

Anesthesia News

January 2025



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Happy New Year and I hope you all had a nice holiday season! January is a natural and cliché opportunity to set goals and highlight optimism for the new year and Geisinger is no different. This will be Dr Gilliland's first full year as CEO and we will be introduced to our new system CMO after Dr Hartle retires this summer. After over a year searching, we should also see a new system COO later this spring as well. After losing a fair amount of surgeons in 2024, we look to see over 25 new surgeons join our system in 2025- promoting optimism that we will see significant increases in our volume this upcoming year. The challenges in central Pennsylvania's healthcare market have resulted in both winners and losers, with Geisinger feeling its share of financial pain in recent years; however this past year marked an inflection point for Geisinger with significant investments in infrastructure, program growth and enhancements to patient experience. With leadership changes and these strategic investments, we should anticipate a strong push for growth for the coming years.

Looking inward to our department, the more things change the more they stay the same in some ways. We still need to keep our foot on the gas with recruitment, retention and making this a desirable department to join. We still need to continuously strive to raise the bar on our quality efforts by ensuring that we are synthesizing current evidence into our practice and providing top notch care to every patient we touch. We also need to do our part to keep the lights on and pay the bills by ensuring that we document our records in a timely fashion. I'm not sure that we will ever not strive to continuously improve in these key areas!

However, it is not all rinse and repeat for 2025. We know that our One Thing for 2025 is **Teamwork** and we want to not only solidify and lead our current teams but form new teams in a few key areas, such as taking on a greater role in surgical scheduling, collaborating with surgical nursing leadership and our NORA partners. The System Anesthesia Quality committee continues to mature under the leadership of Don Mauney and we are excited to see the birth of a System Education Team that is in the works currently. We also hope to see more widespread adoption of the new pre-operative surgical optimization system and patient care guidelines, which we think will lead to significantly improved patient outcomes, especially geriatrics. Lastly, this could be the year in which we start to see the impact of AI on our surgical schedules with early optimism that there is much efficiency to be gained.

So, thank you for your tremendous contribution to patient care and the health of the system. May ask is that you continue to foster a culture of collaboration and that you view yourselves and our department as leaders in the surgical suite. It's an exciting time for Geisinger and our department will be instrumental to its success. I hope you share my optimism that that 2025 will be a great year for our departments, for Geisinger as a whole and most importantly for our patients!

Dr. Matthew Desciak

Departmental Highlights



Dr. Donald Mauney, FASA

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Donald Mauney has been named the system Vice Chair of Quality for the Department of Anesthesiology. Dr. Mauney's medical journey began at the University of North Carolina, followed by residency at the University of Pennsylvania. He then spent 18 years at Inova Fairfax Medical Center, holding various roles including Director of Pharmacology and Medication Safety, and Chief Medical Officer of Horizon Anesthesia outpatient services.

Since joining Geisinger Wyoming Valley in 2019, Dr. Mauney has significantly contributed to our department, serving in roles such as Director for the GWV region and Chair of the GWV Patient Safety Committee. His focus on patient safety and quality has led to numerous initiatives, including the creation of a "mini-MTP" at Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre. His service includes GWV Medical Staff Peer Review Committee, Faculty Affairs Appointment and Promotions Clinical Care Subcommittee and Director of GWV Obstetrical Anesthesia

In his new role, Dr. Mauney will collaborate with Charissa Albertson, our PI/Quality Coordinator, and lead our system Quality Team. His expertise and dedication are invaluable as we continue to elevate our department's quality standards.



Dr. Sean Philipppo

We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Sean Philipppo has been appointed as the Director of Anesthesia at GCMC.

This newly established position at GCMC mirrors similar roles at GMC and GWV. Dr. Philipppo will collaborate closely with the GCMC team, including Gary Sebastianelli, CRNA, Maria McGraw, CRNA, Kathleen Connors, and Dr. Kristy Voytek, to support all members of the department.

In his new role, Dr. Philipppo will also engage in hospital and systemwide initiatives, enhancing the department's presence and value both within the hospital and across the system. We are confident that his leadership will further strengthen our culture of camaraderie, collaboration, and clinical excellence.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Philipppo to his new role!

Focus on Geriatric Population: Impact on Anesthesia

Department

Geisinger is enhancing care for the geriatric population, bringing key changes to the Anesthesia Department:

ProvenCare Delirium Initiative: This systemwide initiative aims to manage and prevent delirium in surgical and non-surgical geriatric patients.

ProvenCare Geriatric Anesthesia Initiative: Currently in the setup phase, this initiative focuses on establishing priorities and best practices for geriatric anesthesia care.

Stay tuned for more updates and educational opportunities!

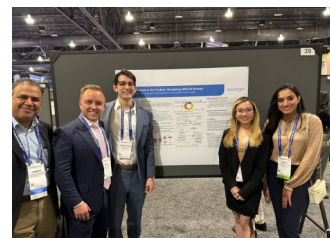
GHP Quality Fund Award

We are thrilled to announce that Charissa Albertson, Roxanna Larsen, and Kathleen Connors have been awarded the prestigious GHP Quality Fund! This recognition is a testament to their dedication and innovative approach to enhancing patient care.

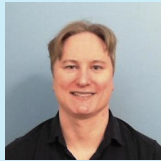
Their quality project will focus on improving the anesthesia patient experience through education. By providing comprehensive educational resources, they aim to ensure that patients are well-informed and comfortable throughout their anesthesia journey.

Poster Presentations: The Anesthesiology Annual Meeting, ASA 2024 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania October, 2024

1. Patient Perspectives of Their Anesthesia Providers in the Peripartum Arena Abstract
2. Considerations for Obstetric Anesthesia in a Patient with Complex Gestational Thrombocytopenia, Advanced Maternal Age and Fetal Macrosomia Poster
3. Seizure in a Laboring Female with History of Poorly Treated Seizure Disorder and Concerning for Pre-eclampsia Poster
4. Familiarity with Tools in the Toolbox: Navigating Difficult Airways Poster
5. Unrecognized Dislodged Dental Appliance and Perforation into the Carotid Sheath Poster
6. Acute Blood Loss Anemia and Multisystem Failure Including Reduction of Cholinesterase Levels Poster
7. Intraoperative Cardiac Arrest in a 95-year-old during Orthopaedic Surgery
8. Medical and Ethical Implications of Proceeding with Bilateral Mastectomies after Unexpected Anaphylaxis



Departmental Highlights



Dr. Patrick Foster

With the start of the new year we are pleased to announce Dr. Patrick Foster has been appointed as the new Director of Anesthesia at the Lewistown Hospital.

Dr. Foster brings a wealth of experience to this position including recently serving as the Western Region Anesthesia Quality lead. Since joining the department almost two years ago, Dr. Foster has spearheaded multiple initiatives to improve patient care and safety in the ORs. In his new role, he will continue to build upon these projects with greater resources and support. He will also be working more closely with Jaime Humphrey CRNA in the day-to-day clinical anesthesia operations at GLH.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Foster on this well-deserved appointment. We look forward to working with him in this new role.



Simone Clarke, CRNA

On December 18, the Danville High School Culture Club welcomed Mrs. Simone Clarke, a distinguished CRNA from the central region. Mrs. Clarke delivered a captivating presentation on Guyana to an audience of 20 students. She highlighted Guyana's rich cultural and historical tapestry, exploring its diverse population composed of East Indian, African, Amerindian, European, Chinese, and Portuguese influences.

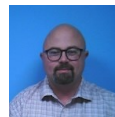


The presentation delved into Guyana's vibrant festivals, such as Mashramani, Diwali, and Holi, as well as its unique culinary traditions and natural beauty. Students were intrigued

by Guyana's deep history and multicultural society. The event provided an enriching experience, fostering global awareness and appreciation for diversity.

We are proud to have such an inspiring individual in our community.

New Staff:



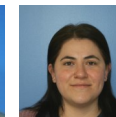
Dr. Hass Amhaz



Dr. Kofi Owusu



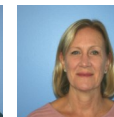
Dr. David Schalk



Jennifer Yanni,
CRNA



Amy Campbell,
CRNA

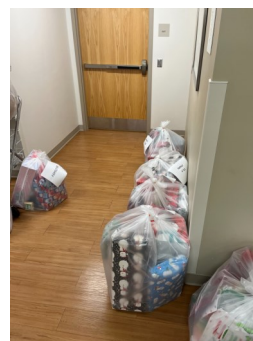
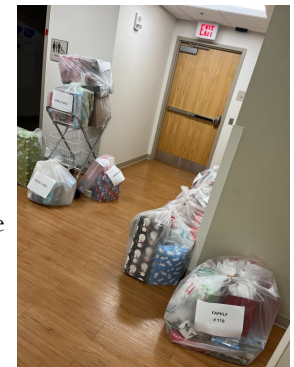


Linda Wilk, CRNA

Central Region Anesthesia Department Spreads Holiday Cheer

This holiday season, the Central Region Anesthesia Department made a significant impact in the Danville community through their generous Christmas giving campaign. Partnering with the Danville School District, the department collected money and gifts to support four local families. With the monetary donations, they purchased everything on the families' Christmas lists.

Roxanna organized a wrapping day in the auditorium, and the gifts were picked up on December 11th.



With leftover funds, the department reached out to Janet Weis Children's Hospital and purchased gifts from their wish list for inpatients and their siblings, delivering them on December 13th. Additionally, they plan to use the remaining funds to provide a Christmas gift for one more Danville family.

The department's efforts didn't stop there. They also supported a fellow Geisinger Physician Assistant who faced a personal tragedy this year. Understanding the challenges of raising two small children, the department provided a box filled with gift cards, ride tickets, and treats to brighten their holiday season.

Through the Christmas Friend program, the anesthesia team, including PAT clinic, supported four different families, totaling eight children in the Danville community. Staff donated gifts and funds to align with the children's wish lists, ensuring a joyful holiday for all.


A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed. Your generosity exemplifies the true spirit of the season, bringing joy and hope to those in need. Great job, team! Your efforts have truly made a difference in our community.



GEISINGER ANESTHESIA SPOTLIGHTS

Pain Clinic

Achievements:

CMA Pathway: Congratulations to Jonda Burdge from the Interventional Pain Clinic at Geisinger Lewis-
 town Hospital for earning her CMA certification after successfully completing all course requirements and passing the CCMA examination!

Best in Telemedicine Physician: Dr. Daniel Christian achieved the highest telemedicine patient satisfaction score in the Geisinger Health System and was honored at the **2024 Top Patient Experience Clinicians award ceremony.**



Patient Satisfaction Awards: We celebrate our pain providers recognized for achieving the 90th percentile for patient satisfaction by the 2024 Press Ganey ratings:

Woodbine Clinic Providers: Dr. John Quick, Dr. John Han, Dr. Brian Monroe, Dr. Tyler West, & Heather Letcavage PA-C (not pictured)



GSWB Providers: Dr. Daniel Christian and Dr. Ryan Ness



New Staff

Trent A. Shultz, MSN, CRNP: Joined the Woodbine Interventional Pain team in July 2024 as an Advanced Practice Provider. Trent has been with Geisinger for 33 years, working in various departments including Cardiology and the Coronary Intensive Care Unit.



Darla Snyder Lee, CRNP: With over 38 years at Geisinger and five years in the Pain Medicine department, Darla has been elevated to full-time status, splitting her time between the Interventional and Non-Interventional sides of the clinic.



New Pain Procedures

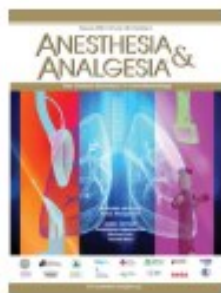
Qutenza: Dr. Ryan Ness, Dr. Jolly Ombao, and Dr. Daniel Christian at GSWB Pain Clinic have introduced Qutenza/capsaicin 8% topical system for treating painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy and postherpetic neuralgia. This FDA-approved, noninvasive treatment is a 30-minute process performed in the treatment room.

Intracept Procedure: Dr. Kushaljit Dhesi now offers Basivertebral Nerve Ablation/Intracept at Lewistown and Muncy locations. This minimally invasive technique allows for quick recovery and a return to baseline activities sooner.

Leadership Update

Joseph Anthony Bobkoskie has accepted the position of Chief Advanced Practitioner, managing all four of our pain clinics and assisting with patient care.





Title: Precision Anesthesia in 2050

Journal: Anesthesia & Analgesia, Volume 138, Issue 2, February 2024, Pages 326-336

Authors: Frederick H. Kuo MD, Brant H. Tudor PhD, Geoffrey M. Gray PhD, Luis M. Ahumada PhD, Mohamed A. Rehman MD, & Scott C. Watkins MD

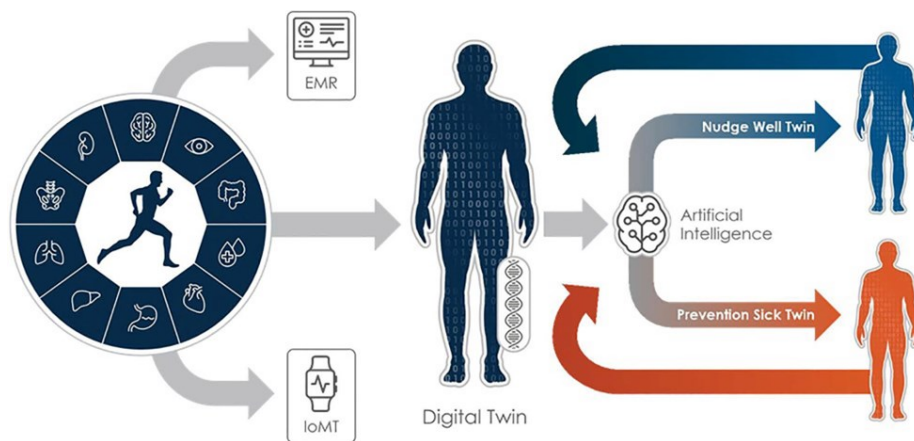
Why this paper: In the past three decades, we have seen unparalleled advances in anesthetic medications, monitors, and methods that have revolutionized the practice of anesthesiology. Currently, we are facing the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and many other rapidly advancing technologies. The practice of anesthesia certainly will be more different over the next 3 decades. How are we taking care of patients, how are we training next generation of anesthesia providers, and what are robots and AI doing with us or without us? The future is exciting. This paper addresses a specific question, a paradigm shifting approach in medicine: by 2050, we will practice precision anesthesia. Anesthesia plans are individualized. According to the authors, evidence-based, or “one-size-fits-most, approaches, is viewed “inherently limited in its individuality” despite efforts to stratify patients into subgroups based on statistically significant outcomes.

Why do we need precision anesthesia: The paper did not provide clinical rationales to argue the necessity to pursue precision anesthesia. The paper generally states that “the medical field is currently experiencing a paradigm shift toward precision medicine, driven by the advent and adoption of novel technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of medical things (IoMT), and omics”. **(Comments:** Biologically, human beings are more alike than different. Even the genomic differences between human being and chimpanzees are only 1-2 %. The anesthesia protocols that worked well in other fellow human beings are more likely than not to work as well for our future patients. “Precision anesthesia” needs to be more precise. Do we need to be more precise on preoperative assessments, or drug dosing, or hemodynamic titration, or anatomical targets in regional anesthesia, etc.?)

How to do precision anesthesia: The creation of a human digital twin (HDT) is the key. Multiple data sources and predictive models can be combined to create an HDT. It serves as a digital representation of an individual’s physical system, or a platform for virtual simulations of possible therapies (eg, anesthetics, analgesics) to identify an optimal individualized intervention.

Specific predictions

1. **No more use of inhalation agent** Due to environmental concerns, in 2050, it is likely that all volatile anesthetics and N₂O will be banned or restricted to low-flow, closed-loop systems with integrated recycling systems to prevent release into the atmosphere. Alternatively, general anesthetics of the future may consist entirely of intravenous (IV) agents. **(Comments:** Inhalation agents may always be needed for general anesthesia induction when intravenous access is not available. Delivery and management of inhalation agents is more reliable and convenient. Cost of avoidance of inhalation agents may be unbearable.)
2. **Surgeries:** In 2050, the authors predict that minimally invasive techniques will be the norm. All of these surgical advancements will result in greater precision, reduced pain, fewer complications, faster recovery times, and improved outcomes.
3. **Detailed 2 case reports:** Please go through the paper for the details.



- Dr. Xianren Wu

Figure 1. The human digital twin. EMR indicates electronic medical record, a subset of the electronic health record; IoMT, Internet of medical things, for example, personal health devices linked to the Internet.⁵



Financial Stewardship

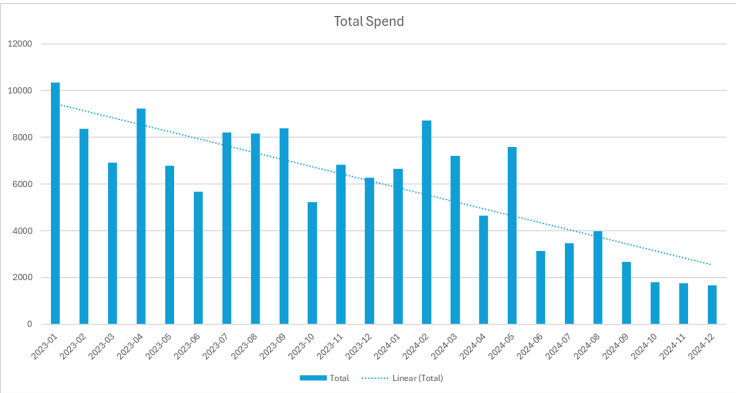
Green Initiative in Anesthesia: A Success Story

The anesthesia department is proud to announce a significant milestone in our green initiative. By decreasing the use of desflurane, reserving it solely for educational purposes, we have made remarkable strides in both environmental and financial sustainability.

The accompanying graph illustrates our journey, showing a dramatic reduction in total money spent on anesthetic gases—from approximately \$10,000 in January 2023 to around \$2,000 in December 2024. This means we are now spending just a fifth of what we previously did!

This achievement is a testament to the diligent work and commitment of the anesthesia team. Your efforts not only contribute to a healthier planet but also demonstrate responsible resource management. Congratulations to everyone involved in this initiative for their dedication and hard work.

Keep up the great work!



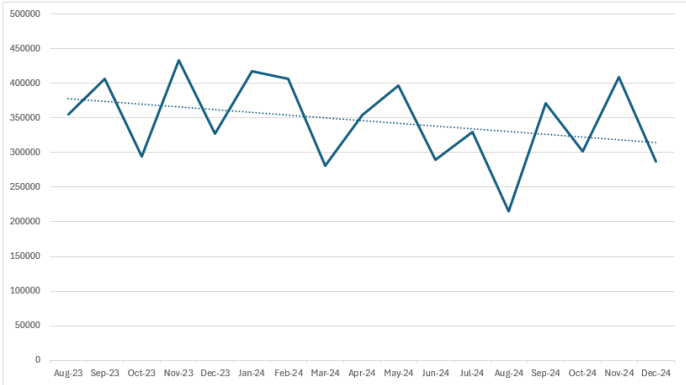
Cost Savings with Sugammadex: A Year in Review

Over the past year, the department has made significant strides in optimizing the dosing of sugammadex, leading to substantial cost savings. Under the leadership of Chris, we have collaborated with the pharmacy to compound sugammadex into 2mg vials at four different sites across three regions. This strategic approach has not only ensured precise dosing but also minimized waste.

The graph below highlights our progress, showcasing the department’s commitment to judicious dosing of sugammadex. This initiative has had a remarkable side effect: significant cost savings. By focusing on accurate dosing, we have been able to reduce expenses without compromising patient care.

This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team. Chris’s collaboration with the pharmacy has been instrumental in this success, demonstrating the power of teamwork and innovation in healthcare.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this initiative. Your efforts are making a difference, both financially and in the quality of care we provide.



Innovation

Opmed.ai Progress Update

We are thrilled to share exciting progress with Opmed.ai in our department! This AI-driven initiative is set to revolutionize operational efficiencies in the surgical suite, focusing on block time management, case schedule management, and staff management.

Among our key accomplishments, we have finalized a case duration prediction model in Epic, leveraging retroactive data to enhance accuracy. Super user trainings are currently underway, ensuring our team is well-prepared for the transition. **Most notably, Bill Cooper, CRNA at GWV, has been successfully trialing Opmed.ai to create CRNA staffing schedules, showcasing the practical benefits of this innovative tool.**

These advancements highlight our commitment to leveraging technology for improved operational processes and patient care. We are excited about the potential of Opmed.ai to streamline our workflows and enhance efficiency across the board.

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to innovate and improve our surgical suite operations!

