communities healthy,” he states.

Ehrenfeld said he learned a lot during his assignment and took away a great deal of information that will be helpful as research is continued at VUMC and throughout the region about how to effectively help patients avoid opioid addiction and help them recover when it does occur.

Delpire

Continued from front page

to give recognition. He described the endowment, in its own way, as a promotion.

“Endowed directorship is basically the highest academic honor that VUMC has to bestow upon an accomplished member of the faculty,” said Warren Sandberg, MD, PhD, chair of the Department of the Anesthesiology.

The endowment gives extra money for Delpire’s research, which allows him flexibility to do different things that might not otherwise be done with grant money. This might include hiring a new person, creating novel models or helping fill gaps between grants. “It is a relief to have additional money like the endowment,” Delpire said.

He said he believes he got this endowment because he has been successful in the past 20 years at VUMC pursuing independent research and fulfilling his other academic duties.

Delpire has been studying the transport of inorganic ions across cell membranes for the past 30 years. He explained that ions need specialized proteins to move through cell membranes and he studies those transporter proteins.

One of his research projects involves the nervous system and inhibitory signals. Delpire explained that neurons communicate using electric signals which are generated from the movements of ions across neuronal membranes. In the nervous system, there is constant balance between excitation and inhibition. Excitatory signals lead the brain to do things while inhibitory signals tend to stop them.

“I am interested in the inhibition part. When you increase too much the inhibitory part, you get sedation or even anesthesia,” he said.

His other research project relates to the kidney and the regulation of blood pressure. Delpire explained the kidney filters salt from the blood into the urine and then reclaim it. When too much salt is reclaimed, the result is high blood pressure. There are specialized transporters that take the salt back into the blood.

In particular, Delpire said he studies how these transporters are regulated and how too little function leads to salt wasting while too much of it leads to high blood pressure. “If transporters are not there or not functioning, people will pee their salt - but if they function too well, blood pressure suffers” he said.

Delpire explained these two research projects are related because the same family of transporters that filters salt in the kidneys also modulates inhibitory synaptic transmission in the nervous system.

“Delpire is one of the most influential and dynamic scientists in his field,” Sandberg said. “He works at a foundational level that creates systems allowing other investigators to advance science using tools that Delpire developed, certainly for his own use, but also for others.”

“The generosity of Delpire’s research is a big part of why we as a department thought it was really important to recognize him with this honor. He got the first endowed directorship this department has ever created and one of the first ever created by VUMC, and I think he is highly deserving of that special recognition.”
CRNAs enjoy activities in honor of National CRNA Week

CRNAs Elizabeth Stephan (left) and Heather Frankenfield (right) participate in CRNA Week Celebration photo booth. 
Photo by Jenelle Grewell

Physicians celebrate Physician Anesthesiologists Week with ice cream sundaes

Above: Matthew McEvoy, MD, (left) and Jane Easdown, MD, (right) enjoyed ice cream on Friday, Feb. 2, 2018, in celebration of Physician Anesthesiologists Week. Physician Anesthesiologists Week was from Sunday, Jan. 28 through Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018. 
Photo by Jenelle Grewell

On Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018, the Department of Anesthesiology celebrated the retirement of Debbie Nelson. She was with the department for 30 years. Top Left: Matt McEvoy, MD, (left) presents Debbie Nelson (right) with her retirement gift. Bottom left: The department celebrated with a big cake at the reception. Right: Nelson talks with Liza Weavind, MBBCh, FCCM, MMHC, (right) during her reception. 
Photos by Jenelle Grewell

Department hosts retirement celebration for beloved Education Office staff member

Pictured from left to right: Jacobo Marrujo, Nathan McMasters, Brooke Jayram, Alan Hendon and Shijuana Obi. This year's CRNA Week took place from Sunday, Jan. 21 to Saturday, Jan. 27, and many of the department's CRNAs got together to celebrate. 
Photo by Jenelle Grewell

Left: SRNAs and CRNAs alike gather around a cake during CRNA week. Right: CRNAs Andy Phillips (left) and Leah Bergman (right) eat ice cream while goofing off at the photo booth. 
Photo by Jenelle Grewell
Allen gets appointed to MOCA committee

Staying up to date on certifications and what is going on in the field of anesthesiology has gotten much easier with the Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesia (MOCA) through the American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA). Brian Allen, MD, assistant professor in Anesthesiology, has been appointed to the MOCA Minute committee effective January 2018.

Allen explained that writers submit questions, which are then edited and reviewed by more senior people. His role will be to put the finishing touches on questions and mentor question writers.

“I’m excited about the opportunity to meet and interact more with people who are leaders in the field,” he said. He mentioned the benefits of the new MOCA process versus the old way of getting recertified. In the past, people would get board certified and be certified for life. In more recent years, it was a 10-year cycle.

Now in the past two or three years, MOCA has been the standard, and anesthesiologists answer 30 questions quarterly through either an app or online. This gives the ABA the ability to touch base with providers every quarter instead of every 10 years.

Working at Vanderbilt University Medical Center has been a benefit to Allen when writing questions. “There are so many creative people with a lot of intellectual curiosity, and they really are leaders in their own parts of anesthesiology,” he explained.

In terms of the future of MOCA, he said, “I hope the questions for MOCA Minute will stimulate conversation and changes in practice or reinforcement of good practice nationwide.”

“It’s an important task and one that requires a lot of behind the scenes commitment in a role that is kind of thankless but really important,” said Department Chair Warren Sandberg, MD, PhD.

“Personally, I am grateful for faculty that will take these lower profile but really important educational and academic roles. It is an honor to the department that Brian was selected.”

Billings receives newly initiated Biomedical Science Impact Award

At the end of 2017, Josh Billings IV, MD, was awarded the 2016 Biomedical Science Impact Award by Jeffrey Balser, MD, PhD, and Jennifer Pientenpol, PhD, for his publication entitled “High-Dose Perioperative Atorvastatin and Acute Kidney Injury Following Cardiac Surgery: A Randomized Clinical Trial,” which was published in the March 2016 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

According to Megan Smallwood, Program Manager at the Office of Research, the Biomedical Science Impact Awards are a newly initiated recognition. The award is given to VUMC investigators who have been a first, last or corresponding author for a publication in one of the “big six” journals, which include: Science, Cell, Nature, JAMA, Lancet, and NEJM.

Smallwood also explained that it took a whole year to examine studies from 2016, which is why Billings didn’t receive the award until the end of 2017.

“I felt honored and surprised to receive the award. The research and manuscript that led to the award required steady work and commitment by a large group,” Billings said.

Billings attributes this award to the fact that this research addressed an important question in acutely ill surgical patients that has broad applicability. It also used a methodology that was refined and appropriate to test the hypothesis, and the data were precise.

Atorvastatin did not reduce kidney injury. In fact, among patients with chronic kidney disease who were naïve to statin use, atorvastatin increased kidney injury.

As for the impact of the research, Billings said he hopes the research has improved the understanding of the effect of perioperative statin administration on postoperative kidney injury and has provided data to help healthcare providers provide better care for their patients. Statin should not be started prior to cardiac surgery but rather at the time of hospital discharge.

Billings has future plans for this research. He explains, “We are continuing to focus on mechanism of organ injury associated with surgery and testing therapies to reduce organ injury and improve patient outcomes.”
Department Spotlight: Celebrating Departmental Accomplishments

At the 2018 6th Annual Congress of Enhanced Recovery and Perioperative Medicine (March 15 - 17, Fort Lauderdale, FL), Bret Alvis, MD, gave a presentation on enhanced recovery after surgery in total knee arthroplasty and total hip arthroplasty.

Claudius Balzer, MD, is the recipient of a two-year postdoctoral grant from the German Research Foundation (DFG). He will study the “Effect of Diabetes on Outcome after Cardiac Arrest and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation with Postconditioning in a Rodent Model.”

Josh Billings, MD, was presented the 2016 Biomedical Science Impact Award by Jeffrey Balser, MD, PhD, and Jennifer Pietenpol, PhD, for his publication entitled “High-Dose Perioperative Atorvastatin and Acute Kidney Injury Following Cardiac Surgery: A Randomized Clinical Trial,” which was published in the March 2016 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

David Chestnut, MD, will be awarded the 2018 Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology Distinguished Service Award at the 2018 SOAP meeting in May.

Anesthesia Technician Sue Christian received both the VUMC Credo Award and the Department Staff Credo Award.

Eric Delpire, PhD, was honored during VUMC’s first Directorship Celebration on Monday, Jan. 22, 2018. He was named the holder of the B.H. Robbins Directorship in Anesthesiology Research.

Jesse Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH, Leslie Fowler, ME, and Matthew McEvoy, MD, were invited to serve on the 2018 ASA Ad Hoc Committee on Essentials of Professional Development.

Jesse Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH, presented Grand Rounds at the University of California, San Francisco, on Thursday, March 8, 2018. The topic was “Using Perioperative Informatics to Drive Reliability and Surgical Safety.”

Holly Ende, MD, received the Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology Young Investigator Grant for her research, “A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of gabapentin in the post-caesarean pain management of patients receiving buprenorphine.”

Heather Jackson, MSN, FNP-BC, has received a grant for her study titled “To What Extent Can Auricular Acupressure Alter the Course of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome: A Randomized Trial.”

Heather Jackson, MSN, FNP-BC, reported that her abstract titled “A Scoping Review of Acupuncture and Acupressure as a Potential Intervention for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)” has been accepted for poster presentation at the Spring National Advanced Practice Neonatal Nurses Conference in Portland, OR. The conference will be held from May 3 through May 6, 2018.

Heather Jackson, MSN, FNP-BC, has been invited to participate as faculty in the World Congress on Regional Anesthesia & Pain Medicine in 2018.

Steve Klintworth, RN, was awarded the Department Staff Credo Award at the Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017, All Staff Meeting.

Judy Lashbrook, Business Process Manager, was presented with the Department Staff Credo Award at the Wednesday, March 7, 2018, All Staff Meeting.

Yafen Liang, MD, gave a Grand Rounds presentation at the University of Texas Houston Health Science Center on Thursday, March 1, 2018. Her topic was “Venous Congestion and End Organ Injury in Heart Failure Patients.”

Congratulations to Katharina Modes, MD. She has been chosen to assume the role of medical director of Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt Preoperative Pediatric Anesthesia Clinic.

On Thursday, Jan. 20, 2018, we celebrated the retirement of Debbie Nelson-Rouse. She was with the Department of Anesthesiology for 30 years and worked in the Educational Affairs Office.

Kimberly Rengel, MD, (CA3) was presented the Golden LMA Award by Chief Resident Allison Janda, MD. The Golden LMA is an award we give out monthly to the resident who receives the most nominations from other residents and attendings for going above and beyond. Kimberly went especially above and beyond by helping in the main ORs during Epic roll out, assisting in the PACU and with codes while on her TEE and re- search rotations when things got busy for the team. She’s a real team player!

Warren Sandberg, MD, PhD, has been elected to serve as a member of the Multicenter Perioperative Outcomes Group Executive Board for a 3-year term. MPOG develops the necessary policies, procedures and technical infrastructure required for multicenter perioperative outcomes research.

The Department of Anesthesiology hosted a farewell reception for Andrew Shaw, MB, FRCA, FFICM, FCM, on Tuesday, Feb. 6. We will miss him as our executive vice chair but congratulate him on being appointed chair of the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, University of Alberta, and Zone Clinical Department Head, Anesthesiology, for Alberta Health Services.

Jonathan Wanderer, MD, has been appointed vice-chair for the Anesthesia Quality Institute’s Registry Operations Committee.

Congratulations to Matt Weinger, MD, for receiving the Nik Gravenstein Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual meeting of the Society for Technology in Anesthesia. Every year, the STA bestows the JS Gravenstein Award for lifetime achievement in the area of technology in anesthesia. The award is named for JS “Nik” Gravenstein (1925-2009), a founding member and former president of the STA. For over thirty years, Dr. Gravenstein was a driving force in advancing anesthesia technology, patient simulation and anesthesia patient safety. His lifelong commitment to developing and teaching anesthesia technology embodies the values of the Society.

Send us your news for inclusion in department publications: Weekly Update, Anesthesia Monitor & Blog
AnesthesiologyCommunications@Vanderbilt.edu
Anesthesia Technician Sue Christian received both the VUMC Credo Award and the Department Staff Credo Award. Christian joined VUMC in 2004 and said she will do whatever it takes to get the job done.

Jeanette Bauchat, MD has been named Chief of the Obstetric Anesthesiology Division.

Steve Klintworth (left) was presented the Department Staff Credo Award by Stephen Doherty (right) at the Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017, All Staff Meeting. Photo by Jenelle Grewell

Judy Lashbrook (left) was presented the Department Staff Credo Award by Betsy DeMarcus (right) at the Wednesday, March 7, 2018, All Staff Meeting. Photo by Jenelle Grewell

Anesthesia Technician Sue Christian received both the VUMC Credo Award and the Department Staff Credo Award. Christian joined VUMC in 2004 and said she will do whatever it takes to get the job done. Photo by Susan Urmy. Originally published in VUMC Voice on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018.
Jeanette Bauchat, MD
Associate Professor, Chief, Obstetric Anesthesiology

EDUCATION:
MS, Healthcare Quality and Safety, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL (2016)
Residency, Anesthesiology, Columbia University Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY (2006)
MD, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL (2002)
BS, Cellular and Molecular Biology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (1997)

FUN FACT:
I grew up in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Jennifer Becker
Research Assistant II
Research Division

EDUCATION:
MS, Microbiology and Immunology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (2013)
BS, Animal Science, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT (2007)

FUN FACT:
I am a volunteer puppy raiser for Southeastern Guide Dogs (I raise guide dog puppies). I am also a dog trainer.

Clayne Benson, MD
Assistant Professor
Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine

EDUCATION:
Fellowship, Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA (2015)
Fellowship, Critical Care, UT-San Antonio, San Antonio, TX (2009)
Residency, Vanderbilt University Hospital, Nashville, TN (2008)
MD, Georgetown University, Washington DC (2004)
BA, Spanish, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT (1998)

FUN FACT:
I was Active Duty Air Force for 9 years, deployed to Africa and Afghanistan. I’m still in the Air Force Reserves.

Jodi Marie Benson
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

EDUCATION:
MS, Nurse Anesthesia, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA (2007)
BS, Nursing, University of Portland, Portland, OR (2003)

FUN FACT:
I’m a commercial helicopter pilot.

Katherine Denney
Associate Program Manager Administration

EDUCATION:
BA, English, Smith College, Northampton, MA (2017)

FUN FACT:
I am a tap/modern dance enthusiast and history enthusiast.

Erin Grimm
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

EDUCATION:
MS, Nurse Anesthesia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA (2017)
BS, Nursing, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC (2010)

FUN FACT:
I have two miniature dachshunds named Jackson and Franklin. I love college football – Go Gamecocks!

Brooke Hoover
Associate Program Manager
Educational Affairs Office

EDUCATION:
BS, Healthcare Administration, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY (2013)

FUN FACT:
I have two nephews that I adore, my mother’s name is Kimberly as well, technically making me a Kim Jr., and I enjoy making people laugh.
Sharon Stanley
Associate Program Manager
Center for Research and Innovation in Systems Safety

EDUCATION:
BS, English Literature, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN (1982)

FUN FACT:
I am a Nashville native.

Srijaya Reddy, MD, MBA
Associate Professor
Pediatric Anesthesiology

EDUCATION:
Fellowship, Pediatric Anesthesiology, Children's National Health System/The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Washington DC (2010)
Residency, Anesthesiology, Henry Ford Health System, Detroit, MI (2006)
MD, Medical University of the Americas, Nevis, West Indies (2005)
BA, Sociology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA (2001)

FUN FACT:
I went to University School of Nashville and was on the state championship volleyball team from 1993 to 1997. I still play competitive volleyball to this day.
Welcome to our new PGY-1 Class of 2018-2019

Announcing Chief Residents for 2018-2019

Erica Adkins, MD
Jared Cummings, MD
Lauren Poe, DO
Recent Publications


We provide uncompromising quality in clinical care, research and education. We are:

**Compassionate:** Offering exceptional perioperative care and pain management to a complex population.

**Creative:** Advancing the frontiers of science, healthcare and technology.

**Committed:** Equipping future leaders with solid education and training, both here and abroad.

**Collaborative:** Working across Vanderbilt University Medical Center and beyond to achieve measurable outcomes.

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**Executive Committee**

![Warren S. Sandberg, MD, PhD](Image)

Chair, Department of Anesthesiology
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

**Department Leadership**

Matthew McEvoy, MD
Vice Chair for Educational Affairs

Edward Sherwood, MD, PhD
Vice Chair for Research

Matthew Weinger, MD
Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs

Mark Rice, MD
Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs

Stephen Doherty, MMHC
Department Administrator

Brian J. Gelfand, MD
Associate Vice Chair for Educational Affairs

David Edwards, MD, PhD
Chief, Pain Medicine

Brent Dunworth, DNP, MBA, APRN, CRNA
Chief CRNA

Alexander Hughes, MD
Interim Chief, Pediatric Cardiac Anesthesiology

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**Division Chiefs**

Jeanette Bauchat, MD
Chief, Obstetric Anesthesiology

Eric Delpire, PhD
Director, Basic Science Research

Katherine Dobie, MD
Chief, Ambulatory Anesthesiology

Brent Dunworth, DNP
MBA, APRN, CRNA
Chief CRNA

David Edwards, MD, PhD
Chief, Pain Medicine

Alexander Hughes, MD
Interim Chief, Pediatric Cardiac Anesthesiology

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Jill Kilkelly, MD
Chief, Pediatric Anesthesiology

Letha Mathews, MBBS
Interim Chief, Neuroanesthesiology

Pratik Pandharipande, MD, MSCI
Chief, Anesthesiology-Critical Care Medicine

Michael Pilla, MD
Associate Chief, Multispecialty Adult Anesthesiology

Mias Pretorius, MBChB, MSCI
Chief, Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology

Mark Rice, MD
Chief, Multispecialty Adult Anesthesiology

Ann Walia, MBBS
Chief, Veterans Affairs Anesthesiology Service