

NEXUS

SPRING 2022



Department of
**Anesthesiology &
Perioperative Medicine**



University of
Pittsburgh

UPMC
LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE

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The Pitt/UPMC Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine follows UPMC COVID masking guidelines.

Feature Articles

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Our Center for Innovation in Pain Care, led by Drs. Jacques Chelly and Ajay Wasan, is working to identify and validate innovative approaches to pain care.

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Under the direction of Dr. Cynthia Wells and CRNA Chris Gill, our UPMC Horizon/Jameson clinicians serve patients in Pennsylvania's Mercer and Lawrence County regions.

Chair's Message



Aman Mahajan, MD, PhD, MBA

Greetings! We are excited to present the third issue of *Nexus*. This Spring 2022 edition covers our news and events occurring between November 1, 2021 – April 30, 2022.

Our Center for Innovation in Pain Care, directed by Drs. Ajay Wasan and Jacques Chelly, is the focus of the feature research article in this issue. The Center is working on many exciting projects and is always seeking global collaborators – not just from inside our department or even Pitt and UPMC, but from other universities and hospitals, as well as startups, pharmaceutical companies, and foundations. Anyone from around the world with an idea to improve pain care is invited to pitch their proposal to Drs. Chelly and Wasan for possible collaboration with the Center.

Also included in this issue is an article featuring our UPMC Horizon/Jameson Division led by Chief Anesthesiologist Dr. Cynthia Wells and CRNA Clinical Director Chris Gill. The efforts of our busy clinical team serving these two hospitals are expanding – especially Obstetric & Women's Anesthesiology at Horizon and the division's Center for Perioperative Care. We are so pleased to spotlight the exciting work happening at these community hospitals in this issue.

You will see that we launched a new series of short articles – “Q and A” with Dr. Jay Roskoph at UPMC St. Margaret, Amy Monroe in our Clinical Research Program, and Liz Helfrich, CRNA at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. We plan to include these articles profiling a staff member, CRNA, and faculty member in future issues of *Nexus* to provide an interesting look into the professional and personal experiences of our colleagues. Anyone wishing to nominate a coworker for a potential “Q & A” article, please reach out to our Managing Editor, [Christine Burr](#).

Finally, I am pleased to include another fun photo spread, this time focusing on “new beginnings,” inspired by the arrival of the Spring season and nice weather, finally! Thank you so much to everyone who contributed pictures and information for this photo feature.

We continuously accept photo and article proposals from all current and former members of the department for potential inclusion in *Nexus*. Anyone interested in submitting content, please contact [Christine Burr](#).

Wishing everyone a fun, fantastic summer!

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'A' and 'M' in a stylized, cursive font.

A Closer Look at our Center for Innovation in Pain Care (CIPC)



Dr. Jacques Chelly (L) and Dr. Ajay Wasan (R)

Our CIPC is working to identify and validate innovative approaches to pain care. Led by Directors **Jacques E. Chelly, MD, PhD, MBA**, and **Ajay D. Wasan, MD, MSc**, the Center strives to optimize patient outcomes, support groundbreaking pain medicine research, and serve as an education center.



The CIPC was founded in 2020 in recognition of the dire need for the highest quality treatments for acute and chronic pain. Chosen to lead the mission were Dr. Jacques Chelly, Founder and Acute Pain Physician-in-Chief of our Acute Interventional Perioperative Pain Service and Director of Acute Pain Clinical Research, and Dr. Ajay Wasan, our Vice Chair for Pain Medicine and Director of Chronic Pain Research. Some of our innovators in pain research were recruited for CIPC leadership: Bradley K. Taylor, PhD (CIPC Co-Director, Translational Pain Research and Training) and our Vice Chair for Basic Sciences, Yan Xu, PhD (CIPC Co-Director, Basic Science Pain Research and Training). Our department Chair, Aman Mahajan, MD, PhD, MBA, serves as the CIPC's Medical Director.

Center researchers develop innovative drugs and techniques, educational programs, workshops, and new clinical services. The CIPC strives to provide UPMC with new and cost-effective care and improve patients' experiences by reducing pain and psychosocial symptoms, opioid use after surgery, hospital readmissions, and length of hospital stay. The Center's model is based on a multidisciplinary approach tied to partnerships between academic, industry, and philanthropic leaders, representing a collective where internal and external stakeholders can convene to share ideas, develop educational materials, and advance best practices in pain management. These stakeholders include UPMC and its individual hospitals, other UPMC departments, other academic medical centers and health care systems, the pharmaceutical industry, startup/joint ventures, foundations, and funding agencies.

"It's very original to see an anesthesiology department and a health system combine efforts to foster innovation in both chronic and acute pain," says Dr. Chelly. Both Drs. Chelly and Wasan stress how the CIPC is clearly the result of Dr. Mahajan's vision and commitment to excellence in academic medicine. "Since Dr. Mahajan joined the department, he has provided significant resources to promote basic and clinical research," says Dr. Chelly. "The recruitment of Dr. Senthil Sadhasivam as the department's Executive Vice Chair for Clinical Research has also played a huge role. Dr. Sadhasivam brings a unique background and track record in NIH funding and has made himself available to facilitate the development of multiple NIH proposals, including R01s, R35s, and SBIRs from members of the CIPC."

The CIPC centralizes and provides an administrative structure for our many innovative pain management domains. Dr. Chelly directs research in the CIPC's Center for Complementary & Alternative Medicine, which focuses on therapies like acupuncture, aromatherapy, auriculotherapy, CBD, hypnosis, and music therapy. Dr. Chelly also directs the CIPC's Heron Therapeutics Center of Excellence - a multidisciplinary center dedicated to perioperative pain management education and research with a special focus on non-opioid approaches and minimization of opioid prescription. Dr. Wasan's research funded through NIH's Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL Initiative) / Back Pain Consortium Research Program is also part of the CIPC. In these projects, Dr. Wasan studies the role mood disorders play in



Just some of the folks who make the CIPC's research happen. L to R: Dr. Ben Alter, Rebecca DeSensi (Research Coordinator), Caitlin Mickles (Research Assistant), Bhagyasri Jain Dharmaraj (Research Coordinator), Maya Maurer (Research Coordinator), Dr. Ajay Wasan, Shannon Morrissey (Assistant Administrator), Amy Monroe (Director of Clinical Research Operations), Dr. Jacques Chelly, and Mark Moses (medical student)

chronic pain, conducts chronic pain clinical trials through the University of Pittsburgh Hub and Spoke Clinical Trials Network, and investigates innovative therapies such as personalized pain treatments, medical marijuana, and virtual reality. Other investigators include Drs. Ben Alter, Trent Emerick, Shiv Goel, Jim Ibinson, Murat Kaynar, Grace Lim, Raymond Planinsic, and Pei Tang from our department and Dr. Carol Greco from the Pitt Department of Psychiatry.

Dr. Wasan identifies an innovative treatment outcomes registry as one of the Center's most significant products. The registry is used to discover machine learning algorithms to predict which pain treatments will work best on individual patients based on their characteristics and phenotypes. The Center is now working with UPMC Enterprises to develop these algorithms into a commercial software product. Dr. Chelly describes tools used to address the psychosocial dimension of acute pain as a significant CIPC innovation. Examples include an initiative to engage our nurses in the use of aromatherapy for patients who are anxious prior to or after surgery and a collaborative protocol in development with our CRNAs on the use of hypnosis for surgical patients, with John M. Borza, MBA, DNP, CRNA, as the principal investigator.

The Center's educational initiatives include our Research Rounds, a joint lecture series between the CIPC and our department led by Drs. Ben Alter and Keith Vogt that hosts speakers from the Pittsburgh community, and around the country to discuss chronic pain innovations, current research, and new proposals. The CIPC will also partner with the Pittsburgh Center for Pain Research next academic year for their external speaker series. Dr. Wasan names the UPMC Pain Resource Nurse (PRN) Program as "one of the Center's most successful educational programs." The PRN Program, held twice in 2021, focused on enhancing UPMC nurses' pain management knowledge, attitudes, and skills to support safe, effective, patient-centered, and compassionate care. Plans are underway to redesign and relaunch the program in September 2022.



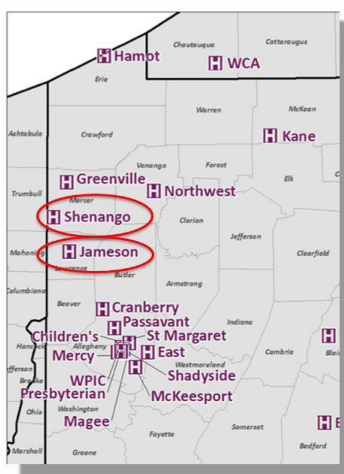
Dr. Ben Alter demonstrates a quantitative sensory test measuring heat sensation with Mark Moses. The computer-controlled black thermode warms skin areas to determine heat sensibility without causing burns. This technology is used in Dr. Alter's CIPC research on pain perception, which is strongly affected by expectations. Understanding how expectations affect pain perception will help in the discovery of new pain treatments and personalizing current pain treatments.

Do you have new ideas for managing pain? Pain innovators from all over the world are invited to submit ideas for potential collaboration with the Center. We want to hear from you! To propose a collaboration, please e-mail **Dr. Chelly** or **Dr. Wasan**. For more information about the Center, please visit **our CIPC website**.

Clinical Spotlight: UPMC Horizon/ Jameson



Under the direction of Chief Anesthesiologist **Cynthia Wells, MD**, and Clinical CRNA Director **Christopher B. Gill, MSN, CRNA**, our UPMC Horizon/Jameson Anesthesiology clinicians serve patients in Pennsylvania's Mercer and Lawrence County regions.



Our UPMC Horizon/Jameson Anesthesiology Division is a unified clinical team serving Western Pennsylvania communities between Allegheny and Erie Counties. UPMC Jameson in New Castle, Lawrence County and UPMC Horizon Shenango in Mercer County are about 55 and 70 miles north of Pittsburgh, respectively. Ten physicians and 23 nurse anesthetists work between the two sites, which are 17 miles apart, covering 11 main ORs, a C-section room in the labor and delivery unit, four ambulatory rooms, and a catheterization lab. When the two sites joined in 2017, the group of physicians and CRNAs committed to working together to provide 24/7 coverage at both locations with hands-on anesthesia care being part of the staffing model.

In 2021, the team managed 10,668 cases (7,146 OR and 3,522 gastrointestinal procedures). Cases are mainly bariatric, gynecological, ENT, urology, elective orthopedic, and major vascular surgeries, as well as general surgeries, a high volume of which are performed robotically. "One thing that's unique about my group is that we care for every age group," says Dr. Wells. Patients range from neonates to the elderly. The busy anesthesia team backs up the ICU and emergency room to cover airway and central line placement and performs their own regional nerve blocks. Dr. Wells stresses that she and Clinical CRNA Director Chris Gill follow a philosophy of leading by example. "If we're there, we're often the first ones to respond to an emergency call," she says.

Deliveries rapidly increased at Horizon in October 2021 when Sharon Regional closed their obstetric (OB) program and Horizon became one of the only hospitals in the region to provide OB care. "Our OB numbers immediately increased," explains Dr. Wells, going from eight to 900 deliveries a year to 1,200 projected for this year. This translates to about 100 deliveries a month, over 75% requiring epidurals or another type of anesthesia intervention and 30% of which are C-sections. The site is working with our OB & Women's Anesthesiology Division to standardize their OB care to align with the care at UPMC Magee-Women's Hospital. The Horizon anesthesia team is trained in neonatal resuscitation and is working towards designation as a Society for OB Anesthesia and Perinatology Center of Excellence. The hospital provides 24-hour neonatal coverage.

Horizon/Jameson's Center for Perioperative Care (CPC) opened on July 1, 2019 and is, as Dr. Wells puts it, "busting at the seams." The Center is staffed by one CRNP and a business assistant and had 872 visits over the past year. Over 100 of those were for Allegheny County surgeries, so the Horizon/Jameson CPC sees patients from all of Northwest Pennsylvania destined for surgeries in the Pittsburgh region. The CPC medically optimizes patients with modifiable medical risk factors prior to surgery and coordinates care for patients who see multiple specialists to consolidate all their recommendations into a single care plan prior to surgery. Due to the location of the Horizon/Jameson CPC, many of these patients seek care from specialists in Ohio, but the time taken to obtain records reduces unnecessary consults and testing. The CPC supports patient care initiatives including UPMC's bariatric and robotic Enhanced Recovery Programs, as well as goals to achieve recognition as an Orthopedic Center of Excellence.

Education by our anesthesia team at Horizon/Jameson is robust and growing. Currently, our clinicians teach medical students from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and surgery residents rotating through the ORs. They also teach student nurse anesthetists (SRNAs) from Pitt's School of Nursing, who spend month-long rotations learning regional anesthesia techniques. Dr. Wells notes that Horizon/Jameson is one of the only UPMC sites with an SRNA regional nerve block rotation. The Horizon/Jameson Anesthesiology Division trains STAT MedEvac paramedics in airway management and conducts mock code drills to train other medical staff to manage scenarios such as hemorrhages, arrhythmias, cardiac arrests, malignant hyperthermia, OR fires, and airway management.

Horizon/Jameson has two educational goals for this coming year. One is to start a two-month Pitt SRNA general OR rotation. The other is to establish a UPMC Anesthesiology senior resident OR/business rotation. Dr. Wells describes Horizon/Jameson as a microcosm of the entire UPMC Health System, but one where key personnel like the Chief of Surgery or the Chief Financial Officer are easily accessible for discussions with a resident interested in learning both the clinical and business aspects of managing a busy anesthesia service.



CPC staff, L to R: Cynthia Wells, MD; Amy Reed, CRNP; Micheal Roos, Director of Operations; Zach Lenhart, Vice President of Operations; Shannon Morrissey, Assistant Administrator
Missing: Rachelle Rich, Business Assistant



Some of our Horizon/Jameson clinical team members. L to R: CRNAs Krissy Harp, Thad Cwynar, and Chris Gill; Dr. Jun Wang; CRNA Lorie Zigo

UPMC Horizon/Jameson Anesthesiology

FAST FACTS

10,668 cases in 2021

- 7,146 OR
- 3,522 GI

Busy OB program at Horizon with 1,200 projected deliveries this year

872 CPC visits over last year

Education of SRNAs, medical students, surgery residents, paramedics

Pitt SRNA general OR rotation and UPMC Anesthesiology resident rotation in the planning stages

Faculty Profile: Dr. Jay Roskoph

Hometown: Shaker Heights, Ohio - a suburb of Cleveland

Anesthesiologist for 31 years

With our department for 26 years
(separated by five years of private practice anesthesia at St. Francis)

24 years at St. Margaret, 14 years as Chief



Jay Roskoph, MD, MBA
Chief of Anesthesiology,
UPMC St. Margaret
Hospital and Harmar
Surgery Center

Before becoming an anesthesiologist, what was the most unusual or interesting job you ever had?

I've had a few. I worked on an archeologic dig in Jerusalem and worked as a Teamster in a warehouse.

What inspired you to become an anesthesiologist?

I enjoyed being in the operating room as a medical student. I wasn't sure I wanted the surgeon lifestyle at that time, so I found myself watching the anesthesia team work more than watching the surgery itself. In fact, I applied for residency even before ever doing a rotation in anesthesiology.

Please tell us a bit about your first clinical experience after completing your training.

My very first case as an attending anesthesiologist was at UPMC Montefiore Hospital. It was a morbidly obese man with a huge anterior mediastinal mass who needed to have a bone marrow harvest while in the prone position for future transplantation. I knew when I survived that day that I would be okay.

Who have been your most significant mentors?

My mentors have been my physician partners. We have learned and grown together over the years and support each other as family. They are some of the most talented physicians in the department that most people don't know about.

What has been the biggest reward in your career?

I have had the opportunity to care for a wide variety of patients through the years. I have also cared for some of the most highly visible people in the community. But the biggest reward has been spending time with all of the people who I have worked with over the years, both in the operating room and socially. This is what makes coming to work special each day.

What has been the biggest challenge in your career?

Managing expectations and misconceptions.

What advice do you have for aspiring anesthesiologists?

Commit to your work. By that, I mean involve yourself each day both intellectually and emotionally. You will spend more time in the hospital than you will spend awake at home. Respect everyone that you work with and make them a member of both your work and social environments. But don't overinflate your role. We have many customers - hospitals, insurance companies, and surgeons, but ultimately we are here to guide patients through the perioperative experience both safely and smoothly.

What has been your proudest non-work accomplishment?

Surviving two teenage daughters...maybe.

What might the department be surprised to know about you?

I was told by my anesthesiology residency Program Director that I would never make it as an anesthesiologist.

Staff Profile: Amy Monroe

Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA

Working in clinical research for 18 years, all 18 with our department's Clinical Trials Program



Amy Monroe, MPH, MBA
Director of Clinical Research Operations

Before working in our department, what was the most unusual or interesting job you ever had?

I was a bartender at the Fraternal Order of Eagles for a couple of years while I was an undergrad college student at Pitt.

What inspired you to work in clinical research?

I have always had a deep love for science and medicine. When the opportunity to do research presented itself, I was so happy to jump in and learn everything I could.

Tell us briefly about your job/role in the dept.

I developed and oversee six teams of very talented clinical researchers. Together, we make all of the clinical research in the department possible. I work with faculty investigators to help bring their research questions to life, which includes assisting with proposal/protocol development, budget development, securing regulatory approvals, and then eventually, all operational aspects of implementing the trial. (P.S. If you are reading this and need help in this area, please let me know and I can help you get on the right track!)

How long have you been working in this role in our department?

From 2004 until now, I have moved from an undergrad research assistant, to a research associate, to research coordinator, to site manager, then overall manager. Now I direct our research teams. Since Dr. Mahajan's arrival in 2018, we have grown exponentially and now span six research divisions, are led by four research managers, and are supported by over 20 Research Coordinators/Associates/Assistants. I feel very thankful to work among such wonderful and inspiring people.

What has been your proudest professional accomplishment?

Moving strength to strength in my career and growing into my current role. I believe that my vast experience working in all levels of research has given me the tools to build our growing team and ensure our success. Even now, I draw from past experiences and will jump in as needed to wear my Research Coordinator "hat" and even my Research Associate "hat" to ensure the success of a trial.

What has been your proudest personal accomplishment?

I am very proud of receiving both my MPH and MBA in an accredited dual master's program while working full time. My proudest personal accomplishment is bringing our wonderful eight-year old son JoJo into this world. He inspires me every day with his faith, kindness, innocence, and intelligence.

Who have been your most significant mentors throughout your career and/or life?

I truly value every single investigator/colleague who I have worked with over the years, and I have gained knowledge and lessons from each unique experience shared with them. Professionally, my most significant and long-standing mentor is the original founder of our Clinical Trials Program and the person who hired and trained me, Dr. Jacques Chelly. To this day, Dr. Chelly graciously shares his immense knowledge of clinical research with me and challenges me daily to be a better researcher and leader. In my personal life, I lean on my wonderful and supportive husband Joseph, my family, and my strong Catholic faith to guide and strengthen me through life's challenges and triumphs.

Are there any professional or personal skills you're currently working on?

I am currently growing my financial skills to help refine the connection between our research operations and research accounting division. I am very interested in this dynamic and would like to apply the knowledge gained in my MBA to improve this process moving forward. I love learning from Annmarie Lyons, Bill Thomson, and others in our department in order to gain skills to significantly contribute to this area of research.

What might the department be surprised to know about you?

I have two wonderful adult stepdaughters whom I was very instrumental in raising - and who have now grown to become my very best friends. Over the last two decades, we have grown through many challenging and joyful times together where I learned significant lessons - including how to win hearts and minds by showing respect, love, and compassion, as well as the importance of establishing defined expectations in order to inspire accountability and success. Formative experiences with my stepdaughters taught me how to demonstrate grace and understanding in stressful situations, and also emphasized the importance of dealing with difficult events directly as they arise—to discuss, resolve/remediate, forgive, and move on.

CRNA Profile: Liz Helfrich

Hometown: Strongsville, Ohio

CRNA for 9 years, all 9 with our department and at UPMC Children's

Before becoming a CRNA, what was the most unusual or interesting job you ever had?

Lifeguard...not that unusual or interesting, but it was so fun!

What inspired you to become a CRNA?

My mom. She has been an OR circulator for 30 plus years and always spoke so highly of the profession. She encouraged me to be a CRNA from as early as I can remember.

Please tell us a bit about your first clinical experience after completing your training.

After school, I started at UPMC Children's, where I still currently work. It was a little overwhelming at first; however, I work with the most incredible anesthesiologists and CRNAs so I never felt alone or nervous to ask for help. I still love my job here at Children's just as much as I did when I started!

Who have been your most significant mentors?

Donna Heiter and Sue Kelly (both nurse anesthetists both at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; Sue is the site's CRNA Clinical Director)

What has been the biggest reward in your career?

Being trusted to care for someone's child.

What has been the biggest challenge in your career?

Some days at Children's are emotionally very exhausting. Traumas, cancer, and difficult social situations are tough to see, but especially in the pediatric population.

What advice do you have for aspiring CRNAs?

Study hard, it's so worth it! And find opportunities to shadow.

What has been your proudest non-work accomplishment?

My three children: Eleni, six years old; Audrey, three years old; and Jack, nine months old.

What might the department be surprised to know about you?

I was the Division 1 A-10 Swimming Conference Champion in the 1650 yard competition in my senior year of college.



**Elizabeth A. Helfrich,
MSN, CRNA
UPMC Children's
Hospital of Pittsburgh**



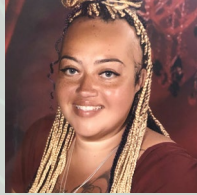
**Donna Heiter (L) and
Liz Helfrich (R)**

Did we miss your name or photo?
If so, please email Christine Burr
(heiner@upmc.edu) and let us
know so we can include
you in the next issue
of Nexus!

New Team Members



**Mallory Adhikari,
MS, CRNA**
UPMC Passavant



Amber Borden
Senior Financial
Administrator,
Research
Administration
Office



**Katelyn Geary,
MS, CRNA**
UPMC St. Margaret



Sultan Ghuman, MD
Clinical Assistant
Professor
UPMC Mercy



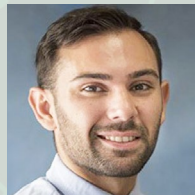
Kristy Giglione, RN
Professional
Staff Nurse
UPMC Montefiore



**Clarice Hune,
DNP, CRNA**
UPMC Magee-
Womens Hospital



**Dakota
Folmsbee, PhD**
T32 Postdoctoral
Research Scholar



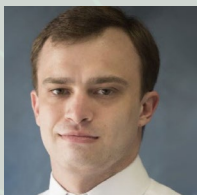
**Jeff Jurosky,
DNP, CRNA**
UPMC Presbyterian



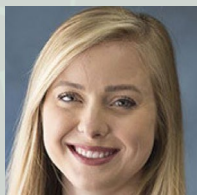
**Tiffany Fletcher
Keenan, PA-C**
Center for
Perioperative Care,
Inpatient, UPMC
Presbyterian



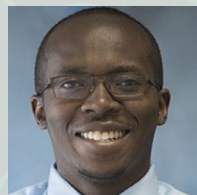
**Kelly Mayer
MSN, CRNA**
UPMC St. Margaret



**Connor McClellan,
DNP, CRNA**
UPMC Magee-
Womens Hospital



**Lauren Mealy,
DNP, CRNA**
UPMC Children's
Hospital of
Pittsburgh



**Bienvenu
Nkuningoma,
DNP, CRNA**
UPMC Passavant



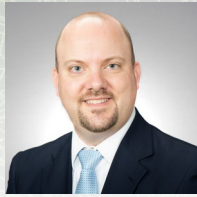
**Carolyn O'Leary,
MSN, CRNA**
UPMC St. Margaret



**Dhanashri Pawale,
MS, CCRP**
NIH Program
Manager, Clinical
Trials Program



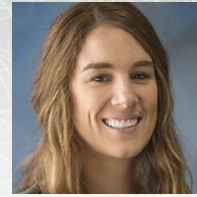
Victoria Racz
Pre-Award
Manager, Research
Administration
Office



Michael Roos, MBA
Director of
Operations, Center
for Perioperative Care



**Caroline
Sedmak, PA-C**
Chronic Pain,
UPMC East/Monroeville



**KC Smith,
DNP, CRNA**
UPMC Presbyterian



Kelly Smith
Pre-Award Manager,
Research Administration
Office



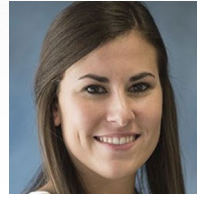
**David Tompkins,
DNP, CRNA**
UPMC Passavant



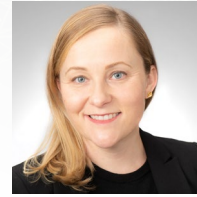
**Christian
Trent, MHA**
Director of
Operations,
Chronic Pain
Division



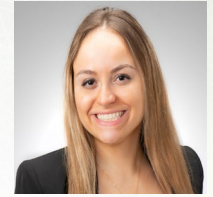
**Alexandra Uram,
DNP, CRNA**
UPMC Shadyside



**Grace Vaughn,
DNP, CRNA**
UPMC Presbyterian



Alice Whyte, MD
Clinical Assistant
Professor, UPMC
Presbyterian/Altoona



Francesca Yanosick
GME Department
Manager, Education
Office

New Team Members, Not Pictured

Maureen Andoga, MSN, CRNA
UPMC West Mifflin Surgery Center

Nicole Breazeale, MS, CRNA
UPMC Presbyterian

Lisa Cooper, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor,
UPMC Altoona

Emily Fiore, MHS, CRNA
UPMC St. Margaret

Dana Freund
Administrative Manager,
Scaife Department Administration

Sarah Ignelzi, DNP, CRNA
UPMC Presbyterian

Casey Kluczkowski
Project Analyst, Scaife
Department Administration

Jessica Mancosh, DNP, CRNA
UPMC Presbyterian

Miranda Masters, MHA
Project Analyst,
Scaife Department Administration

Maeve O'Donnell, MSN, CRNA
UPMC Mercy

Jennifer Perkins, DNP, CRNA
UPMC St. Margaret

Ann Rivers, MHS, CRNA
UPMC St. Margaret

Jessica Sickafus, MSN, CRNA
UPMC Horizon/Jameson

Jason Sokol
Administrative Assistant,
UPMC Magee/Obstetric and
Women's Anesthesiology

Suzanne Weinmann
Administrative Liaison
Scheduling Team, Scaife
Department Administration

New Leadership Appointments



**Wende A. Goncz,
DO, MMM**
President Elect,
UPMC Passavant
Medical Staff Office



**Kimberly Howard-
Quijano, MD, MS, FASE**
Associate Vice
Chair for Research

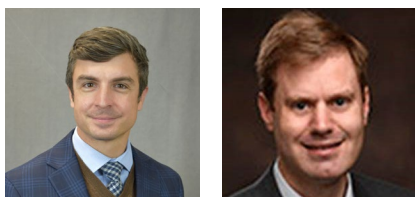


**Joseph Manilla,
MSN, CRNA**
Assistant CRNA Clinical
Director, UPMC Passavant



Shannon Morrissey, MSCL
Assistant Administrator,
Center for Innovation
in Pain Care, Chronic Pain
Division, and Center
for Perioperative Care

Accolades



Phillip Adams, DO, FASA, and **Michael W. Best, MD, FASA, Maj, USAFR,** were selected as two of Pennsylvania Medical Society's 2022 Top Physicians Under 40.

Dr. Adams was also elected to the Association of University Anesthesiologists as an Associate Member and received the Distinguished Educator in Anesthesiology award from the American Society of Anesthesiologists and the Society for Education in Anesthesia.



Brian Blasiole, MD, PhD, (UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh) and **Sara J. Fauls, MSN, CRNA,** (UPMC Presbyterian) were recognized for going above and beyond in their service to our patients and the community as 2021 winners of UPMC's Award for Commitment and Excellence in Service (ACES). ACES honors the most outstanding employees within UPMC - staff who exemplify UPMC's five core values — Quality & Safety, Dignity & Respect, Caring & Listening, Responsibility & Integrity, and Excellence & Innovation. Each year, fewer than one percent of UPMC staff from across the health system receive this great honor.



Trent D. Emerick, MD, MBA, FASA, and **Ajay D. Wasan, MD, MSc,** were named in the specialty of pain medicine in *Pittsburgh Magazine's* 2022 "Top Doctors" list, an annually published selection of the region's top physicians.



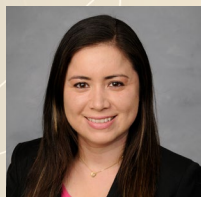
Daniela Damian, MD, and **Cameron Sutton, MD,** were nominated by anesthesia technician **Jeremy Brake-Zacherl** for a KIDS First Award.



Clockwise from top left: **Susan Shelton, Jessica Warnock, Angela Schultz,** and **Ann Martin**

Our following Education Office staff members were recognized at the 2022 UPMC Medical Education (ME) Coordinator Symposium on March 24th.

- **Susan Shelton,** Senior Administrative Assistant, Anesthesiology Educational Programs, won the UPMC ME Support of the Year Award.
- **Jessica Warnock,** Graduate Medical Education (GME) Department Manager for our Anesthesiology and Combined Pediatric/Anesthesiology Residency programs, and **Angela Schultz,** GME, Senior Department Manager for our Pain Medicine and Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology Fellowship programs, were both nominated for the UPMC ME Rookie Coordinator of the Year Award.
- **Ann Martin,** GME Academic Manager for our Regional Anesthesiology and Acute Pain Medicine Fellowship programs, and **Angela Schultz** were nominated for the UPMC ME Outstanding Coordinator of the Year Award.



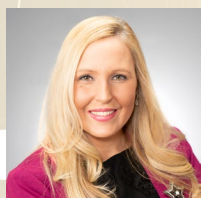
Andrea Ibarra, MD, MS, was one of 25 faculty members from across the University of Pittsburgh chosen as a Race and Social Determinants of Equity, Health, and Well-Being Scholar.



Grace Lim, MD, MS, presented "OB Anesthesia in the 21st Century: Impact on Maternal and Neonatal Outcomes," the 2022 Amanda Turner Russell Memorial Lecture at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology on February 16.



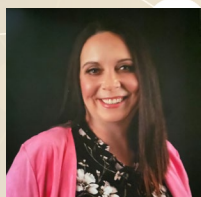
Charles Lin, MD, was accepted into the Pitt Ventures First Gear Program for his device concept, the Ignite Safe Electrocautery Pen to reduce operating room fires.



Danielle M. Meholic, DNAP, CRNA, received the 2022 Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists CRNA of the Year Award.



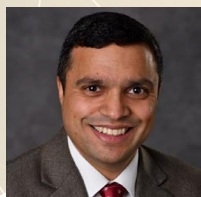
William Simmons, MD, presented the C.F. Reynolds Medical History Society Annual Ravitch Lecture on his "Journey to Medicine" on April 5, 2022.



Lt. Col. Laura Wiggins, DNP, CRNA, received the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology Daniel D. Vigness Federal Political Director Award.



Aman Mahajan, MD, PhD, MBA, was appointed Chair of the American Society of Anesthesiologists Scientific Advisory Committee for the term beginning October 2022.



Ramakrishna Mukkamala, PhD, was elected to The American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering College of Fellows.

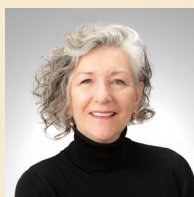
FACULTY PROMOTIONS



Trent D. Emerick, MD, MBA, FASA (L) and **Stephen M. McHugh, MD, FASA (R)**, both promoted to Associate Professor

Drs. Trent Emerick and Stephen McHugh recently attained faculty rank promotions. These physicians have been proving themselves as strong academic leaders and are playing important roles in advancing our academic excellence.

IN THE PRESS



Research presented by **Kimberly Cantees, MD, MBA**, on surgical scheduling at ASA® ADVANCE 2022: The Anesthesiology Business Event in January 2022 was the focus of an [ASA press release](#), resulting in several news articles.



The *Anesthesiology News* article "[Common Factors Seen in Very Rare Patient Awareness Cases](#)" featured work presented at the 2021 meeting of the International Anesthesia Research Society by **Amanda Deis, MD**, and **Keith M. Vogt, MD, PhD**.

Facility Spotlight | February 2022

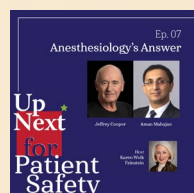
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Leads Anesthesiology Innovation Efforts

Gordon Glantz

ASA Monitor February 2022, Vol. 86, 17.

<https://doi.org/10.1097/01.ASM.0000820380.82846.a1>

The topic of the "Facility Spotlight" article in the February issue of the *ASA Monitor* was our Innovation Pathway program spearheaded by **Zach Frabitore, MD**, and led by **Trent D. Emerick, MD, MBA, FASA**, and **Tetsuro Sakai, MD, PhD, MHA, FASA**.



Aman Mahajan, MD, PhD, MBA, was a special guest on episode seven of the National Patient Safety Board "Up Next for Patient Safety" podcast.

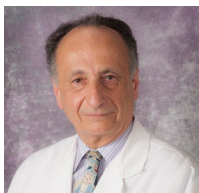
NEW GRANTS



Ben Alter, MD, PhD, National Institutes of Health (NIH) / National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke K23 award, "Integrating Brain and Behavioral Measures of Central Pain Inhibition to Personalize Treatment in Chronic Pain Management"



Annalisa Baratta (lab of Dr. Gregg Homanics, co-mentored by Dr. Sean Farris, PhD), NIH / National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) F31 predoctoral fellowship award, "The Role of lncRNA MALAT1 in Controlling Behavior and Neuroinflammation in Alcohol Use Disorder"



Jacques E. Chelly, MD, PhD, MBA, new sponsored study agreement with Masimo, "Feasibility and Efficacy of Bridge for Post-Operative Pain Management in Hip Arthroplasty" and a new contract with nCAP Medical, "A Pilot Study Investigating the nCAP NeuroCuple in Subjects Undergoing Primary Hip Replacement Surgery: A Prospective, Randomized, Open Label Trial"



Sean P. Farris, PhD, and Gregg E. Homanics, PhD, NIH / NIAAA U01 award, "Epigenetic Regulation of Neuroimmune Pathways"



Maya L. Maurer, (Research Coordinator and translational neuroscientist working with Dr. Ben Alter), travel award to present her poster "Cortical Activity During Pain Relief: A Functional Near-Infrared Spectroscopy Study of Offset Analgesia" at the 2022 US Association for the Study of Pain meeting on May 18 in Cincinnati, OH.



Sonja Plasil (lab of Dr. Gregg Homanics, co-mentored by Dr. Sean Farris, PhD), NIAAA F31 predoctoral fellowship award, "lncRNA Gas5 Dysregulation Alters Ethanol Drinking Behavior and Ethanol-Related Phenotypes"

NIH to Fund Dr. Yan Xu's T32 Postdoctoral Training Program for the Fourth Time



The National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the NIH has notified us that our National Research Service Award Institutional Research Training Grant (T32) will

be continuously funded for a fourth five-year term, with an increase of training slots from three to four positions beginning July 1, 2022. The program, entitled "Research Training in Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine," is directed by Professor **Yan Xu, PhD**, Vice Chair of Basic Sciences. The training faculty includes 38 leading scientists in anesthesiology and related disciplines, including critical care medicine, surgery, computational and systems biology, neurobiology, and cognitive neuroscience. By providing rigorous and programmed training with an emphasis on hypothesis-driven basic or clinical research, the training program aims to train primarily, although not exclusively, clinician scientists to become independent and extramurally-funded investigators and research leaders in the field of anesthesiology.

Our program has been very successful in developing these future leaders. Program alumni have received major external grant funding, have risen to leadership roles both within our department and other departments at the university, and also serve in leadership roles in state and national organizations and NIH study sections. Additionally, many of our alumni have been invited to present visiting faculty lectures at institutions across the nation.

Congratulations to Dr. Xu and all the participating research faculty in directing this critical training program and for securing funding to take our T32 into the year 2027.

Full details about the T32 training program can be found in the [research section](#) of our website.

CLINICAL WINS



Back row, left to right: **Don Carl, MS, CRNA; Danielle Meholic, DNAP, CRNA; Nicole Nowe, MSN, CRNA;** Cami Spiker, LPN; Anna Wecht, RN (OP Nurse Coordinator II for the CRT); Kathleen Hwang, MD (Dept. of Urology); Julia Young (Practice Coordinator); and Susan Nickovich (Sr. Project Manager, IT); Front row, left to right: Anna Wecht, RN (OP Nurse Coordinator II, CRT) and Rachel Kelley-Lore (Clinical Administrator, CRT).

Clinicians at the UPMC-Magee-Womens Hospital Center for Reproduction and Tissue Transplantation (CRT), a multidisciplinary, national leader in cutting-edge fertility treatments, performed their first anesthesia procedure on February 11 for a testicular sperm extraction (TESE). Our Magee team members **Donald D. Carl, MS, CRNA,** and **Nicole R. Nowe, MSN, CRNA,** were the primary anesthesia providers and helped ensure that the TESE was performed seamlessly. The tissue was processed in real-time, and the CRT received immediate feedback from the lab. Congratulations to everyone at the CRT and Magee for their success and perseverance!



L to R: **Dr. Rama Joshi, Rachel Bekavac,** and Dr. Dustin Kliner (cardiologist)

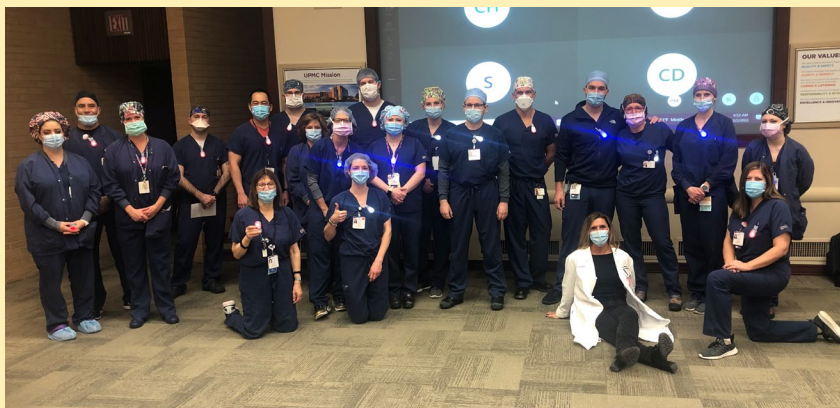
On February 5th, **Rachel Bekavac, MSN, CRNA,** and **Rama Joshi, MBBS, MPM,** provided anesthesia services with a select group of cardiac surgery specialists in a Virtual TAVI (transcatheter aortic valve implantation) Symposium co-hosted by UPMC and CRT (Cardiovascular Research Technologies). During the symposium, the team performed a TAVI that was broadcast live to an international audience and discussion panel. Rachel, Dr. Joshi, and the staff at UPMC Shadyside were chosen to represent the site as service line experts in this complex procedure.

CRNA WEEK 2022

Our CRNAs continued their traditions of celebration, appreciation, and community service during National CRNA Week, an annual celebration of the nation's nearly 59,000 nurse anesthetists, which took place from January 23-29, 2022. [Read the full story](#)



CRNA Week celebration at Magee



UPMC Passavant educational meeting during CRNA Week

Publications

HIGHLIGHTS

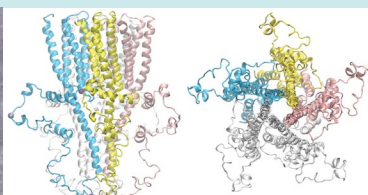
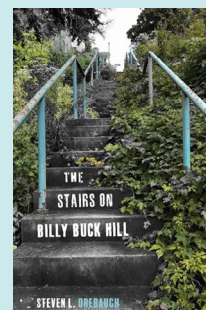
Authors from our department produced **89 publications** from November 1, 2021 - April 30, 2022. Below are some highlights. A list of department publications can be viewed [on PubMed](#).



The monograph “**Aducanumab, the Novel \$56,000 Drug: Perioperative Considerations**” by **James W. Ibinson, MD, PhD**, and **Daniel J. Cole, MD, FASA**, (Dept. of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, UCLA) was featured on the cover of the January 2022 issue of *ASA Monitor*.



A new fiction book by **Steven L. Orebaugh, MD**, *The Stairs on Billy Buck Hill*, was recently published. The book is Dr. Orebaugh's second published work of fiction after his debut book, *A Night in the Life*, was released in 2016. On March 15, *University Times* spotlighted Dr. Orebaugh and his new book in their article “**Anesthesiology professor's novel highlights opioid addictions**,” and an **excerpt from the book** was published in the March 2022 issue of *Anesthesiology News*. For more information on *The Stairs on Billy Buck Hill* and Dr. Orebaugh's other books, please visit his [author website](#).



A paper from the lab of **Pei Tang, PhD**, “**Structures of Highly Flexible Intracellular Domain of Human 7 Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptor**,” was published in the high-impact journal *Nature Communications*. The study was conducted in partnership with **Yan Xu, PhD**, and collaborators at Stockholm University, the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Solna, Sweden, and the Department of Chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh.

The article was featured on the *Nature Communications* Structural Biology, Biochemistry, and Biophysics Editors' Highlights webpage. Editor's Highlights showcases the 50 best papers recently published in an area and routinely replaces papers as more work is published in the journal. [Read more about Dr. Tang's paper](#).

FEATURED ARTICLES: ORIGINAL CLINICAL RESEARCH REPORT

Impact of Neuraxial Versus General Anesthesia on Discharge Destination in Patients Undergoing Primary Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement

Duque, Melissa MD¹; Schnetz, Michael P. MD, PhD¹; Yates, Adolph J. Jr MD¹; Monahan, Amanda MD²; Whitehurst, Steven MD³; Mahajan, Aman MD, PhD, MBA⁴; Kaynar, A. Murat MD, MPH^{1,2}

An *Anesthesiology & Analgesia* article by **Melissa Duque, MD; et al.** was the journal's featured article for December 2021, with an accompanying editorial and infographic.

- Editorial: **Looking Forward to Progress in Perioperative Care: Anesthetic Technique and Discharge Destination After Total Joint Replacement**
- Infographic: **Anesthetic Technique: Influences on Discharge Destination?**

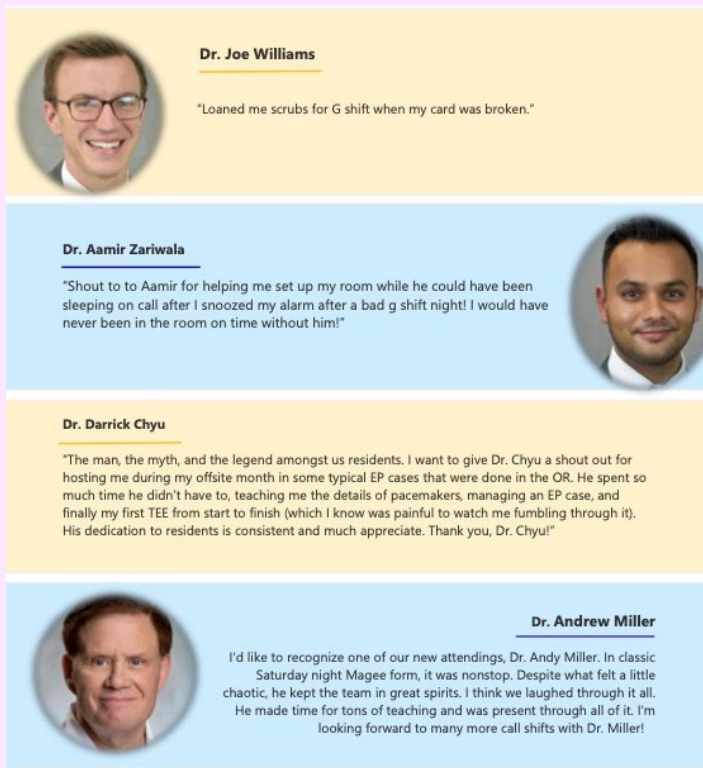
Education News

DR. NIYANT JAIN WINS ASRA GLOBAL HEALTH FELLOWSHIP ROTATION SPOT

Our regional anesthesiology fellow **Niyant Jain, MD**, won the single spot for the 2022 ASRA Global Health Fellowship Rotation at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) in Kumasi, Ghana in April 2022. ASRA (American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine) founded the rotation to strengthen care in limited-resource settings and promote the growth of fellows training in regional anesthesiology/acute pain medicine and pain medicine as physicians and leaders in the global health community.

"PASS THE GAS"

Recognizing that without great team support, none of us would succeed, some residents created a new forum in academic year 2022 to spread positivity and encourage peer recognition throughout their clinical training environment. A regular series of e-mail blasts entitled *Pass the Gas* was launched by our current chief residents **Mike Desciak, MD**; **Simer Bains, MD**; and **Amanda Deis, MD**, and championed by our current Junior Chief Residents for Wellness **Alexander Chassé, DO**; **Jacob Ludin, MD**; and **Connor Richardson, MD**. Each edition of *Pass the Gas* shares words of gratitude among residents, fellows, and faculty who have helped to improve each other's lives.

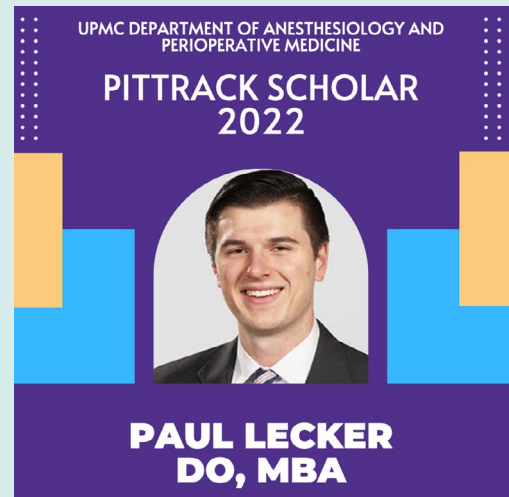


Dr. Joe Williams
"Loaned me scrubs for G shift when my card was broken."

Dr. Aamir Zariwala
"Shout to Aamir for helping me set up my room while he could have been sleeping on call after I snoozed my alarm after a bad g shift night! I would have never been in the room on time without him!"

Dr. Darrick Chyu
"The man, the myth, and the legend amongst us residents. I want to give Dr. Chyu a shout out for hosting me during my offsite month in some typical EP cases that were done in the OR. He spent so much time he didn't have to, teaching me the details of pacemakers, managing an EP case, and finally my first TEE from start to finish (which I know was painful to watch me fumbling through it). His dedication to residents is consistent and much appreciate. Thank you, Dr. Chyu!"

Dr. Andrew Miller
"I'd like to recognize one of our new attendings, Dr. Andy Miller. In classic Saturday night Magee form, it was nonstop. Despite what felt a little chaotic, he kept the team in great spirits. I think we laughed through it all. He made time for tons of teaching and was present through all of it. I'm looking forward to many more call shifts with Dr. Miller!"



FIRST PITTRACK RESIDENT MATCHED

We are very excited to share that we matched our first PITTrack resident! Congratulations to incoming CBY resident **Paul Lecker, DO, MBA**, who was awarded the PITTrack Scholar position for the 2022-2023 academic year. As a PITTrack Scholar, Paul will receive expert multidisciplinary training at the University of Pittsburgh Center for Medical Innovation, culminating in a Graduate Certificate in Medical Product Innovation, integrated directly into his residency training. PITTrack is the keystone offering of our Innovation Pathway, offering resources and education to all our residents.


Please visit the following web pages for more info:

[Innovation Pathway](#)
[PITTrack](#)

Education News


VOTE FOR OUR RESIDENCY PROGRAM ON DOXIMITY





Doximity identifies anesthesiology residency programs that provide exceptional clinical training. There are so many reasons to vote for our residency program as a top residency program. **Voting closes on June 3rd.**



UPMC
LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE


UPMC Anesthesiology Residency
Unparalleled anesthesiology residency training
Leading into the future of Anesthesiology



-  **350,000+** clinical procedures annually
-  **Two award-winning*** innovative curriculum tracks:
Panther Research, PITTrack Innovation
-  **Approximately \$10 million** in annual research funding
-  **Largest integrated academic medical center in the country**

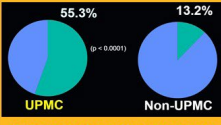
APRIL 28th

Be sure to download the Doximity app and activate your account. You can stay up to date with peers, earn CME reading review articles generated by your interests, and much more.




Show your UPMC Alumni pride by voting for UPMC Anesthesiology Residency as a top residency program every year!!!

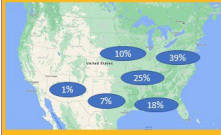
*Society for Education in Anesthesia (SEA) Innovative Curriculum Awards in 2016 and 2022, respectively



UPMC Anesthesiology residents were observed to have 8x the odds of publishing a peer-reviewed manuscript as compared to residents at other programs who could have matched at UPMC (ranked-to-match candidates).
Salkin, et al. Anesthesiology. 2016;120:111-9



UPMC Anesthesiology Residents consistently score near/above the 90th percentile nationally on the ABA In-Training Examination.



Over the last five years, UPMC Anesthesiology has matched top medical students from highly competitive medical schools throughout the country (% of residents by region).

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 2022 ALUMNI RECEPTION AT ANESTHESIOLOGY 2022

Alumni - mark your calendars for our annual reception at the American Society of Anesthesiologists annual meeting ANESTHESIOLOGY 2022 in New Orleans, LA, October 22-25. **Our Alumni Reception will be on Sunday, October 23, 2022, at 6:00 pm**, location to be determined in Summer 2022 and announced in a future issue of *Nexus*. We're looking forward to catching up with all of our old friends at the event!

2022-2023 CHIEF RESIDENTS

Congratulations to **Drs. Harry Burke, Michael Massey, and Michael Morgan**, and thank you to the candidates, residents, and members of our department for their participation and feedback throughout the selection process.



NEW VIDEO ON PAIN FELLOWSHIP

In April, we released a new video giving an overview of our Pain Medicine Fellowship. [Watch the video](#) on our YouTube channel.

New Residents & Fellows

RESIDENTS

Medical school listed under each resident's name

New PGY-1 Residents – Beginning June 14, 2022



Elaina Anglin, MD
University of Pittsburgh



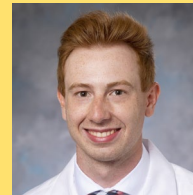
Hong Chen, MD, MPH
University of Arizona



Benjamin Genovese, MD
University of Virginia



Hannah Gloede, MD
Wayne State University



Jason Greib, DO
Michigan State University



Henry Guo, MD
Morehouse School of Medicine



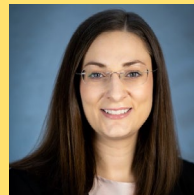
Aminat Haruna, MD, MPH
State University of New York



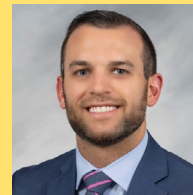
Craig Johnson, MD
University of Chicago



Paul Lecker, DO, MBA
PITTrack Resident
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine



Marianne Ligon, MD, PhD
PANTHER Research Resident
Washington University



Brendan Lynch, MD
Wayne State University



Madeline Martell, MD
Medical College of Wisconsin



Tobenna Moghalu, MD
St. George's University



Miya Oliver, MD
Augusta University



Adam Opitz-Leewe, MD
Hofstra University



Henry Paiste, MD
University of Alabama



Austin Puchany, DO
Edward Via College



Ryan Nelson, MD, MS
Combined Anesthesiology/Pediatrics Resident
Creighton University

New PGY-2 Residents – Beginning June 14, 2022



Kevin Jin, MD
Drexel University College of Medicine



Jingyuan Ma, DO
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine



Adam Schaefer, MD
Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine

FELLOWS

Residency institution listed under each fellow's name

Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology



Melissa Burtoft, MD, MS
Mayo Clinic School of Medicine



Alessandra Cardi, MD
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

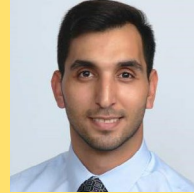


Stephen Frabitore, MD
Anesthesiology, UPMC



Melissa Giraldo Duque, MD
Anesthesiology, UPMC

Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine



Turky Alsubahi, MBBS, MD
(starts in August)
Ochsner Health



Samuel Atherton, MD
UPMC Anesthesiology



Emuejevoke Chuba, MBBS
Temple University Hospital



Ryan Nicklas, MD
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University

Obstetric Anesthesiology



Catherine Bergeron, MD
University of Montreal

Pediatric Anesthesiology



Jessica Boateng, DO
Detroit Medical Center



Ryan Kotecki, DO
West Virginia University



Elizabeth Pickle, MD
UPMC Anesthesiology



Holly Turula, MD
UPMC Anesthesiology



Shante White, MD
University of Rochester, Rochester NY

Pain Medicine



Leath Abdullah, MD
UPMC
(Anesthesiology)



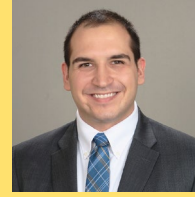
Gerges Azer, MD
Cleveland
Clinic Florida
(Anesthesiology)



Alexander Behnaz, MD
Eastern Virginia
Medical
School (PM&R)



Peter Boateng, DO
Henry Ford Hospital
(Anesthesiology)



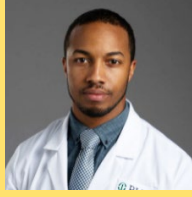
Michael Desciak, MD
UPMC
(Anesthesiology)



Ryan Holden, MD
UPMC
(Anesthesiology)



Edward Kim, MD
The University of
Texas at Austin,
Dell Medical
School (PM&R)



**Malcolm Moses-
Hampton, MD**
Rush University
Medical Center
(PM&R)



**Michael
Murphy, MD**
University of
Kansas Medical
Center (PM&R)

Regional Anesthesiology



Daniel DaTorre, MD
University of
Maryland
Medical Center



Andrew Goodman, MD
University of Maryland
Medical Center



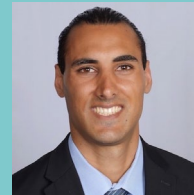
Francesca Jung, MD
UPMC, Anesthesiology



Basmah Khalil, MD
University of Chicago



Jacky Leong, DO
SUNY Downstate
Medical Center



Alister Meshkin, MD
Loyola University
Medical Center



Alexandra Rooney, MD
Brigham and Women's
Hospital



Eric Silverman, MD
Yale University/
Yale New Haven
Hospital



**Timothy
Swiatkowski, MD**
Rush University
Medical Center



**Pankaj
Thakur, MBBS**
Louisiana State
University Health
Sciences Center



**Syed
Wagar, MBBS**
Henry Ford
Hospital



Matt Yin, MD
UPMC,
Anesthesiology



Adam Zurney, DO
Loyola University
Medical Center

Meeting Highlights

NATIONAL EVENTS

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PAIN MEDICINE (AAPM) ANNUAL MEETING, SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA, MARCH 17-20, 2022

Ajay D. Wasan, MD, MSc, participated in two sessions and received the AAPM Distinguished Service Award for his commitment and extraordinary contributions to the academy. Resident **Fernando Brea-Parrilla, MD**, presented three posters. **Trent D. Emerick, MD, MBA, FASA**, participated in the AAPM/MIT Hacking Medicine Innovation Challenge as a finalist for his Vanish Biodegradable Stimulator project. [Read the full story](#)



Top: Dr. Ajay Wasan and his award;
Bottom left: Dr. Fernando Brea-Parrilla;
Bottom right: Dr. Trent Emerick

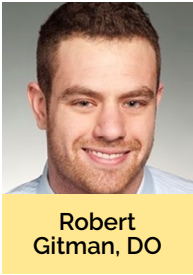
ASA® ADVANCE 2022: THE ANESTHESIOLOGY BUSINESS EVENT, DALLAS, TEXAS, JANUARY 28-30

Seven of the meeting's 12 total posters were from our Practice Management Research Team, a group of residents, faculty, and CRNAs investigating healthcare business and management. This year, our meeting participants were **Harold Burke, MD; Kimberly Cantees, MD, MBA; Mark E. Hudson, MD, MBA; Evan E. Lebovitz, MD; Sheri Wang, MD; and Matt Yin, MD, MBA**. Of the six total posters selected for judging for the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER) Best of Meeting Competition, four were from our team. Dr. Lebovitz's poster "Variable Attending Anesthesiology Assignment System Allowed for Optimization of Ratios to Match Staffing Demands," won the 3rd place award. Dr. Hudson was a lead speaker at the "Ask the Expert" Session, "Defining Your Value: Negotiating Hospital and Group Contracts and Productivity Incentives for Groups and Individuals in a Changing, Challenging, Competitive Environment: Residents, Fellows, and Young Physicians." [Read the full story](#)



Top left: FAER Best of Meeting Competition awards ceremony; Top right: Dr. Harold Burke;
Bottom left: Dr. Matt Yin;
Bottom right: Dr. Kimberly Cantees

CONGENITAL CARDIAC ANESTHESIA SOCIETY / SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC ANESTHESIA / AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS PEDIATRIC ANESTHESIOLOGY MEETING, TAMPA, FL, MARCH 31-APRIL 3, 2022



We delivered 12 presentations, including one Bosenberg Regional Anesthesia Award Winner (noted below, presenter's name bolded). Numerous faculty members also participated as moderators and/or in workshops. [Read the full story](#)

- **Robert Gitman, DO**; Emmanuel Perez, MD; Gerges Azer, MD; Nicole Verdecchia, MD; Mihaela Visoiu, MD; Franklyn P. Cladis, MD. Oral presentation: "A Comparison of Rectus Sheath Blocks with 1% Ropivacaine vs. 0.5% Ropivacaine for Laparoscopic-Assisted Ileocectomy in Adolescents with Crohn's Disease"

ASRA 47TH ANNUAL REGIONAL ANESTHESIOLOGY AND ACUTE PAIN MEDICINE MEETING, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, MARCH 31-APRIL 2, 2022

We presented a total of 19 abstracts; four posters by **Jacques E. Chelly, MD, PhD, MBA, et al**; **Zahraa Majeed, MB ChB, et al.**, and **Alexander Varzari, MD, et al.** were recognized as highlighted President's Choice abstracts to be showcased on the ASRA Pain Medicine and ePostersLive websites, as well as recognized in an upcoming article of *ASRA Pain Medicine News*. In addition, several faculty members participated in workshops, presented as part of meeting sessions, and served on committees. [Read the full story](#)



Some of our faculty and fellows who represented our Regional Anesthesiology Fellowship at the Spring 2022 ASRA meeting met up for dinner in Las Vegas. L to R: Program Director Dr. Nicholas Schott, PD; fellows Drs. Zahraa Majeed, Andrew Phan, Adnan Khan, and Jauhleene Chamu.

SOCIETY FOR EDUCATION IN ANESTHESIA SPRING MEETING, PITTSBURGH, PA, APRIL 8-10, 2022

Many members of our department participated in the meeting, themed "Innovation: A Renaissance of Training, Practice, and Mindset in Anesthesiology." Meeting Chair **Tetsuro Sakai, MD, PhD, MHA, FASA**, Meeting Co-Chair **Phillip Adams, DO, FASA**, and Educational Meetings Chair Designee **Kristin Ondecko Ligda, MD, FASA**, served on the Program Planning Committee. **Aman Mahajan, MD, PhD, MBA**, provided the keynote lecture, "Future of Anesthesia Practice and its Implication in Anesthesia Education," moderated by **David G. Metro, MD, FASA**. Several others from our department served as faculty on workshops and moderated panels. **S. Zach Frabitore, MD**, received the Philip Liu, MD Innovations in Anesthesia Education Award for Overall Best Curriculum for his presentation, "The Pittsburgh Innovation and Technology Track (PITTrack): An Integrated Innovation Curriculum Addressing Barriers to Physician-Led Innovation."



Scenes from the SEA Spring 2022 meeting

Top: Dr. Tetsuro Sakai with Dr. Zach Frabitore after receiving his award

L: Dr. Franklyn Cladis presenting

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

MEDTASS, PALERMO, SICILY, APRIL 29-30, 2022

Our 2022 Mediterranean Transplantation Anesthesiology and Simulation Symposium (MedTASS) recently concluded. The meeting, conceived by course directors **Antonio Arcadipane, MD**, (Chief of Anesthesiology and Director of OR Services at IsMeTT, UPMC's hospital in Palermo) and **Raymond M. Planinsic, MD, FASA**, (Professor and Chief of Transplantation Anesthesiology, UPMC Presbyterian) was first held in 2009. The event continues to unite local, national, and international experts who present up-to-date reviews of current standards of practice in the perioperative anesthetic and intensive care management of solid organ transplantation and other major abdominal and thoracic surgeries. A MedTASS meeting had been planned for 2021 but was postponed until this year due to the COVID pandemic.

Along with IsMeTT faculty, visiting faculty from Pittsburgh included **Aman Mahajan, MD, PhD, MBA**, who presented the keynote address, "The Future of Anesthesiology Practice"; **David G. Metro, MD, FASA**; **Shawn T. Beaman, MD**; and **Ezeldeen Abuelkasem, MBBCh, MSc**.

In addition to presentations from distinguished faculty, unique to this conference was the use of medical simulation to teach and demonstrate critical scenarios encountered in the operating room and intensive care unit in daily practice.

During the meeting, Drs. Arcadipane and Planinsic presented the IsMeTT Clinical Innovation and Teaching Excellence Awards. The award was created in 2019 by **Mark E. Hudson, MD, MBA**, in collaboration with Dr. Arcadipane to foster closer ties and collaboration between our anesthesiology divisions at IsMeTT and sites in Western Pennsylvania. The annual award recognizes an IsMeTT anesthesiology faculty member who excels in clinical innovation or teaching excellence. The associated educational grant provides monetary support to the selected faculty member to attend a major educational meeting in the United States along with a clinical or educational leadership observership with us in Pittsburgh. **Matteo Rosetti, MD**, was the 2022 winner; past award recipients are **Gennaro Martucci, MD, PhD**, in 2020 and **Eleonora Bonicolini, MD**, in 2021.



L to R: Faculty members Drs. Raymond Planinsic, Aman Mahajan, David Metro, Shawn Beaman, and Ezeldeen Abuelkasem, and Resident Dr. Zachary Denham



Top, L to R: Drs. Raymond Planinsic, Ezeldeen Abuelkasem, Aman Mahajan, David Metro, and Shawn Beaman at the Teatro Massimo opera house in Palermo

Bottom: Drs. Arcadipane and Planinsic with award winners Drs. Gennaro Martucci, Eleonora Bonicolini, and Matteo Rosetti



Celebrating New Beginnings

Thank you to all faculty and staff who provided photos!



Submitted by Dr. Aaron Tarnasky (PGY-1 anesthesiology resident): Aaron got engaged to Lindsey Olivere, a PGY-1 vascular surgery resident

Connor Sean Blake, born 2:34pm



Submitted by Heather Blake (Scaife Department Administration): Heather's babies (twins!) were born on Friday April 15th. They decided to come into the world a little early at 34 weeks and four days. Everyone is doing well!

McKenna Erin Margaret Blake, born 2:47pm



Submitted by Dr. Brian Gierl (UPMC Presbyterian): New puppy, Mavis



Submitted by Dr. Mariusz Ligocki (PGY-2 resident): His first car



Submitted by Dr. Josh Knight (UPMC Presbyterian): Theodora Kathleen Knight was born on February 28th, 2022. She joins her older sisters Daphne and Penelope.



Submitted by Katie Meister (Scaife Department Administration): Katie's bundle of joy, Estelle Vera Thompson, arrived into the world in April at 5lb 5oz and 17 inches long



Submitted by Sara Robison (CRNA, UPMC Presbyterian): Sara successfully hiked the 2,193.1 miles of the Appalachian Trail, traversing 14 states from Georgia to Maine over 207 days! It gave her a "new beginning" - a new lease on life, and her heart was full of gratitude. Pictured is her collapse at the trail's Northern Terminus, Mt. Katahdin.



Submitted by Jamie Artman (Scaife Department Administration): Miss Clara, a Cavapoo. A new resident in the Artman house.



Submitted by Sara Fauls (CRNA, UPMC Presbyterian): New puppy, Kevin



Submitted by Julia Dixon-Ernst (CRNA, UPMC Presbyterian): Julie with the newest addition to her family, Elliott Dixon-Ernst, born on February 3rd.



Submitted by Dana Zelder (CRNA UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh): Dana and Dr. Michael Gemma (UPMC Presbyterian) got married in January 2022.



Submitted by Laura Hollis (Manager, Anesthesia Technicians, UPMC East): New doggies Sam (top) and Max (bottom).



Submitted by Dr. Elizabeth Ungerman (UPMC Presbyterian): She and her husband Joe brought home their new Great Dane puppy Lillian. Lillian joins their other dogs, Alfonso (Great Dane) and Finn (Collie).



Community Outreach



Yvonne Shedlock

UPMC CHILDREN'S CRNAs DONATE TO RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Yvonne A. Shedlock, MSN, CRNA, coordinated a service project with the **CRNAs of UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh**. As part of CRNA Week in January of 2022, they donated a generous number of toys to the hospital's pediatric patients for Christmas and donated a meal to Ronald McDonald House Pittsburgh, an organization providing comfort, care, and support to thousands of families traveling to our region to seek medical care for their children.



UPMC CHILDREN'S CRNAs ORGANIZE DONATION DRIVE FOR DISPLACED UKRAINIAN CITIZENS

With help and support from their hospital leadership and staff, a group of benevolent **CRNAs from UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP)** organized a donation drive to help the displaced citizens of Ukraine. The CRNAs sorted and packed donations of diapers, baby wipes, formula, bottles, clothing, socks, sleeping bags, blankets, flashlights, batteries, snack bars, soap, toothpaste, and toothbrushes from dozens of CHP employees and departments. Thirty eight moving boxes and numerous cases of diapers and baby wipes were delivered to St. Peter and St. Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Carnegie on Monday March 28th. These were in addition to donations collected and delivered by the CRNAs at UPMC Children's North Surgery Center.

L to R: Brendan Ahern, MSN, CRNA; Sarah Whiteford, MSN, CRNA; Diane Hupp, DNP, RN (President, CHP); Sue Kelly, MSN, CRNA (CHP CRNA Clinical Director); Missy Dupilka, MSN, CRNA (CHP Asst. CRNA Clinical Director); Kris Van Sickle, MSN, CRNA; Jim Majsak, Senior Director of Support Services, CHP

BRETT FADGEN WORKS WITH UPMC ENABLED

Brett M. Fadgen, MSN, CFRN, CRNA, a nurse anesthetist in our resource pool, is a member of UPMC ENABLED, an employee resource group that serves the health system's colleagues with differing abilities to creating a global, empowered culture of inclusivity that welcomes all employees without bias. The team is also committed to attracting and retaining people with differing abilities and providing accommodations to staff and candidates for employment with differing abilities to enable them to perform the essential functions of their jobs. A new initiative of UPMC ENABLED that will be coming is a training guide for hiring managers and recruiters, "Disability Awareness for the Employment Lifecycle." This detailed resource will be available in the future on the UPMC Infonet (intranet site for employees).



Brett Fadgen

Career Opportunities

CLINICAL FACULTY

We are seeking highly motivated physicians and physician researchers with demonstrated track records for excellence and the ability to work with a highly productive team. We offer positions in numerous anesthesiology subspecialties throughout over 20 clinical sites. Our anesthesiologists enjoy exceptional career growth opportunities, stability, and flexible scheduling as part of a financially strong and thriving world-class health system. Our highly competitive compensation and benefits package includes occurrence-based malpractice, an employer-funded retirement plan, health insurance, CME allowance, and more. We are currently recruiting for the following faculty positions.

Please visit "[career opportunities](#)" on our website for full information:

- Clinical Leadership Positions
- Physician Investigators
- Assistant Professor
- Associate Professor
- Medical Director, UPMC West Mifflin Outpatient Center
- Physicians - various UPMC sites

Interested candidates should send their CV via e-mail to the attention of David G. Metro, MD, FASA, and Dr. Aman Mahajan, MD, PhD, MBA, at gallascj@upmc.edu.

CRNAs

We are seeking full-time, part-time, and casual CRNAs at various UPMC facilities/hospitals. Our CRNAs enjoy:

- Market-competitive salaries with newly increased salary ranges and new sign-on bonuses
- A robust CRNA career ladder to support career advancement with compensation increases to recognize expertise and contributions along the way
- Generous paid time off, including PTO advance for experienced CRNAs to support work-life balance
- Site movement incentives to recognize and reward flexibility
- Annual pay increases based on performance to acknowledge professional contributions as a CRNA
- Comprehensive benefits package and retirement options



Scan the QR code to apply today. To connect directly with a member of our recruitment team, please contact Rise' Porter-Wolf at wolfr@upmc.edu or 412-864-2034. For questions regarding CRNA positions, please e-mail Toni Orsino, MBA, CRNA at orsinoa@upmc.edu.

NIH T₃₂ POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

We are actively recruiting physicians who are committed to both excellence in clinical care and research for an NIH-funded research training program. Most trainees are recruited from anesthesiology residency programs, but individuals from other clinical specialties may be considered if their research interest is focused on problems in anesthesiology and pain medicine. Trainees are expected to spend at least two years in the program and devote a minimum of 80% effort toward their research.

More information on the program and eligibility requirements can be found on our website's [Postdoctoral Research Training page](#). Applications will be accepted until positions are filled.

UPMC positions: EOE. Minority/Female/Vet/Disabled

The University of Pittsburgh is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and values equality of opportunity, human dignity and diversity, EOE, including disability/vets.

Giving

Please help us continue our tradition of excellence by supporting our department with your tax-deductible gift. Whether you choose to contribute toward our research initiatives, educational programs, or other area of need, your generosity is sincerely appreciated at any level. Philanthropic giving to our department plays an important role in helping us improve the lives of patients throughout Western Pennsylvania and all over the world by giving us more opportunities to train the best and brightest clinicians and discover new and better treatment plans.

How to Give

For information on how to make a contribution to the University of Pittsburgh Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, please contact Laura Latini at Pitt's Division of Philanthropic and Alumni Engagement at 412-398-0786 or LauraLatini@pitt.edu. Types of gifts accepted include:

- gifts of cash, check, or credit card
- gifts of stock
- gifts of other assets
- memorial gifts
- unrestricted gifts
- and bequests and planned gifts



To make your gift by check: Checks should be made payable to University of Pittsburgh Physicians. If you wish to give to a specific department initiative or would like your gift to honor or memorialize an individual, please designate this information on the memo line. Please mail checks to Barb Novak Chismar, Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, 3471 Fifth Avenue, Suite 402 Kaufmann Building, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

To make your gift by credit card: Your gift can be **made online**. If you'd like to make a credit card gift to another area, please contact Laura Latini at 412-398-0786 or LauraLatini@pitt.edu.

Honorary or Memorial Gifts

A gift made in honor or memory of an individual is a thoughtful way to recognize the accomplishments of or remember a loved one, friend, or colleague.

Matching Gifts

Your gift may be increased if you work for a company with a matching gift program. Spouse and retiree gifts may also be matched. Contact your company's human resources department to get more information on the options they offer.

Tax Concerns

Your contribution may be tax-deductible. Contributions to the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC are tax-deductible as provided by law. Official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free at 1-800-732-0999. Please consult with your tax advisor before making any contribution or taking any tax deduction.

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acknowledge the
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In Memoriam

Robert C. Stough, MD

Dr. Robert Stough, MD, a pediatric anesthesiologist who served as a faculty member in our department from 2006 to 2014, passed away on Friday, December 24, 2021.

Before starting his academic career, Dr. Stough was a member of the United States Army, serving throughout Vietnam from 1968 through 1970 and earning several prestigious military awards - the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters, the U.S. Army Bronze Star, and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam Bronze Star with Gold Palm.

Dr. Stough received a BS in chemistry and his MD from the University of Pittsburgh. He completed residencies in pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and anesthesiology at Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, where he was co-chief resident. He later completed a residency in family medicine at Carilion/Roanoke Memorial Hospital, University of Virginia.

After working as a physician at numerous hospitals for over 20 years, including West Virginia University where he served as Acting Vice-Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology from 2004-2006, he joined our department as a faculty physician at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, where he was the Director of Radiologic Anesthesiology and Director of Pediatric Transplantation. From 2008 – 2009, he was also Director of Pediatric Transplantation Anesthesiology and Pediatric Intensive Care Management at IsMeTT (UPMC's hospital in Palermo, Sicily).

Please read more about Dr. Stough on [his obituary page](#). He will be fondly remembered and missed by many members of our department who had the honor of knowing him.





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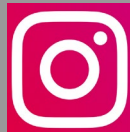
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