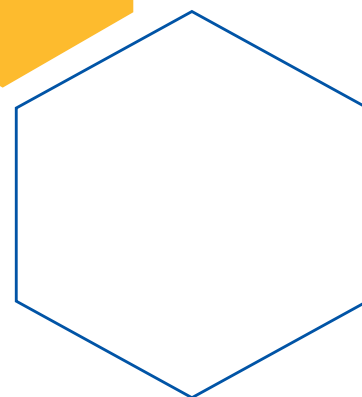


WINTER 2022 EDITION
UCLA DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY & PERIOPERATIVE MEDICINE



David Geffen
School of Medicine

UCLA Health



Open Circuit

EDITOR: KAREN SIBERT, MD, FASA
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: DARNELL BAGSIK

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WITH YOUR HELP THROUGH GIVING...

From the Chair's Desk

By Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD | Chair



This year, 2022, marks the 50th anniversary of our department. Founded as a Division of Anesthesiology under the Department of Surgery in 1951, we became an independent academic department in 1972 under the impetus of our inaugural chair, Dr. John Dillon.

Ours is one of the youngest departments to be among the top-ranked departments of anesthesiology in the nation for education, research, and clinical care. In 1972, we had only five faculty and three residents, and we were covering three operating rooms at the Center for Health Sciences (CHS).

Fast-forward 50 years later: we are performing more than 100,000 procedures per year across multiple campuses including Ronald Reagan Medical Center, UCLA-Santa Monica Medical Center, Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital, and our community clinic practices. We are proud that our work family now includes more than 200 faculty, 20 attending physicians, more than 100 residents, 20 fellows, 55 nurse anesthetists, 50 research personnel, and 40 staff members.

Our physicians, researchers, nurses and staff members are some of the finest in the world. I would like to take a moment to celebrate what we have accomplished as a team in the past six months and the impact our work is having on the community we serve. Some highlights include:

- UCLA Health has been ranked #3 in the United States by US News & World Report. This is a reflection of the daily and nightly work that all of our clinicians are doing. This cannot be recognized enough.



2021-2022 Honor Roll Rankings

- #1 Mayo Clinic
Rochester, MN
- #2 Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland, OH
- #3 UCLA Medical Center
Los Angeles, CA

COVER PHOTO:
Chief residents Annie Tran, Jake Melendrez, and Ryan Gamlin guide CA-1 resident Jennifer Nam as she puts in a 14g IV during her very first call night.

- The Ambulatory Surgery Center at Westwood has been ranked #1 in the country by Newsweek. This is a significant recognition of the work of **Dr. Parisa Partownavid** as the Medical Director.



- **Dr. Zarah Antongiorgi** and **Dr. Mansoureh Eghbali** have been appointed co-chairs of the Academic Promotion Committee (see also p. 33).
- **Dr. Ihab Ayad** has been selected as the Chief of the Division of Pediatric Anesthesiology, succeeding **Dr. Swati Patel** (see also p. 32).
- **Dr. Robert Eldridge** and **Dr. Christine Nguyen-Buckley** have been appointed anesthesiology and perioperative leads for the multidisciplinary UCLA Gender Health Program.
- **Dr. Pamela Chia** and **Dr. Valeria Carcamo-Cavazos** have been appointed Associate Program Directors for Acute Pain and Regional Anesthesiology (see also p.36).
- **Dr. Jennifer Lucero** is a co-author of a landmark article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* on aversive racism in academic medicine (see also p. 48). This article was accompanied by a podcast with Dr. Lucero.
- **Dr. Beti Asnake** joined the Department as our first Director for Global Health and the

anesthesiology lead for global health with the UCLA Program for the Advancement of Surgical Equity (PASE).

- Three of our faculty have been appointed to the board of the Faculty Executive Committee: **Dr. Jure Marijic**, **Dr. Christine Myo Bui**, and **Dr. Ali Salehi**.
- **Dr. Dan Cole** has been appointed President of the Anesthesiology Patient Safety Foundation (APSF) for a five-year term.
- **Dr. Karen Sibert** has been asked to deliver the honorary Forrest E. Leffingwell Memorial Lecture at the annual meeting of the California Society of Anesthesiologists (CSA) in April.
- Our residency program has officially grown with an additional two residents per class, moving us up to a total of 108 residents.
- **Dr. Nirav Kamdar** has been appointed Vice President for Quality and Clinical Operations at Huntington Hospital in Pasadena. While we are sad to see him leave UCLA, we are proud to have provided an environment where his growth allowed him to secure this outstanding leadership position.
- The laboratory of **Riccardo Olcese, PhD**, was featured in the [Journal of General Physiology](#) for ground-breaking work on the application of voltage-clamp fluorometry (made possible because of the cut-open oocyte clamp developed in our department) for the assignment of functional specificity to the voltage-sensing domains of the CaV1.1 calcium channel of skeletal muscle (see also p. 51).



Dr. Cannesson leads a CA-3 tutorial on enhanced recovery and practice management.

This is just a few of the many accomplishments of our department members over the past several months. Many more are detailed in this issue.

This year we will organize the inaugural UCLA Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine Annual Symposium as a way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our department. We hope to make this an annual event where the work and talent of our faculty and trainees will inform the anesthesiology community in California and all over the nation. Stay tuned for more info about this special event!

Again, thank you for all your hard work, commitment, enthusiasm, courage, passion, and grit. Each and every one of you is an

essential part of our community and I appreciate everything you do, day in and day out.

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Maxime Cannesson.

Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD

A Word From the Editor

By Karen Sibert, MD, FASA



[Viking forebears \(maybe\).](#)

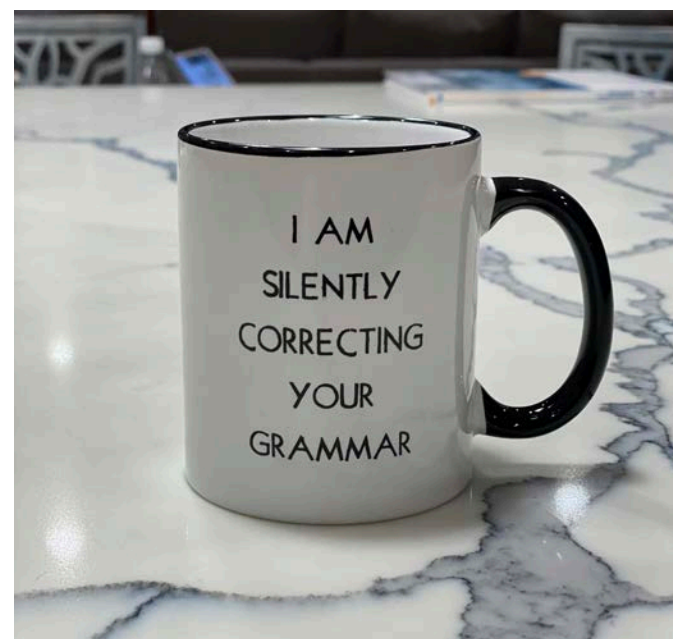
The pause gives me a chance to reflect on how much has happened in the past two years. In early 2020, we were only starting to hear about the frightening new coronavirus. In early 2021, we were just coming out of the vicious winter surge that filled ICUs and emergency rooms to overflowing. Now, we and our patients have had the benefit of vaccinations and booster shots. We're not completely immune from catching the virus but are much less in fear for our lives.

As always, we as a department have so much to celebrate. In this issue of Open Circuit, you'll find a great deal of information about our research, from presentations at the ASA Annual Meeting in San Diego to the latest grants and publications. You'll see how our residents and fellows manage to find fun amid call schedules, clinical demands, and training exams. Our accomplished faculty, fellows, residents, nurse anesthetists, and staff members have achieved more than we

could ever have expected, especially in light of pandemic challenges.

Really, we know everyone only wants to look at the photos, and we have plenty of them – holidays celebrated, marriages made, babies born, and pets adopted! Be sure not to miss the saga of miracle baby Gabriel MacDougall Wolfe, and our new feature, "Humans of UCLA Anesthesia," the brainchild of CA-1 resident Jordan Francke.

Please continue to send us your news items, whether you're a current member of the department or a past graduate. We would love to hear from you, and we always appreciate photos! And finally, many, many thanks to Associate Editor Darnell Bagsik, for her expert help with putting this issue together.



California delegation celebrates winning the Alabama Cup for most PAC donations! Look for Drs. Karen Sibert and Johnathan Pregler in the front row, and Drs. Rana Movahedi, Philip Levin, Jim Moore, and Jeff Rusheen, standing

ANESTHESIOLOGY 2021: Highlights from San Diego

Many of our faculty members and residents enjoyed the opportunity to travel to San Diego in early October for the ASA annual meeting, ANESTHESIOLOGY 2021. It was a delight to reconnect with so many friends and colleagues from all over the country – many seeing each other for the first time in two years, as last year's meeting was entirely virtual.

From the UCLA viewpoint, one major highlight was watching our Vice Chair Dan Cole, MD, FASA, receive the ASA's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, presented to him by ASA President Beverly Philip, MD, FASA.

"The past couple of years have been trying for all of us in medicine," Dr. Cole told the audience. "They have caused us to dig deep into our collective soul, to reflect and to reconnect with our purpose as physicians, which is to help another human being at a vulnerable moment in their life."



Dr. Karen Sibert, center, with Drs. Lawrence Saldman and Steve Shafer of Stanford.

"I can't tell you how proud I am of our specialty, of each one of you who have sacrificed, who have stepped up during trying times," Dr. Cole continued. "We have stayed true to providing the highest quality and safest medical care. We have stayed true to our legacy of innovation and pushing the boundaries of improving health and healthcare. We have developed a new and strong understanding of how critical it is to embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion. No one should be marginalized."

“We all have been hit hard by the increased level of stress and burnout in the healthcare workforce,” Dr. Cole said. “We all went into medicine to help another human being at a vulnerable time. That helping hand, that heart of medicine, extends to our sisters and brothers that we work with.”

“To close, I want to leave you with a quote on the path forward: From those who have been given much, much is required,” Dr. Cole said.



Dr. John Patton was everywhere!

Research, Panels, Posters, and More!

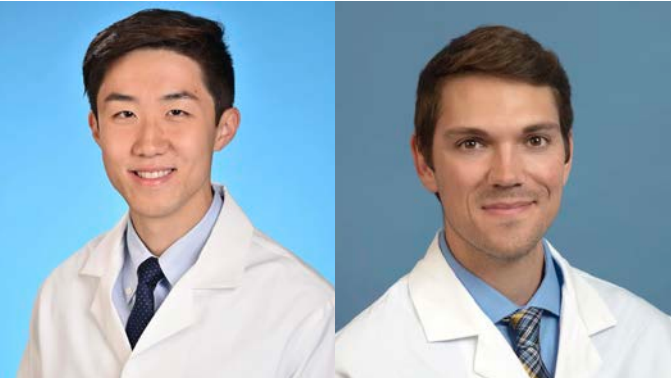
Three of our department’s research abstracts received the top honor of invited presentation at the Sunday morning “Best of Abstracts: Basic Science” session:

BOS06 – 15-HETE Induces Pulmonary Hypertension: The Role of the Inhibitory Protein AP15
Gregoire Ruffenach, PhD, Ellen O’Connor, BS, Srinivasa Reddy, PhD, Mansoureh Eghbali, PhD.

BOS07 – Intrathecal Neuronal Nitric Oxide Synthase Inhibition Attenuates Pulmonary Hypertension and Rescues Right Ventricular Failure in Rats
Asif Razee, MS, Somanshu Banerjee, PhD, Michael Zargari, BS, Soban Umar, MD, PhD.

BOS08 – Nifedipine Binding to the Skeletal L-type Cav1.1 Channel Remodels its Voltage-sensing Apparatus
Marina Angelini, PhD, Nicoletta Savalli, PhD, Federica Steccanella, PhD, Riccardo Olcese, PhD.

Many other faculty members, residents, and fellows participated in teaching workshops, leading panel discussions, and presenting their research and challenging cases in poster format.



Dr. Jane Moon, our department’s historian, gave a featured lecture in the Wood Library Museum’s annual Patrick Sim Forum on the History of Anesthesiology. She told the remarkable story of obstetric anesthesiologist John J. Bonica, MD, a Sicilian-American from a humble background, who worked as a circus strongman and a wrestler to finance his own education. You can hear her lecture and view historic photographs from Dr. Bonica’s life on the [ASA Annual Meeting website](#).

Still others participated as delegates for CSA at the many ASA governance activities including the two meetings of the ASA House of Delegates. We were proud that CSA won the Alabama Cup honoring the state with the most ASAPAC donations! Our delegation includes three former CSA presidents: Drs. Jim Moore, Johnathan Pregler, and Karen Sibert. Other UCLA faculty in the California delegation are Drs. Philip Levin, Rana Movahedi, and Jeff Rusheen. CA-3 resident Brock Gamez, MD, served as our

ASA Resident Delegate, and CA-2 Brian Park took part as the alternate delegate.

Here’s the full list of our many department presentations!

Special Sessions (In-person)

SPE08 – WLM History Panel: Untold Stories of Anesthesia in the Second World War: Part I: Sunday, October 10th, 7:30 – 8:30 AM
(Location: Upper 25ABC)

Lt. Col. Henry K. Beecher: Science Meets Practice during World War II
Jane Moon, MD

SPE15 – Best of Abstracts: Basic Science: Sunday, October 10th, 9:45 – 11:45 AM
(Location: Upper 9)

BOS06 – 15-HETE Induces Pulmonary Hypertension: The Role of the Inhibitory Protein AP15
Gregoire Ruffenach, PhD, Ellen O’Connor, BS, Srinivasa Reddy, PhD, Mansoureh Eghbali, PhD

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Marina Angelini, PhD, Nicoletta Savalli, PhD, Federica Steccanella, PhD, Riccardo Olcese, PhD

SPE18 – FAER/eSAS: MSARF/RSP Symposium: Sunday, October 10th, 1:00 – 4:30 PM
(Location: Upper 20D)

Preoperative Sleep Disturbance, not Mini-Cog, predicts postoperative delirium in geriatric surgical patients scheduled for elective non-cardiac surgery
Cecilia Canales, MD, MPH, Sharon Feinberg, RN, Victor Duval, MD, Sumit Singh, MD, Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD

SPE20 – Emery A. Rovenstine Lecture: Ever Eger: My Love Affair with Anesthesia: Monday, October 11th, 8:00 – 9:15 AM
(Location: Upper 20ABC)

Distinguished Service Award (DSA)
Daniel Cole, MD, FASA



Dr. Dan Cole accepts Distinguished Service Award from ASA President Beverly Philip, MD.

Oral Presentations (VIRTUAL)

OR01-1 – Ambulatory Anesthesia: Saturday, October 9th, 7:45 – 8:45 AM
(VIRTUAL)

A1004 – Novel Non-opioid Anesthetic Mixture more Effective than Opioid-based 6-2-2 for Ocular Block and Ophthalmic Surgery
Sergey Prokushev, MD, Sarah Colosimo, CRNA, Gloria NakyeYune, CRNA, Zhuang T. Fang, MD

OR04-1 – Clinical Circulation: Saturday, October 9th, 10:15 – 11:15 AM
(VIRTUAL)

A1016 – The Relationship between Intraoperative Hypotension and Postoperative Mortality in Liver Transplantation
Libing Wang, MD, Christine C. Myo Bui, MD, Ira S. Hofer, MD, Eilon Gabel, MD, Victor Xia, MD

OR09-1 – Experimental Circulation: Saturday, October 9th, 1:15 – 2:15 PM
(VIRTUAL)

A1037 – Small Leucine-rich Proteoglycan Asporin Represses Cardiac and Pulmonary Fibroblast Activation

Lejla Medzikovic, PhD, Laila Aryan, BA, Gregoire N. Ruffenach, PhD, Mansoureh Eghbali, PhD

A1039 – Knockdown of Snai1 Rescues Pulmonary Hypertension-induced Right Ventricular Failure in Rats by Inhibiting Endothelial-to-mesenchymal-transition, Chromatin Remodeling and Fibrosis via Loxl2 Mediated Mechanism

Soban Umar, MD, PhD, Varina R. Clark, MD, John F. Park, MD, PhD, Somanshu Banerjee, PhD

OR16-1 – Regional Anesthesia and Acute Pain I: Saturday, October 9th, 2:30 – 3:30 PM (VIRTUAL)

A1060 – Posterior Quadratus Lumborum Block in Myomectomy: A Randomized, Controlled Trial

Christopher Little, MD, Natale Naim, MD, Tristan Grogan, MS, Pamela A. Chia, MD



Drs. Jonathan Jahr and Christine Myo Bui.

OR19-1 – Perioperative Medicine I: Saturday, October 9th, 3:45 – 4:45 PM

(VIRTUAL)

A1072 – Identification of Risk Factors for New Persistent Opioid Use after Surgery

Gia Pittet, PhD, Bunyamin Ozaydin, PhD, Honorio T. Benzon, MD, Siamak Rahman, MD, Theodora E. Wingert, MD, Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD

OR08-2 – Equipment, Monitoring and Engineering Technology II: Sunday, October 10th, 7:30 – 8:30 AM (VIRTUAL)

A2010 – Preliminary In Vivo Quantitative Assessment of a Novel Aerosol Containment Device in an Operating Room Theatre

Sebastian Kwon, MD, MS, John Shin, MD, Liqiao Li, MS, Muchuan Niu, MS, Haoxuan Chen, PhD, Yifang Zhu, PhD, Peyton Tebon, BS, Tristan Grogan, MS, Soban Umar, MD, PhD, Nir Hoftman, MD, Siamak Rahman, MD, Theodora E. Wingert, MD, and Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD

OR13-2 – Information Management and Database Research II: Sunday, October 10th, 10:00 – 11:00 AM (VIRTUAL)

A2044 – Defining Gender and Race/ethnicity-specific Laboratory Reference Ranges and its Impact on Predicting Post-operative Acute Kidney Injury and Mortality Outcomes

Andrew Lee, MS, Ira S. Hofer, MD, Tristan Grogan, MS

OR10-2 – Experimental Neurosciences II: TBI, CVA, POD: Monday, October 11th, 1:15 – 2:15 PM (VIRTUAL)

A3001 – A De Novo, Gain-of-function Mutation In CaV1.2 Channel Pore Is Associated With Developmental Delay And Seizures

Nicoletta Savalli, PhD, Federica Steccanella, PhD, Niroshi T. Senaratne, PhD, Michela Ottolia, PhD, Sulagna Saitta, MD, PhD, Riccardo Olcese, PhD

eAbstract Poster Presentations (VIRTUAL)

EA01-1 – Ambulatory Anesthesia: Saturday, October 9th, 7:45 AM – 3:00 PM (VIRTUAL)

A4001 – The Novel 6-2-2 Sedation Method: Safe in the Elderly and Morbidly Obese Patients for Ocular Blocks and Ophthalmic Surgery

Zhuang-Ting Fang, MD, FASA, Christopher Weitekamp, CRNA, Jennifer Katsura, CRNA, Ralph Cabrera, CRNA

A4002 – Safety and Efficacy of Rapid, Patient-tailored Sedation Method with Dense Analgesia, Patent Airway, and Stable Hemodynamics

Theodora Wingert, MD, Alan Zamora, CRNA, Natalia Macdougall, CRNA, Allison Leveque, CRNA, Zhuang T. Fang, MD, FASA

EA05-1 – Clinical Neurosciences: Saturday, October 9th, 7:45 AM – 3:00 PM (VIRTUAL)

A4031 – Brain Tissue Changes after Lung Transplantation in Adults

Matthew Vandiver, MD, PhD, Bhaswati Roy, PhD, Rajesh Kumar, PhD

EA19-1 – Perioperative Medicine: Saturday, October 9th, 7:45 AM – 3:00 PM (VIRTUAL)

A4203 – Drug Price and Policy Knowledge Influence Prescription Behavior in Orphan Disease: Pheochromocytoma and Paraganglioma as Prototypes of Orphan Drug Econometrics

Danny Le, BS, Joe C. Hong, MD, Jason Lee, MD, Joseph S. Meltzer, MD, Elaine A. Boydston, MD, Tristan Grogan, MS, Nirav V. Kamdar, MD, MBA

Medically Challenging Case Presentations (In-person)

MCC01 - Medically Challenging Cases I: Saturday, October 9th, 1:00 – 3:00 PM (Location: Exhibit Hall)

MC1105 (1:50 – 2:00 PM) – Anesthetic Management of VV-ECMO Patient Undergoing Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy

Peter Schnaak, MD, Marisa Hernandez-Morgan, MD

MC1140 (2:00 – 2:10 PM) – Use of Regional Anesthesia in the Setting of Hypertropic

Obstructive Cardiomyopathy

Mariam Sarwary, MD, Pamela Chia, MD, MS, Natale Naim, MD

MC1168 (2:20 – 2:30 PM) – Asleep-awake-asleep Craniotomy in a Patient with Coronary Artery Disease and Heart Block

Libing Wang, MD, Joe Hong, MD

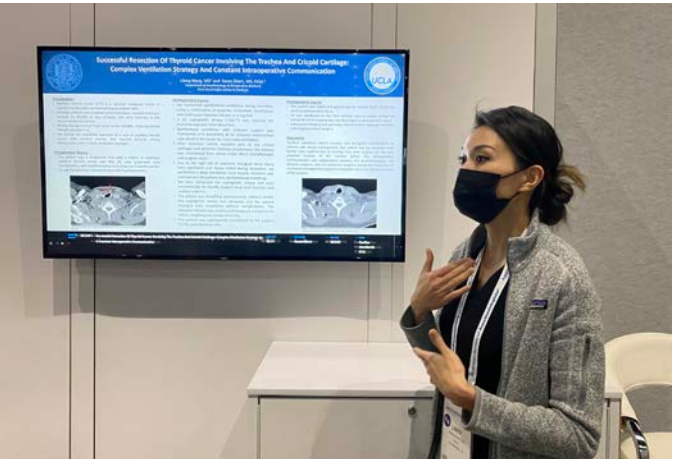
MC1221 (2:50 – 3:00 PM) – Post-operative Cardiac Arrest after Transurethral Resection of the Prostate

Vivian Wung, MD, Christine Nguyen-Buckley, MD

MCC02 – Medically Challenging Cases II: Sunday, October 10th, 7:30 – 9:30 AM (Location: Exhibit Hall)

MC2081 (Monitor 01 – 8:10 – 8:20 AM) - Successful Resection of Thyroid Cancer Involving the Trachea and Cricoid Cartilage: Complex Ventilation Strategy and Constant Intraoperative Communication

Karen Sibert, MD, Libing Wang, MD



Dr. Libby Wang, cardiothoracic anesthesiology fellow, presents her Medically Challenging Case.

MC2108 (8:20 – 8:30 AM) – Anesthesia for Inferior Vena Cava Resection in Patient with Carcinoid Syndrome

Alexonder Tran, MD, Christine Nguyen-Buckley, MD

MC2110 (8:20 – 8:30 M) – Acetazolamide Associated Acute Non-anion Gap Metabolic Acidosis, A Case Report

John Shin, MD, Samrawit Abraha, MD, Craig Flath, MD

MC2111 (8:20 – 8:30 AM) – Lumbar Epidural Considerations in a Patient with Lamellar Icthyosis

Ryan Gamlin, MD, Sapna Satyanarayan-Victor, MD

MCC03 – Medically Challenging Cases III: Sunday, October 10th, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
(Location: Exhibit Hall)

MC2352 (10:50 – 11:00 AM) – Rapid Metabolism of Local Anesthetic during Labor Epidural
Tanner Tripp, MD, Pamela Chia, MD, MS, Phillip Morway, MD

MCC06 – Medically Challenging Cases VI: Monday, October 11th, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
(Location: Exhibit Hall)

MC3245 (Monitor 11 – 1:00 – 1:10 PM) - Consideration Of Patient Personal Well-being In Anesthesia Planning: Anesthesia Management For A Combined Scleral Buckle And Vitrectomy In A 40 Year-old, G5p0 Woman
Andrew Sikorsky, MD, Zhuang Fang, MD

MC3251 (1:10 – 1:20 PM) – A Red Herring and a Legendary Case: Healthy Young Female Presents with Hallucinations and Winds up on ECMO
Maryte Gyls, MD, MBA, Logan Woodhouse, MD, Kasey Grewe, MD, Christopher Ortiz, MD, PhD, Matthew Vandiver, MD, PhD

MC3330 (1:50 – 2:00 PM) – Anesthesia for Tracheoplasty in Mounier-Kuhn Syndrome
Nicole Nguyen, BS, Benjamin Kwittken, MD, Jason Lee, MD

MC3439 (2:50 – 3:00 PM) – Anesthetic Considerations when Common Anesthetics are Contraindicated
Douglas Campbell, MD, Pamela Chia, MD, MS

QI Projects (In-person)

Q101 – Quality Improvement Projects: Sunday, October 10th, 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
(Location: Exhibit Hall)

Q2030 (4:10 – 4:20 PM) – Recycling in the Era of COVID-19
Tanner Tripp, MD, Shanpeng Li, MD, MS, Linda Li, MD

Q2071 (4:20 – 4:30 PM) – Quality Improvement: Enhancing Regional Anesthesia Experience for Patients, Surgeons, and the Acute Pain Service
Pamela Chia, MD, MS, John Kleinman, MD

Q2140 (4:50 – 5:00 PM) – Reduction of Perioperative Blood Transfusion during Liver Transplantation
Christina Ma, MD, Joseph DiNorcia, MD, MS, Christopher Wray, MD, Victor Xia, MD, Christine Nguyen-Buckley, MD



Dr. John Patton stayed active on Instagram throughout the meeting.

Point-Counterpoint (In-person)

PC01 – Peer Review: Does it Improve Patient Care and Safety? Saturday, October 9th, 7:45 – 8:45 AM
(Location: Upper 6DE)

Peer Review is Necessary for Patient Safety
Emily Methangkool, MD



PC02 – Scope of Practice: Can a Nurse Anesthetist Really Do My Job? Saturday, October 9th, 10:15 – 11:15 AM
(Location: Upper 23ABC)

Moderator
Karen Sibert, MD

60-Minute Panels (In-person)

PN315 – Art into Science: The Intersection of Evidence and Pediatric Airway Management in Modern Practice: Monday, October 11th, 2:30 – 3:30 PM
(Location: Upper 3)

Predictors of Difficult or Impossible Mask Ventilation: What Can We Learn from a Machine?
Lisa Lee, MD

PN401 – Through the Looking Glass and Beyond the EEG. In Vivo Imaging of Neuronal Activity During Wakefulness and General Anesthesia: Tuesday, October 12th, 7:30 – 8:30 AM
(Location: Upper 8)

Isoflurane differentially affects the activity of parvalbumin and pyramidal neurons in superficial cortical layers in vivo
Andrew Hudson, MD, PhD

Workshops (In-person)

Session 807 - Electrophysiology: Perioperative CIED Management, Temporary Pacing, Lead Removal, and Left Atrial Implant Devices: Saturday, October 9th, 1:00-2:30 PM
(Location: Upper 28DE)

Moderator
Jonathan Ho, MD
Speaker
Andrew Disque, MD, MS

Session 808 – Basic Critical Care Ultrasonography for the Perioperative Physician: Saturday, October 9th, 1:00 – 2:30 PM
(Location: Upper 30ABC)

Speaker
Wolf Kratzert, MD

Session 823 – Basic Transesophageal Echocardiography (TEE) Workshop: Sunday, October 10th, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
(Location: Upper 30ABC)

Speaker
Emily Methangkool, MD, MPH

Session 825A – Peripheral Nerve Block Workshop: Ultrasound and Simulation: Sunday, October 10th, 10:30 – 12:00 PM
(Location: Upper 28DE)

Speaker
Rana Movahedi, MD

Session 825B – Peripheral Nerve Block Workshop: Ultrasound and Simulation: Sunday, October 10th, 1:00 – 2:30 PM
(Location: Upper 28DE)

Speaker
Rana Movahedi, MD

Session 825C – Peripheral Nerve Block Workshop: Ultrasound and Simulation: Sunday, October 10th, 3:15 – 4:45 PM
(Location: Upper 28DE)

Speaker
Rana Movahedi, MD

Session 825D – Peripheral Nerve Block Workshop: Ultrasound and Simulation: Monday, October 11th, 9:15 – 10:45 AM
(Location: Upper 28DE)

Speaker
Rana Movahedi, MD

Session 835 – Transthoracic Echocardiography for Everyone: Monday, October 11th, 1:00 - 2:30 PM
(Location: Upper 29AB)

Speaker
Jonathan Ho, MD

Session 838 – Perioperative Point-of-Care Ultrasound: Monday, October 11th, 1:00 – 4:00 PM
(Location: Upper 30DE)

Moderator
Prince Neelankavil, MD

Session 839 – Integrating Acupuncture in Perioperative Care and Pain Medicine Workshop
(Location: Upper 28DE)

Eric Hsu, MD

Problem-Based Learning Discussions *(In-person)*

L137 – Select Opioid Antagonist for Diffuse Body and Joints Pain. An Alternative Modality versus Opioid Agonist: Saturday, October 9th, 2:30 – 3:30 PM
(Location: Mezzanine 16AB)

Eric Hsu, MD

L216 – Select Opioid Antagonist for Diffuse Body and Joints Pain. An Alternative Modality versus Opioid Agonist?: Sunday, October 10th, 8:45 – 9:45 AM
(Location: Mezzanine 16AB)

Eric Hsu, MD

Clinical Forum *(In-person)*

CF04 – Intraoperative Thoracic & Airway Disasters: Don't Just Stand There, Do Something!: Saturday, October 9th, 10:15 – 11:15 AM
(Location: Upper 24ABC)

Intraoperative Management of Pulmonary Hemorrhage
Sophia Poorsatta, MD

SNAP Talk *(In-person)*

ST212 – My Patient is Too Sick for Surgery, but not for NORA? Confronting Challenges to Patient Safety Outside of the OR: Sunday, October 10th, 2:30 – 3:30 PM
(Location: Upper 6A)

Perils of caring for the cardiac patient in NORA
Emily Methangkool, MD, MPH

ST304 – Brain Monitoring in 2021: Innovations and Applications: Monday, October 11th, 9:30 – 10:30 AM
(Location: Upper 6F)

Moderator
Susana Vacas, MD, PhD

ST308 – Do Perioperative Handoffs Really Cause Harm? If So, What Can We Do About It?: Monday, October 11th, 2:30 – 3:30 PM
(Location: Upper 2)

Which Handoff should I work on? Intraoperative vs. OR-PACU or OR-ICU Handoffs
Emily Methangkool, MD, MPH

ST309 – Performance Metrics for Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine: Why and How?: Monday, October 11th, 2:30 – 3:30 PM
(Location: Upper 8)

James Moore, MD

ST314 – ALERT! What Do I Need to Do About Intraoperative Neurophysiologic Monitoring? Monday, October 11th, 3:00 – 4:00 PM
(Location: Upper 6C)

Amplitude and Latency – Somatosensory evoked potentials for the general anesthesiologist
Natalie Moreland, MD

ST402 – Becoming a #1 Influencer in Anesthesiology: How to Use Social Media for Professional Development: Tuesday, October 12th, 7:30 – 8:30 AM
(Location: Upper 3)

Tweeting for Career Advancement: A Practical Guide to Leveraging Social Media
Emily Methangkool, MD, MPH

ST403 – The Snap on Meds: Recent Insights into New and Old Perioperative Medications: Tuesday, October 12th, 7:30 – 8:30 AM
(Location: Mezzanine 15AB)

Sugammadex: Questions you were afraid to ask and answers you need to know
Jonathan Jahr, MD

Other Sessions *(In-person)*

MS06 – Tips for Residency Program: Saturday, October 9th, 1:00 – 1:50 PM
(Location: Upper 33ABC)

Lead Speaker
Jack Buckley, MD

RF11 – Program Director Panel Discussion: Saturday, October 9th, 4:00 – 5:00PM
(Location: Upper 32AB)

Lead Speaker
Jack Buckley, MD

Interactive Tutorial *(In-person)*

IT403 – Health Care Disparities in COVID-19: Fighting the Battle of Unconscious Bias and Understanding Privilege in Health Care: Tuesday, October 12th, 12:00 – 3:00 PM
(Location: Upper 29CD)

Jennifer Lucero, MD, M.A. – Obstetric Anesthesia
Zarah Antongiorgi, MD – Critical Care
Robert Eldridge, MD – Critical Care



Drs. Robert Eldridge, left, Jennifer Lucero, center, and Zarah Antongiorgi, right, led this interactive tutorial.

Congratulations to all! We're already looking forward to next year's ASA Annual Meeting in New Orleans!

Welcome to Our Newest Faculty Members!

By Darnell Bagsik

We are delighted to announce the appointment of five new anesthesiologists to the faculty of the Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine. Two are graduates of our residency program and one completed fellowship training here as well.



Sepehr Tehrani, MD

Dr. Tehrani completed medical school at Johns Hopkins University, and anesthesiology residency at UCLA. He has joined our team with a clinical focus in multispecialty anesthesiology, and has a research interest in simulation training as well as patient safety. Dr. Tehrani's hobbies include traveling, hiking, watching movies, and playing board games.



Howard Zee, MD

Dr. Zee graduated from medical school at the University of Hawaii. He then completed anesthesiology residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, and a fellowship in critical care medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Zee has joined our team with a clinical focus in critical care anesthesiology. His academic interests focus on medical education for students at all levels. Dr. Zee enjoys sports, traveling, cooking, and spending time with his family.



Samuel Hong, MD

Dr. Hong graduated from medical school at the University of Southern California. He then completed anesthesiology residency and a fellowship in critical care medicine at UCLA, and has joined our team with a clinical focus in critical care anesthesiology. Dr. Hong's academic interests include the care of patients in the cardiothoracic surgical ICU, surgical ICU, and tele-ICU environments, as well as the improvement of perioperative patient care and communication between multispecialty anesthesiology teams and the ICU. He loves to surf, work out, play soccer and pickleball, and squeeze his niece's chubby cheeks.



Sunberri Murphy, DO

Dr. Murphy graduated from Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in New York. She then completed anesthesiology residency at Johns Hopkins University and a fellowship in cardiothoracic anesthesiology at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Murphy has joined our team with a clinical focus in multispecialty anesthesiology, and has an academic interest in resident education. Her hobbies include yoga, snowboarding, paddleboarding, reading, and delving into different arts and cultures.



Betelehem Asnake, MD, MS

Dr. Asnake graduated from medical school at the University of Virginia and earned her Master's in Pharmacology at the Virginia Commonwealth University. She then completed anesthesiology residency at the University of California, Davis and a fellowship in global health and equity at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Asnake has joined our team as the first-ever Director of Global Health, with a clinical focus in obstetric anesthesiology. Her academic interests involve the development of global health initiatives and health equity curricula for trainees in the department. Dr. Asnake enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, and cooking.



Jocelyn Kerpelman, MD

Dr. Kerpelman graduated from medical school and completed her anesthesiology residency at the Medical University of South Carolina. She then completed a fellowship in critical care medicine at Columbia University. Dr. Kerpelman has joined our team with a clinical focus in multispecialty anesthesiology. Her academic interests involve developing quality improvement initiatives across disciplines as well as patient-centered care and physician advocacy. Dr. Kerpelman enjoys running, hiking, camping, traveling, trying new restaurants, and spending time with family and friends.

Education Updates 2021-22

By Jack Buckley, MD, Christine Myo Bui, MD, and Judi Turner, MD, PhD

Education Leadership

We continue to grow as a department and look for opportunities to strengthen our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. We now advertise and fill education leadership positions through open, internal searches with published descriptions of desirable experience and job requirements.

We are happy to welcome our newest additions to our fellowship program leaders: Drs. **Valeria Carcamo-Cavazos** and **Pamela Chia** (Class of 2019), Associate Program Directors for Regional Anesthesia and Acute Pain Medicine for our two main campuses in Westwood and Santa Monica, working with Program Director, Dr. **Eva Boyd**. Additionally, positions in Pain Medicine and Anesthesia Critical Care Medicine are open and applications under review. (Please see also the article in this issue on Awards, Honors, and Recognition).

We are excited to report that, **Dr. Colby Tanner** (Chief Resident, Class of 2020) was appointed as our new Associate Medical Student Education Director, working with the director, **Dr. John Shin**. Together with Jessyka Delgado, Medical Student Education Coordinator, their goal is to make sure every medical student has an amazing experience rotating through our department!

In addition, we'd like to congratulate our three DAPM faculty who were selected to serve as part of an elite group of Educators for Excellence in the David Geffen School of Medicine: Drs. **Myro Figura**, **Michelle Harvey**, and **Lisa Lee**. They will join Dr. **Jason Lee** who has served in this role as part of the inaugural program for the past two years.

Medical Students

It's clear from our resident and fellow rosters each year that we love our sub-interns at UCLA. We were very happy to welcome fourth-year medical students back to in-person rotations starting last summer. This year we welcomed 53 Anesthesiology, 11 Critical Care and 11 Pain Medicine sub-interns from across the country!

As part of our holistic approach to promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion, we offered for the first time a Visiting Student Scholarship to support sub-interns committed to fostering workforce diversity in healthcare—in particular, seeking applicants who are underrepresented in medicine and/or committed to working in underserved communities. Applications are reviewed by the Medical Student Education Director, Associate Director, the Education Workgroup of the DAPM EDI Committee, and Dr. Turner.



Pain medicine fellows learning their craft—Drs. Sara Navab, Jerry Markar, Hayley Osen, Joshua Barnhill, and Syed Jeffery.

Drs. Elizabeth Kremen and Marc Iravani with their patient in Nuevo Progreso, Guatemala.



The competitive \$2000 scholarship this year was awarded to three outstanding medical students to offset travel and housing. More information is available on [our department website](#).

Residency

Our residents continue to make advancements and contributions in research. Our three research scholars, **John Park, CA-1**, **Brittany Burton, CA-2**, and **Cecilia Canales, CA-3**, have all authored publications throughout the course of the pandemic:

- **Dr. Ceci Canales**: “Preoperative Point-of-Care Ultrasound to Identify Frailty and Predict Postoperative Outcomes: A Diagnostic Accuracy Study”, February 2022, Anesthesiology.
- **Dr. John Park**: “Transcriptomic Analysis of Right Ventricular Remodeling in Two Rat Models of Pulmonary Hypertension: Identification and Validation of Epithelial-to-Mesenchymal Transition in Human Right Ventricular Failure”, February 2021, Circulation: Heart Failure.

- **Dr. Brittany Burton**: “Should there be a body mass index eligibility cutoff for elective airway cases in ambulatory surgery center?” September 2021, Journal Clinical Anesthesia.

San Diego hosted a successful American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) 2021 Annual Meeting in October. The department contributed a total of more than 62 abstracts, and presentations. Our prolific residents presented scholarly achievements in one special session: four oral presentations, ten medically challenging cases, and six quality improvement cases.

As co-president of the UCLA Minority Housestaff Organization (MHO), **Dr. Cecilia Canales, CA-3**, leads the group's Executive Board, composed of a diverse group of historically underrepresented minority physicians and allies who aim to advance equitable health for all patients, diversity in medicine, and increase mentorship within our community.



Learning POCUS with Dr. Rana Movahedi.

After a competitive election by their peers, this year's California Society of Anesthesiologists (CSA) class representatives are **Dr. Chase Barker, CA-1**, and **Dr. Brian Park, CA-2**. We look forward to their contributions and thank outgoing representative **Dr. Brock Gamez, CA-3**, for his contributions as our CSA Resident Delegate.

Virtual resident recruitment continues for a second year, building on the success of last year's first-ever,

nationwide virtual recruitment season. We hosted our second Annual Virtual Open House. More than 150 medical students participated, with breakout rooms featuring important topics such as Resident Life, Education & Research, and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). As we continue to find new ways of connecting with the virtual applicant pool amidst a pandemic, our program hosted two virtual "Second Look" sessions, with a diverse group of residents and alumni in attendance, and we hosted a session in the GME EDI Open House with a record number of medical student participants.

Perhaps the most important effort for our program this year has been fostering a greater sense of community. In the fall, we hosted an in-person retreat for the whole resident group at the Annenberg Beach House in Malibu Beach. In August, our residents enjoyed two departmental events hosted at LA Dodgers games. It was the first time some of us saw our colleagues outside of work in what felt like a very long time! We were also able to host several "Snacks with the Program Directors"

events and Friday happy hours in the fall, and we hope to schedule more as soon as we are safe to hold in-person gatherings again.

Fellowships

Our fellowship programs attract talented and engaged fellows from across the country and this year has been no exception. Despite the challenges of COVID, our fellows have been busy teaching our residents, doing research and presenting at conferences, and generally trying to make the most of their time at UCLA.

The Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine Fellowship has grown to include four fellows, including one combined CCM/Cardiac two-year fellow. These highly trained physicians have been instrumental in managing our sickest patients, including a large ECMO service caring for patients transferred from outside hospitals, some of them pregnant. Despite these challenges, and the extra strain of the most recent COVID surge, our ACCM fellows continue to maintain a positive attitude and to contribute to our knowledge with scholarly work that will be presented at the Society of Critical Care Anesthesiologists meeting in April. One ACCM fellow, **Dr. Garry Dieter**, recently sat for the Examination of Special Competence in Critical Care Echocardiography.



Drs. Ceci Canales, Samrawit Abraha, Lydiesther Martinez, Stewart Smith, and Jennifer Lucero at Minority Housestaff Meet-and-Greet.

The Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology Fellowship continues to be one of the most competitive in the country, and this years' four fellows were all Chief Residents in their respective residency programs! Not surprisingly, the class is outstanding clinically and also is dedicated

to teaching and research. Healthcare disparities and the impact of COVID have been important areas of investigation for our fellows this year, under faculty mentorship, with submissions to the upcoming Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesia annual meeting, including:

- **Dr. Stewart Smith:** "Racial Disparities in Heart Transplantation Access and Outcomes"
- **Dr. Michael Tien:** "Racial Disparities in the Use of Invasive and Non-Invasive Cardiac Surgery Before and After the COVID-19 Pandemic"
- **Dr. Libing Wang:** "Gender Disparities in Patients Undergoing Deep Hypothermic Circulatory Arrest for Aortic Surgery".

Dr. Kasey Grewe, who is completing the 2nd year of the combined critical care and cardiothoracic fellowships, will present her research at SCA: "Risk Factors and Incidence of Rescue Thoracic Epidural in Bilateral Lung Transplant Patients".

Our fellows in Liver Transplant Anesthesiology have been busy clinically and with scholarly pursuits including presenting DAPM Grand Rounds, developing a resident liver transplant lecture, participating in candidate selection in multi-disciplinary meetings, and submitting these research abstracts to the International Liver Transplant Symposium:

- **Dr. Hai Pham:** "Intraoperative sodium shifts and the risk of developing osmotic demyelination syndrome during liver transplantation"
- **Dr. Mansi Sheth:** "Diagnosis and Monitoring of Intracardiac Thromboemboli during Liver Transplantation with Transesophageal Echocardiography: A Case Series".

Our six Pain Medicine fellows are keeping up the tradition of strong clinical experience and scholarly activity. They have presented their work at a joint conference with Cedars-Sinai focusing on "Complex Case Presentations of Intrathecal Baclofen Withdrawal". Their second joint conference appearance, on "Complex Case



Presentations on Complications of Dorsal Root Ganglion Stimulation”, included participants from UC Davis and the University of New England.



Drs. Yue Ming Huang and Bryant Hong lead Sim Center training sessions

Continuing a UCLA tradition, **Dr. Liz Kremen**, pediatric anesthesiology fellow, recently completed a medical mission to Guatemala with faculty member **Dr. Marc Iravani**. Together they provided anesthesia to help improve the lives of children having cleft lip and palate surgeries. Dr. Kremen and her co-fellow, Dr. Jean Vo, are scheduled for multiple presentations at SPA/AAP 2022 in Miami, including:

- **Dr. Elizabeth Kremen:** “Anesthetic Management of Wyburn Mason Syndrome for Intracranial Venous Bypass Placement”, under mentorship of Dr. Marc Iravani
- **Dr. Jean Vo:** “Anesthetic Management of a Williams Syndrome Patient with an Esophageal Foreign Body”, under mentorship of Dr. Lorraine Lubin
- **Dr. Jean Vo:** “Cohen Syndrome Review -- Anesthetic Perspective”, under mentorship of Dr. Joel Stockman.

Our Regional Anesthesiology and Acute Pain Medicine fellows (RAAPM) continue to help our patients through

challenging and painful surgeries with neuraxial and peripheral nerve blocks. Their work is becoming increasingly recognized as vital for improved short- and long-term outcomes. **Dr. Jeff Kim**, with the help of his mentor, Dr. Natale Naim, is creating a pathway for enhanced recovery after transvaginal hysterectomy, and will be presenting at the UCLA Scientific Evening. Research projects accepted for the 2022 American Society of Regional Anesthesia Conference include:

- **Dr. Heidi Bean:** “Quadratus Lumborum Nerve Block for Primary Total Hip Arthroplasty: A Retrospective Analysis”, an IRB-approved clinical trial under mentorship of Dr. Eva Boyd
- **Dr. Claudia Hammi:** “Regional Anesthesia for Transfemoral Access: An Opioid-Sparing Approach to Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement”, under mentorship of Dr. Siamak Rahman.

***Editor’s note:** If you want to know what’s going on with our UCLA residents and fellows, there’s no better way than to follow their Instagram account, [ucla_anesthesiology_reslife!](#) Inside and outside the hospital walls, their camaraderie is a joy to see. Many thanks to Associate Program Director Christine Myo Bui, MD, and staff members Areli Gonzalez and Jessyka Delgado for their continuous updates, and to all the residents and fellows who contribute photos!*



Dr. Annie Tran, chief resident, with Dr. Christine Myo Bui, Associate Program Director.



Dr. Jake Melendrez, chief resident, matched into a pediatric fellowship spot at Boston Children’s. Good fit??



Dr. Marina Mikhael, CA-3, married Dr. Kiro Malek, a general surgeon, on October 30. With 200 guests, the Egyptian wedding was considered “a small, intimate affair” by their families, Marina reports.



Dr. Heidi Bean reigned over holiday cookie-baking.



Dr. Susan Chan, center, with on-call team.



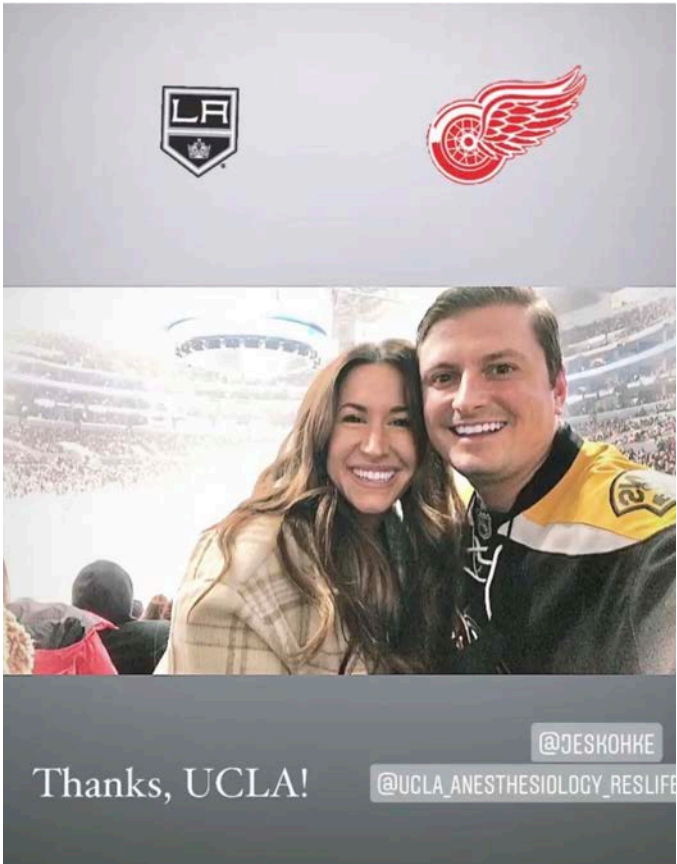
Drs. Jeff Kim, Claudia Hammi, Heidi Bean, and Eva Boyd with UCLA pet volunteer!



Liked by jeffreyjengmd and others
ucla_anesthesiology_reslife It's no secret that this year has not been easy. What keeps the humans of UCLA Anesthesia PDs going? It's moments like these:

The look when one of our residents from years past tells us that he is now the Anesthesia Medical Director of Langley Airforce Base Hospital in Virginia since November 1st and is part of a ground surgical team (GST) equipped to provide surgical capabilities to support military missions anywhere in the world.

Dr. David Valdez, Class of 2020, helped thousands of displaced Afghan refugees in 2021.



Sports fans CA-2 Sergey Prokushev, MD, and fiancée Jessica.



CA-3 Sebastian Kwon wants to know!





Liked by cnb.99 and others

ucla_anesthesiology_reslife Here is today's Wednesday Critical Incident Simulation Session!

Anesthesiology has critical moments and practicing our own algorithms outside of direct patient care is helpful and fun!

Here is our #lifesaving simulation #dreamteam today:

- CA1 Hugo Cardona, MD
- CA2 Maryte Gyls, MD
- CA3 Ling Tian, MD, PhD



Liked by azadhirpara and others

ucla_anesthesiology_reslife CA2s, Drs. Peter Schnaak and Ramita Rahimian on a break from pain clinic enjoying the gorgeous views today!



Liked by nicoleandonian and others

ucla_anesthesiology_reslife #FellowFridays



Liked by rmovahedimd and others

ucla_anesthesiology_reslife The acute pain team at Ronald Reagan UCLA medical center!

Thank you @claudiiaa_h for the photo and the IG support!

Tsione is a #Legend of the #uclaanesthesiafamily



Liked by nativecacv and others



Liked by jeffreyjengmd and others

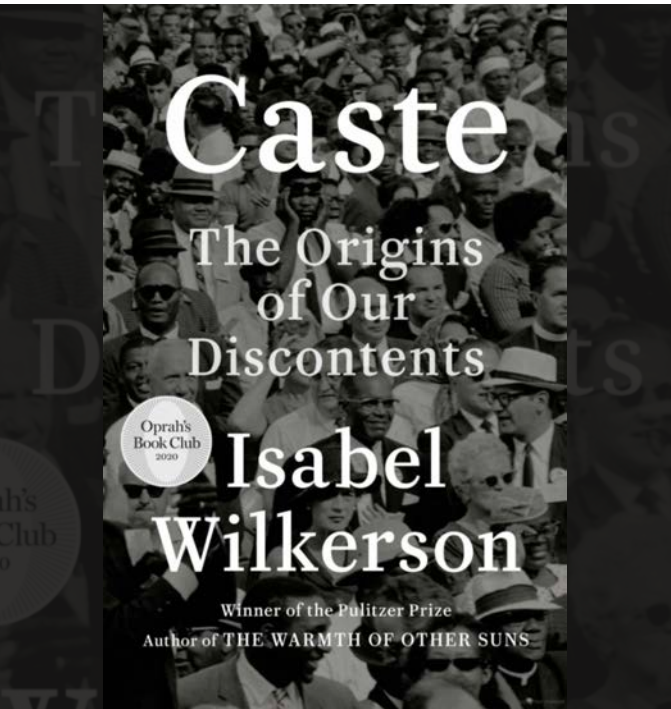
ucla_anesthesiology_reslife The Recruitment Season 2021-2022 for this UCLA program would not be the same without Dr. Sebastian Kwon, a Anesthesiology CA-3 Resident.

In addition to his clinical duties including Team Captain shifts at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center during his senior year, Sebastian has had to find the time and heart to organize communication between applicants and our program during the interview season.



Liked by cnb.99 and others

ucla_anesthesiology_reslife Here is our #superhero team of @jafrancke @hopejoy @estherbnh learning Battlefield Acupuncture in SICU!



This best-seller is the first selection of our EDI Book Group, launched by Dr. Jennifer Lucero, Dr. Yue Ming Huang, and administrative staff Olivia Vallejo.

Miracle Baby: Meet Gabriel MacDougall Wolfe!



Huckleberry, their "fur baby", with little brother Gabriel.

Faculty member Michael Wolfe, MD, and his wife Natalia MacDougall, MSN, CRNA, didn't expect to welcome Gabriel, their first baby, into the world on July 13. At only 26 weeks' gestation, Gabriel weighed in at a mere 1 lb 5 oz, or not quite 700 g.

"After 141 days in the NICU, four surgeries, some really dark days (and some really great ones too) – we finally came home in December," Dr. Wolfe said, in what he described as the "most delayed (and longest) baby announcement in UCLA Anesthesia history."

Suffering from a tracheoesophageal fistula, young Gabriel underwent his first surgery at only 9 hours old, needing one-lung anesthesia for lungs that were already fragile. Dr. Wolfe thanked Ihab Ayad, MD, our chief of pediatric anesthesiology, for his expert care, and apologized "for the years taken off your life" in the process.

Dr. Wolfe, one of our critical care specialists, relied on colleagues Vadim Gudzenko, MD, and Joseph Meltzer, MD, who willingly worked 36-hour shifts to cover for him when he needed to spend the night in the NICU or be available during Gabriel's surgeries.

The other faculty, nurses, and residents who took care of mother and baby are "too many to thank," Dr. Wolfe said, but he gave special shout-outs to:

- John Shin, MD, Cristianna Vallera, MD, and Paul Helland, MD, on Labor & Delivery, "not just for their medical care, but their caring during some very scary times for us"

- Lisa Lee, MD, and Sebastian Kwon, MD, who took care of Gabriel for his TEF repair “when he was very very sick”
- Wendy Ren, MD, “who dropped the perfect spinal and kept (another) breathing tube out of our baby”
- Swati Patel, MD, Carsten Nadjat-Haiem, MD, and Michael Sopher, MD, who accommodated “our always labile and I’m sure annoying scheduling needs”
- Chief nurse anesthetist Shelly Anderson, MSNA, MBA, and all the nurse anesthetists who offered non-stop support while covering “the on-again off-again scheduling needs of a sick mama with one sick baby”
- Department chair Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD, “for visiting us even on L & D, for the calls, and for always checking in.”



July, 2021 - Baby Gabriel in the NICU.

“Thank you, everyone, for your countless well wishes, prayers, and check-ins,” Dr. Wolfe wrote to the department. “We remember and will always remember even the 10-second conversations people had with us to show support. We are very blessed to be part of this anesthesia family.”

Gabriel now weighs in at a robust 12 lb. Dr. Wolfe is happy to report that he has begun to smile at the sight



Heading home with a cartload of supplies.

of his mother’s face, a response that was delayed as he spent his first four months in the NICU seeing human faces only behind surgical masks.

“Given that mom and dad both do anesthesia,” Dr. Wolfe noted, he assumes that’s what baby Gabriel will do in the future too. “So if he can please be added to the schedule for the 2051 year, hopefully that will help unburden any SATs [‘Short Again Tomorrow’ pleas from the schedulers] for that year!”

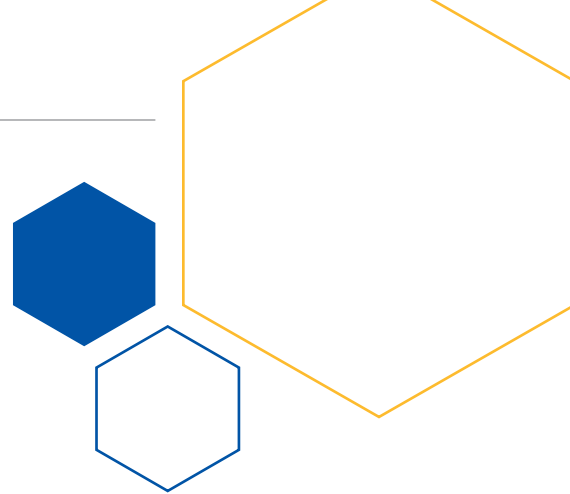
The couple first met at UCLA 10 years ago, when Michael was a medical student and Natalia a nursing student. They’ve been married nearly five years.

In 2020, Dr. Wolfe won two of our department’s major awards – the Dillon Award for outstanding performance by an Assistant Professor, and the Teacher of the Year Award. He earned his MD from the David Geffen School of Medicine and completed residency training at the Massachusetts General Hospital before returning to UCLA for a fellowship in critical care. Dr. Wolfe joined the faculty in 2018.



Finally, home for Christmas!

Awards, Honors, and Recognition



Dr. Ihab Ayad Becomes Chief of Our Pediatric Division



Ihab Ayad, MD, has been named our new Chief of Pediatric Anesthesiology effective January 1. He succeeds **Swati Patel, MD**, who has served as division chief since 2001, and is busy more than full-time with her duties as Associate Vice Chair of Clinical Services and medical director of the RPMC operating rooms.

Congratulating Dr. Ayad on his appointment, Maxime Cannesson MD, PhD, commented, “Dr. Ayad has been an essential member of the Pediatric Anesthesia Division, and has served as the Assistant Chief for the division since 2008. He has been an essential contributor to the Division’s success, participating in interdisciplinary clinical and research collaborations, quality and safety initiatives, and clinical pathways. He has been instrumental in starting the pediatric acute pain program, leading the team in expanding the use of neuraxial blocks for infants and children.” Dr. Ayad is currently funded by the NIH on a project exploring novel approaches for cardiovascular MRI in pediatric patients with congenital heart disease.

Dr. Ayad received his MD in Egypt from the Cairo University in Cairo, Egypt, in 1991, completed a Research Fellowship at USC in 1995, and went on to do two years of surgery residency at USC. He completed anesthesiology residency at UCLA in 2000, a pediatric anesthesiology fellowship at Boston Children’s Hospital in 2001, and then joined our faculty at UCLA.

Dr. Kumar Wins NIH Grant To Study Brain Changes In Pediatric OSA



Rajesh Kumar, PhD, is the principal investigator of a newly awarded NIH (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development) R21 grant to study brain changes in pediatric obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). The new research will examine the nature and types of brain injury, regional cerebral blood flow (CBF) changes, and neural responses

to cognitive challenge. With the \$429,000 grant, the team will also study whether recovery occurs after adenotonsillectomy in this patient population.

Pediatric OSA is a common and progressive syndrome accompanied by severe cognition, mood, and daytime behavioral issues, as well as poor school performance, presumably stemming from compromised neural tissue, induced by intermittent hypoxia and perfusion changes. However, it is unclear whether the brain tissue injury is an acute or chronic condition, and whether myelin is preferentially affected than axons, an essential step to understand, since interventions for neural repair/recovery differ for acute vs chronic and myelin vs. axonal injury. Also, it is unclear whether accompanying brain changes in pediatric OSA have functional consequences, resulting in cognitive or mood deficits.

The nature and types of brain injury, regional CBF changes, and neural responses to cognitive challenge

Awards, Honors, and Recognition

will be examined in control and OSA pediatric patients, and reassessed after adenotonsillectomy. Evaluation of pathological characteristics is essential to assess the mechanisms of damage, and to suggest intervention strategies before and after surgery. The findings will also help guide potential treatments to rescue/restore brain tissue (e.g., nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) and improve CBF that could be implemented to benefit cognitive and mood health, and improve academic performance in pediatric OSA.

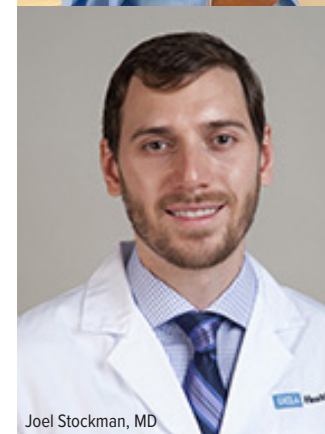
Six Faculty Members Honored As 2022 SoCal Super Doctors



Lorraine Lubin, MD



Swati Patel, MD



Joel Stockman, MD



Barbara Van de Wiele, MD

Again this year, several of our faculty physicians were nominated by their peers for recognition on the 2022 list of Super Doctors® for southern California. The six honorees are **Ihab Ayad, MD, Lorraine Lubin, MD, Swati Patel, MD, Karen Sibert, MD, FASA, Joel Stockman, MD**, and former interim chair **Barbara Van de Wiele, MD**. We’re proud that our department is home to so many of the 21 physicians who were named to this year’s list!



Drs. Zarah Antongiorgi, Elaine Boydston, Lorraine Lubin, and Emily Methangkool congratulated Dr. Johanna Schwarzenberger, center, as she transitioned her clinical practice to the VA in October.

Drs. Eghbali and Antongiorgi Take Reins of A & P Committee



Drs. Mansoureh Eghbali and Zarah Antongiorgi



Harvey Rosenbaum, MD

Mansoureh Eghbali, PhD, and **Zarah Antongiorgi, MD**, are the new co-chairs of our department’s Appointments and Promotion Committee. They have been preparing to take the reins of this important committee under the guidance of former chair **Harvey Rosenbaum, MD**, and **Barbara Van de Wiele, MD**, vice chair for Faculty Affairs.

Dr. Antongiorgi is an Associate Clinical Professor with special expertise in critical care medicine. She serves as Medical Director of the PACU. Dr. Eghbali is our department's Director of Physician-Scientist Training, and Director of the Basic Science Training Environment. Her laboratory focuses on the molecular basis of the remodeling of voltage-activated K⁺ channels in the heart by sex hormones, with ground-breaking work on the development of pulmonary hypertension.

In announcing their appointments, department chair Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD, said, "I have full confidence in Dr. Eghbali and Dr. Antongiorgi's ability to lead the appointments and promotion committee of our department, which now counts more than 200 faculty representing the depth and breadth of academic anesthesiology, at all series (Health Sciences, In-Residence, Clinical X, and Regular), at all ranks, and across multiple institutions (UCLA, Olive View, and Harbor)." In their new positions, Dr. Eghbali and Dr. Antongiorgi will work closely with Joaquin Madrenas, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine and Vice Dean for Faculty.

Dr. Cannesson thanked Dr. Rosenbaum for his many years of work chairing the committee, advocating for faculty with the Dean's Office, and helping them navigate UCLA's complex academic promotion process.

"It can reasonably be said that he helped a generation of faculty define their career goals, find their path in academic medicine, create compelling and convincing narratives about their accomplishments, and be successful and rewarded in an academic anesthesiology department," Dr. Cannesson said.

Dr. Hua Linda Cai Wins NIH Grant To Study Atrial Fibrillation



With her newly awarded four-year R01 grant for nearly \$3 million from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, **Hua Linda Cai, MD, PhD**, and her research team will study novel molecular mechanisms of atrial fibrillation that involve NADPH oxidase isoform 4 (NOX4)-dependent activation of reactive oxygen species production, and consequent

mitochondrial dysfunction, autophagy, and defective calcium handling.

Dr. Jonathan Ho Takes Leadership Role In SCA



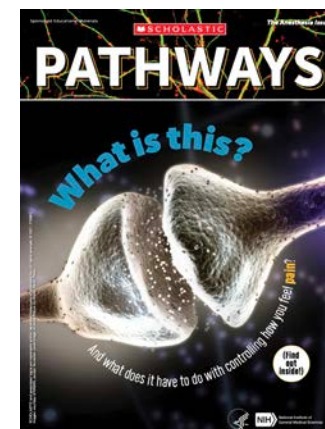
Clinical Professor **Jonathan Ho, MD, FASE**, is escalating his leadership involvement with the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists (SCA). He is currently coordinator of the SCA's workshops and problem-based learning discussion (PLBD) offerings, and soon will begin a two-

year term as Vice Chair of the society's Scientific Program Committee (SPC). The Vice Chair is responsible for the abstract submission and selection process, as well as for planning the research sessions and awards components of the SCA Annual Meeting. In the final stage of the six-year leadership track, Dr. Ho will serve as the Chair of the SPC, with responsibility for planning the entire annual meeting, and will also become a member of the SCA Board of Directors.

Dr. Ho is a long-time member of the department's Division of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology, and serves as Director of the Cardiovascular Interventional Laboratory Operations. A native of Oakland, he was a biophysics major at Columbia University and then went to medical school here at UCLA. After anesthesiology residency at Loma Linda, he came back to UCLA for a cardiothoracic fellowship, and then joined the faculty in 2007. Dr. Ho is the first faculty member of our department to earn the designation of Fellow of the American Society of Echocardiography, which recognizes "extraordinary commitment to the field of cardiovascular ultrasound."

Dr. Susana Vacas Educates All Ages About the Brain and Anesthesia

Of all her many achievements this year, perhaps the one of which **Susana Vacas, MD, PhD**, is most proud is being featured in a recent issue of Scholastic Pathways magazine devoted to anesthesiology.



Dr. Susana Vacas is featured in this issue of Scholastic Pathways magazine, aimed at students in grades 6-12

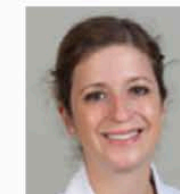
"It's at the top of my accomplishments – at least in the eyes of my 9-year-old!" she says. The magazine is published for students in Grades 6-12, and the recent issue discussed the brain, consciousness and pain. Dr. Vacas was approached for her input as she receives research funding from the National Institute for General Medical Sciences, which supports Scholastic's publications. She explained

for student readers how anesthesiologists take care of the patient's brain as well as the entire body during an operation—"their breathing, heart, liver, and kidneys" (see sidebar).

At the grown-up level, Dr. Vacas is a prominent neuroanesthesiologist and the lead author of a featured article in the August 2 issue of *JAMA*, "[Cognitive Decline Associated with Anesthesia and Surgery in Older Patients](#)", with co-authors Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD, our department chair, and Daniel Cole, MD, FASA, vice chair for professional and business development.

Aimed at a general physician audience, the article concluded: "Advances in surgery and anesthesia can improve function and quality of life for older patients, but not without potential risk to brain health. Postoperative neurocognitive decline is a meaningful concern to patients and represents a significant and expanding challenge to health care in the US and worldwide. Surgeons and anesthesiologists should assess, discuss, and optimize associated potential risks for each patient before surgery. Best practices and interventions can begin before surgery and extend well into the recovery period. To be most effective, these strategies require family engagement and the involvement of an interdisciplinary health care team and comprehensive systems of care."

As a result of that publication, Dr. Vacas was interviewed for an NPR radio segment titled "[Seniors Face Greater Risks of Dementia, Cognitive Problems after Surgery](#)". She commented on the even higher prevalence of cognitive dysfunction after cardiac surgery, attributing it to multiple factors including time spent on cardiopulmonary bypass and worse health prior to surgery.



Susana Vacas, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor,
University of California Los Angeles

Angeles

Wants to find out: how we can help a patient's brain and body recover after they have surgery

What do you think might surprise students about anesthesiologists?

During surgery, anesthesiologists take care of not only a patient's brain but also their entire body—their breathing, heart, liver, and kidneys.

What do you hope to discover?

I want to understand what happens during anesthesia—from the molecular level to the big picture, like how patients' brains look before and after surgery. Each discovery will lead to new questions about how things work and how we can improve upon the things we're already doing.

What advice do you have for students interested in biomedical research careers?

Start now! Look for volunteer opportunities at a hospital or in a lab. Be curious about the world and the people around you. If you have curiosity and empathy for others, there will always be ways to further science and improve people's health and lives.

Dr. Vacas answers questions about anesthesiology

“We still don’t understand the mechanisms, and my research is mostly to understand why this is happening,” Dr. Vacas said.

One important factor appears to be untreated sleep apnea. “When there’s an added insult to a brain that’s already primed to this chronic hypoxia, then it cannot return to its baseline,” Dr. Vacas said. The long-term effects of cognitive decline on patients can be profound, she pointed out. “Their lives are not the same. You forget your shopping list. You arrive to your supermarket, and you don’t know what was missing at home.”



Dr. Susana Vacas is a frequent presenter at SNACC meetings

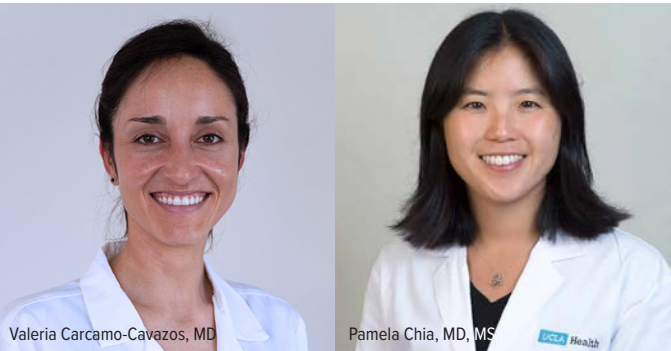
Dr. Vacas is Assistant Professor-in-Residence of Neurosurgical Anesthesiology, and the Director of our Neuroanesthesiology Fellowship Program. She is a frequent presenter at meetings of the Society for Neuroscience in Anesthesiology and Critical Care (SNACC).

New Associate Fellowship Directors for Regional & Acute Pain

Congratulations to our faculty members, **Valeria Carcamo-Cavazos, MD**, and **Pamela Chia, MD, MS**, who are the new Associate Program Directors for the Regional Anesthesiology and Acute Pain Medicine Fellowship.

Each year, the program accepts three fellows, who rotate at the UCLA-Santa Monica and Ronald Reagan Medical

Centers. They learn to become experts in acute pain management and in the placement of peripheral nerve catheters, thoracic epidurals, and other less common peripheral nerve blocks. The new Associate Program Directors will work closely with the program director, **Eva Boyd, MD**, to coordinate fellowship activities across both campuses.



Dr. Chia completed her anesthesiology residency and regional fellowship at UCLA, and is excited to use her “insider knowledge” to enhance the fellowship program. Dr. Carcamo-Cavazos trained at UCSF for medical school and residency and came to Cedars-Sinai for her regional anesthesiology fellowship. She joined our faculty in 2020, and is a member of the RRMC acute pain management service with clinical interests in opiate-sparing and distraction techniques.

Drs. Brittany Burton, Varina Clark Onwunyi, and Lydiesther Martinez Win EDI grants



At the inaugural gala and reception of the UCLA Minority Housestaff Organization (MHO) in December, CA-2 resident **Brittany Burton, MD, MAS, MHS**, received an EDI Innovation grant of \$3000 to support her research: “Digital Divide: Disparities in patient perception of a preoperative telemedicine bariatric surgery program.” Her faculty mentors are **Laleh Jalilian, MD**, and chair **Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD**.

Intern **Varina Clark Onwunyi, MD**, and CA-3 resident **Lydiesther Martinez, MD**, won travel awards to represent UCLA GME at national conferences. Dr. Clark will attend the Student National Medical Association meeting, and Dr. Martinez will represent UCLA at the Latino Medical Student Association.



Our CA-3 resident **Cecilia Canales, MS, MPH**, is a co-president of the MHO. Also present at the gala was **Jennifer Lucero, MD, MA**, associate dean of admissions at DGSOM and our vice-chair for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

CA-2 Kevin Youssefzadeh, MD, Pens Award-winning Essay



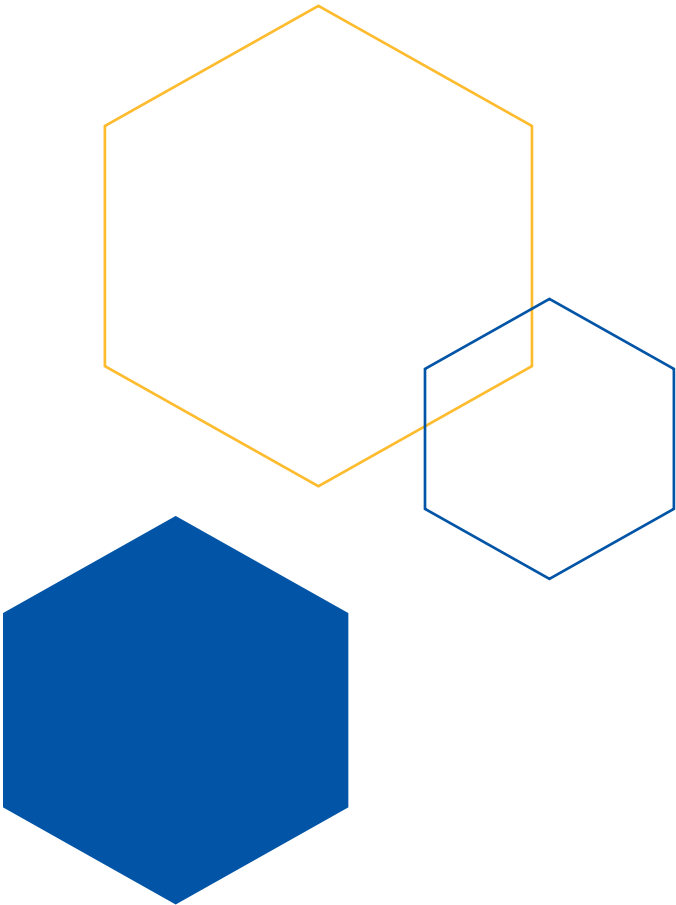
The CSA History Committee, chaired by our faculty member **Jane Moon, MD**, annually hosts an essay

contest on the history of anesthesiology for residents in California training programs. This year’s second-place honors went to CA-2 **Kevin Youssefzadeh, MD**, for his essay, “Bupivacaine Cardiotoxicity: From Observation to Evidence”.

Dr. Youssefzadeh will receive a \$500 award from the CSA Foundation for Education. His essay will be featured in the CSA’s Online First column and its annual publication, *Vital Times*.



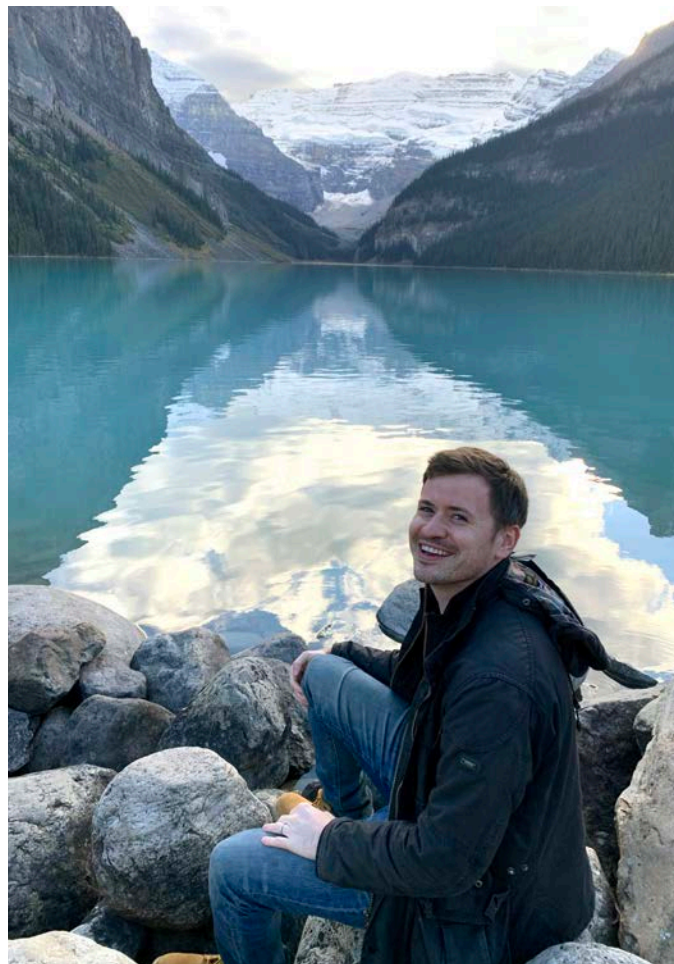
FAER spotlighted Lou Saddic, MD, PhD, in a tweet to invite applications for Mentored Research Training Grants. Dr Saddic won his grant last year for research on proteomics and thoracic aortic aneurysms.



Humans of UCLA Anesthesia!

By Jordan Francke, MD

Editor's note: Without face-to-face Grand Rounds and conferences, it's much harder for everyone to get to know each other and especially hard to meet all our new trainees and staff members. Into the breach leapt CA-1 resident Jordan Francke, MD, who's the creator and author of a wonderful new series of articles, "Humans of UCLA Anesthesia".



Dr. Jordan Francke in Banff, Alberta.

For each article, Dr. Francke interviews someone in our department and unearths information you'd never find out in the course of the day's work. In the first five installments, we get acquainted with:

- A liver transplant fellow who knows how to do acrylic nails
- An intern who used to teach 3rd grade
- A first-year resident who enjoys learning to DJ and tend bar, and often visits family in the Netherlands
- An anesthesia tech who's also a yoga instructor
- A nurse anesthetist from Texas who lettered in basketball and track, and lives on the USC campus.

How did Dr. Francke become such an accomplished writer?

"Both of my parents are lawyers, and so growing up I was taught from an early age the importance of developing your own distinct voice as well as the careful selection of words -- how the slightest difference in word choice could make or break a legal case, or incriminate someone on the stand," Dr. Francke says. "My curiosity for language led me to become somewhat of a voracious reader (something I unfortunately have had significantly less of, at least for pleasure, since beginning medical school), but growing up it wasn't uncommon for me to read an entire book between the time of arriving home from school and before setting the table for dinner."

Humans of UCLA Anesthesia!



At medical school (Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai in New York City), Dr. Francke's love of telling stories took root. Among his classmates were a former professional ballet dancer and an Olympic rower for Nigeria.

"As a middle-class guy from rural Maine, at times I definitely felt out of place, but I also was fascinated by the stories of these individuals I came to call my classmates, and wanted to give these bright, promising, soon-to-be doctors an opportunity to reflect on what they had to offer the world," Dr. Francke says.

He proposed making a first-ever class video to showcase the talents of his classmates, and they created a [Hamilton-inspired parody](#) that has been viewed on YouTube thousands of times.

"You'll even see a few seconds of me singing and dancing (badly)," Dr. Francke says. "I think that experience taught me the immense value of showcasing the stories and talents of our peers in medicine, and the power those stories have to rebuild a community in a time of tragedy or chaos."

We're certainly grateful to Dr. Francke for bringing the same cheer and energy to showcasing our Humans of UCLA Anesthesia family!

Get To Know CA-1 Resident Eric Van Baarsel, MD



CA-1 resident Eric Van Baarsel

Where are you originally from?

I grew up in Riverside, CA before moving to San Diego County for 7 years. I attended UC Riverside for medical school, Loma Linda University for internship, and now UCLA for residency. SoCal is home to me and I don't plan on going anywhere else anytime soon!

Where do you live now? Why did you pick it?

I currently live in West Adams (just east of Culver City). My two best friends from medical school (whom I lived with for several years) are in residency in Los Angeles as well, so we decided to keep the streak going and rent a house together. It has been a great year so far!

How did you pick anesthesia?

My path to anesthesia has been a bit unorthodox. I went into medical school to become an orthopedic surgeon, ended up not matching, and can say I'm thankful how everything worked out. After going unmatched, I scrambled into a one-year general surgery internship at Loma Linda University. After spending a lot of time in the OR, I discovered how incredible the field of anesthesiology is. My favorite part about anesthesia is being able to apply my knowledge of physiology and anatomy in a hands-on and clinically relevant way on a daily basis.

Why did you pick UCLA?

I chose UCLA because it really checked all the boxes for me. The opportunity to receive excellent clinical training at a large academic institution with a great reputation, all while living in an amazing city close to family, was like winning the lottery!

What are your interests within anesthesia?

What really excites me in anesthesia is being able to overcome challenging cases and situations. Whether it be a difficult airway or a case that feels out of my paygrade, I find a great deal of satisfaction getting the patient through safely despite the challenge. As far as fellowship interests, I am still undecided, but I look forward to gaining more experience in the different areas of anesthesiology to help me make that decision.

What are your interests outside of anesthesia/outside of work?

I consider myself to be a “hobby collector,” meaning I’ve enjoyed more hobbies than I can remember. Here are some things that have recently caught my interest: riding

my E-bike, learning how to DJ, painting/drawing, and making cocktails (any tequila or mezcal fans?). Besides those hobbies, I enjoy staying active and being outside. Finally, I love watching sports and I am a big fan of the Padres, Lakers, and the Oklahoma Sooners.

Where are you planning for your next vacation?

This December I will be going on a 10-day trip to Maui. The plan is to be lazy on the beach and spend plenty of time in the water. Please let me know if you have any recommendations for things to do or places to eat!

What might people not know about you?

Half of my family lives in the Netherlands and I have had the privilege of frequently visiting Europe as I grew up. Visiting my Dutch family has served as a great launching point for traveling elsewhere. In total, I have backpacked to ~15 countries throughout Europe and Southeast Asia and I look forward to being able to travel again in the future.

From Philly to WeHo—
Meet Dr. Hai Pham, Liver Transplant Fellow



Dr. Hai Pham, liver transplant fellow.

Where are you originally from?

I was born in Saigon, Vietnam, but immigrated with my family to the United States when I was one. I spent most of my childhood in the city of Brotherly Love (Philadelphia) and consider myself a proud Philadelphian.

Where do you live now? Why did you pick it?

I currently live in West Hollywood (or WeHo, as the locals call it!) after spending a decade in San Francisco for school and residency. I chose to live in WeHo because of its proximity to UCLA, abundance of restaurants, vibrant nightlife, and of course my favorite gym is only a few blocks away.

How did you pick anesthesia?

It’s actually been quite a comedy of errors that led me to the world of anesthesia. When I was a wide-eyed MS1 at UCSF, I started receiving unusual emails in my inbox requesting “consults” and patient evaluations for epidural steroid injections. I, being an MS1 and not having a clue what these words meant, immediately deleted all these emails. As it turns out, there is an anesthesia attending also by the name of Hai Pham (legal name Thoha Pham, MD), who was not so happy that I had been receiving and

deleting her emails. Nevertheless, she invited me to meet for coffee and shadow her in the clinic/OR. I fell in love with anesthesia and the rest is history. Nine years later, she became my medical school and residency advisor, mentor, and good friend. I still forward her emails and pages to this day. Why people can still page my UCSF pager is another mystery...

Why did you pick UCLA? Why liver fellowship? What are your specific interests within anesthesia?

I remember the very first liver transplant I participated in as a resident; my glasses and mask fogged up because my mouth was wide open for the entire case. The pace of the room was moving so quickly yet every person on the team and every aspect of the anesthetic worked perfectly in unison. It was organized chaos, and I loved it!

I chose UCLA for fellowship because of the challenging and rare liver transplants that are done here. Our patients are incredibly sick, many of whom have been turned down by other transplant centers. I’m interested in combining cardiac and liver, and UCLA is also one of the very few centers that do combined cardiothoracic-liver transplant procedures.

What are your interests outside of anesthesia/outside of work?

I enjoy everything California has to offer from our wonderful vineyards, wine tasting (old world-style reds really have nothing on California wines), outdoor and water activities. I’m an almost cultish follower of high-intensity interval training (HIIT) classes and try to go 2-3 times a week if time permits.

Where are you planning for your next vacation?

I’ve been meaning to take a trip to Taiwan for a couple of years now that has been postponed due to COVID, but I am looking forward to some delicious and cheap food as soon I can go!

What might people not know about you/might surprise people?

In a different life, I was a licensed manicurist in the state of Pennsylvania. Those days are over, but you’d be surprised the overlap of fine motor skills necessary to apply acrylic nails and perform ultrasound-guided central lines.

Introducing Grace Guzman, Anesthesia Tech
at UCLA-Santa Monica



When she's not on duty at UCLA-Santa Monica, Grace Guzman is a yoga instructor!

Where are you originally from?

I’m Filipino-American with a touch of European. I was born in Long Beach, lived in San Diego for a bit as my dad was in the Navy, grew up bicoastal in New York/ New Jersey, and grew up frequently visiting family in Spain (Barcelona and Figueres) and island-hopping in the Philippines (Manila and Visayas). I can speak/understand about six different languages/dialects.

Where do you live now? Why did you pick it?

I live in the heart of Pasadena now. I was living in Venice Beach prior to moving to Pasadena and wanted a change of scenery. I think one of the beauties of California is its diversity; I like to say that I traded in the ocean for the mountains.

How did you come about deciding on being a PSST? What is your favorite part of it? What is the training to be a PSST like?

I’m currently a Nationally Certified Anesthesia Technologist through ASATT (American Society of Anesthesia Technologists/Technicians). My favorite part

is being able to assist our anesthesia providers and provide high-quality care to our patients.

I was a bartender through college and eventually worked in marketing, where I had to travel to different cities across the country to various conferences and expos. I’ve always wanted to work in the medical field, so I decided to go back to school to become a nurse. I finished the prerequisites but quickly found out that many nursing programs are oversubscribed or not accepting new applicants. I eventually came across Kaiser Permanente School of Anesthesia for Anesthesia Technology and saw that they have similar prerequisites for nursing, so I applied and was accepted.

Kaiser’s School of Anesthesia for Anesthesia Technology is the first accredited Anesthesia Technology program in the country and I’m fortunate (and very thankful) to be taught by MDs, DOs, CRNAs and Anesthesia Techs. We learned how to critically think about various types of cases along with our knowledge of anatomy/physiology, our scope of practice, the basic and advanced principles of anesthesia technology, professional aspects, pharmacology, equipment theory, lab and much more. Once we finish the program, then we can take the national certification exam (like how nurses take the NCLEX). We also rotated through several clinical rotation sites to receive a well-balanced experience in different types of hospitals and settings. I’ve had the pleasure of rotating through Kaiser San Diego, Children’s Hospital LA, Kaiser Irvine, Kaiser Panorama City, Huntington Hospital and Kaiser South Bay, to name a few.

Meet PGY-1 resident Mark Guirguis, MD

Where are you originally from?

I am Egyptian and Greek, but I was born and raised on the island of Oahu in Hawaii.

Where do you live now? Why did you pick it?

I live near Ronald Reagan Hospital in Westwood. I wanted to be close enough to work that I could dodge (some of) the terrifying traffic in Los Angeles, and my complex had a hot tub, so it was a win-win.

How was the transition from medical student to intern? What has been the hardest part and what has been the most rewarding?

I think the hardest part was just the volume of patients. Going from the second half of my fourth year of medical school (which was basically vacation) to starting in the medical ICU with nine patients was a bit of a challenge.

Why did you pick UCLA vs other hospitals?

I rotated through UCLA Santa Monica during clinicals, and I love how UCLA fosters a wonderful learning environment. I’m working with amazingly talented humans and I’m constantly in awe of what they do. Fun fact: my grandfather also worked at Santa Monica Hospital (before it was bought by UCLA) when he first immigrated here to the U.S. from the Philippines. I like the idea of keeping a family tradition alive here.

What are your interests outside of work?

My interests outside of work include traveling, creating, discovering new coffee shops, exploring new places, being out in nature, practicing yoga, meditation, Buddhism, reading, music festivals, etc.

Where are you planning for your next vacation?

My sister recently moved to Switzerland, and I hope to visit her soon. There are also a couple of music festivals in Europe that I’d like to attend. I like the idea of exploring South America and Southeast Asia as well.

What might people not know about you/might surprise people?

I backpacked through Central America (with friends) and Europe (solo) a few years ago. I also volunteer to teach yoga to young children at an orphanage in Mexico. In addition, I like collaborating with amazing people to create unique experiences, like teaching yoga on my friend’s two-story catamaran boat in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

I think my favorite part of intern year so far has been my two-week stint in the VA SICU where I got to spend the most amount of time with my anesthesia seniors (shout-out to Sam Jiang, Nick Bacher, and Eric Van Baarsel). I also really enjoyed working with medical students because I remember how daunting it can be. It brings me back to my days as a 3rd-grade teacher in Hawaii. There is nothing better to see than someone having an “aha” moment right before your eyes.

Tell me more about this 3rd grade teaching experience!

During high school I volunteered through a Big Brother Big Sisters after-school program at Pope Elementary in Waimanalo (a historically underserved community with a large homeless population). I really enjoyed working with the kids and families in Waimanalo.



Dr. Mark Guirguis on top of the Makapu’u ridge trail on the southeastern tip of Oahu!

When I returned home to Hawaii after undergrad, I wanted to rebuild my connection with this community. I found an NGO called “Na Pono No Na Ohana” that focused on strengthening the entire family unit. Through them, I would spend my days working with the 3rd-graders at Pope Elementary, followed by working with their parents to prepare them for their GED or help them learn vocational skills.

With the help of my clerkship advisors, I was able to organize the outpatient portion of 3rd-year clerkships to rotate primarily at the Waimanalo Health Center (one mile from Pope Elementary) and worked with our medical school’s HOME (Homeless Outreach and Medical Education) program to help manage a monthly mobile clinic that we stationed on the Pope Elementary campus.

Wow, that is so awesome! Why did you pick UCLA to match last year?

It had everything I could ask for! A great reputation, complex patients, accomplished faculty, and all in an excellent location that was close to family and the ocean. It was also the group of residents that I enjoyed being with the most on my pre-interview social.

Why did you pick anesthesia? Do you have any specific interests within anesthesia?

I was actually fully expecting to apply into pediatrics until COVID hit. Then I started to read more about the physiology of acute hypoxic respiratory failure and ventilator mechanics. After that, I looked more seriously into anesthesia and was drawn in by the real-time decision making, the combination of cerebral thinking and becoming a specialist in a number of very technical procedural skills, and the realization that my favorite people in the hospital tend to be the anesthesia staff.

What are your interests outside of work?

Working out, cliff-diving, basketball, dad jokes, spike ball, bourbon, jazz music, cooking, and taking naps in my hammock.

Where are you planning for your next vacation?

Guirguis Gathering (i.e., family reunion) in Florida!

What might people not know about you/might surprise people?

(1) Kawena (another CA-0) taught me how to surf
(2) I’m 20 years older than my little sister
(3) “Zero to Hero” from Hercules was my most-played song this year on Spotify.

Introducing Cynthia Leaks, MSN, CRNA, Senior Nurse Anesthetist



Where are you originally from?

I was born in Dallas, Texas, and raised in Amarillo. I graduated from Baylor University in Waco in 2002.

Where do you live now? Why did you pick it?

In 2003, I followed my husband, Broderick, to California two weeks after we married. He was getting his PhD in Clinical Psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, and did his final year of internship at the University of Southern California. They hired him afterward, and 10 years later he became the Director of Student Counseling and Mental Health at USC Student Health and Vice Chair in the Department of Psychiatry

and the Behavioral Sciences at the Keck School of Medicine. He is also Faculty in Residence at USC, so we now live with the students at the USC Village. It has been a great experience living in community with the students and exposing our children to university life. We have been there for 4.5 years and will be searching for a house in 3.5 years when his Faculty-in-Residence contract is up.

How did you decide to become a CRNA? What is the path like to train to become a CRNA?

I went to college with the intent of becoming a physician like my father but found that it was not going to fit my personality after I graduated with my BA in Biology

in 2002. I wanted to stay in the healthcare field, so I chose to become a nurse by graduating from a one-year accelerated program at Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles in 2007. I worked at Kaiser Permanente on Sunset for three years in their step-down unit and then two years in their Cardiac Surgery ICU. I wanted higher education and saw that obtaining a master's in nurse anesthesia was the best option for me. I graduated from USC's Program of Nurse Anesthesia in 2014. It was the absolute best decision I made for my career path. I love having the knowledge and skills needed to care for patients in their most vulnerable state. My ultimate goal, which I explain to my patients, is to keep them safe. Patients must put their trust in someone to care for them when they are unable to care for themselves. I understand the high importance of trust, and I do my best to keep that trust.

Why did you pick UCLA?

My first 5.5 years as a CRNA were spent at Loma Linda. I absolutely loved being there, but the commute distance was starting to become an issue in my life. I had been told of other places that were hiring CRNAs, but I did not jump until I was told about UCLA. I love the variety of cases in which I can participate in a nationally recognized healthcare system that stays current with technology and innovations to advance healthcare. It is a wonderful teaching facility, which is a priority for me. It is highly important to keep learning and advancing my knowledge, and I believe UCLA is the best place for me for those reasons.

Is there any particular kind of anesthesia case you enjoy doing more than others? Do you have any specific interests within anesthesia?

I prefer to be exposed to any and all kinds of anesthesia. I do not have a particular kind that I enjoy more than others, but the most exciting and challenging anesthesia is pediatric anesthesia for me. I was assigned those cases in CVL, MRI, GI, IR, and the OR at Loma Linda more than 50% of the time. The best feeling of accomplishment that I have had as a CRNA was when I intubated a 3-day old infant, while in close communication with two attendings, downstairs in the MRI suite.

What are your interests outside of anesthesia/outside of work?

My interests are shopping on Amazon and watching TV! I could watch TV all day and binge out on Netflix. I guess I should say my children though. 😊 I have a 13-year-

old son and a 2.5-year-old daughter. Our son attends Polytechnic in Pasadena and is a really smart and kind kid who enjoys science, soccer, basketball, and flag football. Our daughter is a handful and a real joy! She recently has been finding it necessary to wake up at 3 a.m. and come jump in our bed. She enjoys making us all dance together to her music, eating pasta, going to daycare to see her friends, and jumping all over her big brother.

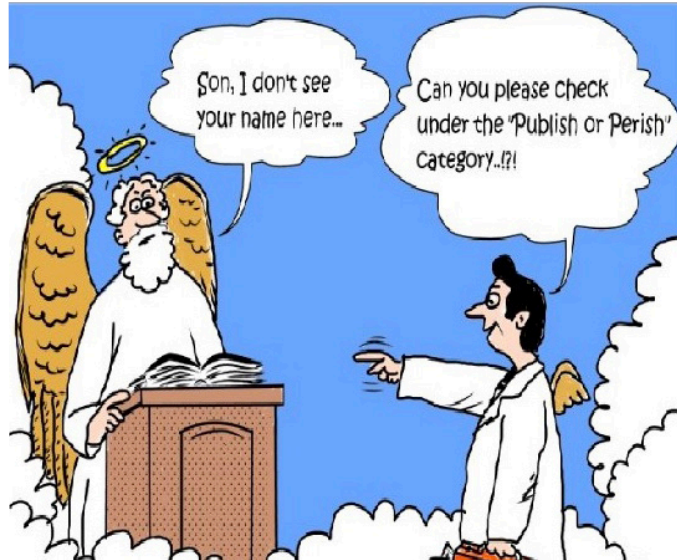
Where are you planning for your next vacation?

My husband and I plan to take a kid-free trip to Costa Rica in August. Super excited about the thought of being alone so that we can get some uninterrupted sleep. 😊

What might people not know about you/might surprise people?

I am the fifth in line of 14 children. I am a former Division 1 athlete at Baylor University and lettered in two sports, basketball and track.

Selected Recent Publications



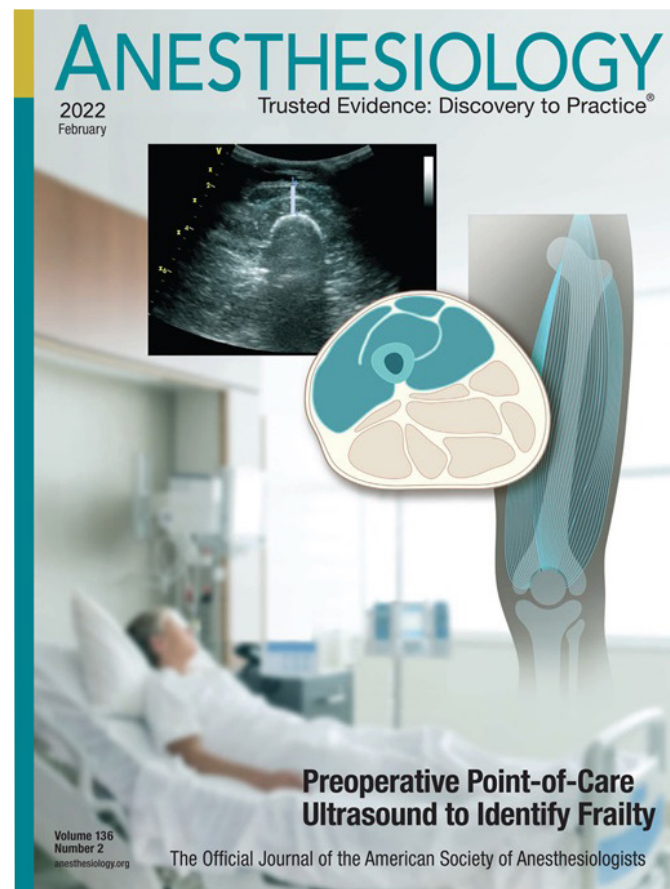
Editor's note: Our department continues its tradition of academic accomplishment with these recent publications. Note that the first article by CA-3 resident Cecilia Canales, MD, MPH, was selected as the cover article in the February 2022 issue of *ANESTHESIOLOGY*, with an accompanying editorial. Congratulations to Dr. Canales and her co-authors!

Every citation selected for mention here illustrates the results of months or years of work, and of course represents the authors' successful responses to multiple editors' questions and requests for revision. Congratulations to all our accomplished authors!

For a more comprehensive view of our publications in clinical and basic science research, please visit the website for [UCLA Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine](https://www.uclaanesthesiology.com).

1. Canales C, Mazor E, Coy H, Grogan T, Duval V, Raman S, Cannesson M, Singh S. **Preoperative Point-of-Care Ultrasound to Identify Frailty and Predict Postoperative Outcomes: A Diagnostic**

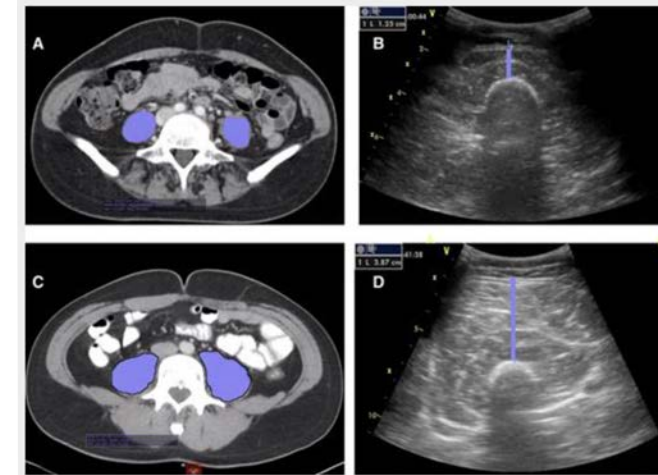
Accuracy Study. *Anesthesiology* February 2022, Vol. 136, 268–278. <https://doi.org/10.1097/ALN.0000000000004064>



Frailty is increasingly being recognized as a public health issue, straining healthcare resources and increasing costs to care for these patients. Frailty is the decline in physical and cognitive reserves leading to increased vulnerability to stressors such as surgery or disease states. The goal of this pilot diagnostic accuracy study was to identify whether point-of-care ultrasound measurements of the quadriceps and rectus femoris muscles can be used to discriminate between frail and not-frail patients and predict postoperative outcomes.

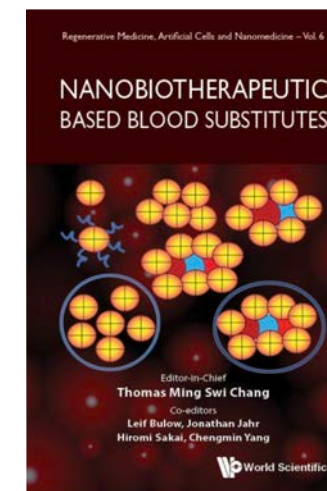
Selected Recent Publications

The results suggest that ultrasound-based frailty assessments can be used by perioperative physicians for risk assessment of frailty and its association with adverse outcomes including unplanned skilled nursing facility admission and postoperative delirium.



Imaging of psoas muscles of frail (A, B) and not-frail (C, D) patients.

2. Chang T, Bulow L, Jahr J, Sakai H, Yang C (Eds.). **Nanobiotherapeutic Based Blood Substitutes.** Vol. 6 of Regenerative Medicine, Artificial Cells and Nanomedicine. World Scientific; 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1142/12054> ISBN: 978-981-122-868-1



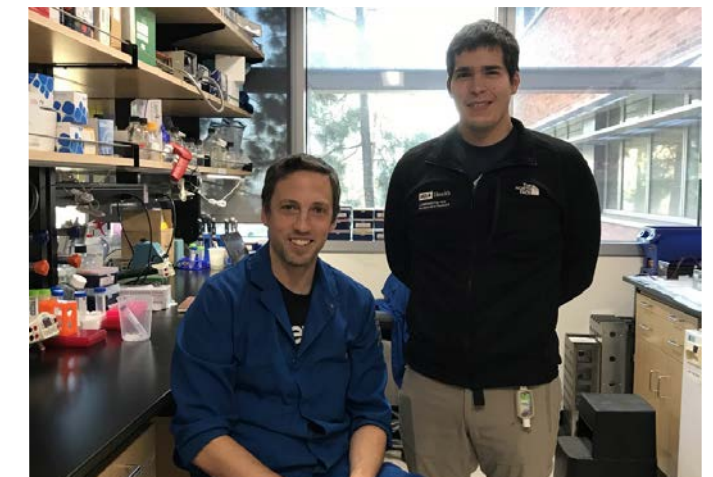
Emeritus Professor Jonathan Jahr, MD, PhD, FASA, a co-editor of this new textbook, comments: "With the very recent urgent call for blood donations from the Red Cross and the worst blood shortage in history, the need for alternatives is critical. A number of Hemoglobin-based Oxygen Carriers (HBOCs) have been studied for 20 years, and one product, Hemopure® [a purified bovine hemoglobin]

is approved in South Africa and administered to many patients in the US currently for Expanded Access (Compassionate Use) with FDA approval, when blood is either unavailable or not an option. Hopefully this blood shortage crisis will allow for eased restrictions from the FDA and more widespread availability and use of such products that will certainly save lives from severe acute anemia from whatever cause."

3. Jalilian I, Wu I, Ing J, Dong X, Sadik J, Pan G, Hitson H, Thomas E, Grogan T, Simkovic M, Kamdar N. **Evaluation of Telemedicine Use for an Anesthesiology Pain Division: Time, Cost, and Patient Satisfaction Analysis.** *JMIR Perioper Med.* 2021 Dec 29. DOI: [10.2196/33926](https://doi.org/10.2196/33926) Online ahead of print.

Patients evaluated serially with telemedicine for medication management saved a median of \$156 over three visits. 91% of patients surveyed [286/313] were satisfied with their telemedicine experience. Telemedicine use for pain management reduced travel distance, travel time, and travel and time-based opportunity costs for pain patients. We achieved the successful implementation of telemedicine across a pain division in an urban academic medical center with high patient satisfaction and patient cost savings.

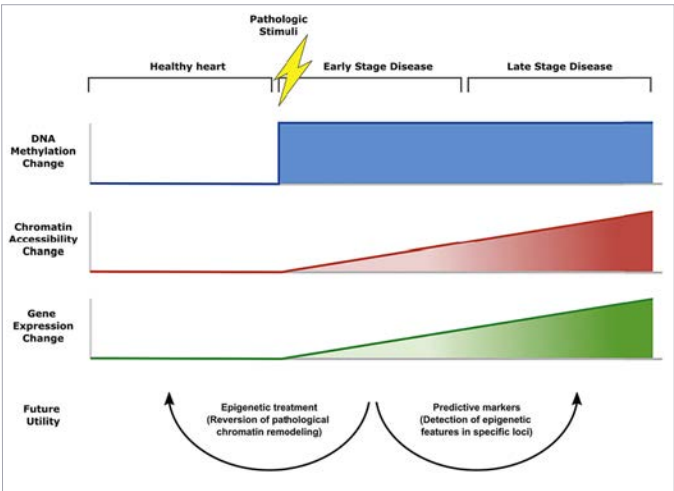
4. Chapski D, Cabaj M, Morcelli M, Mason R, Soehalim E, Ren S, Pellegrini M, Wang Y, Vondriska T, Rosa-Garrido M. **Early adaptive chromatin remodeling events precede pathologic phenotypes and are reinforced in the failing heart.** *Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology* Volume 160, November 2021, 73-86. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmcc.2021.07.002>



Manuel Rosa-Garrido, PhD, and Douglas Chapski, PhD study early genomic rearrangements during heart failure.

Through comprehensive integration of high-throughput genomic measurements—such as RNA transcription, chromatin accessibility, DNA methylation, and chromatin topology—the study revealed a temporal basis for genome structural rearrangements during heart failure. The authors used a combination of wet lab and bioinformatics approaches to identify early changes in chromatin accessibility and DNA methylation that

became established by late-stage heart failure in mice. When they examined genomic enhancer regions, which are thought to facilitate transcription by bringing transcription factors into physical proximity of genes, the authors observed an increase in transcription factor occupancy within enhancers that undergo differential methylation with heart failure. Moreover, the authors observed a concomitant increase in transcription factor occupancy in gene promoters that interact with these enhancers. The study also demonstrates that local chromatin accessibility and DNA methylation dynamics do not always correlate with global changes in genomic compartmentalization. In other words, larger “active” and “inactive” regions of the nucleus are comprised of smaller features that do not necessarily follow the hypothesized behavior. Thus, the study suggests that examination of multiple levels of chromatin structure is necessary for deeper understanding of gene regulation in the heart.



Course of events in the failing heart (Chapinski et al.)

Overall, the study has important translational implications for early diagnosis because it identifies pathological structural markers and will facilitate development of cardiac therapies that target chromatin regions undergoing topological alteration during disease.

5. Chen C, Gregg G, Cannesson M, Lucero J. **Calling Out Aversive Racism in Academic Medicine.** December 30, 2021. N Engl J Med 2021; 385:2499-2501 DOI: [10.1056/NEJMp2112913](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMp2112913)

“In addition to examining their role in upholding a race-based hierarchy, members of the academic medicine community must do the difficult work required

to challenge their own conscious and subconscious thoughts and actions that contribute to aversive racism. This work includes unlearning implicit biases, countering negative stereotypes and legitimizing myths, and eliminating the use of automatic, biased judgments to make decisions, all of which will require extensive and deliberate practice.

Future work will involve developing evidence-based anti–aversive-racism programs to break down academic medicine’s unspoken racial hierarchy, which contributes to structural racism in health care. Effective programs would help normalize antiracist attitudes; provide continuous and effective antiracism education for trainees, faculty, executive leaders, and staff; and refashion existing systems that favor the “in group.” Finally, academic institutions could capitalize on the good intentions and desires of progressive academic leaders to overcome their aversive racist thoughts and actions. We hope academic leaders will lead the charge by acknowledging the need to openly address aversive racism within broader efforts to dismantle structural racism in medicine.”

6. Ershoff B. **Intraoperative Hydromorphone Decreases Post-Operative Pain Who Would Have Thought? An Instrumental Variable Analysis.** MedRxiv, online publication October 24, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.10.18.21263855>

A growing body of literature suggests that intraoperative opioid administration can lead to both increased post-operative pain and opioid requirements. However, there has been minimal data regarding the effects of the intraoperative administration of intermediate duration opioids such as hydromorphone on post-operative outcomes.

An increase in hydromorphone administration caused a statistically significant decrease in Post-Anesthesia Care Unit pain scores as well as maximum and mean pain scores on post-operative days one and two, without a statistically significant effect on post-operative opioid administration. The results of this study suggest that the intraoperative administration of intermediate-duration opioids do not cause the same effects as short-acting opioids with respect to post-operative pain.

7. Angelini M, Pezhouman A, Savalli N, Chang M, Steccanella F, Scranton K, Calmettes G, Ottolia

M, Pantazis A, Karagueuzian H, Weiss J, Olcese R. **Suppression of ventricular arrhythmias by targeting late L-type Ca2+ current.** J Gen Physiol (2021) 153 (12): e202012584 <https://doi.org/10.1085/jgp.202012584>



Nicoletta Savalli (left), Riccardo Olcese (center), and colleagues reveal the distinct physical properties of the Ca_v1.1 channel’s four voltage-sensing domains (VSD I–IV, right). VSD-I shows slow activation kinetics and is the main contributor to the opening of Ca_v1.1. The other VSDs activate much faster and may therefore be coupled to RYR1 to mediate the rapid release of Ca²⁺ from the SR during skeletal muscle contraction.

Ventricular arrhythmias, a leading cause of sudden cardiac death, can be triggered by cardiomyocyte early afterdepolarizations (EADs). EADs can result from an abnormal late activation of L-type Ca²⁺ channels (LTCCs). Current LTCC blockers (class IV antiarrhythmics), while effective at suppressing EADs, block both early and late components of I_{Ca,L}, compromising inotropy. However, computational studies have recently demonstrated that selective reduction of late I_{Ca,L} (Ca²⁺ influx during late phases of the action potential) is sufficient to potently suppress EADs, suggesting that effective antiarrhythmic action can be achieved without blocking the early peak I_{Ca,L}, which is essential for proper excitation–contraction coupling. We tested this new strategy using a purine analogue, roscovitine, which reduces late I_{Ca,L} with minimal effect on peak current. Scaling our investigation from a human Ca_v1.2 channel clone to rabbit ventricular myocytes and rat and rabbit perfused hearts, we demonstrate that (1) roscovitine selectively reduces I_{Ca,L} noninactivating component in a human Ca_v1.2 channel clone and in ventricular myocytes native current, (2) the pharmacological reduction of late I_{Ca,L} suppresses EADs and EATs (early after Ca²⁺ transients) induced by oxidative stress and hypokalemia in isolated myocytes, largely preserving cell shortening and normal Ca²⁺ transient, and (3) late I_{Ca,L} reduction prevents/suppresses ventricular tachycardia/fibrillation in ex vivo rabbit and rat hearts subjected to hypokalemia and/or oxidative stress.

These results support the value of an antiarrhythmic strategy based on the selective reduction of late I_{Ca,L} to suppress EAD-mediated arrhythmias. Antiarrhythmic therapies based on this idea would modify the gating properties of Ca_v1.2 channels rather than blocking their pore, largely preserving contractility.

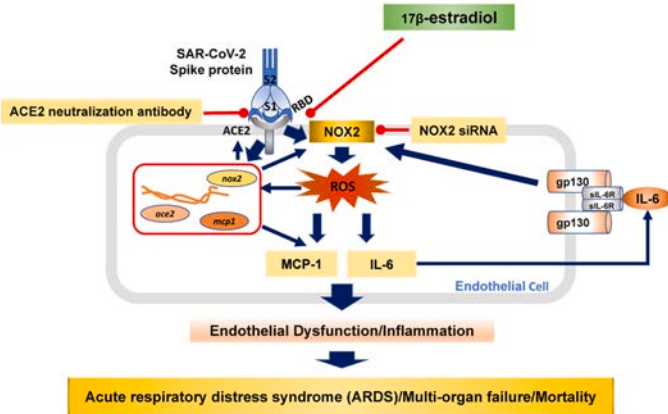
8. Huang K, Zhang P, Zhang Z, Youn JY, Wang C, Zhang H, Cai H. **Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in the treatment of COVID-19 and other viral infections: Efficacies and mechanisms.** Pharmacol Ther. 2021 Sept; 225:107843. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pharmthera.2021.107843>

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) has a well-documented history for treating infectious disease. During the fight against COVID-19 in China, six TCM recipes (HQG, LHQW, XFBD, HSB, XBJ and LCDD) have been shown to be most effective in treating patients with COVID-19. We have systematically reviewed the components, active ingredients, and the potential molecular mechanisms of the 6 TCM recipes in treating COVID-19 and infections by other viruses. The common components/active ingredients among the 6 recipes were also identified to represent most promising drug candidates, characterization of which may result in rapid development of novel therapeutics for the treatment of COVID-19. These ingredients may exert therapeutic effects on COVID-19 via targeting of ACE2, 3CLpro and IL-6. Therefore, the key active ingredients of TCM recipes and their molecular mechanisms driving therapeutic efficacies on COVID-19, warrant in-depth and immediate investigation to help better manage the devastating disease of COVID-19.

9. Youn JY, Zhang Y, Wu Y, Cannesson M, Cai H. **Therapeutic application of estrogen for COVID-19: Attenuation of SARS-CoV-2 spike protein and IL-6 stimulated, ACE2-dependent NOX2 activation, ROS production and MCP-1 upregulation in endothelial cells.** Redox Biol. 2021 Oct; 46:102099. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.redox.2021.102099>

We hypothesized that estrogen mediated protection might underlie lower morbidity, severity and mortality of COVID-19 in females. Of note, endothelial inflammation and barrier dysfunction are major mediators of disease progression, and development of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and multi-organ failure in

patients with COVID-19. Therefore, we investigated potential protective effects of estrogen on endothelial cells against oxidative stress induced by interleukin-6 (IL-6) and SARS-CoV-2 spike protein (S protein). Indeed, 17 β -estradiol completely reversed S protein-induced selective activation of NADPH oxidase isoform 2 (NOX2) and reactive oxygen species (ROS) production that are ACE2-dependent, as well as ACE2 upregulation and induction of pro-inflammatory gene monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1) in endothelial cells to effectively attenuate endothelial dysfunction. Effects of IL-6 on activating NOX2-dependent ROS production and upregulation of MCP-1 were also completely attenuated by 17 β -estradiol. Of note, co-treatment with CSE had no additional effects on S protein stimulated endothelial oxidative stress, confirming that current smoking status is likely unrelated to more severe disease in chronic smokers.



Estrogen mediates protection against COVID-19 sequelae.

These data indicate that estrogen can serve as a novel therapy for patients with COVID-19 via inhibition of initial viral responses and attenuation of cytokine storm induced endothelial dysfunction, to substantially alleviate morbidity, severity and mortality of the disease, especially in men and post-menopause women. Short-term administration of estrogen can therefore be readily applied to the clinical management of COVID-19 as a robust therapeutic option.

10. Bhaswati R, Woo M, Vacas S, Eshagian P, Rao A, Kumar R. **Regional brain tissue changes in patients with cystic fibrosis.** Journal of Translational Medicine volume 19, Article number: 419 (2021). Online publication October 9, 2021. doi: 10.1186/s12967-021-03092-x

Cystic fibrosis (CF) patients present with a variety of symptoms, including mood and cognition deficits, in addition to classical respiratory, and autonomic issues. This suggests that brain injury, which can be examined with non-invasive magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), is a manifestation of this condition. We acquired high-resolution T1-weighted images and proton-density (PD) and T2-weighted images from 5 CF and 15 control subjects using a 3.0-Tesla MRI.

Patients with CF showed significant brain structural changes, as evidenced by altered GM density or T2 relaxation values, indicative of tissue injury, in brain regions that control cognitive, autonomic, and mood functions. These sites included the cerebellum, hippocampus, amygdala, superior temporal cortices, basal forebrain, insula, parietal cortices, frontal and prefrontal cortices, and corpus callosum. In addition, CF patients exhibited significant anxiety and depression symptoms and impaired cognitive abilities, and brain regions regulating such functions showed altered brain structural integrity. Integration of mental health screening and early identification and targeted treatment of CF patients could improve the mortality and morbidity seen in the condition.

11. Jayawardena E, Medzikovic L, Ruffenach G, Eghbali M. **Role of miRNA-1 and miRNA-21 in Acute Myocardial Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury and Their Potential as Therapeutic Strategy.** January 2022; International Journal of Molecular Sciences 23(3):1512. doi. org/10.3390/ijms23031512

Coronary artery disease remains the leading cause of death. Acute myocardial infarction (MI) is characterized by decreased blood flow to the coronary arteries, resulting in cardiomyocytes death. The most effective strategy for treating an MI is early and rapid myocardial reperfusion, but restoring blood flow to the ischemic myocardium can induce further damage, known as ischemia-reperfusion (IR) injury. Novel therapeutic strategies are critical to limit myocardial IR injury and improve patient outcomes following reperfusion intervention. miRNAs are small non-coding RNA molecules that have been implicated in attenuating IR injury pathology in pre-clinical rodent models. In this review, we discuss the role of miR-1 and miR-21 in regulating myocardial apoptosis in ischemia-reperfusion injury in the whole heart as well as in different cardiac cell types with special emphasis on cardiomyocytes,

fibroblasts, and immune cells. We also examine therapeutic potential of miR-1 and miR-21 in preclinical studies. More research is necessary to understand the cell-specific molecular principles of miRNAs in cardioprotection and application to acute myocardial IR injury.

12. Savalli N, Steccanella F, Wier J, Wu F, Quinonez M, DeFranco M, Neely A, Cannon S, Olcese R. **The distinct role of the four voltage sensors of the skeletal CaV1.1 channel in voltage-dependent activation.** J Gen Physiol (2021) 153 (11): e202112915. https://doi.org/10.1085/jgp.202112915

Initiation of skeletal muscle contraction is triggered by rapid activation of RYR1 channels in response to sarcolemmal depolarization. RYR1 is intracellular and has no voltage-sensing structures, but it is coupled with the voltage-sensing apparatus of CaV1.1 channels to inherit voltage sensitivity. Using an opto-electrophysiological approach, we resolved the excitation-driven molecular events controlling both CaV1.1 and RYR1 activations, reported as fluorescence changes. We discovered that each of the four human CaV1.1 voltage-sensing domains (VSDs) exhibits unique biophysical properties: VSD-I time-dependent properties were similar to ionic current activation kinetics, suggesting a critical role of this voltage sensor in CaV1.1 activation; VSD-II, VSD-III, and VSD-IV displayed faster activation, compatible with kinetics of sarcoplasmic reticulum Ca2+ release. The prominent role of VSD-I in governing CaV1.1 activation was also confirmed using a naturally occurring, charge-neutralizing mutation in VSD-I (R174W). This mutation abolished CaV1.1 current at physiological membrane potentials by impairing VSD-I activation without affecting the other VSDs. Using a structurally relevant allosteric model of CaV activation, which accounted for both time- and voltage-dependent properties of CaV1.1, to predict VSD-pore coupling energies, we found that VSD-I contributed the most energy (~75 meV or ~3 kT) toward the stabilization of the open states of the channel, with smaller (VSD-IV) or negligible (VSDs II and III) energetic contribution from the other voltage sensors (<25 meV or ~1 kT). This study settles the longstanding question of how CaV1.1, a slowly activating channel, can trigger RYR1 rapid activation, and reveals a new mechanism for voltage-dependent activation in ion channels, whereby pore opening of human CaV1.1 channels is primarily driven by the activation of one voltage sensor, a mechanism distinct from that of all other voltage-gated channels.

13. Ottolia M, Scott J, Hazan A, Goldhaber J. **The Cardiac Na+-Ca2+ Exchanger: From Structure to Function.** Comprehensive Physiology, Volume 12 Issue 1. January 2022. Published online: 29 December 2021. https://doi.org/10.1002/cphy.c200031

Ca2+ homeostasis is essential for cell function and survival. As such, the cytosolic Ca2+ concentration is tightly controlled by a wide number of specialized Ca2+ handling proteins. One among them is the Na+-Ca2+ exchanger (NCX), a ubiquitous plasma membrane transporter that exploits the electrochemical gradient of Na+ to drive Ca2+ out of the cell, against its concentration gradient. In this critical role, this secondary transporter guides vital physiological processes such as Ca2+ homeostasis, muscle contraction, bone formation, and memory to name a few.

Heart	Kidney	Skeletal muscle	Brain		
NCX1.1 (ACDEF)	NCX1.3 (BD) NCX1.7 (BDF)	NCX1.1 (ACDEF) NCX1.2 (BCD) NCX1.3 (BD) NCX1.7 (BDF) NCX1.9 (BDE) NCX1.10 (BDEF)	NCX1.4 (AD) NCX1.5 (ADF)	NCX1.3 (BD) NCX1.4 (AD) NCX1.7 (BDF) NCX1.9 (BDE) NCX1.10 (BDEF)	NCX1.1 (ACDEF) NCX1.3 (BD) NCX1.4 (AD) NCX1.7 (BDF) NCX1.11 (BCDEF) NCX1.12 (ADEF)
	NCX2 (AC)	NCX2 (AC)	NCX2 (AC)	NCX2 (AC)	NCX2 (AC)
		NCX3.1 (AC) NCX3.2 (B)	NCX3.2 (B)	NCX3.1 (AC)	NCX3.2 (B)

Tissue distribution of the exchanger isoforms (Ottolia).

Herein, we review the progress made in recent years about the structure of the mammalian NCX and how it relates to function. Particular emphasis will be given to the mammalian cardiac isoform, NCX1.1, due to the extensive studies conducted on this protein. Given the degree of conservation among the eukaryotic exchangers, the information highlighted herein will provide a foundation for our understanding of this transporter family. We will discuss gene structure, alternative splicing, topology, regulatory mechanisms, and NCX's functional role on cardiac physiology. Throughout this article, we will attempt to highlight important milestones in the field and controversial topics where future studies are required.

DAPM Seed Grants Support Promising Research

Three years ago, we began a Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine (DAPM) Seed Grant Program to fund research projects within our own department. The program offers grants of up to \$15,000 to enable investigators to collect the preliminary data necessary for nascent research to produce a competitive application for extramural funding. The fourth cycle of applications is currently underway.

The program seeks applications for projects that have the potential to grow into larger research programs capable of receiving outside funding, but also funds smaller projects that can be completed using only the seed grant support. Any member of the department is eligible to apply so long as a faculty member commits to supporting the project.

We're curious what our talented investigators have been doing, so we asked last year's seed grant winners for a brief update on their projects.



Nir Hoftman, MD, Clinical Professor and our division chief for thoracic anesthesiology, has been studying the effectiveness of an intubation hood designed to protect anesthesiologists and other healthcare workers from SARS-coV-2 and other infectious agents during endotracheal

intubation. The new device is called the “SLACC” – Suction-assisted Local Aerosol Containment Chamber. The device is disposable, quick and easy to assemble and deploy, and designed to protect teams from both airborne and contact spread contaminants.

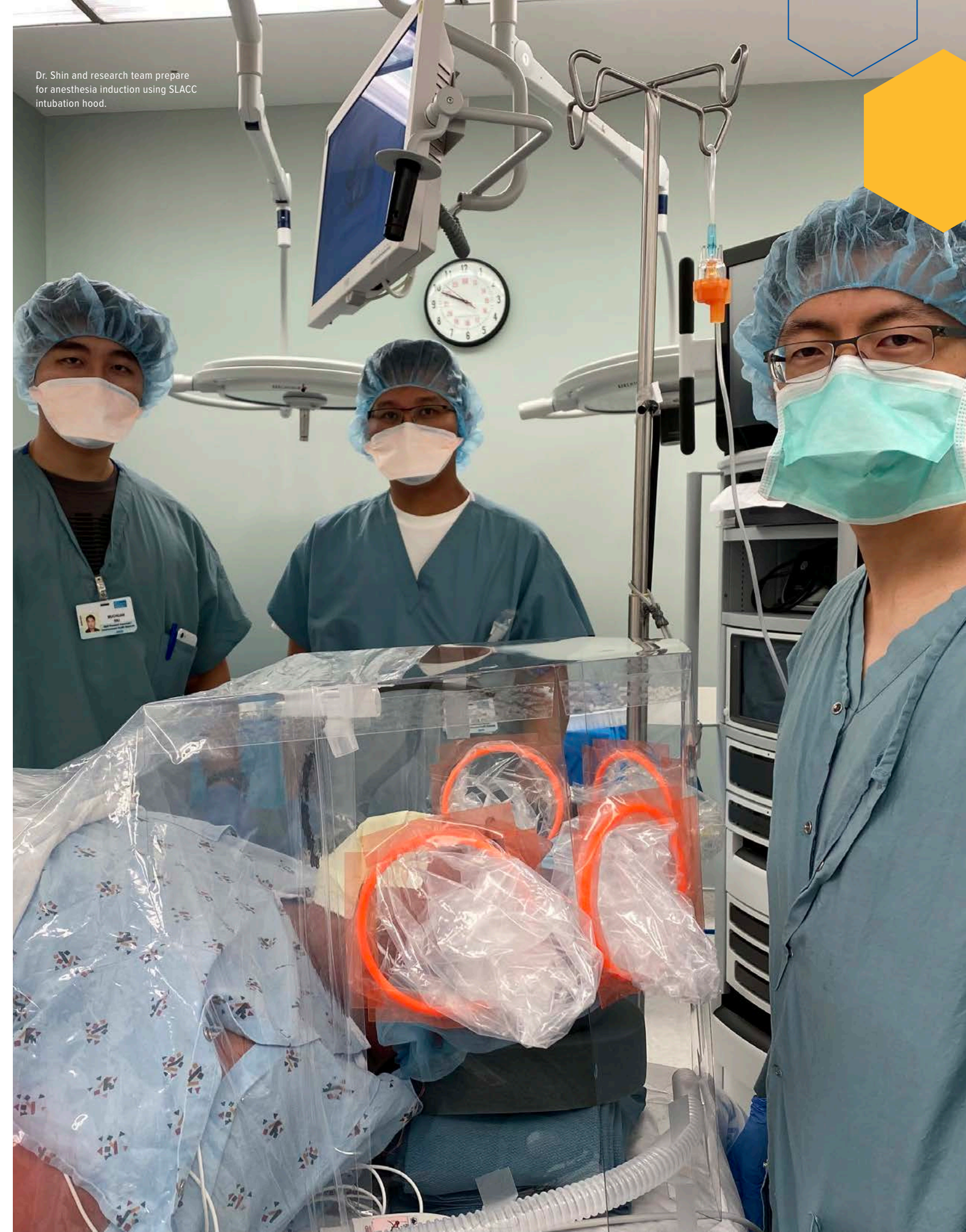
The research team for this project includes faculty members John Shin, MD, Chiewlin Liew, MD, FRCA, Jason Lee, MD, and Soban Umar, MD, PhD. They have been working with scientists from the environmental science lab of Yifang Zhu, PhD, and with UCLA medical student Dong Ho Shin. The team performed preliminary testing on prototypes using a simulation lab with promising results, and the next step was to manufacture a production quality device and conduct a randomized controlled trial on surgical patients to test the safety and efficacy of the device in real clinical care settings.

Dr. Hoftman reports: “Given the severe manufacturing crisis brought about by the Covid pandemic, including material shortages, the DAPM Seed Grant was instrumental in allowing our team to proceed with the project. The funding played a significant role in enabling us to manufacture and order the devices for the clinical trial. Combined with generous research time scheduling and a collaboration with the Environmental Sciences Lab, we were able to enroll 79 patients and conduct the RCT. We are now in the process of studying the data, and preliminary results suggest that this device is both safe and efficacious.”



Emily Methangkool, MD, MPH, Vice Chair for Quality and Safety and Associate Clinical Professor, wanted to know more about the topic of mentorship in academic anesthesiology departments. Despite being long understood as critical to success in academic medicine,

mentorship implementation among departments varies widely, Dr. Methangkool found, and there are significant



Dr. Shin and research team prepare for anesthesia induction using SLACC intubation hood.

disparities between research and clinical faculty. Furthermore, lack of mentorship often negatively impacts the career development of women and underrepresented minorities.

As a result, Dr. Methangkool reports, she and colleagues at Emory University and the University of Virginia were interested in “determining the prevalence of formal mentoring programs within the United States, as well as characteristics of mentoring relationships and components of successful mentoring programs. We were awarded a UCLA DAPM Seed Grant in December 2020 to fund our study. Using these funds, we sent a short survey to the membership of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) in April 2021. We are currently in the process of analyzing the data and summarizing our findings in several manuscripts. The seed grant process provided us with valuable input that we used to refine our study, as well as made the actual study possible. Survey studies are very difficult to finance and we are immensely grateful for the opportunity.”



Lejla Medzikovic, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow working with Mansoureh Eghbali, PhD, focuses her research on the regulatory role of miR-129-5p in myocardial fibrosis and calcification. She reports, “The goal of my seed grant proposal was to perform crucial animal

experiments needed to wrap up this project and write up the manuscript. The funds were extremely helpful for me to establish a colony of genetically modified mice and to perform lineage tracing experiments of cardiac fibroblasts in these animals. I was able to fund the extensive costs of these experiments ranging from animal housing to experimental lab supplies. The DAPM Seed Grant allowed me to advance my research towards publication as I was able to send out the manuscript, which is currently under review in a top-tier journal. Furthermore, the funds were used for pilot experiments for an extramural R01 grant application that was submitted in November 2021.”



Lou Saddic, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor in Residence and Associate Program Director of our adult cardiothoracic fellowship program, is using his DAPM Seed Grant to study the protective effect of female sex against developing thoracic aneurysms. He reports, “Diseases of the

ascending aorta carry high degrees of morbidity and mortality, and current therapeutics are still limited to high-risk surgical interventions. Among these diseases are ascending thoracic aneurysms which tend to have a higher prevalence in males compared to females. My research uses a Marfan model of thoracic aneurysms in order to uncover the protective mechanisms of female sex. In particular we study the effects of estrogen on molecular derangements that govern aneurysm growth and dissection. In order to do this, my lab harnesses the power of recent advances in proteomics to study the global changes in protein expression in aneurysms as they grow when exposed to different hormones. We hope to uncover alternative pathways that can be used for novel drug targets.”



Despite the Pandemic, Our CRNA Team Is Growing and Thriving!

By Shelly Anderson, MBA, MSNA, CRNA

As the year 2022 begins, we take pride in the continuous growth of the CRNA team, especially during this COVID-19 pandemic that seems to have no end. We now have 50 CRNAs and several more positions open. One of the biggest challenges in the past few months has been trying to recruit in a virtual world and not being able to make connections face to face during interviews, recruitment events, and campus tours. Nationwide, the pandemic has created an economic roller coaster and a changing labor market, making it the toughest of times to recruit and retain staff. We are extremely fortunate at UCLA to have the support and resilience to combat these challenges.

We have six new nurse anesthetists to highlight who have joined our team recently:



Pauline Rioux, CRNA, joined our team on December 6. Pauline is originally from Paris, France. She completed her BSN at Regis College in Massachusetts. Then she worked as a nurse in the CCU and CVICU at Massachusetts General Hospital and the MICU at Emory Hospital. Pauline relocated to LA to attend

USC School of Nurse Anesthesia where she completed her DNAP. Professionally, she is interested in mission trips. In her spare time, she enjoys community service, travel, hiking, cooking/baking, and spending time with friends and family.



Kana Watanabe, MSN, CRNA, joined us on December 6. She is from Sunnyvale CA and recently relocated to LA with her spouse and baby. Kana obtained her MSN degree from Northeastern University in Boston and her BSN from Case Western Reserve University in Ohio. She worked as a pediatric ICU

nurse at Seattle Children's Hospital, and MUSC Children's Hospital in Charleston, South Carolina. She worked as a CRNA at Stanford Hospital before joining the UCLA team. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, trying out new restaurants, and spending time with her family.



Jeffrey Graham, MSN, CRNA, joined us on January 3. He is originally from Boca Raton, Florida. Jeff relocated to the LA area in 2018 to pursue his DNP-CRNA education at Kaiser Permanente School of Anesthesia. He has a degree in finance from the University of Central Florida and a BSN from George Washington

University. Jeff worked as a nurse in the CVICU at MedStar Washington Hospital Center. His current professional interest is focusing on the transition to

practice and successful integration into the UCLA system. Jeff recently moved to the Brentwood area, is looking forward to exploring the neighborhood, and would appreciate activity and restaurant ideas! In his spare time, he likes cycling, hiking in the mountains, going to the beach, exploring restaurants in the area, and lazy days.



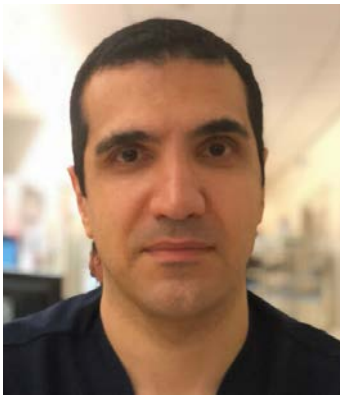
Alyssa Kirk, DNP, CRNA, joined us in August 2021. She is from Philadelphia, and completed her DNP in Nurse Anesthesia at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to that, she completed her BSN at Temple University where she went on to work as an ICU nurse. As a new CRNA, she is very passionate about

learning and teaching. In her spare time, she loves being outdoors. She loves playing sports, especially soccer, beach volleyball, & tennis, and watching football and basketball. She also loves to hike, backpack, read, and try new restaurants.



Weatherall Josiah Simon Borden, DNP, CRNA, who goes by “Josiah”, joined us in August 2021. He is from Philadelphia and completed his DNP in Nurse Anesthesia at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to that, he earned his BSN at the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg, Texas. Josiah worked

in the ICU at Lancaster General Hospital and Temple University Hospital. As a new CRNA, his current interest is becoming proficient and well-versed within the field of nurse anesthesia. He is passionate about education, is excited to see what specialties/surgeries will appeal to him the most, and believes it is important to create a great foundation for his career by learning from the best in the west. In his spare time, he practices and competes in mixed martial arts, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, and wrestling. He also enjoys tennis, traveling, and comedy.



Touraj Sedigh, DNAP, CRNA, started with us on August 2. Touraj is originally from Tehran, Iran, and moved to the LA area in 2015. He received his BSN degree from Samuel Merritt University, and completed his DNAP/CRNA education at USC. Touraj is familiar with the UCLA system as he once worked as an ICU nurse

in the 4CWICU at UCLA-Santa Monica Medical Center. In his spare time, he enjoys swimming, biking, and spending time with family.

The growth of the CRNA team is a direct reflection of the growth of the Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine. We deliver leading-edge patient care, research, and education throughout the various UCLA clinical sites. Our CRNAs continue to teach campus-wide courses to nurses and physicians throughout the year on topics including airway management, pharmacology, mock codes, and conscious sedation. As one example, I have taught a procedural sedation course to the IR physician team to support interdepartmental patient safety initiatives when non-anesthesia providers are giving sedation.

All our CRNAs are clinical instructors, and UCLA serves as a clinical site for two local schools of nurse anesthesia. The Kaiser and USC Schools of Nurse Anesthesia have increased their numbers of students at both the Westwood and Santa Monica sites. We teach at the schools, both in the classroom and simulation lab. Our team members continue their education as well. Simson Wang graduated with his DNAP degree from Missouri State University in December, and I completed Green Belt certification in the Lean Six Sigma Program. We participate in outreach within UCLA and in the community, creating relationships and – we hope – inspiring future CRNAs.



Karen Hwang, Shelly Anderson, Cortney Jolin, Sarah Colosimo, Brianna Ortals, and friend Jennifer Lim at DiscOasis.

Brianna Ortals, MSN, CRNA, Gillian Quian, DNP, CRNA, and **Gloria Nakyeyune, MSN, CRNA,** welcomed our newest staff with an excellent “New Hire” presentation where they reviewed the official and unofficial survival guides for a successful transition during the first year.

Cortney Jolin, MSN, CRNA, and **Emily Pinho, MS, CRNA,** presented via Zoom at the Professional Development Fair for UCLA registered nurses. They discussed the transition from bedside RN to CRNA, some of the prerequisites for admission to CRNA educational programs, and their roles in the operating room. They also spent time answering questions and guiding candidates how to secure a CRNA-shadow experience.

Gillian Quian and **Emily Pinho** were asked by the UCLA Pre-Health Society to present virtually to the nursing students at Mount Saint Mary University. This was the anesthesia edition of their “Exploring Nurse Specialties” series. They presented an overview of the role of CRNAs in different healthcare settings, and reviewed the educational and clinical pathways to becoming a nurse anesthetist.

At the October annual meeting of the ASA, **Chris Weitekamp, MSN, CRNA,** presented an abstract with Dr. Zhuang Fang about Dr. Fang’s novel 6-2-2 sedation technique for ocular surgery. **Jennifer Katsura, MSN, CRNA,** gave the virtual presentation of a poster about the use of Dr. Fang’s sedation approach in elderly and



Chris Weitekamp, CRNA, with Drs. Zhuang Fang and Sergey Prokushev, presented their work at the ASA.

morbidly obese patients. **Alan Zamora, MSN, CRNA**, presented another poster about ophthalmic anesthesia, “Safety and Efficacy of Rapid, Patient-tailored Sedation Method with Dense Analgesia, Patent Airway, and Stable Hemodynamics.” Their CRNA colleagues who co-authored the abstracts are Sarah Colosimo, Gloria Nakye-yune, Natalia MacDougall, Allison Leveque, and Ralph Cabrera.

L.A. County sees a record 44,000 new coronavirus cases as staff shortages strain hospitals



Huy Vo, a certified registered nurse anesthetist, works in the intensive care unit with a coronavirus-positive patient at Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital on Dec. 31. (Francine Orr / Los Angeles Times)

Huy Vo, MSN, CRNA, was pictured in an article in the Los Angeles Times regarding the struggles facing healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically at Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital.

As our group gets larger, it’s essential to maintain a positive and supportive work culture. Our collection of individuals becomes a strong cohesive team by building relationships outside of work. We believe that team-building exercises allow us to get to know each other on a personal level, and we find it satisfying to interact socially. Building trust outside of the OR adds to our confidence that we can depend on each other inside the

OR. We organize many events via a private group chat, and welcome all ideas.

Lauren Fagan, MSN, CRNA, set up a thank-you card basket at both the Westwood and Santa Monica campuses, complete with a contact list and stamps. This provides an excuse-free way to send a colleague a handwritten note to show them that you care and appreciate all they do. We also starting using GroupGreeting.com to send virtual cards to members of the team for all occasions. With this service, we can easily sign and individualize the card with photos and GIFs. We are committed to supporting each other via email and snail mail. Team members organized baby showers for **Ana Armenta, MSN, CRNA**, and **Gloria Nakye-yune, MSN, CRNA**. We also support a fund to buy gifts and send flowers for any occasion.

One of our adventures together last year was a summer beach day organized by social chair Gillian Quian. It was a beautiful sunny day, and we could safely enjoy each other’s company outside. The day was complete with sandwiches from Bay Cities Italian Deli & Bakery in Santa Monica. That is my restaurant recommendation for anyone new to LA!



Caught some rays!

One of the coolest outdoor adventures we had this past fall was roller skating at a 70’s style outdoor skating rink called DiscOasis. This huge outdoor roller rink was hidden in the beautiful South Coast Botanic Gardens in Palos Verdes Estates. We had the pleasure of skating to beats by DJ Grandmaster Flash!



Brianna Ortals and Gillian Quian crafted a propofol tree!

In December, the Wellness committee set up a happy hour to start the holiday season off right. Brianna Ortals and Gillian Quian continued their reduce-and-reuse art skills by building a propofol Christmas tree. We were delighted that our holiday party was in person this year! Everyone was excited to get dressed up and go out; this was a highly celebrated event as we had to skip it last year. We rented out the Barsha Wine & Spirits Shop in Manhattan Beach, and enjoyed an open bar and charcuterie boards.



Gillian Quian and husband Timothy Loon finally tied the knot in September after the pandemic forced them to cancel and plan their wedding three times! Congratulations!

We have nuptials to celebrate! Gillian Quian married Timothy Loon on September 3 in Rolling Hills, after having to cancel the ceremony twice due to the pandemic. “They say the third time’s the charm!” said Gillian. We also celebrated an engagement between two of our newest colleagues, Josiah Borden and Alyssa Kirk!



Josiah Borden pops the question to Alyssa Kirk.



Josiah Borden and Alyssa Kirk engaged!

In January each year, we celebrate each other and our profession during CRNA Week, January 23-29, 2022. We have several festivities planned! Our nurse anesthetists continue to find ways to support each other as well as upholding UCLA values. We want to ensure integrity, compassion, respect, teamwork, excellence, and diversity in the work we do daily. We look forward to continued growth and discovery in the new year.



Baby love for Gloria Nanyeyune, with some homemade Jamaican cooking by Dean from Santa Monica MPU.



Brianna Orbals and Sarah Colosimo with bride Gillian Quian.



Simson Wang celebrates earning his DNAP degree.



Enjoying a beautiful fall day with pumpkin picking and hay-riding at Underwood family farms!



Our holiday party!



No better way to end the week than Friday happy hour with Shelly Anderson, Deb Paris-Telo, Gillian Quian, Sarah Colosimo, Anna Kim, and Lauren Fagan!



Showering Ana Armenta with baby love!

Administrative Staff Achievements

Welcome to the newest AMG Board Member!



Carla Gonzalez joined the UCLA Administrative Management Group (AMG) as a member-at-large in July 2021, and has been elected as a board member and as the Special Projects Coordinator. The AMG is dedicated to the professional growth and development of the

administrative staff at UCLA. Carla's recent contributions include articles in two newsletters, one of which features our very own Dr. Cecilia Canales and her career journey. In the upcoming months, Carla will serve in the Pro-Share Program at UCLA, a networking program for administrative staff where two of our department's staff members, Areli Gonzalez and Quenesha Caballero, will participate in 2022. We look forward to seeing what Carla will do next!

Administrative Staff Wellness Committee

In September, our department's Administrative Staff Wellness Program formally launched with the motto of "working collaboratively to optimize the well-being of each individual, one pillar at a time." After extensive research on wellness and many fruitful conversations spearheaded by **Quenesha Caballero**, the committee was established with five core pillar workgroups:

- Emotional Wellness
- Physical Wellness
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Environmental Wellness
- Work-Life Integration.

The committee presently includes 13 administrative staff members from various offices in DAPM, which has given everyone the opportunity to connect with their colleagues in ways that they may have not otherwise been able to do.

"We are an evolving program, and realize that with various changes in the world around us and at work we will need to adjust. We are wholeheartedly ready to take it on as a team as we continue on our wellness journey," says Quenesha. We thank Quenesha for all of her hard work in creating this wonderful wellness initiative for our staff!



Quenesha Caballero at the department's holiday party!

Professional Development Program

In August 2021, **Olivia Vallejo** began her journey in UCLA's Professional Development Program (PDP), a one-year leadership development program that provides participants with opportunities to enhance professional and management skills, build professional networks and learn about the structure and culture of the University.

Administrative Staff Achievements

Olivia applied to the competitive program with the full support of Carla Gonzalez, her immediate supervisor, and Stephanie Fisher, our Chief Administrative Officer.



Through this program, Olivia has been able to connect and network with other participants and learn about the different roles they play at UCLA. She has also been able to talk to leaders in many different areas of our institution to get insight on their journeys leading up to where they are now, which she has found very inspiring.

At the moment, Olivia is working on her capstone project, a department-based project that participants are required to complete and present at the end of the program in May 2022.

"Without reservation, I would whole-heartedly recommend this program to anyone looking to build connections, get exposure to all the different parts that make up UCLA and for those interested in leadership opportunities," Olivia says. We are so proud of Olivia for embarking on this wonderful next phase in her career!

Congratulations to the Newest Council Member of the Association of Anesthesiology Program Administrators and Educators!



Lucine Torosian, Fellowship Programs Manager, was elected to serve in a leadership role as the Council Member for Communications and Marketing for the Association of Anesthesiology Program Administrators and Educators (AAPAE). The AAPAE is a national academic association

comprised of program administrators and educators and is a section of the Society of Academic Associations

in Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine (SAAAPM). The SAAAPM is the umbrella organization for four associations: (1) The Association of Academic Anesthesiology Chairs (AAAC), (2) The Association of Anesthesiology Core Program Directors (AACPD), (3) The Association of Anesthesiology Subspecialty Program Directors (AASPD), and (4) The Association of Anesthesiology Program Administrators and Educators (AAPAE). Lucine has represented our department at the SAAAPM and AAPAE national meetings and has conducted invited presentations on social media, wellness, and process improvement.

Edward R. Roybal Learning Center Donation Drive

By Carla Gonzalez and Lucelva Mendez

Quenesha Caballero, Carla Gonzalez, Lucelva Mendez and Dr. Christine Myo Bui led a donation drive to benefit a local high school, the Edward R. Roybal Learning Center, that was in need of essential supplies and food for students during the winter break.

Our amazing department collected \$2,415 in cash for the students! Dr. Myo Bui and Lucy purchased essential supplies including food and hygiene products, and CA2 resident Emily Nasser, MD, along with her daughter’s

preschool class, helped put together bags to distribute the donations. The team made the first drop-off on December 17.

The school identified students who were unhoused or in foster care to receive the care packages. The opportunity to make this donation drive possible was supported by our leadership, CAO Stephanie Fisher and chair Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD. We are looking forward to making more deliveries this spring.



Lucelva Mendez, Principal Cynthia Hernandez Segovia, Teacher Melina Melgoza, Dr. Myo Bui, and Climate Advocate Blanca Cruz.

Welcome To Our Newest Staff Member!

By Darnell Bagsik



On October 11, the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine welcomed our newest staff member, Stephanie-Dee Sarovich.

Stephanie-Dee attended the University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign, where she was

an Evans Scholar – a scholarship that offers full housing and tuition coverage. This past winter, she joined

our team as a Research Coordinator and is currently working on examining the mechanisms of brain injury contributing to postoperative neurocognitive disorders in an at-risk population of patients with obstructive sleep apnea undergoing surgery.

During her free time, she loves to watch, play, and talk about tennis. In addition to this, she enjoys finance, the Forex market, and playing with her 2-year-old pup named Maza. We are so excited to have Stephanie-Dee in our department and look forward to all of her success!



Stephanie-Dee Sarovich at the beach.



Stephanie-Dee's 2-year-old pup, Maza.

Winter Wonder-Zoom

By Anabel Barajas and Quenesha Caballero



On December 3, 2021, the DAPM Administrative Staff Wellness Committee hosted its first Winter Wonder-Zoom! During this event, our amazing administrative staff members participated in a series of holiday games & laughs. We kicked off with holiday facts and jokes, such as “Mariah Carey wrote ‘All I Want for Christmas’ in 15 minutes!” Our team also hosted a holiday sweater contest where we judged on categories such as “Most Creative Sweater”, “Funniest Sweater”, and “Ugliest Sweater”. We then moved into a friendly, yet competitive

holiday scavenger hunt that encouraged all of us to get up and scavenge our homes and offices for items such as scotch tape and hot chocolate packets. We concluded the event with a virtual white elephant game which was an absolute blast, especially when determining if one would open a new gift or steal from another participant. This event was a wonderful opportunity where we all came together as a team and enjoyed one another’s company. We are certainly looking forward to the 2022 Winter Wonder-Zoom!



We Celebrated the Holiday Season in Style!

In the brief pandemic lull between the Delta surge and the newer Omicron variant, we were able to get together and enjoy a holiday celebration with a lovely buffet dinner on December 17 at the rooftop of the Hotel Angeleno.

“The food was great; the venue was great!”, said Barbara Van de Wiele, MD, vice chair for faculty affairs. “As we used to say, a good time was had by all!”

One of the evening’s highlights was the gracious decision by accomplished nature photographer **Zhuang-Ting Fang, MD, MPH**, to donate 30 beautifully framed photos as gifts to department members. People were invited to come up on stage, select their photo, and take it home. “This was done from the kindness of his heart for the department’s wellness,” explained **Carla Gonzalez**, assistant to department chair Maxime Cannesson, MD, PhD.

Quenesha Caballero of the administrative office staff was a key member of the team that organized the event, and she was a star in vivid crimson as she helped direct each table’s guests in turn to fill their plates at the buffet. **Elizabeth Paray** and **Knarik Piloyan** of the business office handled financial arrangements, and **Olivia Vallejo** contributed administrative support.













Alumni Updates

From the Class of 2012



The Grauch Family.

John Grauch, MD, sends this message: “Hey guys!! 10 years have FLOWN by! My eldest and I have taken up SCUBA, so here are some fun update photos from Casino Point in Catalina (and one family shot for context). I’m still working out here in SIMI VALLEY. We’re looking for an 8th FULL-time anesthesiologist if anybody is looking?!?! (We have a lot of USC alumni out here, got to get UCLA represented. :))”



Dr. John Grauch and his son scuba-diving off Catalina.



Dr. John Grauch and son.

From the Class of 2019



Dr. Jeff Jeng

Jeffrey Jeng, MD, writes: “In April 2021, I moved back from Texas to start a pain practice in Beverly Hills. I was less than a year out of fellowship so I knew this was going to be a big challenge. Luckily, I met some great partners and we formed the Interventional Pain Doctors group. We work closely with surgeons at DOCS Spine and Orthopedics to provide

Alumni Updates



Dr. Jeff Jeng, left, and his partners in pain medicine practice

comprehensive multidisciplinary care. My practice focuses on the latest techniques for non-surgical spine and orthopedics, regenerative, and sports medicine. I continue to split my time between anesthesia and interventional pain. The training I received at UCLA helped prepare me clinically to jump right into private practice and provide excellent patient care. My advice to graduating residents and fellows is to soak up everything you can from the faculty, believe in yourself, and utilize the UCLA alumni network!”

From the Class of 2020

Michelle Lieu, MD, writes that she is doing great, enjoying life in Orange County and “absolutely loving my job at HOAG.” She plans to be married in September, and promises to send photos then!

Kelsey Wang, MD, sends word that she is now at Kaiser Woodland Hills with other UCLA alumni, “settling in and enjoying it a lot so far!” She rewarded herself with a vacation in Dordogne, France, last summer, between finishing her fellowship in regional anesthesiology and starting work.



Class of 2020 ladies who lunch! Drs. Chloe Tang, Melanie Kusonruksa, Krista Cascia, and Kelsey Wang.

Sheila Navi, MD, now the mother of three, sent a photo of her growing family, saying that she spends her time “as a mommy by day and anesthesiologist by night!” As a “proud UCLA grad,” Dr. Navi says her time at UCLA prepared her “incredibly” for her oral boards and her clinical practice at Harbor-UCLA.



Dr. Sheila Navi with husband Daniel, Emma (4), Hannah (1.5), and Jonah (7 months).



Dr. David Valdez, far left, in Qatar.

David Valdez, MD, went directly from UCLA residency to his new station at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia. “It’s been quite the experience working in the military healthcare system,” he writes. “I recently returned from a deployment to Qatar where I helped provide medical care to the displaced Afghan

evacuees. Besides working at Langley AFB Hospital, I staff at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth to help support their growing anesthesia residency program. In my off-duty time, I work at the regional level-2 trauma center to maintain my skills with higher-acuity patients. This past November, I took over as the anesthesia medical director

at Langley, which has been a great learning experience.” Thank you for your service, Dr. Valdez!



Dr. David Valdez on duty, third from right.



Dr. David Valdez and his growing family.



Dr. Iman Rabizadeh

Iman Rabizadeh, MD, MBA, completed a chronic pain fellowship at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and has stayed on to join the department at Cedars. He writes that he is doing well, currently practicing half-time clinical anesthesia and half pain medicine, both inpatient and outpatient. “Miss everyone at UCLA,” he says.

Brian Nguyen, MD, writes that he is still in private practice with East Bay Anesthesiology in Oakland, and enjoys being with the group. “Unfortunately, not too many other life updates than that, haha,” he notes, but he joined classmates to celebrate the wedding of Dr. Andy Wu in October. Judging from the photos, that was the social event of the season!



Dr. Matt Klekman and family.

Matt Klekman, MD, sends this update: “After finishing residency, my wife, my son, and I moved to Portland, Oregon, to start a new chapter in July 2020. Working in private practice for Oregon Anesthesiology Group and exploring the Pacific Northwest was a great experience, but we longed to be closer to our families in Northern California. We moved to San Francisco in November

2021, and I have since transitioned to a career with The Permanente Medical Group at Kaiser Oakland Medical Center. This timely transition has been just what we needed, as we had a wonderful time enjoying the holidays with family, and we are so excited after many years away to once again call the Bay Area our home. Our son is turning 2 years old this month, and we are thrilled to continue having countless new adventures together both here and abroad.”



Dr. Chirag Desai and Rohini Patel hiking at Zion National Park.



Dr. Chirag Desai in Aspen (he tagged along at his wife's vascular surgery conference!)

Chirag Desai, MD, MBA, writes: “I wish there was a way to know you’re in the good old days before you’ve actually left them.” – wise words from The Office’s Andy Bernard that mirror my sentiments when reflecting upon residency. Luckily, living in San Diego has kept me close to many of my co-residents. I am currently working for a small group that serves numerous

surgery centers in the Temecula area after spending the past year working for a hospital-based practice in San Diego. My training at UCLA allowed me to easily carve out a lifestyle-focused anesthesia practice with ample time to travel, spend time with my wife, and make weekly trips to the San Diego Zoo!”



Made it to the top!

From **Andrew Wu, MD**: “Hello everyone! My name is Andrew Wu, and I am a proud UCLA anesthesiology alum! I completed my residency in 2020 and cardiothoracic fellowship in 2021, and I am currently working at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center where I split my time between cardiac and noncardiac ORs. Having been in private practice for the past 8 months, I truly feel that my training at UCLA has equipped me with the right skill sets and experience to succeed in the real world. 2021 was a special year for me. Not only did I finally finish all my training, pass all my board examinations, but I got to marry the love of my life. I cannot wait for what 2022 has in store for all of us!”



Tiffany and Dr. Andy Wu.



The wedding party of Dr. Andy Wu and bride Tiffany.



At the wedding of Dr. Andy Wu, center, with Drs. Colby Tanner, Chloe Tang, Melanie Kusonruksa, Michelle Lieu, Kelsey Wang, and Brian Nguyen.



Dr. Andy Wu's wedding was a mini-reunion for the Class of 2020!



Dr. Chloe Tang, Class of 2020, is in private practice in Santa Barbara.

After a Hard Day (Or Night) At Work, It's Great To Come Home To Our Families and Pets!



Ayah Olatunji, born August 30, amidst the (fake) snow at her first photo shoot! She's the adorable daughter of Gloria Nakyeune, CRNA.



Dr. Joel Stockman, wife Frances, Norah (3), and Teddy (6) enjoyed the sunset in Puerto Vallarta.



"Snow-crazed" Charly, a one-year-old Sheltie (Lorraine Lubin, MD).



Dr. Ali Salehi with daughter Tara (10) in Washington DC. He points out that she's flying Gryffindor colors, not USC!

After a Hard Day (Or Night) At Work, It's Great To Come Home To Our Families and Pets!



Dr. Nir Hoftman and his wife Alice on a winter outing with sons Ben, age 9, and Jake, 12, who's holding Ginger, their one-year-old pup. Joining the Hoftman family are nephews Alex, 14, and Nate, 11



Dr. David Boldt with wife Lauren, Lucia (3), and Luka (1).



Dr. Reza Borna with daughter Kiana (15), son Rostin (14), and wife Sara.



Dr. Christopher Little's pup Snickerdoodle (a Goldendoodle) celebrated his 3rd birthday on December 20!



Dr. Jonathan Ho with son Nathan (17) and daughter Lani (15) on Thanksgiving Day.



Drs. Diana Hekmat and Dan Muhtar have their hands full with two little boys/ Zev (6) and Samuel, now 6 months old.



Dr. Jennifer Nguyen-Lee's 4-month-old pup Coconut in the snow at Lake Tahoe.



Dr. Theodora Wingert welcomed her third son, Elliot Nguyen, on August 30! Elliot's big brothers are Lucas (5), and William (2).



Drs. Natalie Moreland and Kyle Zanicco welcomed their first son, Luca, on November 29, to the delight of big sisters Julia, 7, and Ava, 9.



Great Danes Rome (2) and Paris (5) enjoy taking the air overlooking Beachwood Canyon (Allison Leveque, CRNA).



Intern Mark Guirguis with Maui, his 4-month-old Labradoodle puppy.



Lucas (1) and Cora (8) at Lake Tahoe, where 18 ft of fresh snow set a December record (4), with mom Jennifer Nguyen-Lee, MD.



Meghan Ing, the two-year-old daughter of Dr. Jakun Ing, celebrates the New Year!



Naiya Dagher, 15 months old, is ready for Christmas! She's the daughter of CA-3 resident Talia Dagher.



Simson Wang, CRNA, with wife Jennifer, Camden (age 3) and daughter Emerly (4 months).



Ravi, the 15-year-old son of faculty member Lorraine Lubin, MD, at Yosemite



Our year-old tabby Andie just realized she's tall enough to reach the kitchen light and start it swaying! (Dr. Karen Sibert).



Tucker Ward (9) and Christopher Ward (11), grandsons of Dr. Karen Sibert.



When she's not at work in the Vondriska Lab, Elizabeth Soehnlein's pups Harlow, 12, and Bunnee, a 2-year-old English shepherd, keep her busy.



Stephanie-Dee Sarovich's sleepy 2 1/2-year-old pup, Maza.



Proud mom Ana Armenta, CRNA, sends this delightful photo of Andrew Joseph, born October 19!

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The UCLA Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine has the potential to advance research, make anesthesia even safer, diagnose risk factors, prevent complications, and give every patient hope for a quick return to health and full activity.

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Thank you!

