

August 2024

Dear Candidate,

Welcome to the Residency Program Director's letter of introduction to Anesthesiology Residency at the Cedars Sinai Medical Center. If you are visiting this website, you are most likely looking for a future in the specialty of Anesthesiology and the areas of sub-specialties associated with this exciting field. Thank you for your interest in the Anesthesiology Residency Program. I would like to share a few thoughts about our program.



Cedars-Sinai is a level 1 trauma center, stroke center and a nonprofit academic healthcare organization serving the diverse Los Angeles community and beyond. With pioneering medical research

achievements, education programs defining the future of healthcare, and wide-ranging community benefit activities, setting new standards for quality and innovation in patient care. Cedars-Sinai has been named on the Honor Roll for the ninth consecutive year and tied for #1 in California and #1 in Los Angeles in U.S. News & World Report's "Best Hospitals 2024-25" ranking.

It is a privilege to hold the position of Program Director for the Cedars Sinai, Department of Anesthesiology. The program was created in 2007 and offers a 4-year categorical training program, approved by the American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA) and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

We are on track to be one of the largest programs in the state (17 residents per class)! Currently, our residency cohort consists of sixty-one categorical residents (PGY-1 through PGY-4). In addition to our residency, we offer 26 ACGME accredited fellowship positions annually, in the following subspecialties: Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology (5 positions), Obstetric Anesthesiology (4 positions), Regional Anesthesia & Acute Pain (6 positions), Pain Medicine (4 positions), Critical Care Medicine (4 positions). We also offer two non-ACGME accredited positions in Liver Transplant Anesthesiology (1 position), and Advanced Clinical Anesthesiology (2 positions). The quality of our residents is evident not only in their high board pass rate, but also in their continued acceptance to prestigious competitive fellowships, extraordinary opportunities in academics, private practices, and leadership roles in our field. We also take immense pride in the number of graduates who stay on as attendings to train the next generation of residents.

As the Program Director my goal is to see all our residents flourish in our supportive learning environment while becoming an outstanding Anesthesiologist. Our programs offer favorable conditions both educationally and temporally. The internship is a unique "hands on" experience. The

rotations are constructed around the areas of General Surgery, Surgical Subspecialties (Acute Care, Trauma, Thoracic, Transplant), Medical Subspecialties, Cardiology, Pulmonology, Heart Failure Unit, Medical ICU, Coronary Care Unit, Neurology, Stroke, Neurosurgical ICU, Emergency Medicine, Acute Pain Medicine, Anesthesiology, and Preoperative Clinic that help prepare the intern to become competent, well-rounded Anesthesiologist. We are a residency program, which offers experience and training across the spectrum of anesthesiology specialties, including Cardiac, Thoracic, Vascular, Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Regional, Transplant, Neuro, Spine, Head and Neck, Plastic Reconstructive Surgery, Trauma, Critical Care, Pain Management, and perioperative medicine. More than 95% of our clinical times are situated at Cedars, 5% at Children's Hospital LA. We have access to more than ninety operating locations on daily basis and state of the art operating rooms and medical facilities. The core of our trainee educational experience is centered on the diverse patient population we serve. Our clinical volume of more than 70,000 cases per year means you will see an extremely wide variety of cases and gain exposure to a wide variety of patients, with significant co-morbidities, undergoing a diverse range of procedures, which enables our residents to graduate from our residency program ready to 'hit the ground running'. In addition, our Simulation Laboratory provides residents with a variety of learning experiences to advance their technical and non-technical skills, decision making, teamwork, task management and situational awareness.

We believe that academic preparation is equally as important as clinical experience during residency training. Our residency program is committed to ensuring a structured didactic system that is built around the curriculum set by the ABA/ASA outline and our residents have protected time to attend these sessions. We maximize the academic potential of all our trainees by offering faculty lectures, regular problem-based learning discussions, morbidity and mortality conferences, journal clubs, and grand rounds. In addition, all our residents spend time in the Simulation Center on regular academic days going through task training, workshops, and various simulated scenarios, specifically created for progressive learning. In addition to scheduled didactic and board review sessions, residents are provided with online access to leading textbooks and subscription to True Learn, an online question bank to give every resident an unparalleled testing experience and Learnly, a 10- month long online course that uses video podcasts and short knowledge assessments. The Medical Center's Library also has an excellent collection of electronic anesthesia textbooks and journals easily accessible by our residents. Our residents experience all the advantages of both academic and community-based training. Teaching medical students and learning how to teach are integral components of our training.

Resident research and scholarly activity are an important part of training at Cedars. We highly encourage trainees to participate in a wide range of scholarly activities. Residents present case reports and hypothesis-based research (with departmental financial support) at the American Society of Anesthesiologist Annual Meeting(ASA), the Western Anesthesia Residents conference(WARC) and Subspecialty Conferences. This past year, numerous abstracts and poster presentations were presented by our residents and fellows at the following meetings: American Society of Anesthesiology (ASA), Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists (SCA), Western Anesthesia Residents' Conference (WARC), American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine (ASRA), Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology (SOAP), American College of Chest Physician(CHEST), SPA-AAP Pediatric Anesthesiology, and International Anesthesiology Conference. We also feel it is important to foster leadership skills during residency by encouraging resident participation in departmental, hospital, and national committees. Our residents are awarded stipends annually from Foundation for Anesthesiology Education and Research Scholars to attend special programs at the ASA's annual

meeting, and we have resident representation within the leadership of the ASA, and the California Society of Anesthesiologist (CSA). Residents also hold important roles in departmental, hospital, and system groups such as the Patient Safety and Graduate Medical Education Committees.

We have designed an innovative “Leadership Track” helping to train our residents to become future leaders in our specialty. The Leadership Track is a longitudinal curriculum that spans the CA-1, CA-2, and CA-3 years. Residents will learn about how emotional intelligence, communication, and personality type play critical roles in team dynamics and effective leadership. Through various tools and resources, residents will evaluate their personal strengths and incorporate this knowledge into their careers as future physician leaders. In the CA-3 year, residents will participate in the Leadership Education for the Advancement of Physicians (LEAP) program to focus on healthcare innovation, process improvement, and completion of a Capstone Project. Upon completion of residency, residents will graduate with distinction in the Leadership Track and LEAP certificate. There are currently four residents participating in the Leadership Track and there will be eight positions available for the 2025-2026 academic year.

The department generously contributes towards housing stipends, meal fund, exams, and licensing fees incurred during residency. The residents are provided written/oral board prep and given MOCK oral and OSCE exam based on the ABA practical exam model. Our intent is not only to train superb anesthesiologists but to influence in them the responsibility of representation and leadership in our specialty's advocacy efforts through the California Society of Anesthesiologists and the ASA.

The Residency Program we have here is exceptional because of the faculty members, residents, internship/clinical anesthesiology curriculum, clinical experience, volume, diversity, and complexity of cases, early, strong, and longitudinal subspecialty training experience. We would like to add to this number with young physicians who want to train to be outstanding anesthesiologists and leaders in our field. Highly accomplished and diverse faculty will provide hands on instruction and oversight to prepare you for independent practice.

The health and wellness of our residents is also a priority. Our program offers faculty, residents’ mentorship. Faculty experts in every subspecialty will serve as your mentors. Faculty mentors help you to explore areas beyond operating room and facilitate your involvement in academic projects and leadership roles of your choosing and receiving individualized attention that you need to achieve success. Our program also provides Residents family mentorship and opportunities for socialization outside of work so residents can know each other and cope, enjoy local and regional entertainment.

The Education team aiding me includes a former resident of this Program – Dr. Robert Wong, Associate Program Director, Dr. Jennifer Cutler, Associate Program Director, Dr. Michael Kissen, and Dr. Christy Slingwine, Assistant Program Directors also former graduates of the program. Through our roles, we will continue fostering the tradition of excellence in anesthesiology education that our training program offers our residents. We are all eager to continue providing our proven top-tier approach to anesthesiology residency training.

During our interview process, candidates can meet our current residents, so they have firsthand experience of the camaraderie of the program. Our interviews are preceded by a presentation of the program, virtual touring of the medical center and Simulation Center. The interviews are conducted by the Program Directors, faculty members and Chief Residents. We hope to be able to virtually

present to you our program with its rich culture, incredible clinical and didactic experience, great mentorship, and collegial atmosphere, located in the Mid-City West area of Los Angeles.

We have quite a bit to offer to the student contemplating a career in anesthesiology. This is just a small sampler of what you can expect to experience during training at Cedars and a better understanding of our program. Thank you for taking the time to look at our program. Our philosophy is that learning during residency should allow you to achieve your personal career goals with the support and guidance of accomplished faculty members and program leadership. We are committed to not only train you as a skilled physician anesthesiologist but also provide you the skills to be a leader in patient safety, quality, and perioperative medicine. I look forward receiving your application, hosting you for an interview and sharing with you the unique strengths of our program.

Sincerely,

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