

STAR SPOTLIGHT

Newsletter

1/1/2026 - 6/30/2026



The Center for Shock, Trauma and Anesthesiology Research

Spotlight on STAR is a semi-annual publication designed to keep members informed about research activities during the current academic year within the Department of Anesthesiology, the Trauma Program, and the National Study Center.

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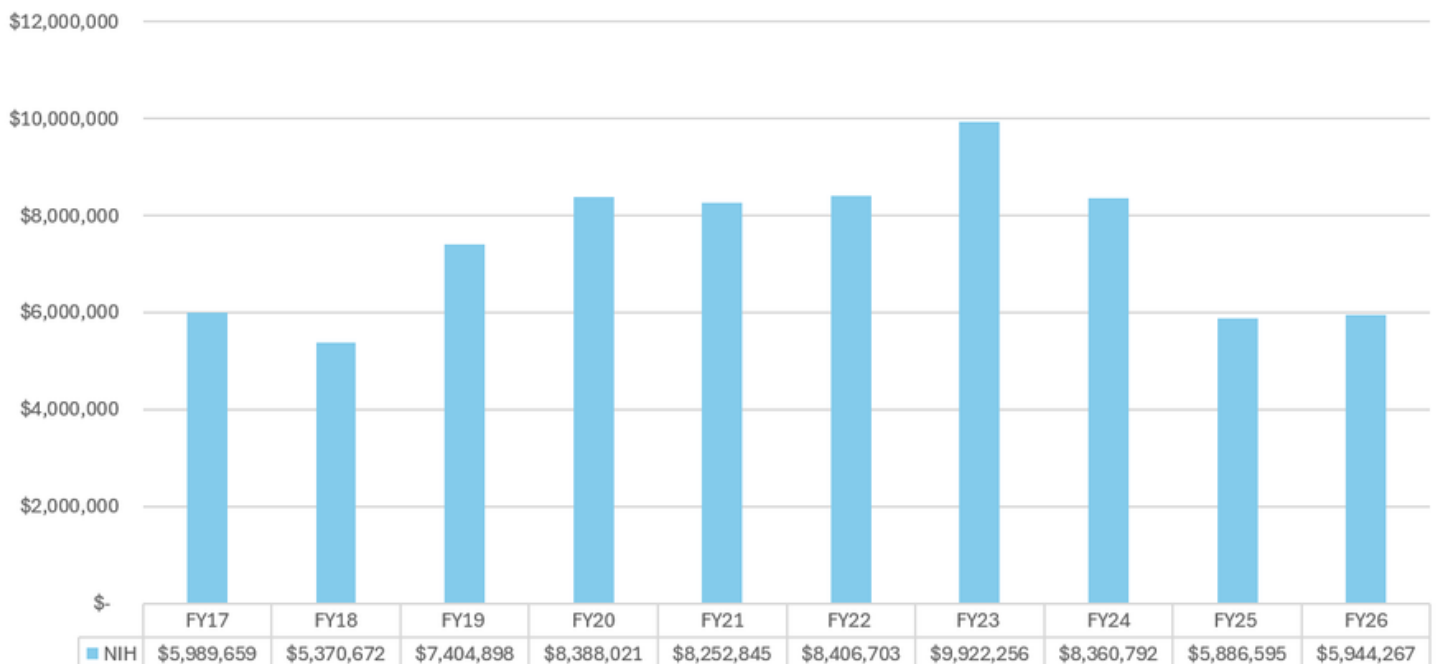


STAR Grant Funding

STAR Grant Funding: Fiscal year 2017-2026



NIH Funding Trend





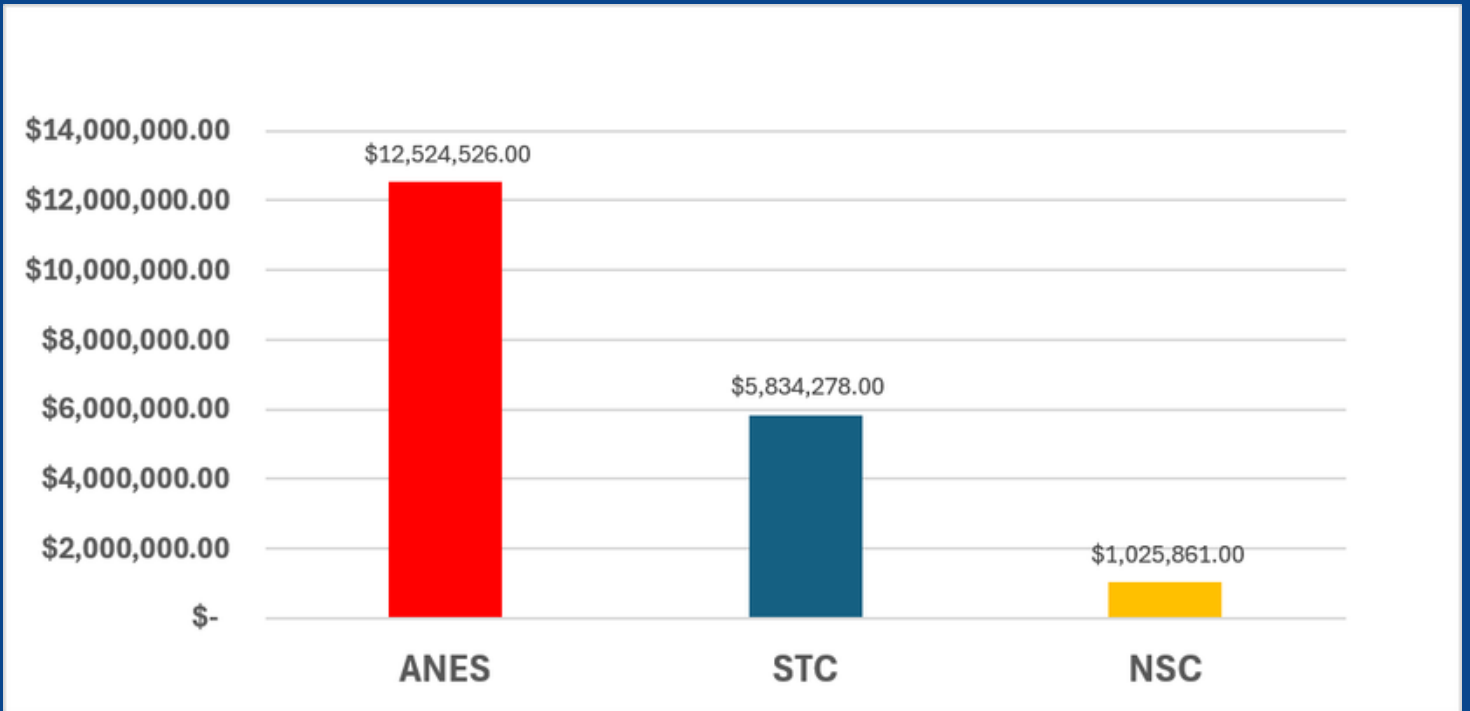
STAR Funding

2017-2026 YTD



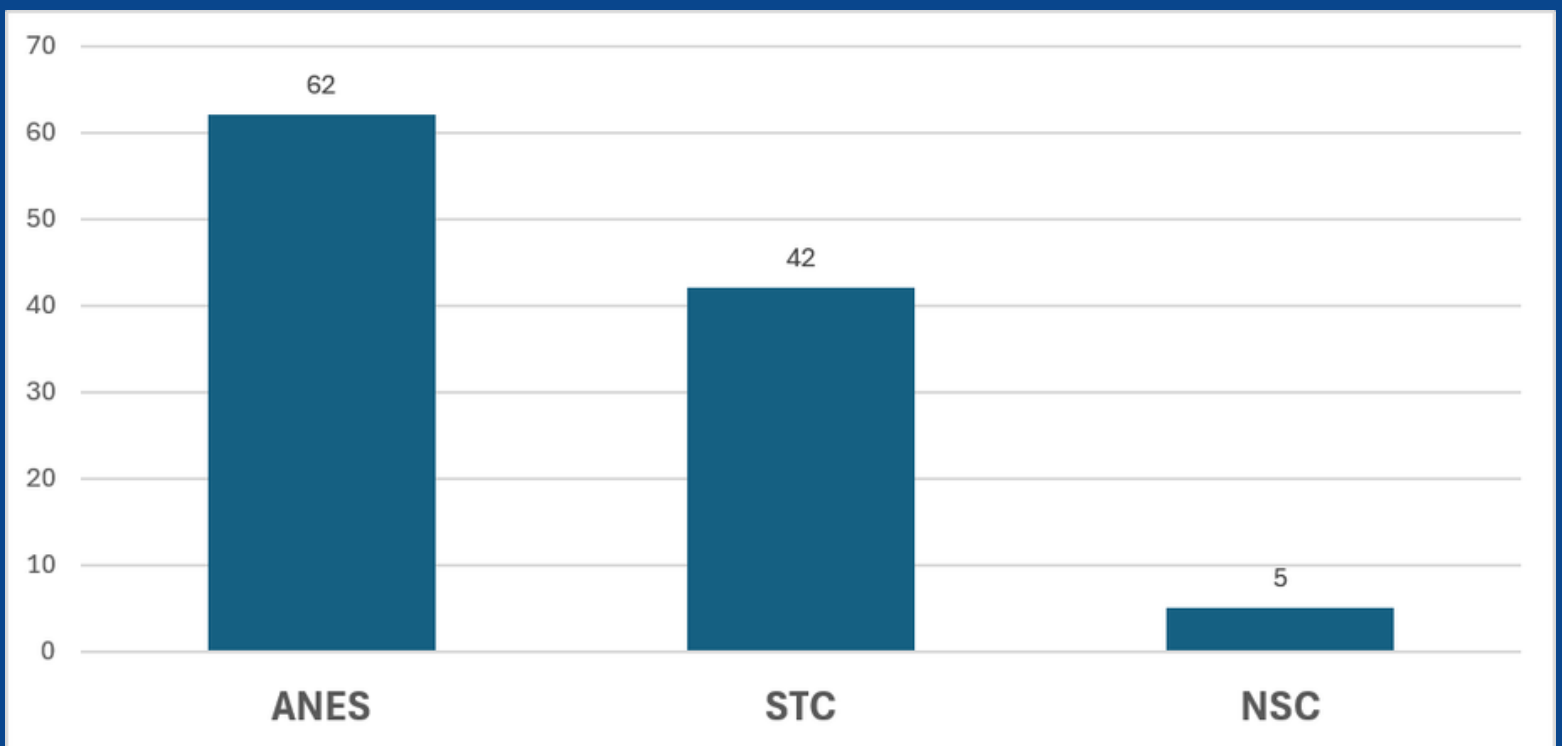
Research funding

Total - \$19,384,665



Proposals submitted

109 submissions- \$190M





Active Clinical Studies



Anesthesiology

Clinical Trials				
Principal Investigator	Study - Short Title	Sponsor	Enrolled FY26	Total Enrolled
Megan Anders	VEGA-2	NIH	MPOG	MPOG
Megan Anders	FEEDS	PCORI	5	5
Reney Henderson	PH3-PCC	CSL Behring	5	5
Patrick Odonkor	MINDDS	NIH	2	2

Prospective Observational Studies				
Principal Investigator	Study - Short Title	Sponsor	Enrolled FY26	Total Enrolled
Reney Henderson	BE-KIND	N/A	0	0
Brittney Williams	EVs in CPB	N/A	1	27
Wei Chao	miRNAs in Sepsis	NIH	33	152
Patrick Odonkor	ANH in AKI	Dept Seed	17	54

Retrospective Studies (7/1/2025-6/30/2026)	
Principal Investigator	Study - Short Title
Shobana Bharadwaj	SOAP GA
Wei Chao	miRNAs in Trauma
Jay Datta	VET in Liver Tx
Ashan Grewal	Methadone in ERACS
Reney Henderson	STOP-HITT
Samhati Mondal	Coagulopathy and Ao Surg
Brittney Williams	IABD in Heart Tx
Brittney Williams	Arrhythmias in CT Surgery
Brittney Williams	Transfusion Timing in Cardiac Surgery
Thelma Wright	Dosing in Chronic Pain
Megan Anders	Diabetes and Post Induction Hypotension



Clinical Research Resources

- **COVID-19 Biorepository**

The Department of Anesthesiology's COVID-19 Biorepository supports COVID-19 clinical and translational research by providing investigators with access to well-characterized biospecimens and associated clinical data. The repository contains plasma samples from more than 100 patients admitted during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, along with a linked database that includes admission dates, demographics, and discharge disposition.

This valuable resource enables investigators to accelerate research on disease biology, treatment response, and clinical outcomes.

For more information, contact:

Brittney Williams, MD

brittney.williams@som.umaryland.edu

LaToya Stubbs, MS, CCR

lstubbs@som.umaryland.edu

- **Perioperative Data Warehouse (PDW)**

The Perioperative Data Warehouse (PDW) is a comprehensive clinical database developed from the electronic health records of patients who have undergone surgical and other procedures requiring anesthesia. The database contains approximately 450,000 perioperative cases representing 280,000 unique patients.

The PDW supports both clinical research and quality improvement initiatives by providing investigators with access to high-quality perioperative data. This resource facilitates high-impact studies, evidence-based practice improvements, and advances in perioperative patient care.

For more information, contact:

Megan Anders, MD, MS

manders@som.umaryland.edu



Active Clinical Studies



Shock Trauma

Clinical Trials				
Principal Investigator	Study - Short Title	Sponsor	Enrolled FY26	Total Enrolled
Gary Schwartzbauer	ARTIC	DOD	5	19
Deborah Stein	CIREN 2	NHTSA	107	341
Deborah Stein	CIREN MCC	NHTSA	43	59
Kinjal Sethuraman	HOBIT	NIH	3	26
Rosemary Kozar	MAUI 2	DOD	169	196
Rosemary Kozar	Endoshock 3	NIH	6	6
Neeraj Badjatia	iMAS	MTEC/DOD	6	69
William Teeter, Peter Hu	RITMO	DARPA	331	773
William Teeter, Peter Hu	RITMO2	DARPA	83	243
William Teeter, Peter Hu	CAVALIER	DOD	2	2
Deborah Stein	TROOP	NIH	42	94
Elizabeth Powell	Dynamic Wounds	NIH	6	6
William Teeter	BIOBANK			658 samples distributed

Prospective Observational Studies	
7/1/2025-6/30/2026	
Study	RMS Alerts Sent
BLUNT AORTIC INJURY	25
QA Crystalloid	205
REBOA	6
THORACOTOMY	26
RETRO TBI	145
BCVI	38
Cysto Bladder	2

The **R**esearch **M**anagement **S**ystem (**RMS**) Alerts provide real-time identification of potential research subjects through automated EMR surveillance and prospective data capture for study protocols.



Active Clinical Studies



Retrospective Studies

(7/1/2025-6/30/2026)

Principal Investigator	Study Title
Bizhan Aarabi	Neurological Outcome Following Cervical GSW
David Efron	Urban Penetrating Trauma in the Modern Era
Deborah Stein	Traumatic Colon Injury Management and Outcomes
Deborah Stein	Opioid Requirements after Rib Fractures
Eric Ley	Ground Level Fall Trends
Eric Ley	Management of Urethral Injuries
Eric Ley	Management of Ureter Injuries
Eric Ley	Trends in VTE at STC
Eric Ley	Management of Renal Injuries
Jaclyn Clark	PEGs: A Means to an End or a Necessary Intervention?
James Wiseman	Evaluating the Association Between Blunt Cerebrovascular Injury and Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis
James Wiseman	The Long-Term Implications of Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis
Marcelo Ribeiro	Prognostic Value of CBC Ratios in Multi-Trauma Patients
Mira Ghneim	Survival of Trauma Patients with Acidosis
Rebecca Schwartz	Prehospital Whole Blood and Mortality
Rishi Kundi	Thromboembolic Risk of Iliocaval Injury
Rosemary Kozar	Validity and Concordance of Two Malnutrition Frameworks in Adolescent Patients Admitted with Acute Traumatic Injuries
Rosemary Kozar/William Teeter	A Multi-Center Study on Early Trauma-Induced Coagulopathy: Defining Clinical and Biochemical Profiles

Neurocritical Care - Clinical Trials

Principal Investigator	Study Short Title	Sponsor	Enrolled FY26	Total Enrolled
Prajwa Ciryam	REACH CSF	N/A	31	116
Nicholas Morris	WHOL-PAIN	U of Florida (DUA)	9	33
Nicholas Morris	BLOCK-SAH	U of Florida	3	4
Parikh Gunjan	REACH-ICH	MGH/NIH	18	29
Parikh Gunjan	DISCOVERY	MGH/NIH	65	299
Parikh Gunjan	DISCOVERY TIER 2	MGH/NIH	10	10
Neeraj Badjatia	INTACT FEVER CONTROL STUDY	DOD	0	0
Neeraj Badjatia	CE After SAH	NINDS	20	20
Neeraj Badjatia	NIRS NCCU	N/A	0	0
Melissa Motta	SATURN	NINDS	2	12



To improve the operation, efficiency, and quality, please keep the following deadlines in mind during grant submissions.

- Notify STAR Admin as soon as you have identified a potential grant submission- A minimum of 1 month prior to the deadline
- STAR as a subcontract - 3 weeks is required, 2 weeks may be feasible if STAR admin has the capacity and if the application can be quickly turned over.
- Exceptions must be approved by the STAR Administration (Co- Directors and Director of Operations)

UMB Grant Routing Timeline



- **STAR Director approval:** 9 business days prior to sponsor deadline (Final budget/justification)
- **Dean's Office:** 7 business days prior to sponsor deadline (Final budget/justification)
- **SPA:** 5 business days prior to sponsor deadline (All documents final)
Be mindful that STAR Admin requires time to review/upload documents into workflow system.



NIH- Upcoming Grant Deadlines

New

- **R01 - Oct.5**
- **K Awards - Oct, 12**
- **R03/R21 - Oct. 16**

Renewal / Resubmission

- **R01 - Nov.5**
- **K Awards - Nov.12**
- **R03/R21 - Nov. 16**

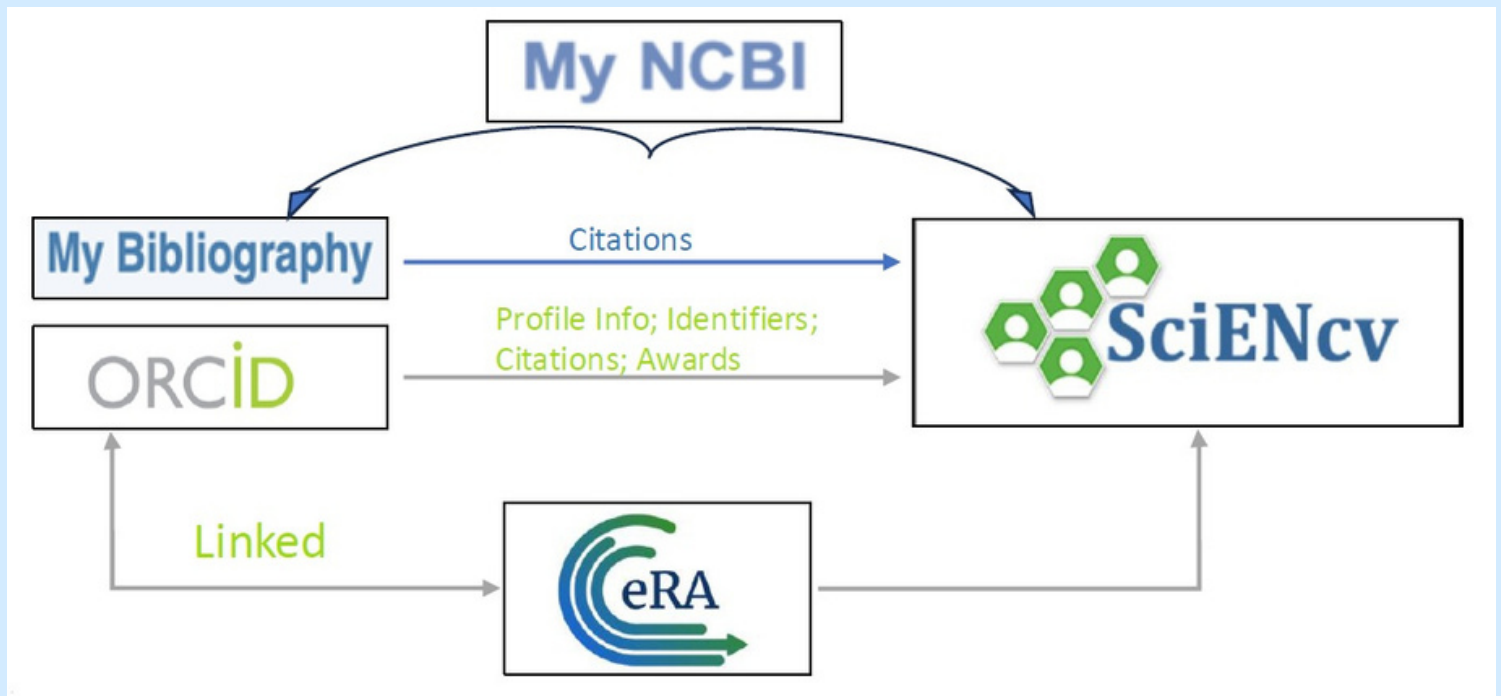


Biosketch & Other Support



Announcement: Beginning 1/25/2026, the NIH will adopt the Biographical Sketch Common Form and the Current and Pending (Other) Support Common Form.

NIH requires using of SciENcv to complete all NIH Common Forms



SciENcv is an electronic collection repository built by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) that assists scientists in creating their biosketches and other support documents.

ORCID is a unique digital identifier that all key personnel on NIH applications must have linked to their eRA Commons personnel profile.

How to Prepare:

1. Create an ORCID iD and update your profile
 - Your ORCID information will feed into SciENcv for generating your Biosketch and Other Support documents.
2. Link your ORCID iD to eRA Commons account
 - This can be done through your Personnel Profile in eRA Commons.
3. Create a SciENcv account
 - SciENcv should automatically link to your ORCID iD and eRA Commons account.
4. Add delegations for the STAR team
 - For additional support, we recommend adding your C/G post-award specialist, as well as [Sophie Li](#), [Kalpana Vijay](#), and [Brandon Goldschmitt](#).

New Awards



Anesthesiology



Megan G. Anders, MD, MS

General Hospital Corp. d/b/a Massachusetts General Hospital

"Preoperative Fasting vs. Not Fasting in Mechanically Ventilated Patients who Receive Tube Feeding: A Pragmatic Comparative Safety Trial"

\$417,990.00



Molly Goodfellow, PhD

Association for Women in Science Inc.

"AWIS Bridge Grant Program"

\$5,000.00



Tibor Kristian, PhD

VA Maryland Health Care System

"IPA - Tibor Kristian"

\$33,969.51



Yijia Li, MD, PhD

American Heart Association

"Role of TLR7-Itgam Pathway in Myocardial Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury"

\$163,864.00



Bogdan Stoica, MD

VA Maryland Health Care System

"IPA J. Barrett - MicroRNA-regulated Pathways Control Chronic-Progressive Neuroinflammation and Neurodegeneration Following TBI; Caloric Restriction Promotes Sustained Neurological Recovery after TBI"

\$152,215.00



Arrissa Torrie, MD, MHS

Orthopaedic Trauma Association

"Beyond Pain Control: The Broader Effects of Peripheral Nerve Blocks in Older Adults with Lower Extremity Fractures-A Pilot Feasibility Study"

\$80,000.00

New Awards



Shock Trauma



Neeraj Badjatia, MD, MS

NeuroIntact Inc

"NeuroIntact Study"

\$249,426.00



Nicholas A. Morris, MD, FAAN, FNCS

Univ. of Florida / NIH

"Pterygopalatine Fossa Block as an Opioid-Sparing Treatment for Acute Headache in Subarachnoid Hemorrhage"

\$77,777.00

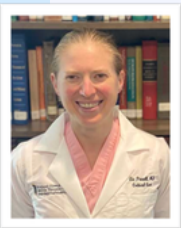


Jamie Podell, MD

NIH-National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke

"Understanding and modulating paroxysmal sympathetic hyperactivity (PSH) after traumatic brain injury (TBI): A neuroimaging and physiologic data analytic approach"

\$1,147,037.00



Elizabeth Powell, MD

STMD-Maryland Department of Commerce

"Operational Medicine and Research Institute"

\$1,000,000.00

National Study Center



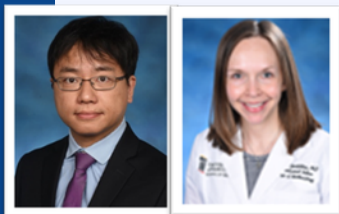
William Teeter, MD

STMD-Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration

"Impact analysis with telematics data for Maryland"

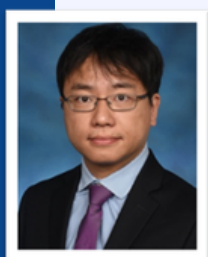
\$33,784.22

Honors & Highlights



Drs. Yifan Yuan and Molly Goodfellow Receive MPower Early Scholars Investment Fund Awards

Congratulations to Drs. Yifan Yuan and Molly Goodfellow on each receiving a \$50,000 MPower Early Scholars Investment Fund Award. The award recognizes outstanding early-career investigators and supports innovative research with the potential to secure future extramural funding.



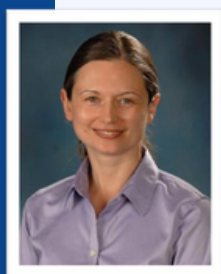
Dr. Yifan Yuan Receives IGS Early Stage Pilot Grant Award

Congratulations to Dr. Yifan Yuan on receiving a \$25,000 Institute for Genome Sciences (IGS) Early Stage Pilot Grant Award. The award supports his pilot research project and recognizes its scientific merit and potential impact.



Dr. Molly Goodfellow Receives UMB Pivoting Programmatic Research Grant

Congratulations to Dr. Molly Goodfellow on receiving a \$234,592 University of Maryland, Baltimore Pivoting Programmatic Research Grant (PPRG). The award will support her research project, "Influence of PAD Enzyme Activity on Trauma-Induced Coagulopathy and Endotheliopathy," from July 15, 2026, through July 14, 2027.



Dr. Marta Lipinski Receives 2026 Colin MacKenzie / Cristina Imle Mentoring Prize

Congratulations to Dr. Marta Lipinski on being named the recipient of the 2026 Colin MacKenzie / Cristina Imle Mentoring Prize. Selected from 11 outstanding nominees, Dr. Lipinski is recognized for her exceptional mentorship and lasting impact on faculty, trainees, and colleagues.



Cyrus David Mintz, MD, PhD **Professor**

Dr. Cyrus David Mintz is joining the University of Maryland School of Medicine as Professor and Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology, where he also holds a faculty appointment in the Department of Neurobiology. He is a member of the UM-MIND and his laboratory is located in the UM-MIND area.

Dr. Mintz completed his undergraduate education with a B.S. in Neuroscience from Brown University. He then completed his medical degree and a PhD in Neuroscience at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Following medical school, Dr. Mintz completed his residency and served as Chief Resident in the Department of Anesthesiology at Columbia University. He subsequently completed a post-doctoral T32 basic science research fellowship in the Division of Neuro-anesthesiology at Columbia University. Prior to assuming his leadership roles at the University of Maryland, he served as a faculty member and clinical leader at Johns Hopkins Medicine. He remains an active member of several professional organizations, including the Society for Neuroscience, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, and the Association of University Anesthesiologists.

Dr. Mintz's research covers both preclinical and clinical domains. He has a primary area of research in developmental anesthetic neurotoxicity, investigating the molecular mechanisms by which early exposure to general anesthesia disrupts brain circuit development, oligodendrocyte maturation, and myelination. Recent work has focused on the harmful effects of sedative exposure, which is parallel but distinct from anesthetic effects and future directions include understanding how intensive care sedation can impair recovery from early life brain trauma. Another key area of focus is translation of animal model work in anesthetic toxicity to human studies through the use of brain organoid models.

In addition to his neurodevelopmental work, Dr. Mintz's other major area of interest is perioperative studies of the microbiome. His laboratory conducts pioneering work examining how exposure to volatile anesthetics alters the diversity and composition of the intestinal microbiota. By utilizing mouse models of general anesthesia and perioperative exposure, his research highlights the potential role of anesthetic-induced dysbiosis in shaping post-operative immune responses, susceptibility to infections, and clinical outcomes in critically ill patients.

Recent Publications:

- Li Q, Mathena RP, Xu J, Eregha ON, Wen J, **Mintz CD**. Early Postnatal Exposure to Isoflurane Disrupts Oligodendrocyte Development and Myelin Formation in the Mouse Hippocampus. *Anesthesiology*. 2019 Nov;131(5):1077-1091. PubMed [PMID: 31436548](#).
- Zhou X, Wang Y, Shen L, **Mintz CD**, Li F. Early Postnatal Exposure to Midazolam Causes Lasting Histological and Neurobehavioral Deficits via Activation of the mTOR Pathway. *Int J Mol Sci*. 2024 Jun 14;25(12):6743. PubMed [PMID: 38928447](#).
- Serbanescu M, Lee S, Li F, Boppana SH, Elebasy M, White JR, **Mintz CD**. Effects of Perioperative Exposure on the Microbiome and Outcomes From an Immune Challenge in C57Bl/6 Adult Mice. *Anesth Analg*. 2026 Jan 1;142(1):171-180. Epub 2025 Mar 10. PubMed [PMID: 40063530](#).



Meet the Three New Members Joining Dr. Mintz's Research Team



Qun Li, PhD, MM, Assistant Professor

Dr. Qun Li joined the Department of Anesthesiology as an Assistant Professor in Dr. David Mintz's laboratory. He earned his medical degree from Beijing Medical University, a Master of Medicine from the Academy of Chinese Medicine, and a PhD in Neurobiology from The Ohio State University. Following postdoctoral training at St. Louis University and Columbia University, he held research faculty positions at Washington University and the Kennedy Krieger Institute. His research focuses on anesthesia neurotoxicity, neural development, neuropathic pain, and spinal cord injury. His current work investigates how early-life exposure to anesthesia and opioids affects brain development and chronic postsurgical pain using both animal models and human induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC)-derived brain organoid-like microphysiological systems. His research is supported by the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund (MSCRF) and aims to identify mechanisms that could lead to improved strategies for preventing chronic pain and promoting healthy neurological development.



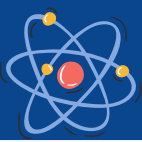
Itzy E. Morales Pantoja, PhD, Assistant Professor

Dr. Itzy E. Morales Pantoja joined the Department of Anesthesiology as an Assistant Professor in Dr. David Mintz's laboratory. She received her PhD in Cellular and Molecular Medicine from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and completed postdoctoral training at Johns Hopkins, where she specialized in stem cell biology, neuroinflammation, and advanced human brain microphysiological systems. Her research focuses on developing and applying human induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC)-derived brain organoids to study neurological disease and developmental vulnerability. By integrating stem cell biology, tissue engineering, and multi-omics approaches, Dr. Morales Pantoja investigates how anesthetic exposure during critical stages of brain development affects glial function, neural circuit formation, and brain maturation, with the goal of identifying therapeutic strategies to promote healthy brain development and resilience.



Caroline R. Wensel, PhD, MSPH, RDN, Research Associate

Dr. Caroline R. Wensel joined the Department of Anesthesiology as a Research Associate in Dr. David Mintz's laboratory. She earned her PhD in Cellular and Molecular Medicine from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and holds a Master of Science in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is also a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. Her research focuses on understanding how perioperative factors, including anesthesia and nutrition, influence the gut microbiome and affect patient outcomes. By integrating microbiome science, bioinformatics, and multi-omics approaches, Dr. Wensel seeks to identify microbial mechanisms and biomarkers that can inform future strategies to improve surgical and critical care outcomes.



Anesthesiology Research Retreat



The Department of Anesthesiology hosted its 5th Annual Research Retreat on May 11, 2026, bringing together more than 70 faculty, fellows, and students for a day of scientific exchange, research presentations, and collaboration.



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Eric Schmidt of Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School presented *"Using Circulating Glycosaminoglycans to Guide Precision Medicine in Sepsis."*



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ken Solt of Mass General Brigham and Harvard Medical School presented *"Activating the Brain's Arousal Systems to Reverse Drug-Induced Unconsciousness."*



The retreat also featured a poster session showcasing more than 30 abstracts. Excellence Awards were presented to **Boyang Ren, Yijia Li, Phuoc Nguyen, and Zachary Wilhelm** in recognition of their outstanding research contributions.





STAR Seminar Series

The STAR Seminar Series plays a vital role in advancing our research and educational missions, fostering collaboration and innovation across basic, translational, and clinical investigation.

**Have a Guest You'd Like to Invite?
Call for STAR Seminar Nominations**

Research faculty are encouraged to nominate outstanding colleagues and collaborators to speak at our monthly STAR Seminar Series. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase innovative work, strengthen partnerships, and bring new scientific perspectives to our community.

STAR will cover all costs for external speakers. We look forward to your nominations and to another engaging lineup of seminars in the months ahead. Drs. Brittney Williams and Chinmoy Sarkar will coordinate and organize these important lectures.

For questions or nominations, please contact:

- Brittany.williams@som.umaryland.edu
- Csarkar@som.umaryland.edu



Funding Opportunity

Professional Grant Writing Support for Department of War Proposals

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) is offering professional grant writing support through Hanover Research to assist investigators preparing **Department of War (DoW)** grant applications. Up to 10 Principal Investigators will receive grant writing assistance valued at **\$3,500** for one proposal.

This opportunity is open to eligible full-time and geographic full-time faculty at the Assistant, Associate, and Professor ranks. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until all awards have been made.

Faculty interested in pursuing Department of War funding are encouraged to apply. For eligibility requirements and application instructions, visit the **submission portal**: https://umaryland.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5swPdLi2EOMal6i

For questions, please contact the SOM Office of Research Affairs at:
som-ora@som.umaryland.edu



STAR Administrative Team



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Rosemary Kozar, M.D., Ph.D. Co-Director, STAR ORC

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