



# SLEEPY TIMES

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 9 SEPTEMBER 2025



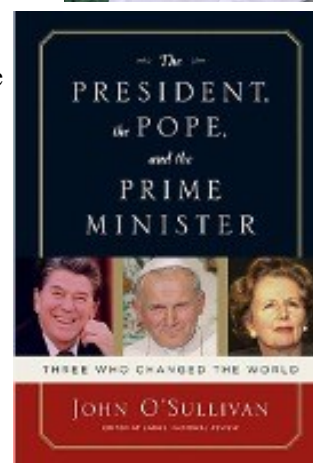
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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN: THE PRESIDENT, THE POPE, AND THE PRIME MINISTER

-Scott T. Reeves, MD, MBA

Recently, I completed the book *The President, the Pope, and the Prime Minister, Three Who Changed the World* by John O'Sullivan (a journalist and former adviser to Margaret Thatcher) which tells the story of how Ronald Reagan, Pope John Paul II, and Margaret Thatcher worked, often independently but with aligned values, to confront and ultimately help bring about the fall of Soviet communism in the 1980s. What unites these three figures is not merely their political influence, but their moral conviction, strategic cooperation, and courage to stand firm in the face of opposition. As I reflect on this book through the lens of my medical practice, particularly as an anesthesiologist, I'm struck by how deeply relevant its themes are to the world of medicine and the world in general today.



### Moral Leadership in the Operating Room

Much like the trio's commitment to moral clarity, anesthesiologists must embrace ethical leadership in environments where patients' lives hang in the balance. In our specialty, we are often the last voice a patient hears before surgery and the guardian of their physiology while unconscious. Our role demands a deep moral compass in which to advocate for patient safety, question decisions that compromise standards, and ensure dignity is upheld in every interaction. Reagan's resolve in labeling the Soviet Union the "evil empire" wasn't just rhetorical; it was a refusal to tolerate moral relativism. In medicine, we, too, must resist ethical ambiguity. Whether it's insisting on proper time-outs before procedures or halting an unsafe case, moral leadership is not theoretical.

### Strategic Cooperation in Multidisciplinary Care

Thatcher, Reagan, and the Pope did not coordinate in traditional political alliances, yet they supported one another through shared values and goals. In anesthesiology, our success similarly hinges on interprofessional collaboration. We may not be the face of the operation, but we're its foundation. Seamless communication with surgeons, nurses, and techs ensures that our shared mission of patient safety is achieved.

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**OPENING MESSAGE CONTINUED****Faith, Freedom, and Patient Dignity**

Pope John Paul II's spiritual leadership inspired resistance to tyranny and reaffirmed the value of individual dignity. While anesthesiology is a technical specialty, it is also deeply human. We manage fear, pain, and vulnerability. We speak for patients who cannot speak for themselves under anesthesia. A commitment to patient dignity by respecting our patients' values, providing thorough explanations, honoring consent etc is essential.

**Individual Responsibility and Ethical Autonomy**

Each of the three leaders took personal responsibility for their roles in shaping the world. Likewise, anesthesiologists shoulder tremendous responsibility. Machines may monitor vitals, but it is our judgment, intuition, and decisions that protect the patient. We must be constantly alert, accountable, and willing to act. There is no room for complacency. In crisis moments, difficult airways, hemodynamic instability, and anaphylaxis, there's no committee. That is the weight and the privilege of our role.

**Resisting Systemic Injustice in Healthcare**

Finally, the trio's resistance to communism which was a system they viewed as a moral and ideological failure, I believe this resonates with current struggles within healthcare systems. Whether it's advocating against venture capital companies purchasing physician groups, unsafe staffing ratios, confronting systemic bias in patient care, or speaking out against cost-cutting measures that undermine quality, we all can and should be voices of reason. We are stewards of ethics in a system that can often lose sight of the individual.

*The President, the Pope, and the Prime Minister* is not just a history book. It's a study in how conviction, courage, and cooperation can change the course of the world. For the anesthesiology care team, these same qualities are just as transformative. We lead not through speeches or diplomacy, but through vigilant care, ethical conviction, and strategic collaboration. In doing so, we uphold not only the health of our patients but the very values upon which medicine stands. I would encourage everyone to check out a copy at your local library.

**FIRST LVAD CATARACT AT RUTLEDGE TOWER**

MUSC has had a backlog of cataract cases for patients with LVADs, and finding space at UH has been a challenge. We've been working closely with our LVAD coordinators at MUSC to educate the periop staff and ensure these patients can be safely cared for at Rutledge Tower

A big thank you to Ellen Johnson, MD, and Charlotte Barron, CRNA for successfully managing the first patient and providing excellent care!



## WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT

Hi everyone - My name is Molli Walker, and I'm originally from Augusta, GA, but have called Charleston home for many years. I first came here to attend the College of Charleston, where I met my husband, and then went on to complete medical school and residency at MUSC. I've had the privilege of working with many of you over the past several years, and I'm excited to be staying on at MUSC as part of the general anesthesia team, as well as joining the OB anesthesia and outpatient regional teams. Outside of work, my husband and I spend most of our free time going on walks with our 8-month-old daughter (Aimé), traveling, and enjoying Charleston from the water. I look forward to meeting those of you I haven't yet had the chance to work with!



**Molli Walker, MD**



**Steven Vranian, MD**

Hi Everybody! I am very excited to be back on Faculty! After completing medical school and residency at MUSC, I spent a year at Duke completing a pain management fellowship. I spent a year in private practice pain management before making the decision to come back to MUSC Anesthesia. My husband, William (Senior Counsel at Moore & VanAllen), and I have called Charleston home for the past 10 years. We've got an awesome doodle and a cat, both of whom are far more photogenic than us. Outside of the hospital, you can find me cooking, on the water or at some new restaurant in town. I look forward to working with you all!

Dr. Sean Bruna joins Dr. Catchpole's Human Factors and Clinical Safety Science Laboratory as a Staff Scientist. A medical anthropologist with expertise in chronic disease prevention and health policy, Dr. Bruna trained at the University of Chicago and the University of New Mexico. He offers a unique interdisciplinary perspective to healthcare systems research, combining ethnographic methods with policy insight. Prior to MUSC, he served as an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Western Washington University and later as a Senior Advisor to the Director at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), where he orchestrated national initiatives on emergency department boarding and the future of health services research. His research has been supported by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Smithsonian Institution, among others. In 2025, he was named a Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Emerging Leader in Health and Medicine for the Emerging Leaders Forum by the National Academy of Medicine. At MUSC, Dr. Bruna will contribute to ongoing safety science projects while exploring how patients, clinical teams, and leadership strategically navigate, understand, and influence healthcare systems and technologies. If you see him in the OR, ED, or boardroom, don't hesitate to say hello! Outside of work, Sean enjoys camping and sailing with his wife, Dr. Heather Fullerton, a microbiology professor at the College of Charleston.



**Sean Bruna, PhD**



**WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT**

I was born and raised in Charleston; I went to Clemson for undergrad then moved to Nashville to work as a nurse before coming back home to Charleston for school! I graduated in May of this year. Fun fact- before starting work my husband and I DIY renovated a couple rooms in our house- while it was fun I decided I better stick to anesthesia!



**Caroline Gencdur, CRNA (UH)**



Hi, my name is Michelle. I'm originally from Atlanta. I graduated from University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. In my free time, I love taking my dog to the beach. I'm excited to be here and looking forward to getting to know everyone.

Michelle is our FIRST 50/50 CRNA. She will be splitting her time between UH and SJ!

**Michelle Russell, CRNA (UH/SJ)**

I grew up in Mt. Pleasant and attended Clemson University for my undergraduate degree. I lived in Greenville for a few years before moving back to Charleston to attend MUSC's CRNA program. I am really excited to be back home working in Charleston. I love spending time outside with my dog and reading! My goal in life is to be a contestant on Jeopardy!



**Caroline Ussery, CRNA (UH)**

## DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS

Originally born on Andrews Air Force Base outside of Washington D.C., I grew up in Lexington, Kentucky and am a proud Kentucky Wildcat at heart. I completed medical school at Saint George's University School of Medicine. This was followed by both an Anesthesiology residency and a Chronic Pain Fellowship at the University of Kentucky. I joined the MUSC Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine in 2020.

At MUSC, I have been fortunate to grow my clinical practice, collaborating with exceptional colleagues, and contribute to the advancement of pain medicine in the Charleston area. I have been deeply involved in expanding access to innovative therapies at MUSC, while continuing to engage in educational initiatives and collaborative care efforts.

I am passionate about bringing forward new approaches that improve patient outcomes and enhance quality of life, and I remain committed to mentoring the next generation of physicians and advancing the role of evidence-based, patient-centered care in our field.

As I begin this role as Division Chief for Chronic Pain, my goal is to build on the strong foundation already in place by encouraging innovation, expanding access to care, and continuing to work closely with colleagues across disciplines. I am fortunate to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Selassie, who has played such a key role in expanding our team and impact. I am deeply thankful to Dr. Reeves for this opportunity and trust, and to Dr. Selassie for her leadership and support.



**Marty Burke, MD**

**Associate Professor**

**New Pain Division Chief**



**Katie Hatter, MD**

**Associate Professor**

Dr. Katie Hatter, a Charleston native, attended Clemson University before returning home to earn her medical degree at MUSC. She completed her anesthesiology residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and fellowship training in obstetric anesthesiology at Duke University before joining the MUSC faculty in 2020. Dr. Hatter specializes in high-risk obstetric anesthesia and is passionate about medical student and resident education, serving as Course Director for the fourth-year medical student anesthesia rotation, Assistant Program Director for CA1 Curriculum, and Lead Faculty Advisor to the College of Medicine Honor Council. Her research focuses on optimizing post-cesarean pain management, improving simulation-based education, and understanding patient experiences such as time perception during labor. She is grateful to her mentors Drs. Scott Reeves, Latha Hebbbar, Catherine Tobin, and Julie McSwain for their guidance, as well as to her battle buddies who have encouraged her along the way. She is especially thankful for the patience and understanding of her husband Josh, and for the joyful chaos created by their two cats, two spirited beagles, and their newest (human) addition, Charlotte, who joined the family in May.

**FOX 24 NEWS INTERVIEW WITH DR. MARTY BURKE**

Click the image below to watch the Fox 24 News Interview with Dr. Marty Burke on ReActiv8: A Breakthrough for Chronic Back Pain Sufferers.



ReActiv8: A Breakthrough for Chronic Back Pain Sufferers




[Click here for the  
updated Hazardous  
Weather Plan](#)

**Hazardous  
Weather Plan**



## RESEARCH CORNER

# Mepivacaine versus bupivacaine spinal anesthesia for return of motor function following total knee arthroplasty: a randomized controlled trial

Clinton F Pillow <sup>1</sup>, Carey Brewbaker <sup>2</sup>, Bethany J Wolf <sup>3</sup>, William Barrett,<sup>1</sup> Erik Hansen,<sup>4</sup> Andrew Brown,<sup>5</sup> Dylan Crawford,<sup>1</sup> Sylvia H Wilson <sup>6</sup>



Clinton Pillow, MD



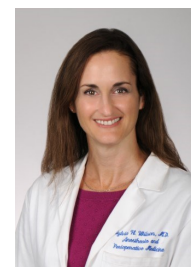
Carey Brewbaker, MD



Bethany Wolf, PhD



William Barrett, DO



Sylvia Wilson, MD



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Orthopaedics & Traumatology: Surgery & Research

journal homepage: [www.sciencedirect.com/journal/orthopaedics-and-traumatology-surgery-and-research](http://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/orthopaedics-and-traumatology-surgery-and-research)



## Review article

### Limited evidence for anesthesia and analgesia for outpatient primary knee and hip arthroplasty: A scoping review

Jinlei Li <sup>a,1,\*</sup>, Alberto E. Ardon <sup>b,1</sup>, Rebecca L. Johnson <sup>c</sup>, Nigel Gillespie <sup>a</sup>, Yan Lai <sup>d</sup>, Jean-Pierre Phillip Ouanes <sup>e</sup>, Ashley M. Shilling <sup>f</sup>, Hanae K. Tokita <sup>g</sup>, Cameron K. Ledford <sup>h</sup>, Sylvia H. Wilson <sup>i</sup>



Sylvia Wilson, MD

## Infographic

### Spinal anesthesia with mepivacaine versus bupivacaine: early start, same finish—an infographic

Ryan S D'Souza <sup>1</sup>, Clinton F Pillow <sup>2</sup>, Sara Amaral <sup>3</sup>



Clinton Pillow, MD

## RESEARCH CORNER

PEDIATRICS | OPEN SCIENCE



## RESEARCH BRIEF

# Trends in Pediatric Procedural Cancellations Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Mariah K. Tanious MD, MPH, Amanda M. Bunnell MD, Natalie R. Barnett MD



Mariah Tanious, MD



Amanda Bunnell, MD



Natalie Barnett, MD



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

Disability and Health Journal

journal homepage: [www.disabilityandhealthjnl.com](http://www.disabilityandhealthjnl.com)



Impact of physical disability on transplant candidacy: A multi-institutional survey of transplant professionals

Jessica Marengo <sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Joel Michael Reynolds <sup>c,d,e,f</sup>, Liz Bowen <sup>e,g</sup>, Christoph Nabzdyk <sup>h</sup>, Mariah Tanious <sup>i,j</sup>



Mariah Tanious, MD

## RESIDENT OF THE MONTH NOMINATION

“I would like to nominate Dr. Gaines for Resident of the Month in recognition of his patient care and teamwork. During his month long residency in the PACU Main Hospital, he demonstrated attentiveness, compassion, and intelligence in every aspect.”

Great job Dr. Gaines!





## GRAND ROUNDS—SEPTEMBER 2025

**“M&M ”**

**Jocelyn Matheson, MD, Resident Physician**  
**Josh deGuzman, MD, Resident Physician**

**“VERO Biotech Nitric Oxide Demonstration”**  
**Phillip Harrison and Brian Costa, VERO Biotech**  
**September 2, 2025**

**Dept. of Anesthesia & Perioperative Medicine**  
**Medical University of South Carolina**

**“Testing for Adequacy of Neuraxial block for Cesarean Section ”**

**Abhi Madamangalam, MD, Associate Professor**  
**September 9, 2025**

**Dept. of Anesthesia & Perioperative Medicine**  
**Medical University of South Carolina**

**“Obstetric Anesthesia in Cardiovascular Disease”**

**Katherine Arendt, MD, Professor**

**September 16, 2025**

**Dept. of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine**  
**Mayo Clinic**

**“Updates in Placenta Accreta Spectrum Management”**

**Eliza McElwee, MD, Assistant Professor**

**September 23, 2025**

**Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology**  
**Medical University of South Carolina**

**“Perioperative Brain at Risk: Stroke and Cognitive Impairment ”**

**Amanda Faulkner, MD, Assistant Professor**

**September 30, 2025**

**Dept. of Anesthesia & Perioperative Medicine**  
**Medical University of South Carolina**

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[CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE](#)

**Future Events/Lectures**

**CA 1 Lecture Series**

9/3—Anesthesia Complications—Callah West

9/10—Anesthesia for Patients with  
Cardiovascular Disease—Toby Steinberg

9/17—Adrenergic Agonists & Antagonists;  
Hypotensive Agents—Jackson Condrey

9/24—Cardiovascular Physiology &  
Anesthesia—Martin Steine



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**I HUNG THE MOON**

Please don't forget to nominate your co-workers for  
going 'Beyond the Call of Duty.' I Hung The Moon  
slips are available at the 3rd floor front desk and may



Holiday Party  
Saturday, December 6, 2025  
Carolina Yacht Club

[ONE MUSC Strategic Plan](#)

**We Would Love to Hear From You!**

If you have ideas or would like to contribute  
to *Sleepy Times*, the deadline for the October edition will be  
September 18, 2025.