

**AUA**

Association of University Anesthesiologists

UPDATE

Association of University Anesthesiologists UPDATE | 2025 | Summer Issue

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

It finally arrived! Our second back to the university meeting for the Association of University Anesthesiologists (AUA) is in the books! Our theme was "Collaboration, Construction and Focus." Hence, together with Harvard University, Harvard Medical School and the Harvard Anesthesia Executive Committee, we formulated a collaborative, constructive and focused meeting that we sincerely hope will continue to inspire both our academic and non-academic colleagues. Interestingly enough, knowing that the majority of our residents are developed in academic centers dare we suggest that even the HCA Anesthesiologist could find community and commonality in the content of AUA 2025.



Dolores B. Njoku, MD
President, AUA
Washington University in
St. Louis
St. Louis, MO

In our annual meeting, we wanted to make space for honoring past and current successes as well as discussing past and current challenges. In honor of International Women's Day, we paid homage to three iconic women who served as president of the AUA: Dr. Margaret Wood (1997-2000), Dr. Roberta Hines (2006-2008) and Dr. Jeanine Wiener-Kronish (2016-2018). Our keynote speaker, who is an expert in the education space, Dr. Lisa Howley provided a comprehensive journey for the transition to residency. Dr. Howley also encouraged discussions with the American Association of Medical Colleges that was both insightful and timely. For our president's panel, the current chair of the Council of Faculty and Academic Societies (CFAS) as well as the Chair of Surgery at Yale and the incoming Dean of the University of Wisconsin – Madison Schools of Medicine and Public Health, Dr. Nita Ahuja provided insights and experiences regarding the leadership continuum. In case you were unable to attend the AUA annual meeting or if you want to spread the message to your divisions, departments and universities, both the Keynote and President's panel lectures are available online.

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[Click here to view or print the AUA UPDATE newsletter.](#)

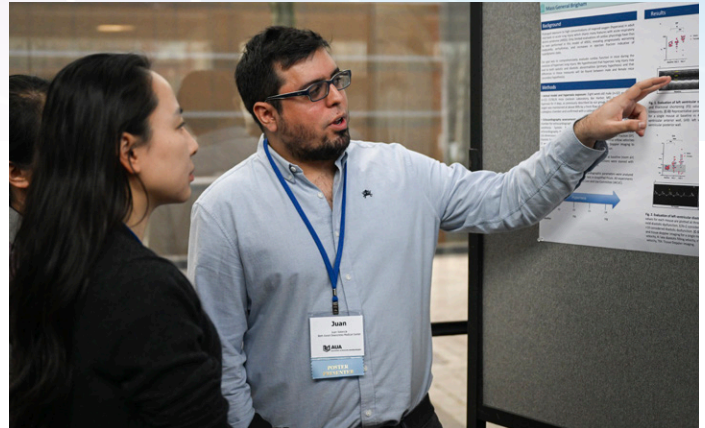
If you weren't inspired by our representatives from the AAMC and the CFAS, Dr. Newman and Dr. Kohane guided us through space and time, respectively. Honestly, I am a long-time fan of space travel and Dr. Newman has only




enhanced my fascination and respect with our Space Program. Dr. Kohane has enhanced my knowledge regarding the sometimes dreaded “AI” and has challenged us as a specialty to provide guidance and or recommendations with one voice. It is my opinion that AUA is poised for this challenge and in this way can fulfill our mission to “promote excellence in academic anesthesiology and our vision to



advance academic anesthesiology as a dynamic specialty that makes significant contributions to medicine, science, and society.”



My favorite part of AUA 2025 is always the oral and poster presentations. This is where it all begins and where it began for all of us on the council. Listening to the various presentations, I wonder, if am I listening to next AUA Executive Council members or even the next AUA President? Who knows? I truly hope so. Nevertheless, by the time the meeting ended the AUA executive council, AUA presenters and AUA staff were both elated and relieved. We had presented our best effort with a promise for further improvements in the future. Thank you to all that have reached out to me and provided me with your feedback! I am counting on you to have a stake in building this! It is our role and our legacy and now more than ever we need to own this.

In 2026, our annual meeting will be in Seattle, WA, March 26 – 29, 2026 and just happens to be sandwiched between National Puppy Day (March 23) and National Doctor's Day (March 30). I am no expert on holidays but that looks fine to me! Make your plans to come together and share your voice as we continue to shape the future of Academic Anesthesiology! Working together we can get this done! 

*Click Here to for more photos
from the Annual Meeting!*

Photo credit: Jim Rathmell



FROM THE MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD (MEB): AUA Annual Meeting 2025 – MEB Awards

The Membership Engagement Advisory Board (MEB) hosted the Member Reception at the historic Harvard Club, a fitting end to a meeting day where we celebrated the presentation of the MEB awards by Co-Chairs Drs. Valerie Armstead and Michael Aziz following the morning meeting session. These awards recognize the commitment of AUA members to the field of anesthesiology, their colleagues and the progression of academic medicine. The awards are similarly a reflection of the mission of the MEB by highlighting the many ways an AUA membership richly contributes to both individual careers and the growth of our specialty.

The MEB awards members in three categories, starting with the Rising Star Award, presented to an AUA Associate Member and awarded this year to Dr. Emmett Whitaker, Associate Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine at Johns Hopkins in recognition of his outstanding work as part of the AUA Mentoring Program. Dr. Maya Hastie, Professor of Anesthesiology at Columbia University received the Active Member of the Year Award in recognition of her service to the AUA, including her tenure on the Leadership Advisory Board where she served as the inaugural Chair.



Ameeka Pannu, MD

AUA, Member,
Membership Engagement
Advisory Board
Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center
Boston, MA

Dr. Jeffrey Kirsch, Professor of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine at the University of Washington received the Lifetime Achievement Award following many nominations from academic leaders across the nation who highlighted his many contributions in research, education and mentoring in anesthesia across multiple institutions including Johns Hopkins, the Medical College of Wisconsin, OHSU and UW. Comments shared from nominators included the many objective measures of his success as a leader and spoke to his tremendous character and impact on individuals and groups alike. A member of the AUA since 1991, Dr. Kirsch has served in many roles, including as President from 2020 to 2022 with an indelible impact on its members and growth. His decisions as a leader, vision, strategy and efforts have directly contributed to the AUA's position as a preeminent academic anesthesia society today. Dr. Aziz's comments, including the pivotal role Dr. Kirsch had on his own career were followed by Dr. Kirsch's gracious acceptance of this award to a moving and powerful standing ovation. 📖

Recollection of words by Dr. Valerie E. Armstead introducing the AUA Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Maya Hastie (in absentia):

Dr. Maya Hastie is a distinguished anesthesiologist, educator, and leader who has made significant contributions to the field of anesthesiology, particularly in medical education, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), and professional organizations. Her work with the Association of University Anesthesiologists (AUA) and Columbia University highlights her impact on academic anesthesiology.

Leadership in the Association of University Anesthesiologists (AUA)

Dr. Hastie served as the inaugural chair of the first AUA Leadership Advisory Board (LAB). Her tenure focused on fostering mentorship, enhancing diversity, and promoting scholarly collaboration. She has been a generous collaborator & co-author throughout her membership in the AUA. Maya has done a yeoman's job in clearing the hurdles for what are probably the most significant publications AUA collaborators. Most notably the January 2025 results of the AUA survey about sexual harassment among academic anesthesiology faculty published in *Anesthesia & Analgesia*. These works are often cited, and Dr. Hastie has proven to be much sought after representative of the AUA as a visiting Professor or keynote speaker at other institutions.

Her leadership in the AUA and at Columbia University continues to inspire the next generation of anesthesiologists, ensuring progress in both clinical practice and medical education.

Dr. Maya Hastie is most deserving of this award.



FROM THE MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD (MEB): Challenges Currently Facing University Anesthesiologists

University anesthesiologists encounter a variety of challenges that can hinder their professional effectiveness and overall satisfaction within their roles. One significant challenge is the increasing demands for academic productivity alongside clinical responsibilities. The shrinkage of our work force mean faculty members often find themselves balancing the need to produce research, teach medical students and residents, and provide high-quality patient care. This multifaceted role can lead to burnout, making it essential for institutions to create supportive environments that prioritize wellness and provide resources for managing these competing demands.

Another challenge faced by university anesthesiologists is the evolving landscape of healthcare regulations and reimbursement models given the political climate. Changes in policies can create uncertainty regarding funding for research and clinical practices. Anesthesiologists must stay informed about these developments to adapt their strategies accordingly. Organizations that offer comprehensive training and resources related to regulatory compliance and financial management can help their members navigate these complexities, ultimately leading to enhanced member retention and engagement.

Social media engagement also presents both opportunities and challenges for university anesthesiologists. While these platforms can facilitate networking and professional development, they can also contribute to information overload and the spread of misinformation. University anesthesiologists need guidance on how to effectively utilize social media for professional purposes while maintaining their personal boundaries. By providing clear guidelines and training on best practices for online engagement, associations can empower their members to leverage social media for collaboration and knowledge sharing without compromising their well-being.

Personalized member experiences are critical for fostering a sense of belonging among university anesthesiologists. However, creating tailored experiences can be challenging due to the diverse backgrounds, interests, and needs of the membership base. Organizations must invest in data analytics tools to gather insights on member preferences and engagement patterns. This information can inform the development of targeted programs and resources that resonate with members, enhancing their overall experience and increasing retention rates.

Lastly, the organization of events and networking opportunities remains a crucial aspect of member engagement. However, ensuring these events are relevant and valuable can be a logistical challenge. The AUA strived to achieve this for the 2025 annual meeting. University anesthesiologists often have varying schedules and commitments that can make attendance difficult. The main portion of the meeting being a weekend event addresses the attendance issue by allowing greater accessibility. By prioritizing flexibility in event planning and actively soliciting member feedback on preferred formats and topics, the MEB hopes create opportunities for connection and professional development.📖



**Valerie E.
Armstead, MD,
DABA, FASA**

*AUA, Co-chair,
Membership Engagement
Advisory Board*

*Professor of
Anesthesiology,
Clinician Educator*

*Department of
Anesthesiology*

*Temple University Lewis
Katz School of Medicine
Philadelphia, PA*

LEADERSHIP ADVISORY BOARD (LAB) REPORT:

AUA 2025 Meeting – LAB Recap

At the 2025 Association of University Anesthesiologists (AUA) Annual Meeting, a compelling Leadership Advisory Board (LAB) panel discussion titled “Rediscovering Joy in Academic Anesthesiology: Strategies for Professional Fulfillment” took center stage, offering practical insights into combatting burnout and reigniting meaning and purpose in academic medicine. Moderated by Dr. Ted Sakai (LAB Chair), the session brought together three national thought leaders across anesthesiology and psychiatry, each offering evidence-based strategies to help clinicians thrive.

Why This Session Mattered

Burnout continues to be a significant issue in academic anesthesiology. The pressures of clinical care, research, teaching, and administration prepared with expectations for work-life balance—can diminish a sense of fulfillment and lead to attrition. This LAB panel addressed the roots of professional fulfillment, its critical link to institutional culture, and what academic departments can do to foster wellness and career satisfaction.

Panel Highlights and Presentations

Dr. Elizabeth Duggan

Department of Anesthesiology, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Talk: “Frameworks for Understanding and Enhancing Well-Being”

Dr. Duggan explored the complex interplay between general well-being and workplace well-being, emphasizing that while they are closely related, workplace-specific influences such as value alignment, leadership style, and task variety play a significant role. She introduced a variety of validated tools, including the Stanford Professional Fulfillment Index (PFI) and the Well-Being Influencers of Healthcare (WISH) survey, for assessing well-being in clinical settings. Her presentation underscored the importance of meaning at work—highlighting that individuals who perceive their work as purposeful report greater psychological resilience, vocational clarity, and institutional trust.

Dr. Shahla Siddiqui

Department of Anesthesiology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Talk: “Determinants of Professional Fulfillment and Burnout Among Intensivists”

Dr. Siddiqui presented findings from a national survey of critical care anesthesiologists that revealed striking variability in professional fulfillment. The data showed that those over 45 years old, those with reduced ICU coverage, and those in leadership roles like medical directors reported significantly higher levels of fulfillment. Key stressors identified included 24/7 ICU availability, staffing shortages, and high patient complexity. In contrast, perceived public appreciation during the COVID-19 pandemic emerged as a potential buffer against burnout. Dr. Siddiqui framed “ikigai”—the Japanese concept of life purpose—as a useful lens through which to rediscover meaning in academic medicine.

Dr. Ashwini Nadkarni

Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School / Brigham and Women’s Hospital

Talk: “When Compromised Professional Fulfillment Compromises Professionalism”

Dr. Nadkarni delivered a powerful presentation linking professional fulfillment to professionalism itself. Drawing on concepts like “moral injury” and “culture of reciprocity,” she argued that clinician well-being is foundational to maintaining ethical practice and compassionate care. She outlined a five-step roadmap toward fulfillment:

1. Self-awareness – through validated tools like the Maslach Burnout Inventory
2. Mental health support – including therapy and alternative wellness modalities
3. Coaching – to build emotional intelligence and leadership skills
4. Mentorship and sponsorship – both psychosocial and strategic
5. Peer support through Balint groups – to foster values alignment and emotional resilience



Tetsuro Sakai, MD, PhD, MHA, FASA
Chair of LAB
Professor and Chair,
Department of
Anesthesiology,
University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC

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She stressed that professional joy and humanistic care are deeply interdependent, and academic institutions must create environments where both can thrive.

Key Takeaways and Institutional Action

- Professional fulfillment is not a luxury but a professional imperative.
- Institutions must invest in systemic solutions: flexible scheduling, leadership development, recognition structures, and inclusive wellness initiatives.
- A “culture of reciprocity” should replace the culture of overwork—where transparency, appreciation, and autonomy are the norm.
- Assessment tools like PFI and WISH offer actionable insights for departmental improvement.

This LAB panel not only highlighted the urgency of addressing burnout in academic anesthesiology but also offered a hopeful vision: with strategic, evidence-based efforts, academic departments can foster environments where physicians don’t just survive—but truly flourish.

Honoring Excellence in Anesthesiology: Congratulations to Our AUA Awardees!

We are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding achievements of two exceptional leaders in academic anesthesiology who have been recognized by the Association of University Anesthesiologists (AUA) for their remarkable contributions to mentorship and equity.

Recipient of the 2025 IDEAL Award:

Dr. Sophia P. Poorsattar

Assistant Clinical Professor, UCLA

Dr. Sophia Poorsattar has been honored with the 2025 Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Acceptance, and Leadership (IDEAL) Award for her transformative efforts in promoting health equity and inclusion within anesthesiology. At UCLA, she has spearheaded initiatives such as the Health Equity Curriculum and has led the innovative “Project Lead the Way,” inspiring hundreds of underrepresented high school students to pursue careers in STEM. Her impact reaches from the local community to national platforms, and her leadership has been recognized by professional societies and even state legislators.

Recipient of the 2025 Mentoring Award

Dr. Pratik Pandharipande

Professor and Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

A visionary mentor and internationally recognized physician-scientist, Dr. Pratik Pandharipande is the recipient of the 2025 AUA Mentoring Award. His unparalleled mentorship has guided numerous mentees to academic success, NIH funding, and leadership roles across anesthesiology, surgery, and critical care. As co-director of the world-renowned Critical Illness, Brain Dysfunction, and Survivorship (CIBS) Center, Dr. Pandharipande has cultivated a legacy of excellence in research, career development, and faculty advancement that continues to shape the future of academic medicine.

Please join us in congratulating Drs. Poorsattar and Pandharipande on these well-deserved honors. Their leadership and dedication continue to inspire our community and elevate the field of anesthesiology. 📖

Member Nominations

Nominate a Colleague for AUA Membership



AUA

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*Next Round of Nominations
are Opening June 15!*

FROM THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD (SAB): SAB's Current and Future Role for Science within our Specialty

The 2025 AUA Annual Meeting in Boston was a fantastic highlight for members of the SAB team thanks to all the people who attended and the great feedback we received from the audience. Attendees were especially appreciative of the mock grant review/study section, panel discussions, poster sessions and moderation. In fact, the SAB team was so excited that we started planning other panel discussion topics for 2026 right at the meeting. Attendance and engagement at the mock study section was really encouraging, especially given the additional option of virtual attendance. We have sent out a survey to attendees and others and will share the results soon.

In addition to participating in the AUA webinar series with topics focussing on the future of science and academia in our specialty, we sincerely hope that SAB can help grow the new generation of physician-scientists. Although there are several challenges in our current academic and political environment, the number of medical students who are excited about becoming physician-scientists in our specialty is in fact growing (e.g. the increasing number of applications for the FAER MSARF program, medical student attendees at AUA, continued competitiveness of top academic anesthesia residency programs). There is unpublished data that young faculty starting off on a physician scientist track and being funded through one of our societies' foundation grant mechanisms are more successful in staying within academia and being funded through federal or other larger extramural funding mechanisms. However, as a member of the NIH Surgery Anesthesia and Trauma (SAT) study section, the pressures faced by applicants to write competitive, potentially fundable grants, and conversely, the pressure on the review panel to support our field without bias when competing with our surgical colleagues, are palpable. This becomes especially important in the current environment with hiring and financial challenges in our specialty exacerbated by the federal funding issues. In spite of these difficult issues, the AUA and the SAB should take the lead in encouraging our medical students, residents/fellows and our junior faculty in staying committed to the academic mission of our specialty, investing their time and talent into innovative research across the discovery-translation-application spectrum, and work with academic institutions to help improve the environment for physician-scientists who are the future of our society. 📖



Christina Pabelick, MD
Chair, Scientific Advisory Board
Mayo Clinic
Rochester, MN

Don't forget to follow AUA on X!

X @AUA_Anesthesia



FROM THE EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD (EAB):

Precision Medical Education: Cutting Edge Teaching and Learning

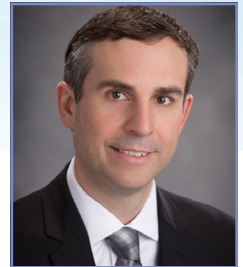
The AMA defines Precision Medical Education (PME) as education “focused on individualized learning that aligns with learner needs as well as the needs of current and future patients.” In medical education, PME represents the next frontier in teaching and learning. By providing timely educational opportunities that meet learners’ needs and adapt to their learning styles, PME promises to enhance educational efficiency and potentiate the acquisition of competencies necessary to become skilled physicians by providing timely educational opportunities that meet learners’ needs and adapt to their learning styles. This approach seeks to train the learners of the future to become “Master Adaptive Learners.” These master adaptive learners must be intellectually agile and able to seek out and integrate new knowledge seamlessly in the face of constantly changing information and developments. To facilitate master adaptive learning, PME requires significant amounts of objective data, which must then be analyzed and mapped to content areas for educational opportunities. This complex process requires a variety of creative solutions for further development.

Thematically, Artificial Intelligence (AI) underpins the programming of many modern PME paradigms. When provided with performance data or criteria on learning objectives, AI can help direct learners toward relevant content. While great progress has already been made, adaptive AI can further potentiate the goals of PME by addressing gaps in current systems. For example, AI can adapt not just the content delivered but also the mode of delivery (text, images, sound, etc.). Soon, AI will facilitate the adaptive learning protocols by linking performance data on the platform to relevant learning content while simultaneously exporting pertinent data to milestone reporting systems to enable accurate and immediate mapping of trainee performance. Further developing the connections between AI-enhanced platforms, objective performance data, curated content, customized delivery modalities, and milestone assessment systems holds tremendous promise for realizing the full potential of PME.

At the meeting in Boston, the Educational Advisory Board (EAB) asked three experts to share their unique approaches to precision medical education. The goal was to inspire our membership to take the next steps toward advancing this important area of education.

Foundations for Precision Education

Dr. Matthew Caldwell, an Associate Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Michigan, utilizes the electronic health record to advance competency-based graduate medical education through precision education. Supported by a Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER) Research in Education Grant, Dr. Caldwell’s study spans multiple centers and years, involving hundreds of residents. The INSPECT study aims to quantify and describe anesthesiology residents’ experiences with severe intraoperative hemorrhage resuscitation, determine factors associated with low exposure, and develop data visualization tools for program directors to improve resident education. The study outcomes focus on severe hemorrhage resuscitation and transfusion management, with subgroup analyses considering emergency status and surgical subgroups. The data can be used to smooth variability across residents, scaffold education, and identify high-value, low-frequency scenarios for simulation, ultimately enhancing graduate medical education through experiential learning and individualized plans. This work quantifying the hemorrhage resuscitation experience of anesthesiology residents lays the foundation for additional exploration using the quality-controlled data within the Multicenter Perioperative Outcomes Group (MPOG) data registry. He welcomes contact from individuals interested in collaborating on additional precision education initiatives.



John Mitchell, MD

AUA Member,
Educational
Advisory Board
Henry Ford
Health System
Michigan State
University CHM
East Lansing, MI



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Precision Education

From Logging to Learning: A Learning Engagement Tool to Enhance Master Adaptive Learning By Clerkship Students

Dr. Shane Stenner, Associate Dean for Education Design and Informatics at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, presented work funded by an American Medical Association ChangeMedEd Precision Education Innovation Grant. Awarded an AMA precision education grant in 2023, Dr. Stenner's efforts leverage data and technology to personalize medical training, improve learning efficiency, and align educational practices with patient care outcomes. He will discuss his work on developing and integrating a learning engagement tool into a comprehensive custom education system. This tool identifies patient encounter types in medical students' clinic notes and recommends experiences they need more exposure to, providing educational resources based on past clinical encounters. Early initiatives include the Graduate Medical Education Laboratory (GEL), Transition to Residency Advantage (TRA), and The Anesthesia Research Group for Educational Technology (TARGET), which use real-time location tracking, EHR analytics, and targeted content delivery to enhance resident education. Future directions involve advanced analytics, large language models, interoperability, equity, faculty development, and ongoing research.

Ultrasound Education: Evolution of a Competency-Based Education Model

Dr. Robina Matyal, Vice Chair of Education and Director of the Center for Education Research Technology and Innovation at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, focuses on ultrasound education and establishing criteria for minimum proficiency for trainees and faculty. Dr. Matyal discussed the evolution of ultrasound in anesthesiology and the challenges of incorporating this technology into the curriculum through her development of a longitudinal

curriculum for residents. She emphasized the importance of hands-on experience, online modules, simulation, and virtual reality, along with quality assurance, documentation, and certification for credentialing and privileges for faculty. Dr. Matyal's work aims to ensure that anesthesiologists are proficient in perioperative ultrasonography, addressing gaps in training and promoting continuous education and certification. 

References

- AMA website Precision Medical Education Portal: AMA Precision Medical Education Portal
- Desai et.al. Precision Education: The Future of Lifelong Learning in Medicine. Acad Med. 2024 Apr 1;99(4S Suppl 1):S14-S20



In Remembrance

Dr. William E. Owens

AUA Emeritus Member


William Don Owens, 85, of St Louis, Missouri passed away on January 3, 2025. Bill was born December 12, 1939, to Don and Caroline (Raaf) Owens. He was raised in Gerald, Missouri, where he learned the values of family, faith, service and hard work. He went on to become a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, as well as a beloved physician, mentor, and educator. He was a warm, humble, and gracious man who was loved by all who knew him.

Bill earned a bachelor's degree from Westminster College in 1961 and a medical degree from the University of Michigan in 1965. While in Ann Arbor, Bill met and married the love of his life Patricia Brown on December 12, 1964.

After serving with distinction in the U.S. Navy from 1964-1969, Bill completed his anesthesiology residency at Massachusetts General Hospital. He then returned to his Missouri roots to join the faculty of Washington University in 1973, rising to full Professor in 1981 and serving as Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology from 1982 to 1992. Following his chairmanship, Bill continued to champion

anesthesia education, research, and clinical outcomes through his national leadership roles with the American Society of Anesthesiology, American Board of Anesthesiology, Academy of Anesthesiology, and Foundation of Anesthesia Education and Research. After a celebrated career committed to his patients, mentees and the field, Bill became an Emeritus Professor at Washington University in 2004.

In retirement, Bill loved traveling with Pat, spending time with his children and grandchildren, playing bridge with friends from church, spending time in the country, woodworking, cataloguing the history of anesthesia, and sharing his family history.

He is survived by his wife, Pat, of 60 years; brother Robert (MaryEllen); children Pamela (Grant Doty), David (Amy), Susan Ring (Matt); grandchildren Ian, Elisabeth, Alexander, Brady, Colin, Owen and Catherine. 



Dr. Ronald D. Miller

We are sad to announce that Dr. Ronald D. Miller passed away on February 27, 2025. He served as chair of the UCSF Department of Anesthesia and Perioperative Care from 1984 until 2009, and was one of the most successful physician-scientist-leaders in the field's history.

Born and raised in South Bend, Indiana, Miller earned both his undergraduate and medical degrees from Indiana University. He played piano and horn to support himself throughout those years. A self-professed hater of snow, he moved to southern California to complete his internship at Riverside County Hospital.

Miller recalled that when he arrived in San Francisco in 1964 to interview for a position in the UCSF Anesthesia Residency he didn't know much about the department, except that its chair, Stuart C. Cullen, MD, had authored a well-regarded,

albeit small, anesthesia textbook. While visiting, he remembered witnessing a junior faculty member respectfully challenge Cullen during a department meeting. Impressed by this atmosphere of open thinking, Miller entered the UCSF Anesthesia Residency in 1965, graduating in 1967 before completing a fellowship in pharmacology in 1968.

During his residency, Miller learned he would be drafted to serve in the Vietnam War. A pragmatic thinker, he realized he should enlist. Shortly thereafter, he flew to Washington, DC, to speak with a Naval recruiter. As a result, Miller was stationed at the Naval Hospital in Da Nang, where he would perform his seminal work on massive blood transfusions,



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for which he received a Bronze Star with a Combat V for meritorious service.

After returning from Vietnam, Miller began his influential work monitoring neuromuscular function in study patients given isoflurane. From there, his investigations into the interaction of volatile anesthetics and muscle relaxants evolved, and over the next 30 years, he and the many talented residents and colleagues he would attract played a central role in understanding the pharmacokinetics and dynamics of muscle relaxants and their antagonists.


In 1984, after an international search, Miller succeeded William K. Hamilton, MD, as the UCSF Anesthesia Department Chair, a position he would hold for the next 25 years, seeing the department through enormous growth and its joyous 50th anniversary celebration. During his tenure, Miller implemented a broad and strategic approach, cementing the department's status at the forefront of the profession. He called for an outside evaluation of the department's research program to ensure UCSF would stay ahead of the curve. He served as president of the UCSF Medical Staff. As department chair and UCSF Medical Staff president, he aligned the department with the hospital's goals and built on the strong and respectful working relationship with surgery that his predecessor Dr. Hamilton had established. Miller also oversaw a complete revamping of the department's finances, developing rigorous systems for professional fee billing that are still in place today.

He was tirelessly responsive to external change. As more anesthesia sub-specialties emerged, in the tradition of his predecessors Miller continued to recruit the best faculty and fellows in the world to establish those sub-specialties at UCSF. As changes in health care financing and delivery fostered changes in hospital stays, Miller created a nationally recognized multidisciplinary outpatient pain clinic and an inpatient pain service, both of which

helped establish UCSF as a leader in pain treatment and anesthesia as the go-to specialty for pain. He continued to expand anesthesia's leadership in intensive care at UCSF – a role pioneered by his two predecessors as chair.

Miller's authorship of the most widely used textbook for anesthesia in the world (Miller's Anesthesia) has highlighted UCSF faculty and dramatically enhanced our department's international reputation. He established a translational research fellowship while recruiting leading investigators to our faculty to ensure we grew a research portfolio that reached across specialties and around the world. Even when there were brief downturns in the number of applicants for anesthesia residencies nationwide, under Miller's leadership, UCSF Anesthesia and Perioperative Care continued to attract the best, and the brightest.

The Pursuit of Excellence – the title of [Dr. Miller's 2009 Rovenstine Lecture to the ASA](#) – was the lodestar of Dr. Miller's career, a highlight of which was his election to the Institute of Medicine at the National Academy of Sciences in 1998. His research contribution began with the historic clinical research he initiated in a combat hospital during the Vietnam War – work that changed the way hospitals treat coagulopathies associated with massive blood transfusion. It continued with his seminal work on the safe use of neuromuscular blockade, and his serving on several NIH study sections, including being chairperson of the NIH Surgery, Anesthesia, and Trauma Study Section and as editor in chief of Anesthesia and Analgesia. Dr. Miller's many contributions to medicine and patient safety honor a history that included the research discoveries of John Severinghaus, Ted Eger, and Dr. Miller's classmate, George Gregory.

As Dr. Miller once said, "It's still of prime importance to think big and dream." Please join us in honoring his memory, service, and vision. 



AUA

Association of University Anesthesiologists

Save the Date for these Upcoming Events!

AUA SAB Webinar

June 11, 2025 • 5:00PM EST

The Roles of the Mentor and
Mentee in a Relationship

Speaker: Christina Pabelick, MD

AUA EAB Webinar

September 10, 2025 • 5:00 PM EST

Innovations in Simulation

Moderator: John Mitchell, MD

AUA LAB Webinar

October 8, 2025 • 5:00 PM EST

What Does It Take to
Be a Good Leader?

*Speaker: Dr. Tetsu "Buth" Uejima, MD,
MMM, FAAP, CPHRM*

AUA LAB Webinar

November 12, 2025 • 5:00 PM EST

Breaking Barriers: Leadership Strategies
to Improve Mental Health Help-Seeking
Among Healthcare Workers

*Speaker: Daniel Saddawwi-Konefka,
MD, MBA*

AUA EAB Webinar

December 10, 2025 • 5:00 PM EST

Discussion About Fellowship –
Pros and Cons

Moderator: Richa Dhawan, MD, MPH



AUA

Association of University Anesthesiologists

UW Medicine

ANESTHESIOLOGY
& PAIN MEDICINE

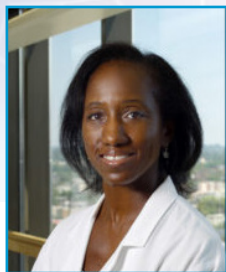
AUA 2026 Annual Meeting

March 27-29, 2026

Seattle, Washington

Hosted by the University of Washington

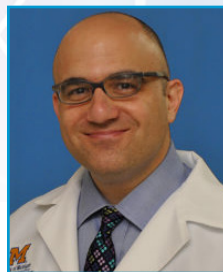
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PhD, FASA**
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and Science Center
Houston, TX



**George Mashour,
MD, PhD**
*Immediate Past
President*
University of Michigan
Medical School
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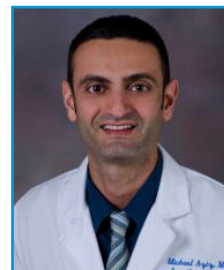
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