

UPDATE

Association of University Anesthesiologists UPDATE | 2026 | Spring Issue

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with deep gratitude and a strong sense of responsibility that I begin my term as President of the Association of University Anesthesiologists (AUA). For more than seven decades, AUA has served as a cornerstone of academic anesthesiology by advancing scientific discovery, promoting education, improving anesthesia practice and developing physician-scientists and academic leaders. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve this exceptional community and to build upon the strong foundation established by prior AUA leadership.

AUA's mission—to advance academic anesthesiology through research, education, mentorship, membership, and leadership—remains as relevant today as ever. We are practicing and conducting research, practice and education during a period of extraordinary scientific progress, with rapid advances in basic science, translational medicine, and clinical investigation reshaping perioperative care. At the same time, academic anesthesiology faces increasing challenges related to clinical demands, protected research time, funding uncertainty, and workforce sustainability. AUA plays a unique and essential role in supporting its members as they navigate these challenges while continuing to lead innovation and discovery.

The strength of AUA lies in its members and its longstanding culture of mentorship, rigor, and scholarly exchange. Through its annual meetings, educational initiatives, newsletters, webinars, and collaborative networks, AUA has provided a forum for physicians and investigators at all career stages to share ideas, receive mentorship, and develop as academic leaders. As President, I am committed to reinforcing these core activities and ensuring that AUA continues to support early-career faculty, mid-career physicians and investigators, and senior leaders alike, recognizing that each group contributes in essential and complementary ways to our mission.

An important priority moving forward is to further engage our membership in the work of the Association. AUA will select volunteers to serve on its boards, including the Educational Advisory Board, Scientific Advisory Board, Leadership Advisory



Zhongcong Xie, MD, PhD, FASA
President-Elect, AUA
 The University of Texas
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Board, Membership Engagement Advisory Board, and others. These boards play a central role in shaping AUA's scientific programs, educational offerings, leadership development, and member engagement. Broad participation is critical to maintaining a vibrant and responsive organization, and I strongly encourage members from diverse backgrounds, institutions, and career stages to consider serving.

In parallel with strengthening our internal community, AUA is also poised to expand its engagement on the global stage. Academic anesthesiology is an increasingly international endeavor, and many of the most pressing scientific and clinical challenges we face – such as perioperative brain health, aging, health equity, and precision medicine – are shared across borders. Building on discussions initiated during the recent AUA Town Hall meeting, we are actively exploring new international collaborations. These efforts include promoting AUA at the 19th World Congress of Anaesthesiologists (WCA 2026) in Marrakech, Morocco in Spring 2026, welcoming representatives from the Chinese Society of Anesthesiologists (CSA) to the 2026 AUA Annual Meeting in Seattle and the potential formation of an AUA delegation to attend the 2026 CSA Annual Meeting in Beijing, China. Looking ahead, we also aim to invite additional physicians and scientists from around the world to participate in

future AUA meetings, including the 2027 Annual Meeting in Houston, Texas.

These international initiatives are intended to foster meaningful scientific exchange, promote collaborative research, and create new opportunities for trainees and junior faculty to engage with global leaders in anesthesiology and perioperative medicine. Importantly, this global outreach will be pursued in a manner that complements and strengthens AUA's core mission, ensuring that international engagement enhances the value of AUA for all members.

AUA's continued success depends on the energy, creativity, and commitment of its members. I encourage each of you to engage with us in the coming year—by submitting your work to the annual meeting, mentoring colleagues, volunteering for committee service, or sharing your ideas for how AUA can better serve the academic anesthesiology community. Together, we can ensure that AUA remains a dynamic, inclusive, and forward-looking organization that promotes excellence in research, education, and leadership, both nationally and internationally.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as President of AUA. I look forward to working with all of you in the years ahead. 📖



AUA

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The LinkedIn logo is displayed in its standard blue and white color scheme. It consists of the word "LinkedIn" in a sans-serif font, with the "in" part enclosed in a blue square. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located to the right of the logo.

**The AUA is now on LinkedIn!
Please follow us and stay up
to date on our events!**

FROM THE EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD (EAB): Looking Ahead: Annual Meeting Panels in Development

The EAB's Annual Meeting panel will offer a thoughtful, forward-looking discussion of the rapidly evolving landscape of medical education. Our panelists, Calvin Gruss, MD, MS, MSACI, Elizabeth Sinz, MD, MEd and Lawrence F. Chu, MD will examine how learning management systems and multimedia platforms are reshaping content access and enabling more personalized, interactive learning experiences. They will also highlight advances in technology and simulation—tools that are bringing training closer to real clinical practice through high-fidelity, low-risk environments.

Beyond technology, the conversation will address the broader social impact of distance learning, including how remote education shapes collaboration, equity, and the development of professional identity among trainees. Understanding these dynamics is essential as institutions

design curricula and support systems that remain both innovative and deeply human-centered.

This session aims to provide leaders and educators with insights to inform strategic planning and prepare learners for a healthcare environment defined by constant change. Join us at the Annual Meeting for a discussion that not only reflects where medical education is headed but also helps shape its future.

Stay tuned for more updates—and don't miss the chance to be part of these important conversations. 

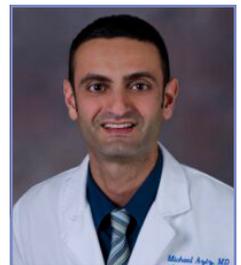


Arna Banerjee, MD, MMHC, FCCM
Chair, Educational Advisory Board
Vanderbilt University
Medical Center
Nashville, TN

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD (MEB)

The membership engagement advisory board is excited to see you all at the AUA Annual Meeting in Seattle. We plan to honor some who have made special contributions to the field recipients at the meeting with special service awards. We mostly look forward to the opportunity to hear from you. Tell us what your needs are and how the AUA can best serve academic faculty in your institution.

We want to extend a special welcome to our newest members. Please come find us and let us know what you are hoping to get out of this association. We'd love to facilitate pairing mentors with mentees, if you can help us identify those mentees that could use support. We look forward to seeing you soon! 



Michael Aziz, MD
Co-Chair, Membership Engagement Advisory Board
Oregon Health & Science
University
Portland, OR

FROM THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD (SAB): The Countdown for “*Funding Your Research Program – There is More Than One Fish in the Sea*”

The countdown is running for the upcoming AUA Annual Meeting (March 27 – 29, 2026 in Seattle, WA). We hope to see you all at the meeting, ready to listen, learn but more importantly participate in engaging discussions on a wide range of topics (abstracts and talks) as well as the panel discussion, “*Funding Your Research Program – There is More Than One Fish in the Sea.*”

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) has been hard at work throughout the year to develop a program that will engage a lot of people with a wide range of interests. This newsletter will focus on the upcoming AUA Annual Meeting and SAB’s program.

The program supported by SAB will take place on Saturday, March 28, 2026, and will start at 1pm with a 1-hour moderated poster session. AUA/SAB received abstracts representing a wide range of interesting topics related to basic science research, clinical research, and educational research. The abstract topics demonstrate the breadth of areas our colleagues in the field are involved in from bench and translational research through educational research, and clinical research implementing findings into clinical practice. After the poster session the best abstracts will be presented as oral presentations, and awards will be distributed. The AUA and SAB are fortunate to have sponsors for these awards to support young scientists and clinicians in their careers as they delve into research across the discovery-translation-application spectrum. Paying forward for the next generation of leaders in our field is absolutely critical, and we sincerely appreciate the support by our sponsors, who should encourage all of us to do more in this regard.

The final part of the SAB program will be our panel discussion, “*Funding Your Research Program – There is More Than One Fish in the Sea.*” For this timely

panel discussion, we will focus on approaches to diversifying research and funding strategies. We have been able to engage highly recognized leaders in the field of anesthesiology and perioperative medicine to drive a lively discussion. The panel participants will be Charles Emala, MD (Vice-Chair for Research, Columbia University) presenting on federal funding, Michael Gropper, MD, PhD (Chair, Anesthesiology, UCSF) presenting on industry funding, Max Kelz, MD, PhD (U Penn, FAER President) presenting on foundation funding, and finally Meghan Lane-Fall, MD (Chair, Anesthesiology, Columbia University) presenting on non-traditional funding opportunities. The panel will be moderated by Brant Wagener, MD, PhD (UAB) and Creed Stary, MD, PhD (Stanford). The panelists will give short presentations, but the overall goal will be to have a lively discussion among panelists and the audience relating to these topics and other questions/concerns that may arise, particularly from our younger colleagues looking for their first sources of extramural funding.

As the Chair for SAB, I would like to thank all the SAB members for their continued support and contributions improving academic anesthesia. A big thank you to the AUA leadership and to all of you, the AUA membership, for continuing to actively push for academic anesthesiology and perioperative medicine research at personal, institutional, national and international levels. As a field, we are uniquely positioned to remain strong during these interesting times, and AUA and the SAB are here to help and encourage everyone. 📖



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

Don't forget to follow AUA on X!
X @AUA_Anesthesia





AUA

Membership Matters

AUA 2026 Annual Meeting Update

The AUA 2026 Annual Meeting is around the corner; the theme this year is ***Discovery, Mentorship and Adaptive Learning in Evolving Healthcare Environment***. It will be held from Friday, March 27, 2026, to Sunday, March 29, 2026, at The University of Washington Husky Union Building (HUB) in Seattle, Washington. Join us as we have an amazing lineup of speakers waiting to share their amazing knowledge and work with people. We hope to see you all there!

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Additionally, join us at the Burke Museum Saturday night for the Membership Reception! There is no additional fee for AUA members to participate and guest tickets are available for \$55 each. [U](#)

Member Nominations

Nominate a Colleague for AUA Membership

Round 1 is Now Open! Nominations Close April 15!

We are excited to announce that Round 1 of the 2026 Member Nominations is now open!

If you are currently a AUA Member wanting to nominate a non-member, please review the [AUA New Member Nomination Checklist and Guidelines](#) to ensure that their accomplishments are consistent with that of a successful application.

Announcements will be made approximately June 30th, 2026.

If you are not currently an AUA member, please reach out to a current active AUA Member to get nominated!



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Welcome New Members!

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Chakib M. Ayoub, MB, MBA	Allison V. Dalton, MD, FASA	Justin L. Lockman, MD, MEd
Angela Bader, MD, MPH	Matthew J. Durand, PhD	Christoph Nabzdyk, MD
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S. Patrick Bender, MD, MSHS	Cornelius Groenewald, MD	Lakshmi Santhanam, PhD
Wei Cao, PhD	Alok Gupta, MD, FASA, FCCP	Roshni Sreedharan, MD
Thomas J. Caruso, MD, PhD, FASA	Nicholas Kassebaum, MD	Srikanth Sridhar, MD, FASA
Christy Crockett, MD	Sapna Kudchadkar, MD	Luis E. Tollinche, MD, MPH, FASA
Ryan D'Souza, MD	Matt Kynes, MD	Alparslan Turan, MD
Nick Dalesio, MD, MPH	Michael Lipnick, MD	Anna M. Varughese, MD

ACTIVE FROM ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Heather A. Ballard, MD	Jamel Ortoleva, MD	Emily Peoples, MD
Daniel Larach, MD	Leah Acker, MD, PhD	Jessica Spellman, MD, FASE

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

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Michael W. Best, MD, FASA	Jyun-you Liou, MD, PhD	Agnieszka Trzcinka, MD, FASE
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Mikita Fuchita, MD	Aaron Mittel, MD, MSc	David Wang, MD
James H. Jones, MD, MSc, FASA	Jonathan Paul, DO	Jie N. Zhou, MD, MBA
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Houston, TX



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

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 Bronx, NY

CALL FOR CONTENT

SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES ANYTIME; OUR NEWSLETTERS ARE PUBLISHED QUARTERLY!

Submit an article TODAY for the AUA Newsletter!

If you have an idea for an article, an announcement, or an opinion on a recently published article, please submit your proposed article to the AUA Office at info@auahq.org. If your article is selected, we will contact you for editing and formatting.



Please review [AUA's Submission Guidelines](#) prior to submitting your proposed article.

Contact the AUA office with questions at info@auahq.org.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES