

SUMMER 2021

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Department of Anesthesiology at
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Sandberg named Chief of Staff for Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital

By John Howser

Originally published in the VUMC Reporter on July 7, 2021

Warren Sandberg, MD, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Anesthesiology, and Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital's (VUAH) chief of staff for Perioperative and Critical Care Service, has been named as the hospital's new Chief of Staff effective immediately. Through this promotion, Sandberg, who is also professor of Surgery and Biomedical Informatics,

is expanding the scope of his responsibilities to include oversight for all adult inpatient admissions and discharges and inpatient surgical and intensive care throughput goals.

Since 2018, Sandberg has served as VUAH's co-chief of staff during a period of sustained growth in inpatient volumes driven in part by a massive influx of critically ill COVID-19 patients throughout much of 2020.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Pandharipande named to hold VUMC endowed directorship

From article by Nancy Humphrey originally published in the VUMC Reporter on March 25, 2021

Pratik Pandharipande, MD, MSCI, is one of the eight leaders from across Vanderbilt University Medical Center to have been named as holders of endowed directorships. He is the holder of the **James Tayloe Gwathmey Directorship in Anesthesiology**.

"Endowed directorships honor and support leaders of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Pratik Pandharipande, MD, MSCI

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The summer of 2021 has been busy for our department. Our accomplishments in the areas of clinical care, education, and research are significant.

For clinical care, the appointment of Srijaya Reddy, MD, MBA, as the Division Chief of Pediatric Anesthesiology is quite the accomplishment. The division flourished during her interim tenure.

The division has seen thriving mentorship, numerous leadership opportunities, and strong recruitment. This has put the division on an upward trajectory expected to continue under her leadership.

Summer also means we get to welcome a new resident class. We look forward to seeing what this class does in the future.

Education continues to be a high point for the department, with the induction of four more department members to the Academy for Excellence in Education. The AEE believes in fostering educational excellence, innovation, leadership, and scholarship. The addition of more educators from our department is a testament to our educational priorities.

If you want a glimpse of how busy the department is in terms of research, look no further than our multiple pages of recent publications. Assistant Professor Marcos Lopez, MD, is one of the five VUMC faculty members to receive ASCI's Young Physician-Scientist Award. This award recognizes those early in their careers who have made notable achievements in research.

I expect the department will continue to excel long after the hot summer days are over. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish. ♦



*Warren Sandberg, MD, PhD
Chair, Department of
Anesthesiology*

Pandharipande continued from page 1

exceptional commitment who provide compassionate, world-class care, advance knowledge through groundbreaking research and train the next generation of leaders,” said Jeff Balser, MD, PhD, President and Chief Executive Officer for VUMC and Dean of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

“Generous individuals and families who are committed to VUMC’s future were crucial philanthropic partners, making gifts to fund several of these directorships. I am grateful for their support.”

The most recent directorships are spread throughout many different departments — highlighting individuals who impact patient care in myriad ways.

“We are delighted to honor these highly accomplished colleagues who make critical and important contributions to VUMC’s missions,” said David Raiford, MD, chief of clinical staff for VUMC and senior associate dean for Faculty Affairs. “Their nomination for this distinction is reviewed and endorsed by peers, affording special meaning for such recognition.”

Pandharipande, vice chair for Anesthesiology Faculty Affairs, professor of Anesthesiology and Surgery, and former chief of Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine, is an internationally recognized investigator in the area of delirium, sedation and neuropsychological impairments among the critically ill. Co-director of the Critical Illness, Brain Dysfunction, and Survivorship (CIBS) Center, his research focuses on the epidemiology of ICU-associated brain injury, its risk factors and improving survivorship. Pandharipande’s studies have significantly impacted the care of critically ill patients around the world. ♦

Sandberg continued from page 1

“Dr. Sandberg demonstrates outstanding leadership capabilities, along with considerable knowledge of the inner workings of our adult inpatient services. He has helped other members of the hospital’s leadership team address the ever-increasing demand for the tertiary and quaternary services that only VUMC offers. The experience he has gained over the past three years has prepared him well to help meet the hospital’s ongoing growth. I want to express my appreciation to Warren for this service in this new role,” said C. Wright Pinson, MBA, MD, Deputy CEO and Chief Health System Officer for VUMC.

Sandberg is internationally recognized for his expertise in the use of information systems data in the perioperative setting to continuously improve quality, safety and efficiency of care. His research focuses on clinical and medical informatics and examines factors affecting physician-patient communication, patient care technology, perioperative systems design and OR workflow management.

“Over the past three years Dr. Sandberg’s leadership and operational expertise have been invaluable to the success of our inpatient services, never more so than during the COVID pandemic. Broadening his responsibilities acknowledges this and positions him well to influence all aspects of VUMC’s

adult inpatient operations,” said David Raiford, MD, Chief of Clinical Staff for VUMC.

As chair of the Department of Anesthesiology and as VUAH Co-Chief of Staff Sandberg has championed numerous initiatives using clinical process and outcome data to drive care improvements.

Teams working in his area have helped patients recover more quickly from major surgery, leave the hospital earlier and have fewer side effects from their pain management, all without increased rates of unexpected readmission. In step with reductions in patients’ length of stay, the cost of care has decreased due to improved efficiency.

“It has been a true pleasure to watch Dr. Sandberg lead in partnership with our multidisciplinary team to ensure exemplary care for our patients. His consistency in ensuring that we as leaders go to the front lines to gather facts, gain insights and empower those close to the work has made a demonstrable impact. I look forward to watching him succeed and make an even bigger difference for our patients and families as he takes on this larger scope,” said Shon Dwyer, MBA, RN, President of VUAH.

Sandberg was recruited to VUMC in 2010 to serve as department chair for Anesthesiology. As chair, he has responsibility for the Department of Anesthesiology’s entire administrative, research, educational and clinical enterprise.

The department is currently home to more than 180 anesthesiologists, 180 nurse

anesthetists and 100 trainees. The department is currently ranked No. 11 in National Institutes of Health research funding. Its faculty routinely participates in or leads institutional initiatives designed to improve access to and the reliability of care delivery, and patient throughput and quality.

“I’ve always enjoyed building things and taking whatever I found around me and making it better,” said Sandberg. “During my time at VUMC, I’ve appreciated the central importance of building relationships, personal and professional, as the key to success in all other endeavors we undertake on behalf of our patients. VUMC is the preferred place where patients place their trust, and we, in turn, must give them the best experience we can. Through our relationships as friends and clinicians, we build the shared trust and experiences to fulfill our patients’ expectations. I’m truly looking forward to continuing to grow in this role, and appreciate the trust placed in me by VUMC leadership on behalf of our patients.”

Sandberg also serves on numerous national, VUMC and School of Medicine committees, boards and workgroups and participates in teaching and training across the entire educational continuum, from premedical students to advanced clinicians. In 2018, he was elected into the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) as a fellow. ♦

Lopez lands ASCI Young Physician-Scientist Award

From article **by Bill Snyder** originally published in the VUMC Reporter on April 14, 2021

Marcos Lopez, MD, is one of the five Vanderbilt University Medical Center faculty members to receive the Young Physician-Scientist Award from the American Society of Clinical Investigation (ASCI), an elite honor society of physician-scientists.

The awards, presented during the joint annual meeting of the ASCI, Association of American Physicians (AAP) and the American Physician Scientist

Association held virtually in Chicago, recognize physician-scientists early in their first faculty appointments who have made notable achievements in research.

Lopez, assistant professor of Anesthesiology in the Division of Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine, is investigating the role of impaired endothelial function and vascular reactivity in postoperative brain and kidney dysfunction, with the goal of developing novel approaches to treat it. ♦



Marcos Lopez, MD

AEE inducts four department members

The Academy for Excellence in Education (AEE) provides a forum to foster higher levels of participation and promote excellence and scholarship in the delivery of education to health professionals. The mission of the AEE is to enhance the educational environment in the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and VUMC by advocating for the development, support and recognition of dedicated educators, by sustaining a community of educators, and by fostering educational excellence, innovation, leadership and scholarship. The AEE elected 28 new members in 2021, four of whom are members of our department: **Nathan Ashby, MD, Clifford Bowens, MD, Douglas Hester, MD, and Jenna Sobey, MD.** ♦



Nathan Ashby, MD



Clifford Bowens, MD



Douglas Hester, MD



Jenna Sobey, MD

Departmental Promotions

Brian Allen, MD, was promoted to Associate Professor.

Bret Alvis, MD, was promoted to Associate Professor.

Arna Banerjee, MBBS, was promoted to Professor.

Jacob Clifton was promoted to Statistical Analyst.

Jerod Denton, PhD, was promoted to Tenured Professor.

Ashley Hall was promoted to Lead Administrative Assistant.

Dillon Heath, CRNA, was promoted to Service Specialist.

Antonio Hernandez, MD, MSCI, was promoted to Professor.

Elisabeth Hudson was promoted to Manager for Office of Educational Affairs.

Harrison Johnson was promoted to Assistant Director of Finance.

Judy Lashbrook was promoted to Senior Business Process Manager.

Dawn Martin was promoted to Program Manager.

Carrie Menser, MD, was promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology.

Jillian Powell was promoted to Administrative Manager.

Mias Pretorius, MBChB, MSCI, was promoted to Professor.

Dexmedetomidine and delirium

By Paul Govern
Originally published in the VUMC Reporter on June 21, 2021

Dexmedetomidine was approved in 1999 and today is used mainly in the intensive care setting for light to moderate sedation. Post-market studies of the drug have produced inconsistent safety results.

In new findings that are exclusively with regard to cardiac surgery patients, intraoperative dexmedetomidine — that is, the drug as administered during heart surgery — is associated with 85 percent greater risk of postoperative delirium and 29 percent greater risk of postoperative intubation and reintubation.

Meanwhile, dexmedetomidine administered to cardiac surgery patients postoperatively in the ICU is associated with 25 percent greater risk of 30-day mortality.

These findings, reported in *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery* by **Miklos Kertai, MD, PhD**, and colleagues, are based on records of 54,682 cardiac surgery patients from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons Adult Cardiac Surgery Database. The patients underwent cardiac surgery between July 2014 and December 2018.

Dexmedetomidine was also associated with minor, somewhat inconsistent differences in pain scores (at postop day three and hospital discharge).

On the study also from Vanderbilt University Medical Center were Ashish Shah, MD, Xiaoke Feng, MS, and Matthew Shotwell, PhD. They were joined by researchers from Virginia Commonwealth University, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and Missoula Anesthesiology. ♦



Miklos Kertai, MD, PhD

Celebrating departmental accomplishments



Congratulations to **Nicole Cavanaugh**, who recently achieved PACE certification. PACE (Professional Administrative Certification of Excellence) is a nationally-recognized certification and is administered through the American Society of Administrative Professionals.

Sterling Haring, DO, MPH, won first place for his abstract titled “EMS Administration of Naloxone Peaked During COVID-19” at the Tennessee Pain Society Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions.

Melissa McKittrick, MD, placed third for her abstract titled “Buprenorphine Management in the Acute Pain Setting” at the Tennessee Pain Society Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions.

Congratulations to **Jerod Denton, PhD**, for receiving NIH funding for his R01 submission on new insights into VRAC molecular structure and structure-function relationships.

Charina Pelayo, CRNA, is the winner of the DAISY Award. The DAISY Award honors nurses who provide above-and-beyond compassionate care to patients and families.

2021 Research Symposium Awards

Pittinger Prize in Basic Science Research: *Eric Delpire, PhD*
Pittinger Prize in Clinical/Translational Research: *Marcos Lopez, MD*
Pittinger Prize in Health Services/ Informatics: *Matthew Weinger, MD*
Roger England Research Award: *Tracie Baker*
Best Poster Presentations: *Melissa Kimlinger* and *Katherine Burelbach*
Best Oral Presentation: *Kevin Manz, PhD*

After a comprehensive national search led by an interdisciplinary committee of departmental and VCH leaders, we are thrilled to announce the appointment of **Srijaya Reddy, MD, MBA**, as the Division Chief of Pediatric Anesthesiology. Dr. Reddy has done an incredible job of providing leadership as the Interim Division Chief since October of 2020. I don't need to point out how challenging the past year and a half has been for all of us. Against that backdrop, Dr. Reddy has led the division with steady grace throughout these trying times. During her interim tenure, mentorship has flourished, numerous leadership opportunities have opened, and recruitment has been strong.

Dr. Reddy is an associate professor at VUMC and has substantial experience as a clinician-scholar in systems distinct from our own as well as the past three years at VUMC. Her professional interests are very much tied to clinical anesthesia and the development of quality care for complex surgery. She is also an avid collaborator and maintains connections to many prominent experts in her field around the country, while at the same time bringing along her colleagues at VUMC. Importantly, she is highly regarded by our surgeons and hospital leadership as an engaged, calm and capable clinician-expert.

The Pediatric Division is on an amazing upward trajectory, energized by 24 highly capable, committed faculty, working with an equally impressive complement of CRNAs, residents and fellows. Sri will continue working with departmental and hospital leadership teams enthusiastically dedicated to building on recent successes.

-Warren Sandberg, MD, PhD

New Hires

Bailey Barton
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

DNP, Nurse Anesthesia, Rush University College of Nursing, Chicago, IL (2018)
BSN, Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN (2013)

Fun Fact: I like golf and enjoy being outdoors.



Kendall Basham
Communications Coordinator
Office of the Chair

Education and Training:

BS, Journalism and Electronic Media, University of Knoxville, Knoxville, TN (2017)

Fun Fact: I thoroughly enjoy dystopian novels, politics, and making it to the end of a hike!



Margaret Bessey
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

MS, Nurse Anesthesia, Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia, Madison, TN (2008)

MS, Nursing, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (2002)

Fun Fact: I once auditioned for America's Got Talent.



Moncia Bhutiani, MD, MEd
Instructor
Multispecialty Adult Anesthesiology

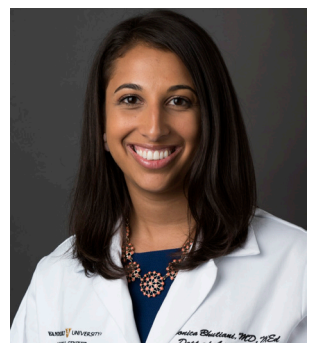
Education and Training:

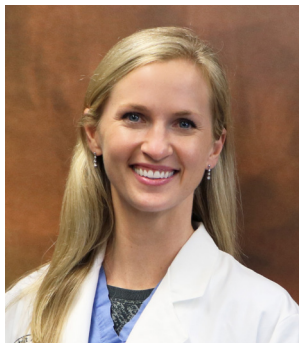
Residency, Anesthesiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2021)

MD, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, TN (2017)

MEd, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, TN (2017)

Fun Fact: I danced classical ballet and rhythmic tap throughout college and delved into Latin dancing during medical school.





Mandi Breymeyer
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

MS, Nurse Anesthesia, University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Columbia, SC (2019)

BSN, University of South Carolina, Spartanburg, SC (2016)

Fun Fact: I enjoy serving on mission trips in other countries.



Sue Buxton

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

MS, Nurse Anesthesia, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH (2020)

BSN, University of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY (2014)

Fun Fact: I make the most amazing chicken Parmesan.



Lexi Davis

Lead Administrative Assistant
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists

Fun Fact: I love to snorkel and hope to obtain my scuba certification one day soon. My favorite place is off the island of Anguilla.



Sarah Fandre, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology
Multispecialty Adult Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2009)

MD, Texas A&M College of Medicine, College Station, TX (2005)

Fun Fact: I have run three 200-mile relay races and plan to run more.



Michele Gravois

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

DNAP, Anesthesia, Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia, Madison, TN (2015)

MS, Nurse Anesthesia, University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL (2005)

BSN, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL (1998)

Fun Fact: I'm joyful and play well with others.

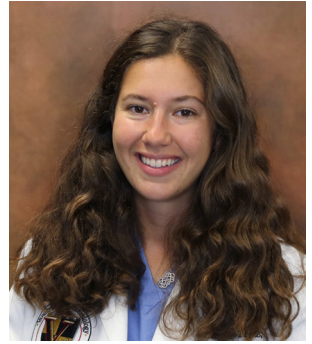
Emily Gilfert
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

DNAP, Anesthesia, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY (2021)

BSN, Alfred State College, Alfred, NY (2015)

Fun Fact: I am an average piano player.



Sadler Goodwin
Research Assistant I
Center for Research and Innovation in Systems Safety

Education and Training:

BS, Psychology, Troy University, Troy, AL (2020)

Fun Fact: I played Division-1 baseball throughout my time at college.



Helen Gould
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

DNAP, Nurse Anesthesia, Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia, Madison, TN (2020)

BSN, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, Boston, MA (2012)

Fun Fact: I played lacrosse in college and I have a cavapoo puppy.

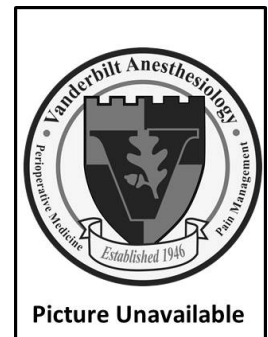


Chris Husin
Senior Administrative Assistant
Center for Research and Innovation in Systems Safety

Education and Training:

BA, Global Studies and Geography, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN (2021)

Fun Fact: I was once stranded in a small town in France during holiday on my semester abroad.



Gabrielle Illakowicz
Administrative Assistant
Office of Educational Affairs

Education and Training:

BS, Psychology, University of Houston, Houston, TX (2017)

Fun Fact: I am a Polish American. I can speak Polish fluently.





Chris Lensing, MD
Fellow
Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2021)

MD, Creighton University School of Medicine, Omaha, NE (2017)

Fun Fact: I was a water ski instructor throughout my college summers.



Tyler Leverich
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

MSN, Nurse Anesthesia, California State University, Fullerton, CA (2014)

BSN, Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, WI (2006)



Cara Lyle
Senior Administrative Assistant
Pediatric Cardiac Anesthesiology

Fun Fact: I love listening to music.



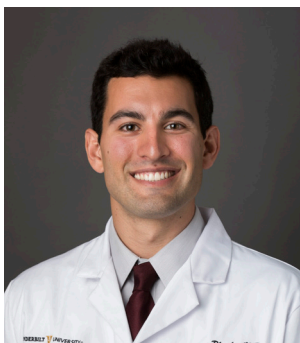
Jessica Oldham
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

MSN, Anesthesia, University of New England, Portland, ME (2009)

BSN, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN (2005)

Fun Fact: I studied abroad in Spain and speak Spanish.



Andreas Plackis, MD
Fellow
Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2021)

MD, University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine, Columbia, MO (2017)

Fun Fact: I love all racquet sports.

Chad Pritts, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology
Multispecialty Adult Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Fellowship, Critical Care Medicine, Stanford University, Stanford, CA (2009)

Residency, Anesthesiology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA (2008)

Residency, Emergency Medicine, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

MD, University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, FL (2000)

Fun Fact: My wife Brenda worked in finance and is a trained occupational therapist. Now she is a teacher, administrator, CEO, COO, CTO, CFO, and everything for our household. My daughters went to camp at Vanderbilt and loved every minute of it.



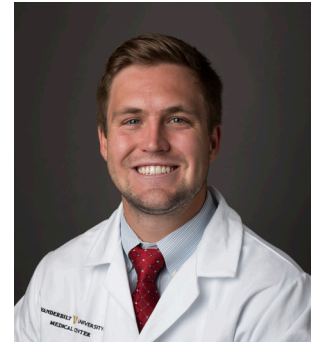
Jesse Ream, MD
Fellow
Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology

Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2021)

MD, University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Oklahoma City, OK (2017)

Fun Fact: I married my high school sweetheart.



Chris Reid
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

MS, Nurse Anesthesia, Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia, Madison, TN (2006)

BS, Psychology, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN (1998)

Fun Fact: I have visited five of the seven continents (North America, South America, Europe, Australia and Antarctica) and have been blessed to experience approximately 20 domestic and international destinations in the last 10 years mostly during my eight year hiatus from practicing anesthesia.



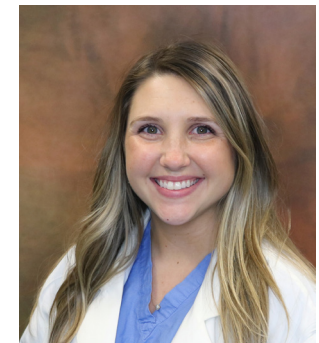
Makenzie Ruberto
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

DNAP, Nurse Anesthesia, Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia, Madison, TN (2021)

BSN, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN (2015)

Fun Fact: I have a huge family of nurses! Many cousins, and my mom is one of 10 girls and one boy. Nine of them are nurses.





Sharon Seats
Senior Administrative Assistant
Multispecialty Adult Anesthesiology

Fun Fact: I love flowers, reading and watching TV.

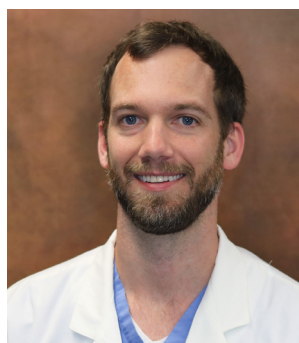


Brett Speer
Associate Program Manager
Office of Educational Affairs

Education and Training:

BA, Political Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN (2004)

Fun Fact: I have been playing hockey since I was 5 years old, and I still play in Nashville's Adults Ice Hockey league.



Stephen Thiele
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

DNAP, Anesthesia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA (2019)

BA, Economics, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA (2007)

Fun Fact: I make unbelievably clear ice cubes.



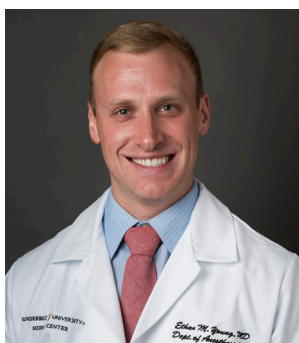
Jacob Turner
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Education and Training:

DNP, Nurse Anesthesia, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL (2019)

BSN, Methodist College, Peoria, IL (2013)

Fun Fact: I love to cook, learn new things, ride motocross and play guitar.



Ethan Young, MD
Instructor of Clinical Anesthesiology
Multispecialty Adult Anesthesiology

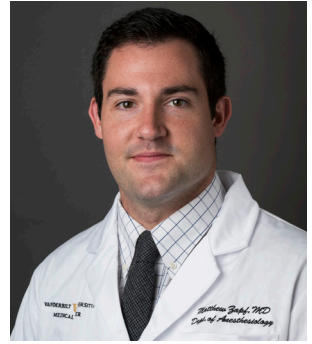
Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2021)

MD, University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine, Vermillion, SD (2017)

Fun Fact: I'm a first generation physician, avid golfer, and snow skiing enthusiast.

Matt Zapf, MD
Instructor
Multispecialty Adult Anesthesiology



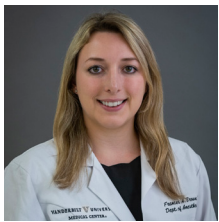
Education and Training:

Residency, Anesthesiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN (2021)

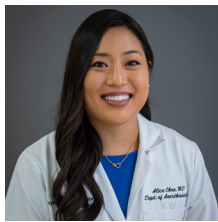
MD, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, Maywood, IL (2017)

Fun Fact: We have a rescue dog named Cody.

PGY-1 Class of 2021-2022



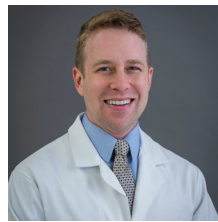
Alex Brown, MD



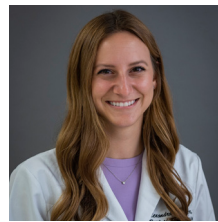
Alice Chae, MD



Colette Ciresi, MD



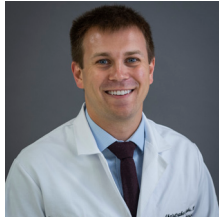
Joshua Coleman, MD



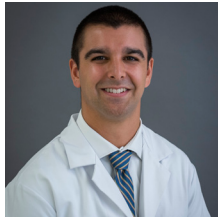
Alexandra Feldner, MD



Sarah Gallegos, DO



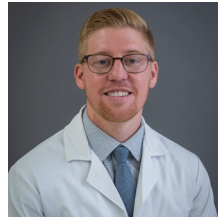
Chris Jenks, MD



John Johnson, MD



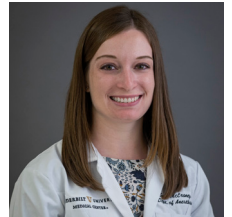
Kelsei Keene, MD



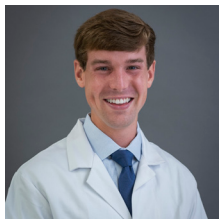
Kyle Kinslow, MD



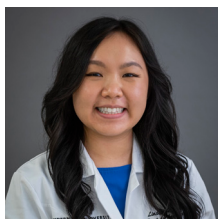
Mary Kay Kujak, MD



Sarah Lopez, MD



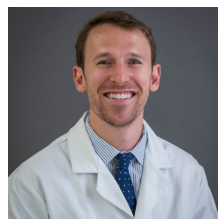
David Newton, MD



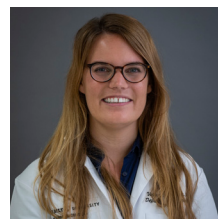
Lindsey Nguyen, MD



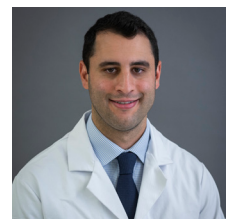
Chandra Rathnam, MD



Eric Samuelson, MD



Victoria Stabile, MD



Alex Tobias, MD

Recent Publications

Adams CD, Reddy SK, Phillips JD, Emerson BR. Hypoglossal nerve stimulator placement in a child with severe refractory OSA: a novel procedure in the paediatric population. *BMJ Case Rep.* 2021 May 4;14(5):e242592. doi: 10.1136/bcr-2021-242592. PMID: 33947679; PMCID: PMC8098956.

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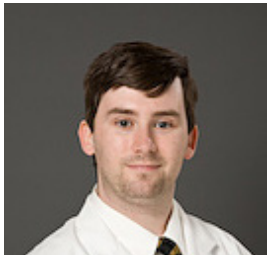
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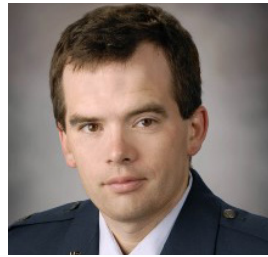
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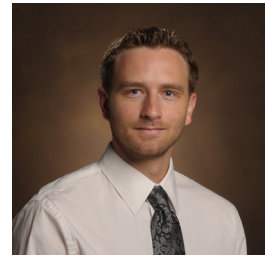
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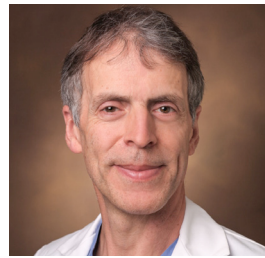
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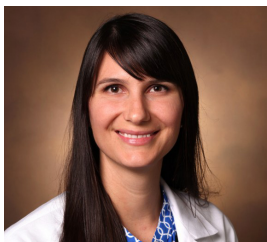
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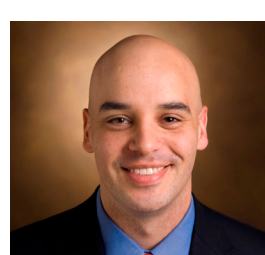
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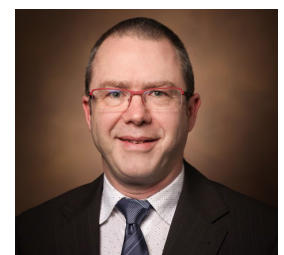
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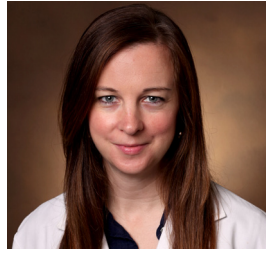
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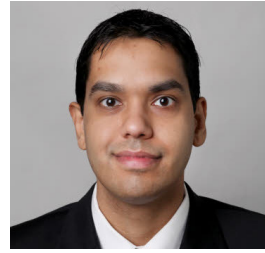
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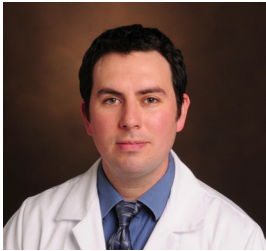
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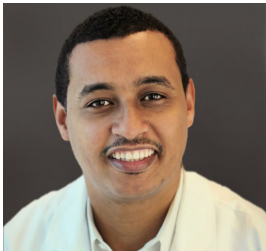
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