On Wednesday February 23, 2022, the Emory Department of Anesthesiology grand rounds speaker was Pulitzer Prize winning author and investigative journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones. Her presentation was a dialogue with Dr. Michele Sumler, an adult cardiothoracic anesthesiologist in our department and vice chair for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Nikole Hannah-Jones’ grand rounds was by far the most well-attended grand rounds in the history of our department, with more than 600 attendees participating over Zoom®. The discussion was rich with historical narratives, insightful interpretations and challenging questions. The event was an illustration of academia at its best.

Among many important topics and historical figures covered during the presentation, Nikole Hannah-Jones highlighted Ida Wells-Barnett, a journalist in Memphis in the late 1800s and early 1900s who worked fearlessly to stop lynching of African Americans throughout the South. Before this grand rounds presentation, I knew nothing about Ida Wells-Barnett and her courageous work. Of note, one of my majors in college was history, with a focus on American history.

After her grand rounds, I thanked Mrs. Hannah-Jones for the best grand rounds presentation I had ever heard. I also pointed out that I disagreed with several of the things that she had said and to me that is what made her presentation so outstanding. Someone with a very different upbringing and perspective than mine had taken the time to teach me so many things that I did not know.

I am proud to lead a department in which diversity, equity and inclusion are among the highest priorities. I believe that these are the seeds of teamwork and achievement that make the Emory Department of Anesthesiology one of the best in the country. Many of those reading this piece probably know that our department is one of the largest and most complex anesthesiology departments in the country. We care for patients at eleven hospitals and eighteen surgicenters throughout Georgia, from Johns Creek to Columbus. We have more than 600 employees and an annual budget of almost $700 million.

Our clinicians do much more than provide clinical operating room anesthesia services. We also run acute and chronic pain medicine services, intensive care units, veno-venous extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) teams, and palliative care practices. We also provide care for patient populations that our providers are uniquely trained to help, such as individuals with both pain and substance use disorders. We are administrators and teachers, mentors and community outreach program directors. Several members of our department perform volunteer work in the most dangerous and remote locations in the world.

If there were one word that I had to choose to describe our faculty, community practice clinicians, trainees, and staff in the Emory Department of Anesthesiology, it would be selfless. They are a truly remarkable group of individuals. I hope you enjoy learning about their numerous efforts and accomplishments.

Andrew J. Patterson, MD, PhD
Professor and Chair, Emory Department of Anesthesiology
Images courtesy and videos of Ryan Patterson

Click the image to see the video.
"Pain medication does not equal opioid medication. That's just one of the tools that we have in our toolbox."

- Dr. Vinita Singh

Pain Management

A Growing Toolbox for Pain Management
A Growing Toolbox for Pain Management

Pain is complicated. It can sting, throb, ache, twinge, or burn. It can touch every part of the body. It can be caused by anything from injury to cancer. And it’s common, affecting up to 50 million people in the United States—more than diabetes, stroke, and cancer combined. But for a long time, the country had only one widely available treatment: opioids.

Ten years ago, when Vinita Singh graduated from the Emory SOM, she would sometimes run out of accessible options for a patient with chronic pain. If conservative treatment didn’t work, she didn’t have many other tools at her disposal.

"I would get stuck, and I was like, 'I just got nothing else to offer you. There's nothing else that exists.'"

Since then, the pain management toolbox has expanded exponentially, especially in the forms of injections, nerve blocks, and neuromodulation. The CDC Opioid Prescribing Guideline, first released in 2016, renewed focus on alternative pain therapies, both existing and in development. Now, physicians and patients have greater awareness of non-opioid treatments, including alternative medications, physical therapy, yoga, acupuncture, massage, and mindfulness.

“Pain medication does not equal opioid medication. That’s just one of the tools that we have in our toolbox,” explains Singh, now the Division Chief of the Emory Pain Center. She adds that opioids are helpful for a small number of patients with end stage cancer.

...It was difficult to implant the electrode, she remembers, because several rounds of radiation had made his skin “thick like leather.”

- Dr. Vinita Singh

Dr. Singh performing a celiac plexus neurolysis under x-ray guidance for a patient with cancer related abdominal pain. This is the most common procedure she does for cancer related pain.
postoperative pain. But for most patients, they carry more risks than benefits. Now that doctors and patients are aware of the risk for opioid addiction, they often turn to other pain treatments first.

Anesthesiologists usually minimize pain by blocking peripheral nerves, which carry the pain signals from the local receptors to the brain. In recent years, modulating—not just blocking—the pain signal has turned out to be a promising treatment. Researchers have developed several different tools to stimulate the nerves and produce this effect, known as neuromodulation. The results have revolutionized pain management.

“The one tool that excites me the most is peripheral nerve stimulation (PNS),” Singh says. With PNS, a patient wears a small energy source (or battery) outside of the body. The battery sends continual electric pulses to an electrode implanted under the skin, causing nearby nerves to tingle imperceptibly. In 2018, Singh was the first doctor in Georgia to implant this device in a patient. Since then, the technology has improved significantly. It has proven to be extremely effective for pain that originates from a specific area of the body, like a hand or the bottom of the foot.
Singh has been awestruck by the results she’s seen from neuromodulation. She recalls a newlywed patient who suffered from constant, debilitating lower back pain from metastatic kidney cancer. Singh tried everything she could to help him, but nothing worked. Eventually, she turned to spinal cord stimulation, which is not usually used for cancer-related pain. It was difficult to implant the electrode, she remembers, because several rounds of radiation had made his skin “thick like leather.” The long shot was worth it: the treatment changed his life. It allowed him to sit up again, to go to Thanksgiving dinner and sit and enjoy the meal, to cross things off their bucket list. It made his last six months bearable. “It was very, very humbling,” Singh says.

Since then, she’s continued to research stimulation therapies alongside her colleagues. The department also has several different projects on other types of pain treatments, including transcranial magnetic field stimulation. Singh recently published an article in Pain Physician on nonpharmacologic pain treatments. She found that cognitive behavioral therapy, or CBT, was one of the most effective. But most providers don’t encourage it, as it is difficult to find insurance that covers it and providers that provide this therapy.

“This should be your first step,” Singh says, “Everybody should get CBT, but that does not happen because there is a lack of access to the care.” In the end, Singh refers a lot of her patients to free apps and websites like Headspace or UCLA Mindful. One of her patients, who has a pinched nerve, has been practicing mindfulness meditation for five years. “He tells me that he has pain, but when the pain comes, he tells his brain that he’s not hurting. And the pain goes away.” Other patients picture a safe place or a happy memory and practice breathing exercises. In the future, Singh would like to see more access to acupuncture, yoga, and other complementary therapies.

She emphasizes that pain is a complex problem that requires holistic treatment. For example, it’s often linked to mental health concerns, because “pain may lead to anxiety and depression, but sometimes vice versa. Stress, anxiety, depression, and pain all feed each other. It’s a vicious cycle. So you cannot treat one and not the other.” Pain management, she says, needs to be better integrated into mental healthcare and other specialties.

As Division Chief, she has been redefining where pain management fits in the Emory ecosystem. She regularly collaborates with other centers and advises them on the best methods for treating different types of pain. They are working on creating guidelines for primary care and other specialty physicians, and educating providers about signs of opioid addiction. “Partnering up with all of these specialties, understanding what are they seeing and what they want us to talk about, what can they do and where and how can we help as experts in Pain Medicine” says Singh, “I see it as our responsibility.”

Dr. Singh is teaching a spine ultrasound workshop for the World Academy of Pain Medicine United.
SKOAP

A Sequenced Strategy for Improving Outcomes in People
Dr. Vinita Singh is the Principal Investigator for the SKOAP Project (A Sequenced Strategy for Improving Outcomes in People with Knee Osteoarthritis Pain). She is joined by her colleagues Dr. Olabisi Lane and Dr. Anne-Marie McKenzie Brown. This is a federally funded RCT managed by Dr. Steve Cohen and Johns Hopkins University that is entering its final months of enrollment, currently over 1,300 nationwide. The Emory research team was recently recognized for its enrollment achievements. The team has screened over 1000 participants, enrolled 44, with 30+ who remain active in the study for up to two years.
DEI is a part of everything that we do.

-Dr Michele Sumler

DEI

Anesthesiology's Journey to 'Being and Belonging'
Michele L Sumler, MD, MA, FASE,
Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
The idea of DEI—diversity, equity, and inclusion—conjures up many images. For most people, anesthesiology isn’t one of them.

But at Emory’s Department of Anesthesiology, “DEI is a part of everything that we do,” says Michele Sumler, Vice Chair of DEI. That passion is palpable throughout the department, shining through their research on how pulse oximetry readings vary across different skin tones, a virtual rotation program geared towards medical students from underrepresented backgrounds, and planned virtual reality experiences to simulate gender bias in the OR.

But it especially shone through last February, when hundreds of people joined the department’s Grand Rounds featuring Nikole Hannah-Jones as a Black History Month speaker. Every other month, the Grand Rounds lecture is dedicated to DEI, a tradition that remains the department’s longest-standing and most successful diversity initiative. Meanwhile, the “Being and Belonging” (or “B-Squared,” for short) series is a new initiative that highlights the inequities in places that people otherwise might not think about, like mental health, disabilities, and transgender care.

“Through this educational series, people are becoming more knowledgeable about people that may or may not look like them,” Dr Sumler says. For anesthesiologists, who often only have a few minutes to establish trust with a patient, that knowledge—and an accompanying sense of empathy—is critical. Less than a century ago, medical textbooks taught that Black and Hispanic patients had different nerve endings and thus felt less pain than white, non-Hispanic patients. Some physicians withheld pain medicine or inflicted other injustices on marginalized patients.
Today, fears and misconceptions still swirl among many of these communities about medical care and procedures like epidurals. Understanding this history “may help guide the conversation you have with your patient,” explains Sumler, “And ultimately, it will allow you to provide better care.”

Meanwhile, Sumler is looking to build a better future for the next generation of anesthesiologists and patients alike. She works closely with department leadership to better recruit medical students from diverse backgrounds, as well as how to support those students once they are at Emory.

Sumler adds that it’s important for youth in Atlanta to see diverse physicians, including anesthesiologists. To get a head start, she is partnering with the Emergency Medicine Department to visit local elementary schools to teach kids about healthy habits. She plans to expand on this program and other community engagement projects in the coming year. “Starting very early can make a huge difference in the community. I’m pretty excited. But—she adds, when it comes to DEI, “I’m always excited about everything.”

“When it comes to DEI, “I’m always excited about everything.”

- Dr. Michele Sumler
It's really nice as a lecturer to see that level of engagement from your audience.

- Dr. Mark Caridi-Scheible

Critical Care

A Lifesaving Mission: Bringing Advanced Care to Egypt
A Lifesaving Mission: Bringing Advanced Care to Egypt

Dr. Mark Caridi-Scheible
Associate Professor
Egypt is a growing country of 110 million people. That’s one-third of the population of the United States, but whereas the US has hundreds of critical care units capable of extracorporeal life support, Egypt has only two.

The African nation is a low-middle income country with one of the fastest developing economies in the world. That means healthcare also is rapidly evolving to embrace new equipment and treatments that were previously unaffordable. There is a voracious appetite for advanced technologies—and doctors who know how to use them. Yet although Egyptian physicians have comparable knowledge and expertise to their US counterparts, they have little access to continuing medical education that can bolster new skills.
When the US-based Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) launched an echocardiography course in Egypt, they needed people to teach the class. They turned to Andrew Patterson, the Chair of Emory's Department of Anesthesiology and expert in global health, for recommendations. Patterson immediately knew the right people for the job: physicians Mark Caridi-Scheible and Babar Fiza.

In March 2022, four faculty traveled to Cairo to teach at the Egyptian Critical Care Conference. It turned out to be one of the symposium’s highlights. “There were 25 people who pre-registered for the course, and we were supposed to cap at that. By the end of the conference, we had 50 people in the room,” remembers Caridi-Scheible.

During the Q&A session, attendees asked a slew of questions, some of which led to passionate debate. “It's really nice as a lecturer to see that level of engagement from your audience,” Caridi-Scheible reflects, “and to really know that they're enjoying the content but also really appreciating it.”

The Emory team is planning to return to Cairo in November for another ECMO conference, as well as a class on echocardiography. Meanwhile, Caridi-Scheible is partnering with a colleague in Egypt to prepare an open-access textbook for the ECMO course. “Our hope is that we'll be able to expand this outside of Egypt and into other countries in the Middle East,” he explains.

He adds that without the financial and moral support of the Anesthesiology Department, this work would have been impossible. “Our department has been so supportive of this,” he says, “We're incredibly fortunate.”
Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Residency Program
04
Anesthesiology and Critical Care Residency Program

Entire class 2023
Welcome Dr. DeBeaux to our Resident Education Team!

Program Director
Dr. Susan Smith

Associate Program Director - Grady
Dr. Sona Arora

Associate Program Director - EUH
Dr. Michelle Romej

Internship Director
Dr. Austin Debeaux
Welcome to our Interns!

Anesthesiology and Critical Care Residency Program

Class of 2027

- Arjun Bakshi, MD
  Mercer University SOM

- Alice Daramola, MD
  Columbia University College of P&S

- Kevin Flood, MD
  Emory University SOM

- Collin Goldstein, MD
  Florida International University COM

- Jonathan Heyman, MD
  Emory University SOM

- Katie Jackson, MD
  Emory University SOM

- Ashley Kim, MD
  University of Texas Health Science Center – Houston

- Carolyn Miller, MD
  Albert Einstein COM

- Rachel Nyenhuis, MD
  University of Central Florida COM

- Chiamaka Ohuru, MD
  Morehouse SOM

- Gregory Patterson, MD
  Medical College of Georgia - Augusta

- Benjamin Taylor, MD
  Ross University SOM
CA3 Resident Class of 2024

Chief Residents

Dr. Kitae Chang  Dr. Vats Ambai  Dr. Ji Dabin

Fellowship Matches
Resident Leaders

Chief Residents
Dr. Kitae Chang
Dr. Vats Ambai
Dr. Ji Dabin

Dr. David Reehl - Resident
Section Vice President, GSA.
Member, Government Affairs Committee, GSA

Dr. Jimmy (Gang) Chen
GMEC Representative

Dr. Madelinn Rice
GSA Representative to the
ASA House of Delegates

Dr. Vats Ambai - FAER Scholar

Dr. Vyshakh Shibu - CA-2
Class Representative

Dr. Lyndsay Sterling - FAER Scholar

Dr. Jordan Samo - CA1
Class Representative

Dr. Srish Sharma - Perioperative
Wellness Representative

Dr. Jonathan Heyman - PGY-1
Class Representative
Additions to Our Residency

- Chief’s Resident of the Month - Awarded in Recognition of residents that go above and beyond
- Evaluation and Feedback revamp-MyTIPs - Thank you to Dr. McKenzie Hollon!
- Preop/PACU - Moving to the CA1 year
- Four-Year Business of Anesthesia Curriculum - Thank you to Dr. James Barger, Dr. Jay Sanford and Dr. Matt Whalin!
- DEI Curriculum - Thank you to Dr. Michele Sumler!
- Teaching Collaboration Across the Curtain - Collaboration with General Surgery and Anesthesia Senior Residents

Residents in social and professional settings
CONGRATS
Chiefs' Resident of the Month, 2023

Dr. Nadine Naguib CA3
Dr. Madelinn Rice CA2
Dr. Tawanna Charlton CA1

Dr. Chase Elkin CA3
Dr. Lindsay Sterling CA2
Dr. Jordan Samo CA1

Dr. Lee Whitton CA3
Dr. Mason Triay CA2
Dr. Uma Vadyanathan CA1

Neelam Mehta CA3
Vyshak Shibu CA2
Ajay Patel CA1

Jarrett Davis CA3
Sriah Sharma CA2
Mandy Tate CA1

Sarah Dunseath CA3
Jordan Moraczewski CA2
Adam Kvinta CA3

July
August
September
October
November
December

Anesthesiology and Critical Care Residency Program
The 2023 Graduation Awards:

Faculty Teaching Awards

Excellence in Clinical Teaching: Alexander Papangelou, MD (Right)

Excellence in Mentoring: Abimbola (Bola) Faloye, MD

Excellence in Subspecialty: Erica Johnson, MD (Right)
The 2023 Graduation Awards:

Faculty Teaching Awards

Outstanding Resident Award – Corinne Bicknese, MD (Center)
Ahmet Sezgin Award - Bryan Nycz, MD (Middle)

Jerrold Levy Award of Excellence on Research
Elizabeth Ann Wilson, MD  Far-right)
Jerrold Levy Award of Excellence on Research
Elizabeth Ann Wilson, MD  Far-left
The 2023 Graduation Awards

Faculty Service Awards

Clinical Excellence – Robert Groff, MD (Right)

Most Valuable Player Award – Lily Young, MD

Rising Star Award – Elizabeth Ann Wilson, MD (Center)
American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Annual Meeting - October 2023

The Emory Department of Anesthesiology made a significant impact at this year’s ASA Annual meeting in San Francisco during October. Emory was represented by an impressive turnout of over two dozen of our faculty, residents, fellows, and researchers contributing to the dynamic platform of over 350 live and virtual educational sessions. We take particular pride in our learners performance - under the mentorship of the whole faculty group, our residents and fellows represented themselves and our department with great aplomb. As the future guardians of our specialty, the future looks very bright!
After a remarkably successful Match last March, the Recruitment Committee is in the midst of another exciting and competitive interview season! This fall, Emory received nearly 1600 applications for its twelve categorical spots in the Anesthesiology Residency Class of 2028. The members of the Committee represent multiple clinical sites and subspecialties within the department and generously devote their time to thorough and holistic application reviews. The Committee is currently interviewing a pool of truly stellar candidates from across the country, and even in the era of virtual interviews, the enthusiasm of our faculty and residents shines through! Applicants rave about the entertaining Game Night format of the Resident Meet & Greet Zoom and the thorough FAQ handout developed by our Chief Residents. The Committee looks forward to the 2024 Match and to welcoming the new intern class in July!
The Emory University School of Medicine Anesthesia Residency program is dedicated to researching, developing, and instructing perioperative simulation for residents and fellows. The simulation experience, led by our Director of Simulation, Dr. Kori Scott Ford, plays a crucial role in our educational curriculum.

Our educational goals include cultivating fundamental technical skills, refining decision-making abilities, and evaluating competencies during residency. Simulation stands out by providing an opportunity to train residents and fellows in managing life-threatening emergencies and common operating room scenarios within a controlled environment. The principles of Crisis Resource Management are also imparted in the Simulation Lab.

The simulation journey commences during CA-1 orientation, where new residents build confidence through intensive simulations focused on challenging airway skills and team-based management of OR emergencies. Training encompasses handling situations such as malignant hyperthermia, shock, and anaphylaxis, along with reinforcing technical skills. This comprehensive training remains an integral part of the residency curriculum.

Our program is committed to leveraging simulation techniques as a vital and innovative teaching tool, enabling learners to establish a solid foundation and acquire the competencies essential to becoming an anesthesiologist. This educational experience is invaluable, significantly enhancing the overall residency journey.
Mentor Me

Mentor ME is a one-on-one mentoring program for Emory Anesthesiology Residents that is directed by Dr. Faloye. The program matches each resident with a mentor from the first year through the final training year. Its mission is to provide active assistance, support, and guidance to all residents in the Emory Anesthesiology Residency Program. The goal is to promote wellness, stimulate personal and academic growth, and develop excellent perioperative clinicians. Additionally, Dr. Bola Faloye has created a peer mentorship program for the residents.

Thank you, Dr. Bola Faloye!

PODS

Now in its 14th year, the Pod Program continues to be a key source of mentorship and support for Emory Anesthesiology residents. Each Pod is led by a faculty preceptor and includes one resident from each class. These small groups meet a few times per year to catch up and bond over activities ranging from cozy dinners to axe throwing. One or two Pods boast Emeritus members, and some face off head-to-head in bocce courts and bowling alleys to see who will reign supreme. The camaraderie and connections forged through the Pod system foster resident wellness, create lasting friendships, and offer a source of informal professional guidance from the earliest weeks of residency.
Each year Dr. Andrew Bowman coaches our CA3’s to develop a Grand Rounds presentation. These presentations are scored by a standardized group of faculty and a winner is selected. The winner is coached and then presents an in-person formal Grand Rounds presentation for the entire department.

Thank you, Dr. Bowman!

This year’s winner is Dr. Adnan Raslan. Dr. Raslan was mentored by Dr. Amit Prabhakar and Dr. Chinedu Okpukpara and his presentation was entitled "Anesthesia Staffing: Overall Strategies and the Role of Residents."

Dr. Adnan Raslan presenting at Grand Rounds
Our POCUS (Point of Care Ultrasound) rotation has seen aggressive expansion and as a result, interns, junior AND senior anesthesia residents have an opportunity to train formally. Residents are also eligible for certification through the ASA and several have obtained certification (including one of our interns...Dr. Heyman!).

A huge thank you to so many of the faculty for helping to develop both our POCUS and TEE curriculum. Dr. McKenzie Hollon along with Dr. Caitlin Bradley and Dr. Ian McCullough have worked tirelessly to make the POCUS curriculum a success and we are incredibly grateful. A warm thanks to Dr. Chris Ma and Dr. Dan Vioxx for their tireless work at creating and maintaining a TEE curriculum in both the OR as well as in simulation. Our residents now can choose a path for BASIC Echocardiographic certification should they elect to do so.
Residents in Global Health

Our residents have an opportunity to participate in Global Health through our own School of Medicine’s Office of Global Health. In May of 2023, two of our residents, Dr. Corinne Bicknesse and Dr. Hande Bilen travelled to Ethiopia and spent the month executing a year long project they had developed as Global Health Scholars. Emory University’s Global Health Scholars is a designation awarded to outstanding residents who develop projects to contribute to the overall mission of infrastructure development. Here you can see Dr. Bilen and Dr. Bicknesse at an Ethiopian tea ceremony with our Director of Global Health, Dr. Cinnamon Sullivan. In May of 2024, Dr. Nadine Naguib will also travel to Ethiopia as a Global Scholar.
Accolades
# Newsweek's Best Hospitals 2023

## Worlds Best Hospitals - Top 250
- Emory University Hospital (EUH) #174

## Best Hospitals - In the United States
- Emory University Hospital (EUH) #34
- Emory Saint Joseph’s University Hospital (EUH) #97
- Emory Johns Creek Hospital (EJCH) #224
- Emory University Hospital Midtown (EUHM) #265

## Best Hospitals in Georgia
- Emory University Hospital (EUH) #1
- Emory Saint Joseph’s University Hospital (EUH) #2
- Emory Johns Creek Hospital (EJCH) #3
- Emory University Hospital Midtown (EUHM) #5
Promotions and Awards

Emory University School of Medicine, Dean’s Teaching Award
Promotion to Associate Professor
Department of Anesthesiology, Hidden Gem Award
Emory Clinical Distinctions

Jennifer Stever, MMSc
Dr. Jamie Kitzman
Dr. Ellen Richter
Distinguished Physician
Dr. Billynda McAdoo
Dr. Heather Samady
Eminent Physician
Dr. Dawn Manning-Williams
Dr. Tom Philpot
Dr. Steve Tosone

National Committees

Congenital Cardiac Anesthesia Society
Dr. Anna Cossu – Chair, Communications Committee
Dr. Stephanie Grant – Chair, Pediatric Cardiac Anesthesiology Fellowship Program Directors Group

ACGME
Dr. Anne Marie McKenzie-Brown - Vice Chair, Anesthesiology Review Committee

ABA
Dr. Anne Marie McKenzie-Brown - Chair, Pain Medicine Examination Committee
Thank you for considering a gift to Emory University. If you have questions or need assistance making a gift, contact:

Matt Drohan  
Senior Administrator  
Department of Anesthesiology  
Emory Healthcare | Emory University  
drohan@emory.edu

Anne Marie McKenzie-Brown, M.D.  
Professor  
Vice Chair, Professional Development  
Emory Department of Anesthesiology  
amckenz@emory.edu

https://med.emory.edu/departments/anesthesiology/give/index.html

https://www.instagram.com/emoryanesthesiology/
https://www.facebook.com/anesthesia.emory
https://twitter.com/EmoryAnesthesia
Tell us about your life events and/or share a selfie with a cool view to show us what you’re doing at work. We want to celebrate the accomplishments of our alumni on social media, in our Annual Review, and on our website. Share your own good news or shout out an alumni colleague or friend (with their permission).