

DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

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AM

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VUH Earns "A" Safety Score from Leapfrog



*From article by **Doug Campbell** originally published in the VUMC Reporter on Nov. 10, 2021*

Vanderbilt University Hospital (VUH) has again been recognized among the safest hospitals in the nation after receiving a fall 2021 safety grade of "A" from the Leapfrog Group.

Leapfrog is a coalition of public and private purchasers of employee health coverage that works to encourage health care safety, quality and affordability.

Leapfrog's Hospital Safety Score uses numerous measures of publicly available hospital data to produce a single score representing a hospital's overall capacity to keep patients safe from infections, injuries and medical errors.

These measures come from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Leapfrog Hospital Survey and secondary data sources such as the American Hospital Association's Annual Survey and Information Technology Supplement. The measures are weighted and then combined to produce a single composite score that is published as an A, B, C, D or F letter grade.

"Continual emphasis on the safety of our patients and employees is our foremost priority. This 'A' score is perhaps

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Before we fully settle into 2022, let's recap 2021. The year had plenty of accomplishments, not just for Vanderbilt University Medical Center but for the department as well. All of these achievements happened while we continued to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.



*Warren Sandberg, MD, PhD
Chair, Department of
Anesthesiology*

For starters, Vanderbilt University Hospital was awarded an "A" safety grade from the Leapfrog Group. This means that VUH is among the safest hospitals in the nation. This recognition showcases our commitment to quality patient care.

Our department continues to grow and expand. You can see evidence of this on the pages dedicated to our new hires. I recommend taking the time to see how many new clinicians, research staff, and administrative staff we have hired to keep up with our growth.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the dedication of our existing staff. Check out our spread dedicated to the service awards and you'll see a long list of department employees who have served here at VUMC from five all the way up to 35 years.

Our department also participated in the 2021 American Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting, which was a hybrid event this year. Attendees had a choice between virtual or in-person sessions. The in-person events were held in San Diego, California. Anesthesiologists from our department contributed over 70 activities at the event, focusing on a variety of topics, from clinician burnout to patient safety.

I look forward to seeing what the department and VUMC continue to accomplish in 2022. ♦

Leapfrog continued from page 1

more meaningful than others in the past, given the challenges of the pandemic. I want to congratulate and express my gratitude to everyone for the outcomes attributing to this score," said C. Wright Pinson, MBA, MD, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Chief Health System Officer for Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

To determine a safety grade, Leapfrog not only looks at outcome measures, but also processes measures such as staff responsiveness and structural measures like the overall hospital environment and how thoroughly technology is embedded into the delivery of care.

"The Leapfrog Recognition is truly a reflection of our team's commitment to patient safety through unprecedented times and making care patient safety personal," said Jenny Slayton, DNP, RN, Senior Vice President for Quality, Safety and Risk Prevention at VUMC.

In the recent survey, 2,900 hospitals across the nation were assigned grades of A, B, C, D or F for safety, and only 30 percent received an "A."

Shon Dwyer, MBA, RN, President of VUH, said the recognition is well deserved.

"We are tremendously proud of the never-ending quality and safety focus that our faculty and staff provide every day, to every patient. This recognition by Leapfrog is a great acknowledgement and reflects the dedication of all. The adult hospital has and will continue to build quality and safety systems with input from our caregivers, patients and families," Dwyer said. ♦

Department participates in Over 70 Activities at the 2021 American Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting

With plenty of safety precautions in place, clinicians from across the country attended the 2021 Annual Meeting for the American Society of Anesthesiologists in San Diego, California, ready to explore the many sessions presented by their colleagues.

Including virtual and in-person sessions, the Department of Anesthesiology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center contributed over 70 activities during this year's meeting. Members of the department presented on diverse topics, from clinician burnout to billing for anesthesia services.

Clinician burnout and how it affects patient safety has been a hot topic at previous ASA Annual Meetings, and this year was no different. **Jane Easdown, MD**, moderated a SNAP-Talk, titled "Tackling the Top Patient Safety Problems in Your Practice: Recommendations From the ASA Patient Safety Editorial Board," in which clinician burnout was discussed. **Matt Weinger, MD**, was lead speaker of the special meeting titled "Perioperative Clinician Wellbeing: Why Is This a Patient Safety Issue?" He described clinician

burnout as systemic and explained that work systems that do not support workers' needs are unsafe for everyone. He said focusing on fixing the "defective" clinicians will make the problem worse and not better.

Another non-clinical topic discussed was mentorship. **Pratik Pandharipande, MD, MSCI**, presented a talk titled "How to Get the Best Out of a Busy Mentor." He suggested those seeking a mentor get more than one for different aspects of their career. The mentorship talk also looped back into the clinician burnout issue because he said a good mentor helps identify burnout in mentees.

The meeting also focused on the clinical and research aspects of anesthesiology. Not only did our physicians present topics ranging from same-day joint surgery to standardizing kidney injury outcomes, but our trainees presented 25 medically challenging cases.

ASA's 2022 annual meeting is scheduled to take place from Oct. 22 to Oct. 25 in New Orleans, LA. ♦



Above: Matt Weinger, MD, presents "Perioperative Clinician Wellbeing: Why Is This a Patient Safety Issue" on Saturday, Oct. 9. Right: Raj Gupta, MD, presents "Choosing the Right Patient: Clinical Pearls of Same-day Joint Surgery" on Sunday, Oct. 10.



Spinal Cord Stimulator Implants Helping Ease Chronic Pain

From article **by Paul Govern** originally published in the VUMC Reporter on Feb. 24, 2022

Alyssa Thompson's route to specialty care for chronic pain, and to a small device being permanently implanted in her midback to manage pain by delivering imperceptible electrical pulses to her spinal cord, began with a gymnastics session in her backyard in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in 2012 at age 14.

Tumbling resulted in an ankle sprain that would launch years of medical interventions for complex regional pain syndrome.

Brannon Lockhart's route to receiving a spinal cord stimulator implant for chronic pain was by way of a genetic condition that disposes him and other family members to form blood clots in their circulatory system. In Lockhart's case, the condition led to painful loss of circulation in his lower legs, and to amputation below the knee — his right leg in January 2019, his left in July 2020. (Between these two surgical treatments, Lockhart's 21-year-old daughter, Lindsay, died after undetected blood clots caused a blood vessel in her brain to rupture.)

First reported in the 1960s, the application of electrical pulses to treat pain has grown dramatically over the past decade, with some 34,000 spinal cord stimulators per



Chris Sobey, MD

year now implanted worldwide, half of them in North America. According to *Fortune Business Insights*, the global spinal cord stimulation devices market, which in 2020 dipped sharply to \$2.4 billion due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is expected to grow 8% per year and reach \$4.1 billion by 2027. Typical indications include post-laminectomy syndrome (also known as failed back surgery syndrome), complex regional pain syndrome, and peripheral neuropathy, that is, diseases of or damage to nerves beyond the brain and spinal cord.

"We're not turning off any neurons, or any ability for the spine and brain to communicate with a painful part of the body," said interventional pain specialist **Chris Sobey, MD**, associate professor of Clinical Anesthesiology, who placed Thompson's implant in 2018.



Jeremy Walker, MD

"We're trying to impede specific pain signals from too aggressively communicating. My analogy is, it's like having a neural highway and you're putting speed bumps on it: you still have cars going down that highway, but they're going a lot slower and a lot less aggressively."

Pain specialists at Vanderbilt University Medical Center implanted 130 spinal cord stimulators last year. In a typical case, a device about the size of an Oreo cookie is surgically implanted in the midback, with electrodes being run out to targets in the epidural space of the spine, adjacent to the spinal cord. A form of neuromodulation, spinal cord stimulation can help patients for whom pain medication is inadequate or poses debilitating side effects.

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Pain

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“We spent six and a half years trying every single thing we could think of, just to make it through each day,” said Thompson, director of operations at a financial services firm. She says chronic pain affected all aspects of her life. She was homebound for a time, receiving high school instruction via teachers’ home visits. She periodically received epidural injections to numb her legs, followed by stints of physical therapy at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt.

With the implant, “I had relief almost immediately,” she said. “I was suddenly able to do everything that I wanted to, and I’d never really had that since before I was 14. It changed everything in my life.”

Lockhart’s implant was placed last November by interventional pain specialist **Jeremy Walker, MD**, assistant professor of Clinical Anesthesiology.

“It’s been totally life changing for me,” said Lockhart, a business consultant and an avid hunter. During a Zoom interview, to demonstrate the agility afforded by his artificial lower legs, the U.S. Army veteran rose and moved jauntily about his home office.

Before the implant, Lockhart had been taking opioids on a daily basis.

“I went from six or seven hydrocodones a day to, now, maybe one or half of one every couple days.



Alyssa Thompson

And I’m probably 80 percent to 85 percent more active now.”

Implantation at VUMC is preceded by a psychological evaluation and a weeklong trial involving an external generator. Permanent placement involves an outpatient procedure and twilight sedation, similar to that used for a colonoscopy. The implants last about 10 years, Walker said. Patients use a small remote control to select device settings.

With the advances achieved in neuromodulation, “We now use waveforms and programming that doesn’t give any vibratory or tingling sensation or pose any sensation at all for the patient,” Walker said.

A majority of people historically treated with spinal cord stimulators at VUMC have refractory low-back and leg pain, Walker said, often after spine surgeries. He added that the use of neuromodulation to treat complex regional pain syndrome is growing. Walker describes this syndrome, which is estimated to affect some 200,000 people in the U.S. annually, as “a remodeling of the nervous system that leads to haywire pain signals, usually in a foot or an arm.”

A majority of VUMC spinal cord stimulation implants are performed by the team at the Center for Neuromodulation Clinic, with two locations in Franklin, Tennessee. The clinic, which sees patients by clinician referral, also offers other minimally invasive pain interventions. ♦



Brannon Lockhart

2021 VUMC Service Awards

35 Years

Gail Mayo | Research Project Manager, PCRI | Research

25 Years

Arna Banerjee | Professor | Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine

Brian Donahue | Professor | Pediatric Anesthesiology

Jane Easdown | Professor | Neuroanesthesiology

Tammy Freehling | Service Specialist, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Kristie Lee | Manager | Research

Edith Newberry | Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Mias Pretorious | Professor | Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology

Charles Sharbel | Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Bridget Sharp | Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Paul St Jacques | Professor | Multispecialty Adult Anesthesiology

20 Years

Stephen Bruehl | Professor | Research

John Butorac | Manager, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

15 Years

Ghali Abdelmessih | Research Assistant II | Research

Denise Brown | Associate Program Manager | Ambulatory Anesthesiology

Daniel Deffendall | Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Rajnish Gupta | Professor | Ambulatory Anesthesiology

Patrick Henson | Associate Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology |

Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine

Elisabeth Hughes | Associate Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology |

Pediatric Anesthesiology

Veronica Nylander | Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Gwendolyn Sanders | Service Specialist, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Sharon Seats | Senior Administrative Assistant | Multispecialty Adult

Anesthesiology

Sheena Weaver | Associate Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology |

Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine

10 Years

John Corey | Associate Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology | Pain Medicine
Lara Craig | Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
Lindsay Dickson | Program Manager | Administration
Kurt Ditttrch | Assistant Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology | Pain Medicine
Matthew Fosnot | Service Specialist, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
Judy Lashbrook | Senior Business Process Manager | Administration
Marcos Lopez | Assistant Professor | Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine
Laura Payne | Service Specialist, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
Thomas Romanelli | Assistant Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology | Pediatric Anesthesiology
Kara Siegrist | Assistant Professor | Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology

5 Years

Misty Ball | Program Manager | Research
Matthew Bell | Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
Lucille Brunker | Assistant Professor | Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine
Ashley Burdette | Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
Joshua Campbell | Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
Christy Crockett | Assistant Professor | Pediatric Anesthesiology
Jeremy Donegan | Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
Erin Dunavant | Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
Holly Ende | Assistant Professor | Obstetric Anesthesiology
Robert Freundlich | Associate Professor | Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine
Kristy Garner | Anesthesia Tech
Brian Gelfand | Associate Professor | Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology
Alexander George | Assistant Professor | Multispecialty Adult Anesthesiology
Dillon Heath | Service Specialist, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
LaurieAnn Hembree | Associate Program Manager | Education
Alan Hendon | Service Specialist, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
Harrison Johnson | Assistant Director | Administration
Frederick Lombard | Associate Professor | Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology
Katharina Modes | Assistant Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology | Pediatric Anesthesiology

Department Accomplishments

Brian Allen, MD, received the ASA & SEA Distinguished Educator Award.

Matthew Barajas, MD, won a Young Investigator Award at the 2021 American Heart Association Resuscitation Science Symposium for his submission of the abstract “Intravenous Waveform Analysis Correlates With Volume Status in Resuscitation in In-Vivo Rat Model.”

Susan Eagle, MD, and **Liza Weavind, MBBCh, FCCM, MMHC**, were selected to be part of the inaugural class of the Academy for Excellence in Clinical Medicine (AECM) at VUMC.

Marc Lopez, MD, was appointed associate program director of the Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine Fellowship.

Christina Hayhurst, MD, was invited to serve on the APSF Patient Safety Advisory Committee on Opioid-Related Harm.

Matthias Riess, MD, PhD, has been accepted into membership of the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER) Academy of Research Mentors in Anesthesiology.

Jonathan Wanderer, MD, MPhil, received the Department of Biomedical Informatics (DBMI) Technology, Organizational Development and Evaluation (TODE) Award.

Jonathan Wanderer, MD, MPhil, was selected to serve as the Society for Technology in Anesthesia (STA) President-Elect on the 2022 Board of Directors.

Department Promotions

Pamela Butler was promoted to Business Intelligence Analyst.

Latisha Jones was promoted to Program Manager.

Melanie Cundiff was promoted to Program Manager.

Karen McCarthy, EdD, was promoted to Assistant in Anesthesiology.

Lindsay Dickson was promoted to Program Manager.

John Rutledge, CRNA, was promoted to Service Specialist for Ambulatory Anesthesiology.

Leslie Fowler, EdD, was promoted to Assistant Professor.

Sharae Shipp was promoted to Project Manager.

Rajnish Gupta, MD, was promoted to Professor.

Joseph Teamer was promoted to Project Manager.

Calvin Gruss, MD, was promoted to Assistant Professor.

Jonathan Wanderer, MD, MPhil, was promoted to Professor.

Robert Freundlich, MD, MS, MSCI, was promoted to Associate Professor.

New Hires

Hawa Abubuakar, MD
Fellow
Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Fellowship, Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2021)

Residency, Anesthesiology, Washington University, St. Louis, MO (2020)

MD, King's College London GKT School of Medicine, London, UK (2010)

Fun Fact: I speak Swahili fluently.



Kayvon Alizadeh, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology
Multispecialty Adult Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Fellowship, Pain Medicine, University of Florida Health Sciences Center, Gainesville, FL (2013)

Residency, Anesthesiology, University of Florida Health Sciences Center, Gainesville, FL (2012)

Fellowship, Laparoscopic Surgery, Franciscan Health System, Tacoma, WA (2009)

Residency, General Surgery, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT (2008)

MD, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center School of Medicine, Denver, CO (2002)

Fun Fact: I enjoy running, biking, and martial arts.



Matthew Bell, DNP
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

DNP, Nurse Anesthesia, Union University, Jackson, TN (2021)

BSN, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA (2014)

Fun Fact: I take great pride in my holiday decorating skills (especially when it comes to Halloween and Christmas).

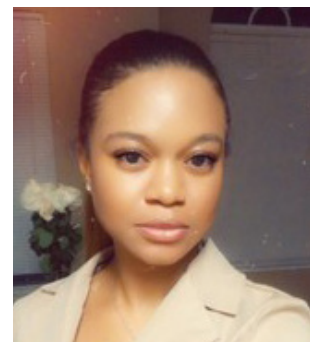


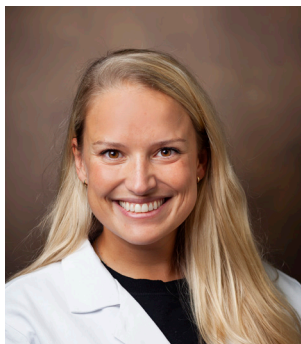
Darlia Bethel
Research Assistant I
Research

Education and Training:

BS, Chemistry, Middle Tennessee State University (2021)

Fun Fact: I enjoy composing music and poetry.





Meghan Breed, MD
Fellow
Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine

Education and Training:

Residency, Emergency Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2020)

MD, George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Washington DC (2017)

Fun Fact: I have two redbone coonhounds - Pete and Charley.



Kaitlyn Brennan, DO, MPH
Assistant Professor
Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine

Education and Training:

Fellowship, Obstetric Anesthesiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2021)

Fellowship, Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2020)

Residency, Anesthesiology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, (2019)

DO, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, Erie, PA (2015)

MPH, The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice, Hanover, NH (2009)

Fun Fact: I was a member of the NYU Equestrian team in college!



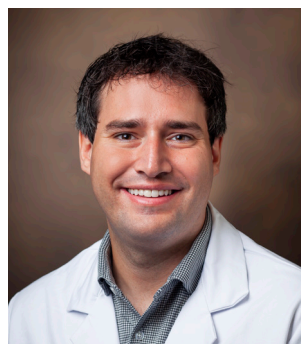
Lucille Brunner, MD
Assistant Professor
Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine

Education and Training:

Fellowship, Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine, Nashville, TN (2021)

Residency, Anesthesiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2020)

MD, University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, UT (2016)



John Bryant, MD
Fellow
Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (2021)

MD, Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN (2017)

Fun Fact: I have two French bulldogs named Petunia and Wilbur-Daffodil.

Angela Cain
*Financial Analyst
Administration*

Education and Training:

MPA, Public Administration, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN (1999)

BS, Public Administration, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN (1997)

Fun Fact: I like college sports but do not care for professional too much.



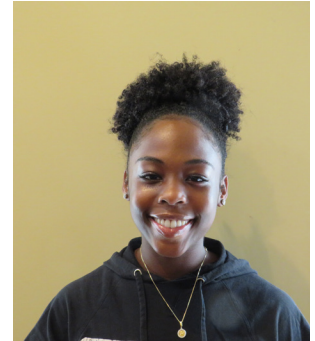
Anarius Cathey
*Research Assistant I
Research*

Education and Training:

MS, Biomedical Sciences, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS (2021)

BS, Sociology, Women and Gender Studies, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (2020)

Fun Fact: I enjoy horseback riding in my free time!



Manuel Cavazos, MD
*Fellow
Pediatric Anesthesiology*

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2021)

MD, University of Texas School of Medicine, San Antonio, TX (2017)

Fun Fact: I am bilingual.



Neenah Cutler, DNP
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

DNP, Nurse Anesthesia, Emory University, Atlanta, GA (2021)

BSN, Emory University, Atlanta, GA (2015)

Fun Fact: I adore traveling! My last vacation, prior to the pandemic, was spent backpacking through Costa Rica.



James Damron, MD
*Fellow
Obstetric Anesthesiology*

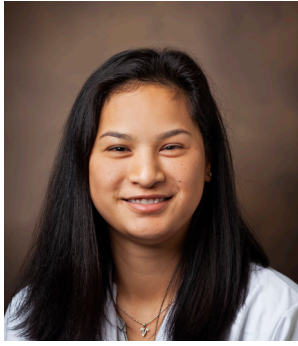
Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL (2021)

MD, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY (2017)

Fun Fact: I am a board game collector.





Vivian Doan, MD
Fellow
Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, NC (2021)

MD, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC (2017)

Fun Fact: I've been doing krav maga for about five years now.



Charles Doyle, MD
Instructor
Multispecialty Adult Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Fellowship, Regional Anesthesia & Acute Pain Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2021)

Residency, Anesthesiology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (2020)

MD, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL (2016)

Fun Fact: I grew up in Florida but have been playing ice hockey since I was four.



Steven Durning, MD
Fellow
Regional Anesthesia & Acute Pain Medicine

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, San Antonio Uniformed Health Education Consortium, San Antonio, TX (2018)

MD, Ohio State College of Medicine, Columbus, OH (2010)

Fun Fact: I've flown in F16s and several other military aircraft, and I have been stationed in South Korea, Germany, and England with the U.S. Air Force.



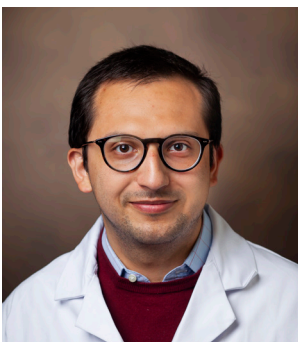
Sarah Faulk
Senior Administrative Assistant
Administration

Education and Training:

MHA, University of North Carolina Wilmington, Wilmington, NC (2021)

BS, Exercise Science, University of North Carolina Wilmington, Wilmington, NC (2020)

Fun Fact: I know how to unicycle!



Nicholas Flores-Conner, MD
Fellow
Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, Boston Medical Center, Boston, MA (2021)

MD, Universidad Internacional del Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador (2015)

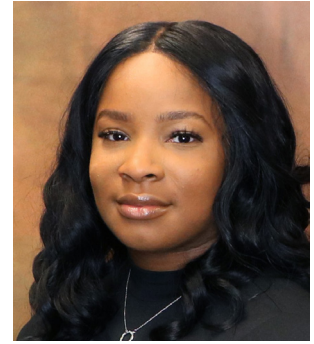
Fun Fact: I am a fan of fermentation and have made multiple treats and drinks during residency. Most recently, have been focused on sourdough, kimchi, and beer making. My next big experiment is barreling beer in a bourbon barrel.

Jasmine Gray
Senior Administrative Assistant
Office of Anesthesiology Faculty Affairs

Education and Training:

AAS, Psychology, Nashville State Community College, Nashville, TN (2018)

Fun Fact: I play soccer.



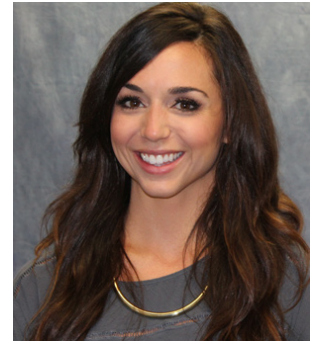
Jessica Grundt, MD
Fellow
Interventional Pain

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, University of Texas Southwestern, Dallas, TX (2021)

MD, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX (2017)

Fun Fact: I used to coach skydiving and be on a collegiate skydiving team, I invest in more exercise equipment and memberships than is probably financially responsible, I love dogs more than most humans, and I cannot wait to travel again with my husband.



Travis J. Hamilton, DO, MMHC, FASA
Assisant Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology
Multispecialty Adult Anesthesiology

Education & Training:

MMHC, Vanderbilt University, Owen Graduate School of Management, Nashville, TN (2021)

Residency, Anesthesiology, San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium - Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, TX (2011)

DO, University of Pikeville, Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine, Pikeville, KY (2007)

Fun Fact: I served for 12 years in the US Army and deployed to Afghanistan to provide trauma care in the world's busiest trauma hospital. While attached to the British Army, I developed an insatiable love for Land Rovers.



Richard Haring, DO, MPH
Fellow
Interventional Pain

Education and Training:

Residency, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2021)

DO, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, Bradenton, FL (2015)

MPH, Public Health Policy, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD (2014)

Fun Fact: I'm not good at running, and I'm a mediocre fly fisherman, but I'm great at eating rocky road ice cream.





Braden Hestermann, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology
Multispecialty Adult Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium, San Antonio, TX (2017)

MD, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD (2013)

Fun Fact: I have been on Active Duty in the Army since 2004 and have had the opportunity to take part in many unique schools and deployments. While in medical school I was certified as both an accelerated free fall and tandem skydiving instructor.



Alan Hoang, MD
Assistant Professor
Pain Medicine, Pediatric Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Fellowship, Pediatric Anesthesiology, Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA (2021)

Fellowship, Pediatric & Adult Pain Medicine, Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA (2020)

Residency, Pediatrics, University of California, Irvine, CA (2019)

Residency, Anesthesiology, University of California, Irvine, CA (2019)

MD, Boston University, Boston, MA (2014)

Fun Fact: I am an avid cook and have only made a handful of dishes more than once.



Michael Kuntz, MD
Assistant Professor
Pediatric Cardiac Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Fellowship, Pediatric Cardiac Anesthesiology, Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA (2021)

Fellowship, Pediatric Anesthesiology, Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA (2020)

Residency, Anesthesiology, Jackson Memorial Hospital - University of Miami, Miami, FL (2019)

MD, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA (2015)

Fun Fact: I lived in Brussels for several years while growing up, and subsequently learned Flemish simultaneous to when I was learning English... sadly I've forgotten it all.



Daniel Larach, MD, MSTR
Assistant Professor
Pain Medicine, Informatics Research,
Multispecialty Adult Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Fellowship, Pain Medicine, New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell/Hospital for Special Surgery/Memorial Sloan Kettering, New York, NY (2019)

Residency, Anesthesiology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (2018)

MD, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA (2014)

MSTR, Translational Research, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA (2014)

Fun Fact: I played college soccer.

Dianne Lou, MD, PhD
Fellow
Interventional Pain

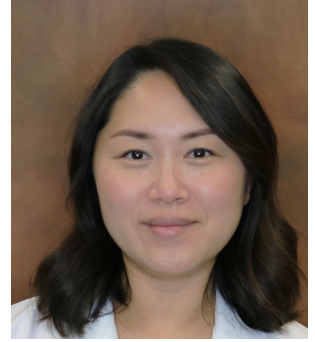
Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2020)

MD, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX (2016)

PhD, Institute for Cell and Molecular Biology, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX (2014)

Fun Fact: I have a newfound interest in interior design.



Brittany McCann, MD
Assistant Professor
Multispecialty Adult Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Fellowship, Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2021)

Residency, Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, Pennsylvania State University, Hershey, PA (2020)

MD, Pennsylvania State University, Hershey, PA (2016)

Fun Fact: I studied abroad in the UK in college.



Lisa McIntosh
Associate Program Manager
Pain Medicine

Education and Training:

BS, Psychology, University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, IN (2013)

Fun Fact: Although I am not athletic, I won a competition at my gym where I beat a girl who competed in the 2020 Olympics.



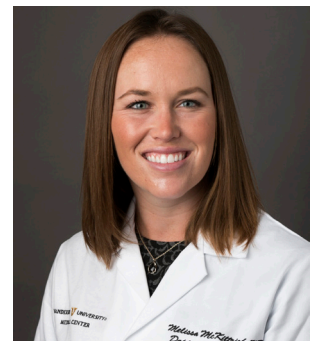
Melissa McKittrick, MD
Fellow
Interventional Pain

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2021)

MD, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Lawrence, KS (2017)

Fun Fact: We have a rescue dog named Cody.





Elias Mihan
Research Assistant I
Research

Education and Training:

BS, Biochemistry, History, Bates College, Lewiston, ME (2021)

Fun Fact: I lived in London for part of my childhood.



Monique Osigbeme, MD
Fellow
Obstetric Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, University of Louisville School of Medicine, Louisville, KY (2021)

MD, University of Louisville School of Medicine, Louisville, KY (2017)

Fun Fact: I am an All American athlete in Track and Field.



William Peters, DNP
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

DNP, Nurse Anesthesia, Emory University, Atlanta, GA (2021)

BSN, Duke University, Durham, NC (2013)

Fun Fact: I have enough music in my iTunes/Apple Music library to play for 21 days straight.



Brandon Pruett, MD
Instructor
Multispecialty Adult Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Fellowship, Regional Pain, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2021)

Residency, Anesthesiology, Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Columbus, OH (2020)

MD, University of Mississippi Medical School, Jackson, MS (2016)

Fun Fact: I enjoy playing guitar.



Charles Quillen
Research Assistant I
Research

Education and Training:

MS, Physiology, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA (2021)

BA, Psychology, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC (2020)

Fun Fact: I am a musician.

Greg Rechcigl
Assistant Director
Administration

Education and Training:

MS, Health Services Administration, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL (2011)

BS, Health Services Administration, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL (2007)

Fun Fact: I can always tell what time it is by looking at the sun.



Andrew Scot Resnick, MD
Fellow
Pediatric Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Pontiac, MI (2021)

MD, American University of Antigua College of Medicine, Coolidge, Antigua, West Indies (2016)

Fun Fact: I love yoga and have been practicing for about six years.



Megan Salwei, PhD
Research Assistant Professor
Center for Research and Innovation in Systems Safety

Education and Training:

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, Biomedical Informatics, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2021)

PhD, Industrial Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI (2020)

MS, Industrial Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI (2017)

Fun Fact: I was on the University of Wisconsin-Madison dance team and performed at two Rose Bowls and a NCAA men's basketball National Championship game.



William Shirer, MD
Fellow
Regional Anesthesia & Acute Pain Medicine

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, Stanford Health Care, Stanford, CA (2021)

MD, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA (2017)

Fun Fact: I love wrestling my kids and teaching them about the Avengers and Star Wars; currently lobbying hard to get a doggy. Frequent Netflix-er, occasional chess player (not very good, but addicted to it); in a past life I loved running, and I sometimes fantasize about doing that again. If/when the COVID pandemic ends, the first place I will go is a movie theater.





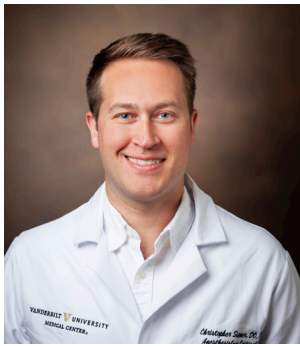
Tatiana Sidorova, PhD
*Staff Scientist
Research*

Education and Training:

PhD, Biochemistry, Russian Academy of Science, Pushchino, Moscow (2000)

MS, Biology, Tomsk State University, Russian Federation (1992)

Fun Fact: My hobbies include: knitting, crochet, and gardening.



Christopher Siemer, DO
*Fellow
Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine*

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (2021)

DO, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI (2017)

Fun Fact: I am a former Biotechnology Startup co-founder.



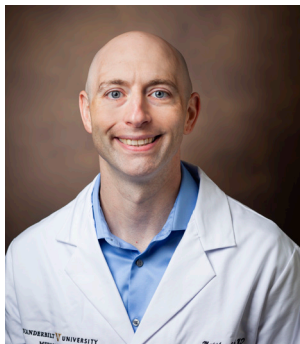
Lauren Siemer, MD
*Instructor
Multispecialty Adult Anesthesiology*

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (2021)

MD, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (2017)

Fun Fact: I won first place in the 2012 BattleBots/Bots IQ national robotics competition (120 lb. college division).



Matthew Smith, MD
*Fellow
Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine*

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, TX (2021)

MD, Uniformed Services University, Bethesda, MD (2017)

Fun Fact: I've lived in seven different states and moved 12 times in the past 15 years.



Stephanie Smith, MD
*Physician
Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital*

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, Northwestern University, McGaw Medical Center, Chicago, IL (2003)

MD, University of Tennessee, Memphis, TN (1999)

Fun Fact: I am an avid reader and trail biker.

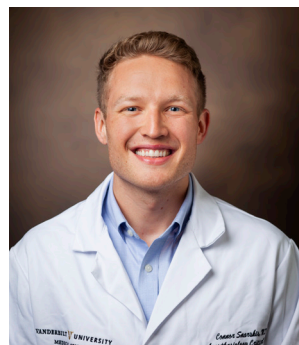
Connor Snarskis, MD
Fellow
Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (2021)

MD, Loyola University of Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, Maywood, IL (2017)

Fun Fact: I worked as a janitor before medical school.



Shelly Stephens, MD
Fellow
Perioperative Medicine

Education and Training:

Fellowship, Perioperative Echocardiography, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT (2021)

Residency, Anesthesiology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT (2020)

MD, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN (2016)

Fun Fact: I enjoy scuba diving, particularly on shipwrecks, despite the fact that I once accidentally swam into a shark.



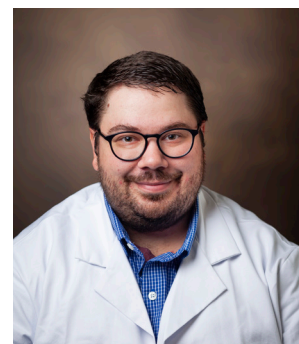
Edward Stredny, MD
Fellow
Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, Penn State University, Hershey, PA (2021)

MD, Penn State University, Hershey, PA (2017)

Fun Fact: I used to play the drums (school band, jazz band, jam sessions) throughout middle school and high school.



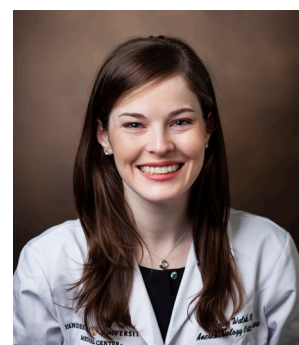
Alaine Walsh, MD
Fellow
Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine

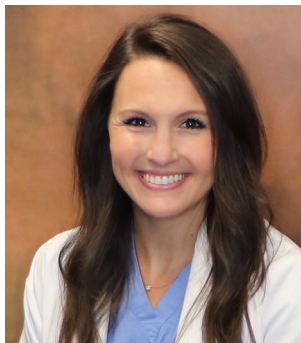
Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX (2021)

MD, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX (2017)

Fun Fact: I love to listen to fantasy and sci-fi audiobooks.





Kylie Weston, DNP
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

DNP, Nurse Anesthesia, Duke University School of Nursing, Durham, NC (2021)

BSN, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR (2015)

Fun Fact: I am a former Vanderbilt MICU nurse.



Brian Whitson, MS
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

MS, Nurse Anesthesia, Gooding Institute of Nurse Anesthesia, Panama City, FL (2006)

BS, Business Administration, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, TN (1999)

Fun Fact: I have completed my 200 hour Yoga Teacher Training and am an avid practitioner.



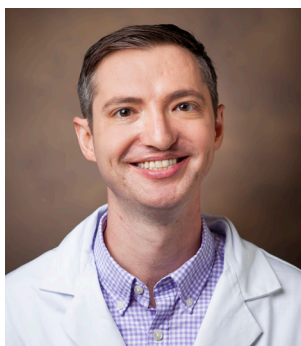
Chris Williams, MSN
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

MSN, Anesthesia, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, TN (2018)

BSN, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL (2013)

Fun Fact: I have a dog named Jeffrey. I love to hike and ski.



Jared Wilmoth, MD
Fellow
Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, Washington University in St Louis School of Medicine, St Louis, MO (2021)

MD, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, KS (2013)

Fun Fact: Nerd alert! I went to space camp...twice.



Rachel Wood, MD
Fellow
Pediatric Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2021)

MD, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA (2017)

Fun Fact: I was born on New Years Day!

Stephanie Woodward, MD
Assistant Professor
Obstetric Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Fellowship, Obstetric Anesthesiology, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL (2021)

Residency, Anesthesiology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC (2020)

MD, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT (2016)

Fun Fact: I have a dog named Jeffrey. I love to hike and ski.



Brittney Wright, DNP
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

DNP, Nurse Anesthesia, Union University, Jackson, TN (2021)

BSN, Union University, Jackson, TN (2013)

Fun Fact: My husband once sent me on a Jackalope hunt in South Dakota.



Amy Zhang, MD
Fellow
Pediatric Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2021)

MD, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA (2017)

Fun Fact: My husband and I love to travel. One of our all-time favorite trips was a last minute four day “mini-moon” to Mexico City a week after we got married. We fell in love with its colorful and rich culture and history, explored museums and parks, and indulged in world-class restaurants and unbeatable street food. We would go back in a heartbeat!



Taylor Ziga, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology
Obstetric Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Fellowship, Obstetric Anesthesiology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA (2021)

Residency, Anesthesiology, Virginia Mason, Seattle, WA (2020)

MD, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University, Augusta, GA (2012)

Fun Fact: I played rugby all throughout college. Our team was formed my freshman year, and by my senior year, we made it to Nationals!



Recent Publications

Abrams B, Latham GJ, **Kertai MD**, Weitzel N. Continuing Research in the Face of Adversity. *Semin Cardiothorac Vasc Anesth*. 2021 Sep;25(3):161-163. doi: 10.1177/10892532211038779. PMID: 34380350.

al'Absi M, Nakajima M, **Bruehl S**. Stress and pain: modality-specific opioid mediation of stress-induced analgesia. *J Neural Transm (Vienna)*. 2021 Aug 17. doi: 10.1007/s00702-021-02401-4. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34405305.

Andrews PS, Thompson J, Raman R, Rick C, Kiehl A, **Pandharipande P**, Jackson JC, Taylor WD, Ely EW, Wilson JE. Delirium, depression, and long-term cognition. *Int Psychogeriatr*. 2021 Nov 12:1-6. doi: 10.1017/S1041610221002556. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34763741.

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Barajas M, Yim PD, Gallos G, Levy RJ. An isolated retrograde-perfused newborn mouse heart preparation. *MethodsX*. 2020; 7: 101058. PMID: 32983923.

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Baumgarten A, **Newton M**. Propofol-induced uric acid crystals: A case of cloudy urine. *Paediatr Anaesth*. 2021 Jul 26. doi: 10.1111/pan.14260. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34309948.

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Beveridge JK, Yeates KO, Madigan S, **Stone AL**, Wilson AC, Sumpton JE, Salberg S, Mychasiuk R, Noel M. Examining Parent Adverse Childhood Experiences as a Distal Risk Factor in Pediatric Chronic Pain. *Clin J Pain*. 2021 Nov 8. doi: 10.1097/AJP.0000000000001002. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34743137.

Bharwani KD, Kersten AB, **Stone AL**, Birklein F, **Bruehl S**, Dirckx M, Drummond PD, Gierthmühlen J, Goebel A, Knudsen L, Huygen FJPM. Denying the Truth Does Not Change the Facts: A Systematic Analysis of Pseudoscientific Denial of Complex Regional Pain Syndrome. *J Pain Res*. 2021 Oct 27;14:3359-3376. doi: 10.2147/JPR.S326638. PMID: 34737631; PMCID: PMC8558034.

Blackburn NA, Joniak-Grant E, Nocera M, Dorris SW, Dasgupta N, Chelminski PR, Carey TS, Wu LT, **Edwards DA**, Marshall SW, Ranapurwala SI. Implementation of mandatory opioid prescribing limits in North Carolina: healthcare administrator and prescriber perspectives. *BMC Health Serv Res*. 2021 Nov 3;21(1):1191. doi: 10.1186/s12913-021-07230-5. PMID: 34732177; PMCID: PMC8565171.

Bruder AL, Rothwell CD, Fuhr LI, Shotwell MS, Edworthy JR, **Schlesinger JJ**. The Influence of Audible Alarm Loudness and Type on Clinical Multitasking. *J Med Syst*. 2021 Nov 23;46(1):5. doi: 10.1007/s10916-021-01794-9. PMID: 34812925.

Bruehl S, Milne G, Schildcrout J, Shi Y, **Anderson S**, Shinar A, Polkowski G, **Mishra P**, **Billings FT 4th**. Oxidative stress is associated with characteristic features of the dysfunctional chronic pain phenotype. *Pain*. 2021 Aug 2. doi: 10.1097/j.pain.0000000000002429. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34382610.

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Cox CB, Laborda T, **Kynes JM**, Hiremath G. Evolution in the Practice of Pediatric Endoscopy and Sedation. *Front Pediatr*. 2021 Jul 14;9:687635. doi: 10.3389/fped.2021.687635. PMID: 34336742; PMCID: PMC8317208.

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Ende HB, Butwick AJ. Current State and Future Direction of Postpartum Hemorrhage Risk Assessment. *Obstet Gynecol*. 2021 Dec 1;138(6):924-930. doi: 10.1097/AOG.0000000000004579. PMID: 34736271.

Ende HB, Landau R, Cole NM, Burns SM, Bateman BT, Bauer ME, Booth JL, Flood P, Leffert LR, Houle TT, Tsen LC. Labor prior to cesarean delivery associated with higher post-discharge opioid consumption. *PLoS One*. 2021 Jul 9;16(7):e0253990. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0253990. PMID: 34242277; PMCID: PMC8270408.

Ende HB, Lumbreras-Marquez MI, Farber MK, Fields KG, Tsen LC. A cluster quasi-randomized controlled trial of an interactive, monthly obstetric anesthesiology curriculum: impact on resident satisfaction and knowledge retention. *Int J Obstet Anesth*. 2021; 45: 124-129. PMID: 33121886.

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France DJ, Schremp E, Rhodes EB, **Slagle J**, Moroz S, Grubb PH, Hatch LD, Shotwell M, **Lorinc A**, Robinson J, Crankshaw M, Newman T, **Weinger MB**, Blakely ML. A pilot study to determine the incidence, type, and severity of non-routine events in neonates undergoing gastrostomy tube placement. *J Pediatr Surg*. 2021 Oct 29:S0022-3468(21)00731-4. doi: 10.1016/j.jpedsurg.2021.10.019. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34839947.

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Lombard FW, Roy S, Shah AS, Feng X, Shotwell MS, **Kertai MD.** Processed EEG Use During Anesthesia and Outcomes: Analysis of the STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database. *Ann Thorac Surg.* 2021 Oct 27:S0003-4975(21)01765-3. doi: 10.1016/j.athoracsur.2021.09.049. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34717905.

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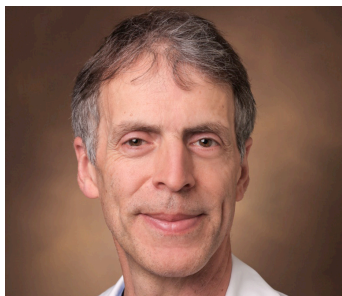
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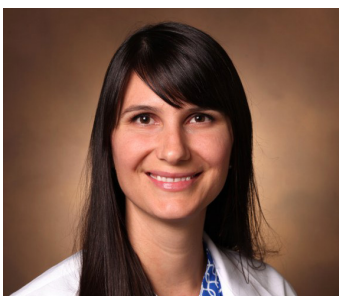
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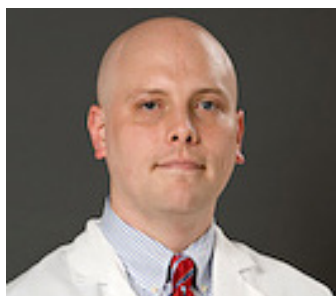
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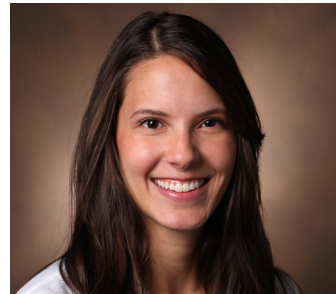
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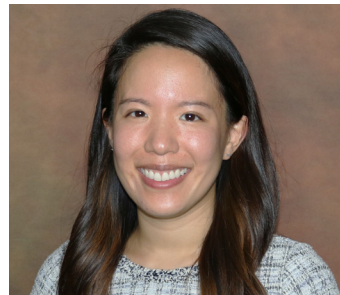
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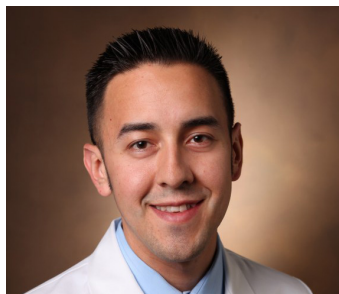
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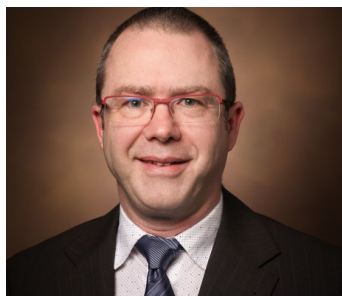
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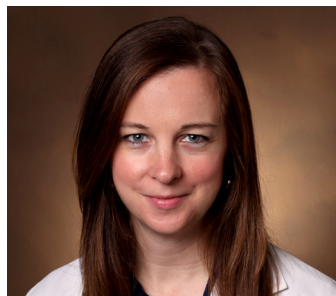
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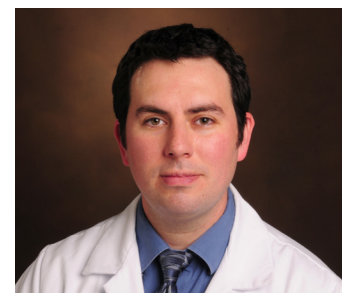
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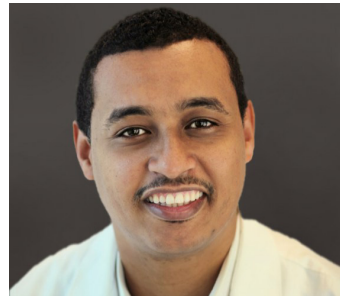
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