It's that time again!

Let's fill you in with what's been happening over the past six months!
Congratulations to Dr. Jose Diaz-Gomez for receiving the 2023 Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care! What an honor!

Congratulations to Dr. Premala Chelliah and Dr. Eric Ritter for being named the Medical Director and Associate Medical Director, respectively, of Baylor St. Luke's Anesthesia.

Dr. Jaime Ortiz participated in the first ever Spanish Panel at the ASRA Pain Medicine Spring Meeting titled: ASRA Pain Medicine /LASRA - A Bilingual Pro-Con on Regional Anesthesia in Latin America as well as the first ever Complementary Acupuncture & Hypnosis Medicine Workshop.
Dr. Connie Tran was recently chosen as one of the recipients of the Baylor College of Medicine Women of Excellence Award for her leadership and contributions towards improving diversity, equity, and inclusion. Way to go Dr. Tran!

Power of Professionalism Awards

• Adam Adler - Associate Professor, Texas Children's Hospital
• Ali Hassanpour - Assistant Professor, Texas Children's Hospital
• Aimee Kakascik - Assistant Professor, Texas Children's Hospital

Bluebell Award for Kindness

• Alex Reyes, CA-1
• Taylor Lindgren, CA-3
• Eric Tretter, CA-3
• Varun Potluri, CA-3
• Emily Bruner, CA-3
• Will Liu, Assistant Professor
• Gavin Best, Assistant Professor
Robert D. Dripps, M.D. Award for Outstanding CA-3
Varun Potluri

Excellence in Professionalism Award
Varun Potluri, Andrew Jensen, Clarissa Gutierrez

Alon P. Winnie Regional and Pain Management Award
Evan Wright

Binky Pediatric Anesthesia Award
Will Jones

Gertie Marx OB Anesthesia Award
Varun Potluri

Cardiovascular Anesthesia Award
Varun Potluri

Excellence in Critical Care Award
Ryan Barrera

CA-1 Trauma Anesthesia Award
Andrew Clark

Intern of the Year Award
Kennedy Kirkpatrick

Katie Chang was awarded one of the 2022-2023 Resident-As-Teacher Awards within the Internal Medicine Residency Program. She is the first anesthesiology resident ever to win this award, and was elected by her internal medicine peer residents. Way to go Katie!

Don't forget to send in nominations for these awards if you see someone deserving of the honor! Residency Professionalism Award nominations can be sent to Dr. Lee Chang, and Bluebell Kindness Award nominations can be sent to Dr. Susan Lee. POP Award nominations can be submitted online.
The Dean H Morrow was the chairman of Baylor Anesthesia from 1979 to 1988. In his honor, an award was created for the faculty member who has shown an outstanding commitment to mentorship and guiding residents throughout their training.

It comes as no surprise to us that Dr. Anvinh Nguyen has been awarded this prestigious honor again this year. Congratulations and thank you for all of your hard work!
Make sure you get to say goodbye to your graduating seniors. Some of them will be staying with Baylor for fellowship and as faculty, but we are all very proud to be BCM Anesthesia Alumni!

**Ryan Barrera:** Chronic Pain - UCSF  
**Michelle Emmanuel:** Private Practice - Houston  
**Harris Foster:** Private Practice - Houston  
**Kelley Gonzalvo:** Cardiac - Texas Heart Institute  
**Shan He:** Cardiac - Texas Heart Institute  
**Christopher Huynh:** Academic General- BSLMC  
**William Jones:** Pediatrics - Texas Children’s  
**Harica Kodakandla:** Pediatric- Texas Children’s  
**Kelsi Lee:** Private Practice - Chicago  
**Taylor Lindgren:** Cardiac - Texas Heart Institute  
**Ashlin Mathew:** Pediatrics - UT Southwestern  
**Varun Potluri:** Cardiac - Johns Hopkins  
**Patrick Roberts:** Pediatrics & Pediatric Cardiac - University of Colorado  
**Emily Shah:** Cardiac - Texas Heart Institute  
**Bryan Slepicka:** Chronic Pain - UAMS  
**Michael Tra:** Regional - Hospital for Special Surgery  
**Eric Tretter:** Private Practice - Dallas  
**Edward Tsai:** Regional - Johns Hopkins  
**Ashley Wetzig:** Academic General - BTGH  
**Evan Wright:** Regional - MD Anderson
Welcome

Make sure to say hello to the new, bright-eyed CA-1 class. Look for them in an OR near you!

Jacy Gressen joined our CA-2 class this year from Florida. She grew up in Eagleville, Pennsylvania and attended Eastern Virginia Medical School. In addition to caring for two loving dogs, she enjoys DIY home projects in her free time. She is currently considering pursuing a regional fellowship.
We are pleased to announce that Chinedu Otu, MD will be the new Assistant Program Director of the pediatric anesthesiology fellowship. She attended Beth Israel for residency and completed her pediatric anesthesiology and pediatric cardiac anesthesiology fellowship at Boston Children’s Hospital. Welcome to this new role, Dr. Otu!

Congratulations to these graduating pediatric anesthesiology fellows! Four fellows will be staying on as faculty next year: Paul Bui, Stephanie Ahn, Jennifer Chien, and Michelle Nguyen. We will see you around!

Dr. Elizabeth Rossmann Beel has been announced the new Director of Liver Transplant Anesthesia at Texas Children’s Hospital. Congrats Dr. Rossmann Beel!

Dr. Clint Fuller has been announced the new Director of Regional Anesthesia at Texas Children’s Hospital. Congrats Dr. Fuller!
The THI Division of Cardiovascular Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, led by Dr. Anton and Dr. Diaz-Gomez, hosted the 1st annual Perioperative Mechanical Circulatory Support Symposium and Critical Care Echocardiography Workshop. This was an international conference with hundreds of people from multiple countries attending in person and via Zoom.

Our very own residents Shan He, CA-3, Mellissa Delcont, CA-2, and Alexandra Waits, CA-2 attended the Mechanical Circulatory Support Conference.

Congratulations to our cardiac anesthesiology and critical care fellows on graduating! We are all so proud of you and best of luck in your careers!


Congrats to Dr. Lee Chang for his recent publication in NEJM, a well-deserved honor!

Dr. Rahel Selassie led a BCM Global Health team in The Gambia for a week. Dr. Connie Tran and Dr. Steven Boggs also joined to introduce the Gambia Obstetric Anesthesia Learning and Leading (GOALL) education program.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Dr. Justo Gonzalez, Dr. Raja Palvadi, Jaime Garcia CA-2, and Meesha Khatker CA-2 participated in an orthopedic surgery mission trip with the Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) in Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic.

GUATEMALA

Dr. Tony Kim and Dr. Jaime Ortiz participated in a Faith in Practice mission in Antigua, Guatemala in February 2023.
The House System was created in 2019 to promote wellness and help residents and faculty get to know one another. CA-1 House Leaders are elected and lead their houses in holding social events. Points are earned, and the House with the most points at the end of the year wins the House Plaque and bragging rights! Congratulations to M&M House led by Clarissa Gutierrez, CA-1 on winning the House Cup and finally dethroning Stoelting after several years.

Get Ready for Socials in ’23-24

M I L L E R
B A R A S H
S T O E L T I N G
M O R G A N & M I K H A I L
A huge thank you to Casey Fitzgerald, CA-2 for organizing the annual spring social! There was a great turn-out with live music provided by Munfarid Zaidi, CA-1 and a propofol piñata provided by Clarissa Gutierrez, CA-1. Thank you also to Dr. Connie Tran for hosting and to Dr. Prasad Atluri for your generous donation.
Founded by Dr. Cassius Mensah, the goal of this group is to create a safe space where personal anesthesia stories and self-reflection of lessons learned can be shared. This spring, Vanessa Hernandez, PGY-1 helped organize a kickball game and barbeque at the UT Health Recreation Center for the 2nd annual SCW gathering. Looks like a fun time was had by all!
Special Delivery

We’ve had several new additions to our anesthesia family. Congratulations to Kayli Kallina, PGY-1 (top left), Dr. Kevin Tzan (top right), Emily Bruner, CA-3 (bottom left), and Young Kim, CA-2 (bottom right) on their new bundles of joy!
PRICELESS
Moments
Jaime Garcia
Hometown: Rio Grande City, TX
Jaime enjoys cooking, baking, and gardening. When he’s not at work, he’s tending to his houseplants, ultra-spicy hot peppers, and occasionally baking a sweet treat for his call team.

Andrew Jensen
Hometown: Sugar Land, TX
Andy loves traveling, exploring restaurants, and spending time with his wife, cat, dog and fish.

Meesha Khatker
Hometown: Sugar Land, TX
Meesha loves spending time with her family and friends, cozying up with a good thriller novel, and traveling on every possible occasion!
Graduation and the end of the academic year is always a time for celebration and deep reflection. To all residents, we celebrate our victories, our achievements and we reflect on our growth and the lessons learned. All of you are poised to embrace new roles and responsibilities. Whether it be as seniors, fellows, or new attendings, we have no doubt you will find your path towards new heights.

We will always be grateful for the privilege of serving the department, particularly the residents and the class of 2023. Be proud of what you've done for your patients and of your own tremendous accomplishments. We can't wait to see what next year brings as we know the residency will be in good hands. We will miss you all!

- Ashley, Emily, Varun
Faculty/Alumni Donations

Varghese Matthews (2017 Alumni)
James Anton (BLSMC Faculty)
Susan Lee (BT Faculty)

Lee Chang (BT Faculty) Karlyn Powell (BT Faculty) Shelley Caraway (BSLMC Faculty)
Krishna Shah (BT Faculty) Kevin Tzan (BT Faculty)
Cesar Castillo (BSLMC Faculty) Premala Chelliah (BSLMC Faculty) Alexis Fuller (2020 Alumni) Melissa Nikolaidis (BT Faculty) Sally Raty (1992 Alumni)
Carlos Rodriguez (TCH Faculty) Tracy Warden (2013 Alumni) Claudia Wei (BT Faculty) Lisa Wofford (BT Faculty)

If you would like to contribute to our department please visit the link below!

bcm.edu/departments/anesthesiology/education
Until next time...

Anesthesia

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From Baylor College of Medicine

If you would like to submit something for our newsletter, send it here!

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