

# FOURTH QUARTER NEWSLETTER

## ANESTHESIOLOGY RESIDENCY AND FELLOWSHIP

### 2025

Dear Team,

As we look back on the final quarter of 2025, our Anesthesiology Residency and Fellowship programs continue to exemplify excellence, collaboration, and growth. This season has been filled with achievements that reflect the dedication and passion of our entire team. From celebrating published articles and giving well-deserved shout-outs to outstanding contributions, to coming together for a marathon that showcased our commitment to wellness and community, the past months have been inspiring.

Turning toward the new year, we look forward to exciting opportunities ahead. One highlight is our upcoming international trip to Toluca, Mexico, where we will join colleagues to teach and learn POCUS—strengthening global partnerships and advancing medical education.

In this edition, we reflect on recent accomplishments, share program updates, and spotlight the scholarship and engagement that make our department shine. Your commitment to education, innovation, and compassionate care continues to drive our mission forward.

**Stay informed, stay engaged, and as always, thank you for your hard work!**

## AWARDS & SHOUT OUTS

Recognizing team members for achievements, teamwork, and outstanding contributions



### Resident of the Quarter

#### Jackie Szilagyi - Fourth Quarter 2025

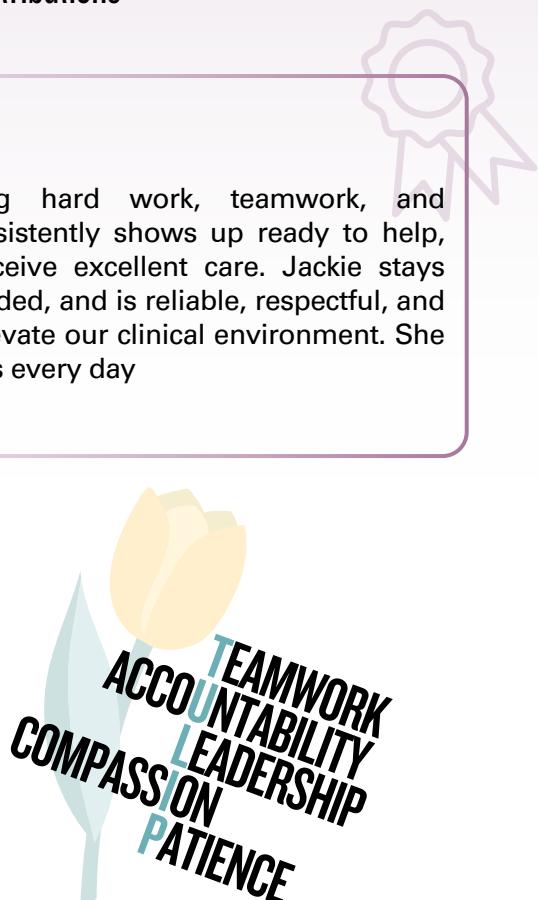
- Jackie is recognized for her outstanding hard work, teamwork, and professionalism in the last quarter. She consistently shows up ready to help, supports the team, and ensures patients receive excellent care. Jackie stays positive on tough days, jumps in wherever needed, and is reliable, respectful, and a pleasure to work with—qualities that truly elevate our clinical environment. She deserves full credit for the dedication she brings every day

- Dr. Praveen Prasanna

#### Tulip Award for Dr. Jackie Szilagyi

##### - From Sunny Ramkumar, RN, Labor & Delivery

*"Jackie and I were caring for a patient who was deaf, had a significant phobia of needles, and lacked strong social support. The tension in the room was high, and the patient was understandably anxious and fearful. Jackie remained at the bedside for close to two hours explaining the epidural procedure multiple times in a calm and reassuring manner. Jackie even showed her the epidural kit, and walked her step-by-step through what to expect, helping to rebuild her confidence and sense of control. The epidural was placed by the attending while Jackie was in front showing her exactly what was happening behind her back. Jackie's patience, empathy, and thoughtful approach transformed a very tense moment into one where the patient felt support, respected, and safe!"*



Up next ... an entire centerfold bursting at the seams with shout outs!



## SHOUT OUTS CONTINUED ...

### Teamwork Shines in OR14!

Our team delivered an incredible performance under pressure! Just as a diagnostic angiogram was wrapping up, a stroke intervention case was on its way to the OR. What happened next was nothing short of amazing: the team sprang into action, completed the turnover in record time, and ensured everything was ready for the incoming patient. This rapid response was made possible by outstanding teamwork, adaptability, and dedication from every member involved. From anesthesia support to surgical precision, everyone played a vital role in making this success happen. Thank you to the entire OR14 team for exemplifying excellence and commitment to patient care! Your efforts truly make a difference.

#### Shout out to Jon Vachon, Shu Zhao, and Faizaan Khan!



Kudos and Praise shared by:  
• Sumangat Kahlon  
• Glenda Magpantay  
• Dr. Christin Kim  
• Dr. Limbrick  
• Dr. Coombs

**BRAVO!**

**Andrew and Shiv** displayed initiative and camaraderie while challenging themselves with difficult cases. When a subarachnoid hemorrhage coiling was added to the neuroangio room, Shiv helped Andrew with transport, positioning, and case initiation. During the case, which was extremely technically challenging, the aneurysm ruptured and Andrew was quick to get mannitol, and initiate hyperventilation and BP control. The duo repeated their strong teamwork when hands were needed during a difficult cervicomedullary avm resection which required two neurosurgeons scrubbed into the case. Building strong camaraderie will help these junior residents get far. As Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

- Dr. Rashid Hussain

**Rhitwika Sensharma** was a fantastic senior on a VA rotation - making sure that all of the other residents felt well supported each day in the ORs and always readily available whenever we needed help. I could always count on her!

- Mei Mei Edwards, CA2

Rhitwika Sensharma



**Kirklen Petersen** stayed well ahead when managing a busy pediatric ENT OR. Very strong planning ability. Excellent vascular access and airway management. Capable and independent management by the end of the day.

- Dr. Joseph O'Brien

Kirklen Petersen



**GREAT JOB!**

**Ben Andre** was covering PACU and stayed 45 minute late after his 12 hour shift where he dealt with bleeding patients, Potassium levels of 7.3, and delirious patients with hypoxia. He stayed late to provide the best care possible to diagnose and treat a patient who despite not being intubated for her sedation case, was requiring an increasing amount of oxygen in the recovery room. He worked through the differential and found that the patient had likely aspirated during the case. While he could have left this workup to the night team he stayed to finish and undoubtedly improved the patient's experience and outcomes as he stayed and talked to the patient explaining what was occurring and how he was trying to help. I am proud of this young doctor and the care and dedication he shows every day

- Dr. Michael Trostler



Ben Andre

"**Ben Andre** did an excellent job managing a difficult airway. The patient was status post radical jaw resection with a free flap and status post radiation to the head and neck. The patient's landmarks were extremely distorted. Ben performed well during management of this patient's complex airway. He expertly executed a fiber optic intubation. He remained calm as we worked to secure the patient's airway. Ben followed my instructions and remained focused on the airway even as the patient's oxygen saturation began to drop. Ben's performance was exemplary and should be recognized."

- Dr. Cedric Campbell

### Tabi's Team Triumphs

Shout outs and kudos to the team throughout the month of December, from Tabi Eckert, CA3



- **Taylor Lonjin** stepped into multiple gaps for the whole OR team. On an extremely short-staffed day with one CRNA to give breaks, Taylor completed his own clinical responsibilities, then helped give CRNA lunches. Taylor came in and covered the T5 role for 4 hours on a day with limited coverage. His help has been invaluable.
- **Andreas Gregoriou** has been helping APS and ACC with morning blocks in between helping start the cardiac cases and always making sure the cardiac resident gets breaks.
- **Jon Vachon** was on his pre-tending week. Several times I gave a CA1 what could be a challenging next day assignment. When I mentioned this to Jon, he elected to take the challenging rooms and back up these residents. When both ACC residents were out sick, he stepped up to help in ACC. I admire Jon's readiness to step up when opportunities presented. Supporting our juniors and challenging ourselves is exactly what we should be doing as seniors.
- **Sana Sethi** covered both resident and CRNA breaks on multiple days without complaining, even though sometimes she herself did not get a break. PACU was particularly busy, and she and **Elijah Weber** (T2) both chipped in throughout the day to help the PACU resident. Sana was extremely helpful with OR setup when they had a rushed turnover. Sana has grown visibly in her T1 role and teamwork over this month. Elijah has also been an extremely proactive T2 throughout this month, taking initiative to help both Sana and I in our roles and backing up the PACU resident. I want to commend both Sana and Elijah for their awesome teamwork.
- On a busy day with only one CRNA to give breaks. **Panth Doshi** and **Gianna Shipp** both had delayed starts and volunteered to help Sana and the break CRNA. By 0900 26 of 29 ORs had gotten breaks.



**Jonathan Greene** "We were called to trauma bay for a patient with burns and likely inhalation injury to airway. ED resident and attending both struggled to obtain view of glottic opening with patient also in an uncomfortable state during attempts. Then, our very own resident, Dr Greene tried and got the view smoothly within seconds. He and I both agreed his skillful maneuvering was learned from the ENT rotation blessed on the anesthesia residents here. I'm so thankful for the education collaboration between ENT and Anesthesia here because this is a perfect example of how expanding learning opportunities for the residents improves pt care."

- Dr. Sharon Lee

Jonathan Greene

**Lee Friedman** and **Sana Sethi** stepped up and helped out with daytime/ nighttime trauma coverage during Christmas Day. Due to staffing changes with the Trauma team and multiple residents out on vacation, finding last minute coverage was a challenge. However, Sana and Lee rose to the occasion and filled in the gaps, ensuring continuation of high-quality anesthesia care during the Holidays.

Additional kudos to **AJ Wittmeyer** and **Faizaan Khan** for extending their daytime coverage into the night on Christmas Eve to accommodate the last minute changes as well.

- Jonathan Tran, CA3

**Tabi Eckert** "I recently had the need for surgery and the resident I had was amazing! She was awesome at explaining what she was doing and putting us at ease. One of the best encounters I've had with a VCU resident. "

- VCU Team Member



Tabi Eckert

**Elijah Weber** stepped up to fill in on cardiac call during a challenging weekend with staffing shortages due to multiple factors on short notice. He demonstrated a high level of empathy and consideration for his colleagues while remaining enthusiastic to help out the cardiac anesthesia team. I have no doubt he will continue to serve as a role model for those around him and maintain the same level of enthusiasm as he advances in his training.

- Jonathan Tran, CA3



Submit your vote for the  
First Quarter!  
[bit.ly/AnesVote](http://bit.ly/AnesVote)

## PAST EVENTS

### Updates and moments from past events and conferences

The Chrismoose made his social media debut on our Instagram page with the Trauma Night team.

Do you know his history? Originally a gift from Dr. Jeannette Kierce to Dr. Cathy Cooper, he supervised our offices until he found his true calling on the educational block cart, where he trains learners on central line placements!

**He's had more IJ lines than a renal failure patient, but claims they don't hurt at all. Thanks Chrismoose!**

*Thank you Dr. Cathy Cooper for sharing the lore of the Chrismoose!*



## WELLNESS

Tips on managing stress, maintaining work-life balance, and available wellness resources.



### 2025 Richmond Marathon/Half/8K

- Congratulations to our marathon finishers on team **Running on Fumes!**
  - Ashton Engdahl, Richmond 8K, 00:53:06
  - Ben Andre, Full Marathon, 04:39:39
  - Drew Chafin, Half Marathon, 01:48:29
  - Eric Worrall, Full Marathon, 03:49:51
  - Henry Wilson, Full Marathon, 03:53:01
  - Noah Hillerbrand, Half Marathon, 01:41:24
  - Stanley Kamau, Full Marathon, 03:53:38
  - Yazdi Doshi, Richmond 8K, 01:01:42
  - Zach Clements, Full Marathon, 05:12:22

**And congrats to anyone we didn't know about!**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Department meetings, educational workshops, national conferences, and social events

### ASA 2026: Refresher Course Lecture planned - Clinical Controversies in Anesthesia for Craniotomy

- Speakers: Lauren Dunn, MD, PhD, University of Virginia and Rashid Hussain, MD, Virginia Commonwealth University



### Upcoming Conferences

- Society for Pediatric Anesthesia (SPA-AAP) Pediatric Anesthesiology - March 13-15, Denver, CO
- Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologist (SCA) - April 23-26, Nashville, TN
- Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology (SOAP) - April 29-May 3, Montreal, CA
- International Anesthesia Research Society (IARS) & Society of Critical Care Anesthesiologist (SOCCA) - May 1-3, Montreal, CA



## GLOBAL HEALTH UPDATE

Teaching, learning, and growing together worldwide



### Global Anesthesia Trip Coming This April!

- This April, members of our Department of Anesthesiology will be participating in an upcoming Global Anesthesia trip to beautiful Toluca, Mexico. This trip reflects our continued commitment to service, education, and global partnership. Faculty and residents will work alongside international colleagues in resource-limited settings, focusing on hands-on clinical education, shared learning, and sustainable skill-building.
- The trip emphasizes collaboration across cultures, peer mentorship, and practical training that supports safe, high-quality perioperative care. By working directly with local clinicians and institutions, our team helps strengthen care delivery while gaining valuable perspective that informs practice back home.
- Check out our recent article in the Fall 2025 VSA Update ([bit.ly/496zaAk](https://bit.ly/496zaAk))



## ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrating our team throughout the year, acknowledging birthdays and service anniversaries



### Recent and Upcoming Birthdays

**January**

- Dr. Brusilovsky
- Dr. Navarrete
- Dr. Saleeby
- Dr. Suarez
- Dr. Thakrar
- Dwight McCall
- Tonya Worley-Glenn

**February**

- Dr. Daniel
- Dr. Evans
- Dr. Kromah
- Dr. McClerkin

**March**

- Dr. ArandaValderama
- Dr. Klein
- Dr. Lee, Sharon
- Dr. Olomu
- Dr. Torre
- Dr. Young

**April**

- Dr. Buxhoeveden
- Dr. Dore
- Dr. Hussain
- Dr. Pal
- Dr. Potter, J.

HAPPY  
*birthday*



### Recent and Upcoming Anniversaries

**January**

- Dr. Coombs, 9 Yrs
- Dr. Costin, 1 Yr
- Dr. Dhillon, 12 Yrs
- Dr. Eisenhower, 4 Yrs
- Dr. McClerkin, 3 Yrs
- Dr. Ramirez-Cadiz, 1 Yr
- Dr. Saxena, 3 Yrs
- Dr. Zuelzer, 2 Yrs

**February**

- Dr. Drago, 9 Yrs
- Dr. Maximiv, 4 Yrs
- Dr. Saleeby, 18 Yrs

**March**

- None.. YET!

**April**

- Dr. Stokes, 1 Yr

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Upcoming deadlines, policy updates, credentialing requirements, or administrative notices.

### Spend Authorizations & Expense Reports

- Please find time to meet with the Program Coordinators if you have any questions about the process to submit a Spend Authorization or Expense Report.
- Reminder: GME and Anesthesiology Department funds must be submitted separately, and a Spend Auth is required for any time spent in attendance of a conference away from VCU - Regardless of cost



## LIBRARY UPDATES

Highlighting new research, journal articles, and scholarly contributions from department members



### ***Endocrine, Metabolic and Electrolyte Responses to Cardiac Surgery and Cardiopulmonary Bypass.***

A new Book Chapter Published on Endocrine and Metabolic Responses in Cardiac Surgery:

**Drs. Nirvik Pal, Arunthevaraja Karuppiah, and Mark Nelson** contributed a chapter in *Cardiopulmonary Bypass and Mechanical Support: Principles and Practice, Fifth Edition*

***Disruption of normal saline supply chain due to a disaster: an analysis of the impact of normal saline shortage on anesthesia practice in a large hospital system and models toward resiliency.***

**Hussain R, Pickle E, Lonjin T, Then J, Rivosecchi R, Cassavaugh J, Fichman M and Kaynar AM** (2025)

Frontiers in Medicine 12:1671978. doi: 10.3389/fmed.2025.1671978 (In Production)

### ***Neuroimaging for Prognosticating in Acute Brain Injury: A Narrative Review.***

**Marzouk D, Dux H, Gharavi M, and Hussain RS,** (2025) Clinical

Neuroimaging 2,1: e70036. <https://doi.org/10.1002/neo2.70036>"

### ***Apnea and Bilateral Ophthalmoplegia after a Retrobulbar Block: Clinical Decision-Making and Dilemmas.***

**Nguyen A, Tran J, Abdulhakim, A, Potter J, and Hussain R.**

Journal of Neurosurgical Anesthesiology. 2026;38(1):e334-e36. doi:10.1097/ANA.0000000000001066.

### ***Hypertensive Crisis Following Ephedrine Administration in a Patient on Rasagiline: A Case Report.***

**Gutierrez NS, Cuddy T, and Hussain R.**

Journal of Neurosurgical Anesthesiology. 2026;38(1):e37. doi:10.1097/ANA.0000000000001066.

## SOCIAL MEDIA - ON PAPER

An analog collection of our online adventures

A merry and bright outing on the town!



Cookie Decorating,  
supervised by the  
Chrismoose



Everyone survived the  
"Bad Meal" in Main5  
PACU during the pumpkin  
decorating contest.



Our Admin Team  
came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with  
their pumpkin titled  
"Thoracic Park"