

SECOND QUARTER **NEWSLETTER** 2025

ANESTHESIOLOGY RESIDENCY AND FELLOWSHIP



Dear Team

As we look back on the second quarter, we have much to celebrate within our Anesthesiology Residency and Fellowship programs. This season is particularly special as we honor our graduating team for their hard work and dedication, and warmly welcome our new Interns, Residents, and Fellows who are about to begin their exciting journey with us.

Spring is a time of renewal and growth, and it brings with it new opportunities for learning, collaboration, and recognition. In this edition, we spotlight exceptional team members, provide important updates, and feature recent publications that are advancing our field.

Your unwavering commitment to patient care, education, and innovation is truly inspiring. Let's continue to support one another and strive for excellence in all our endeavors.

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 - Travis Herrin, MD - Second Quarter 2025

- Travis "Bird" Herrin came through his cardiac rotation as a CA1 and was fully prepared each day. His foundation of knowledge was well above his peers and he approached his week in such a determined manner to learn and was a pleasure to have. Later that weekend, he was on the consult bag when we had an emergent ECMO cannulation coming to the OR... He helped set the room up and manage induction and initial anesthetic management with the intensivists in house. He handled the situation well above expectations for CA1 and did so humbly alongside Dr. Potter and Dr. Uhlig. Bird gets the work done, asks questions for his education and really cares about improving as a resident and physician.

Honorable Mentions:

Travis Cuddy



"Travis holds a high standard for himself and for his patients and is self-critical for his growth. His procedural dexterity is sound, and he mentors and teaches medical students, submitting academic abstracts and cases."

Mei Mei Edwards



"Mei Mei has been excellent to work with and we all look forward to working with her in the future as she continues to develop into a competent, compassionate anesthesiologist."



Yusrah Hasan



"Yusrah has been an exemplary resident on her CA1 Neuroanesthesia block. Preps cases to build early rapport, asks informed questions, challenges herself, and delivered exceptional care...Praised by Dr. Rivet who said, "I could not ask for better.""

Kirklen Petersen



"...patient experienced massive hemorrhage and she immediately jumped into action...She was a natural leader in the chaos. Truly an excellent example of everything an anesthesiology resident should be."

Maya Rader



"..she had a great attitude, worked hard and was very responsive to our teaching and reviewing previous concepts. Most importantly, her attitude and team approach was just outstanding"

Jon Vachon



"Jon is a shining example of dedication, clinical excellence, and leadership in action. Jon stood out not just for his clinical acumen, but for his calm, decisive leadership under pressure...Jon embodies the core mission of our health system—clinical excellence, education, and innovation. His work this past quarter reflects a powerful blend of technical skill, thoughtful mentorship, and system-level advocacy."

Elijah Weber



"Elijah is an outstanding, proactive, and hardworking contributor to this residency...He takes on every task with such eagerness and joy and I hope he continues having that mindset throughout the rest of his residency."

Submit your vote for the Third Quarter!



Excellence Awards Announced at Graduation

- Dr. Aliasghar Aghdami Award for Excellence in CT Anesthesiology: **Alex H. Will, MD**
- Dr. Gene Peterson Award for Excellence in Patient Safety & Quality Improvement: **Lawrence S. Jones Jr., MD**
- C. Paul Boyan, MD "Slickest Clinician" Award: **Lawrence S. Jones Jr., MD**
- Department of Anesthesiology Academic Achievement Award: **Lawrence S. Jones Jr., MD**
- Resident Excellence in Professionalism Award: **Eric Robert Morgan, MD**
- Resident Excellence in Education Award: **Simone M. Laing, MD**
- Resident Excellence in Leadership Award: **Lawrence S. Jones Jr., MD**
- John R. Jones, MD Award for Teaching Excellence: **Arunthevaraja Karuppiyah, MD**
- CA1 Award for Teaching Excellence: **Michael Kazior, MD**
- CA2 Award for Teaching Excellence: **Zohaib Alam, MD**
- CA3 Award for Teaching Excellence: **Matthew Isenhower, MD**



Announcing Yena Son as the ASA Resident Distinction Award Winner



- Dr. Yena Son has been awarded the 2025 ASA Resident Distinction Award. She is recognized for her outstanding leadership, advocacy, and scholarship — serving on the Program Evaluation Committee, editing the VSA newsletter, and participating in national advocacy efforts including the ASA Legislative Conference. With a background in public policy and a strong commitment to education and research, Dr. Son exemplifies the qualities of a future leader in anesthesiology.

Announcing the Newest AOA Members - Faizaan and Path!

- We want to share this exciting news of the recognition of two of our anesthesia residents. Join us in congratulating Faizaan Khan and Panth Doshi, who have been inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) this year. We are proud of you, Panth and Faizaan, for this well-deserved accomplishment!

- Alpha Omega Alpha — dedicated to the belief that in the profession of medicine we will improve care for all by:
 - **Recognizing high educational achievement;**
 - **Honoring gifted teaching;**
 - **Encouraging the development of leaders in academia and the community;**
 - **Supporting the ideals of humanism; and**
 - **Promoting service to others.**
- Election to Alpha Omega Alpha is an honor signifying a lasting commitment to professionalism, leadership, scholarship, research, and community service. A lifelong honor, membership in the society confers recognition for a physician's dedication to the profession and art of healing



2025 Graduates

Regional Anesthesia & Acute Pain Medicine Fellowship



Patrick Reddy, MD

Assistant Professor of
Anesthesiology
VCU Health System
Richmond, VA

Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology Fellowship



Ashton Engdahl, MD

Assistant Professor of
Anesthesiology
VCU Health System
Richmond, VA



Tyler Tupper, MD

Assistant Professor of
Anesthesiology
VCU Health System
Richmond, VA

Anesthesia Critical Care Medicine Fellowship



Patrick Ufkes, MD

Assistant Professor of Emergency
Medicine and Intensivist STICU
VCU Health System
South Hill, and Richmond, VA

Class of 2025 Anesthesia Residency Graduates



Abdilatif Abdulhakim, MD

Staff Anesthesiologist
TBD



Nima Avin, DO

Staff Anesthesiologist
Northern Colorado Anesthesia
Professionals, Fort Collins, CO



Gabriel Beluchukwu, MD

Staff Anesthesiologist
TBD



Lawrence Jones Jr., MD

Pediatric Anesthesiology Fellow
Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Cincinnati, OH



Simone Laing, MD

Pediatric Anesthesiology Fellow
Children's National Hospital
Washington, DC



Nicholas Malki, MD

Staff Anesthesiologist
Chippenham Hospital
Richmond, VA



Eric Morgan, MD

Assistant Professor of
Anesthesiology
VCU Health System
Richmond, VA



Reginald Osardu, MD

Pain Management Fellow
VCU Health System
Richmond, VA



Yena Son, MD

Critical Care Medicine Fellow
George Washington University
Washington, DC



Alex Will, MD

Adult Cardiothoracic Fellow
VCU Health System
Richmond, VA



James Henry Wilson II, MD

Assistant Professor of
Anesthesiology
VCU Health System
Richmond, VA



Whitney Wolaver, MD

Adult Cardiothoracic Fellow
Medical University of SC
Charleston, SC

New Faces

Welcome New Interns and R-Matches to the Anesthesiology Residency Program!



Braden Cathey

Class of 2029



Drew Chafin

Class of 2029



Mathew Ciurash

Class of 2029



Zach Clements

Class of 2029



Reilly Ellis

Class of 2029



Terry Everett

Class of 2029



Hanna Ghefe

Class of 2028



Shivram Guraju

Class of 2028



Sabrina Hidalgo-Ahmed

Class of 2029



Tony Lam

Class of 2028



Jeff Lee

Class of 2029



Andrew McHale

Class of 2028



Kristin Olson

Class of 2029



Timmy Tran

Class of 2029



Simone Udeh

Class of 2029

Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology Fellowship

Anesthesia Critical Care Medicine Fellowship

Pediatric Anesthesia Fellowship

Welcome New Fellows,
and "Welcome Back"
to VCU Alum Transitioning
to Fellowship!



Adam Seibert



Alex Will



Tarrin Casey



Noah Hillerbrand



Ahmed Ali

Intern Advancement

The Class of 2028 has officially begun their Clinical Anesthesia Residency Program!

Top Row, Left to Right:

- Benjamin Andre, MD
- Zshonel Auma, MD
- Panth Doshi, MD
- Ryan Freeman, MD
- Lee Friedman, MD
- Hayley Gray, DO

Bottom Row, Left to Right

- Faizaan Khan, MD
- Arielle Khosrowpour, DO
- Resnah Minhas, MD
- Karen Semaan, MD
- Sana Sethi, MD



Meet & Greet 2025

Good food and good company at the Island Shrimp Co.!

- We got to meet most of our new Residents and some of their families too!
- Thank you to all who joined us!



LIBRARY UPDATES

Highlighting new research, journal articles, and scholarly contributions from Residents and Fellows

Choosing the Best Path: Difficult Airway Versus Challenging Neuraxial During Cesarean Delivery

- Ezana Girmai, Yena Son, Matthew Isenhower, Shilen Thakrar

The effect of intraoperative goal-directed hemodynamic therapy on volume status, venous congestion, and ventricular function in elective colorectal surgery: an observational pilot study using point-of care ultrasound. bit.ly/4htcHOu

- Aaron Lim, Kenneth Potter, Eric Worrall, W. Brenton French, Maya Golan, Megan Rashid, Pranav Shah

A Case of Delayed Emergence in a Primigravid Patient

- Jonathan Vachon, Cedric Campbell, Arun Karuppiah

Massive Hemothorax from a Central Venous Catheter from a Kidney Transplant: A Case Report

- Jonathan Vachon, Rafael Robles, Steven Yee, John Drago

Catheter Based Epidural Blood Patch: An Optimized Approach - Will be presented at ASA 2025!

- Ezoza Azzam, Christopher Evans, Purvika Gautam, Shilen Thakrar

Perioperative Management of High-Risk Geriatric Patient with Systemic Mastocytosis, Multiple Myeloma and Sick Sinus Syndrome Undergoing Hip Surgery - Will be presented at ASA 2025!

- Kirklen Petersen, Patrick Reddy, Sabrina Dhillon

WELLNESS

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



Spring Into Fitness Challenge

- The winning team was **Lapiz Lazuli** with **9,053 minutes** of activity!

Diamond - 7,981	Emerald - 4,967	Jade - 1,216
Topaz - 6,980	Platinum - 3,260	Gold - 760
Sapphire - 5,457	Silver - 1,608	Ruby - 300

- **Do you enjoy podcasts?** Check out ASA's series called **Central Line**
 - Episode 47 focused on Physician Well-Being, focusing on being our best selves. EP47 was posted back in 2021; get listening and catch up to their newest release! bit.ly/CentralLinePodcast

2025 VCU Anesthesia Marathon/Half/8K - Sign Up Today!

- Drew Chafin (PGY1 Intern) is taking over coordinating our team this year, reach out to him with any questions.
- Team Name: **"Running on Fumes"**
- Last year our team had 10 people. How many we can get this year?
 - **Psssst... yes, you can walk too!** Get in on the race day fun by conquering the **VCU Health 8k** (4.97 miles) run or walk through downtown Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University. Go your own speed, as this race welcomes all paces, from the super-fast, to those just starting out, and walkers as well!



TEAM UPDATES

Introducing new team members, promotions, and recognizing those who are moving on.



This quarter we said farewell and best wishes to a few great leaders:

- Christy Mack
- Dr. Yaqi Hu
- Dr. Nathan Collins
- Dr. Megan Rashid
- Dr. Jonathan Seligman

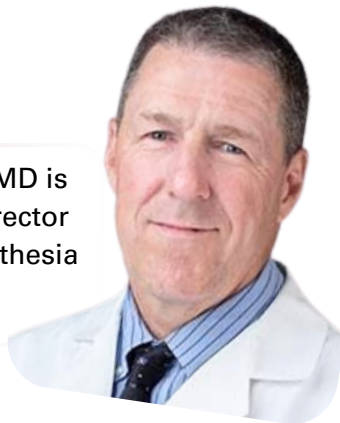


In sad news, Dr. Michael Fowler, the previous Program Director, passed on June 8th, 2025.

- His family posted a thoughtful obituary, sharing Dr. Fowler's dedication to organ transplantation and medical education.
- Mike was an Anesthesia Resident from 2001-2005, then became Faculty before serving many years as the Program Director for the Anesthesia Residency Program
- To read more, please visit bit.ly/VCUMFowler

Big changes at CHOR - New Leadership for Pediatric Anesthesia

- Dr. Joseph O'Brien, MD is now the Program Director of the Pediatric Anesthesia Fellowship



- Dr. Patrick Olomu, MD, FRCA, FMCA (Honoris Causa) will be joining us as our Pediatric Anesthesia Division as the Chief-Elect.



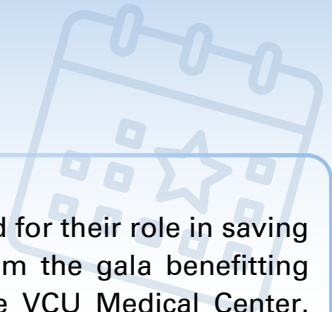
PAST EVENTS

Updates and moments from past events and conferences



16th Annual Shining Knight Gala, May 10th, 2025

- Each year at the gala, dozens of Shining Knights are recognized for their role in saving the life of one specific trauma patient with net proceeds from the gala benefitting injury and violence prevention programs at and through the VCU Medical Center. Whether someone conducted CPR, performed a surgical procedure, provided emotional support or physical help at a vital time, we all have Shining Knights who have touched our lives who deserve to be honored and thanked.
- Pictured to the left are Dr. Michael Trostler and his wife Christine



International Anesthesia Research Society (IARS) - March 20-24 in Honolulu, Hawaii

- Presentation by Darryl Mason, co-authored by Kenny Potter

Society for Pediatric Anesthesia and American Academy of Pediatrics (SPA-AAP)- March 28-30 in Orlando, Florida

- Presentation by Nima Avin, co-authored by Beata Evans

Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology (SOAP) - April 30-May 4 in Portland, Oregon

- Presented by Travis Cuddy, co-authored by Lawrence Jones and Victor Saxena

★ Their poster was selected as one of the TOP 10 poster presentations!

- They had a particularly challenging and emergent case overnight on OB in January 2025. A patient suffered catastrophic uterine rupture, which quickly led to life-threatening hemorrhage. The patient required multiple rounds of massive transfusion to keep pace with blood loss and ultimately had a REBOA device placed to control the hemorrhage. Use of these devices as rescue therapy in life-threatening postpartum hemorrhage is not well-described in the current literature, so we authored a report entitled "REBOA to the Rescue: Management of Massive Hemorrhage following Catastrophic Uterine Rupture" and submitted it to SOAP. Case was a great example of teamwork and problem solving under pressure. Most importantly, the patient and her child both had a great outcome

Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists (SCA) - April 26-29 in Montreal, Canada

- Presentation by Ashton Engdal, Tyler Tupper, and Jonathan Tran

★ **Statement from Jonathan Tran:** "Attending this conference was particularly significant as I aspire to build a career in cardiothoracic anesthesiology. It provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the intricacies involved in managing complex cardiovascular cases and exposed me to innovative techniques that align closely with the demands of this subspecialty. The opportunity to connect with mentors and pioneers in the field solidified my sense of purpose and gave me invaluable insights that will serve as a foundation for my professional growth"

