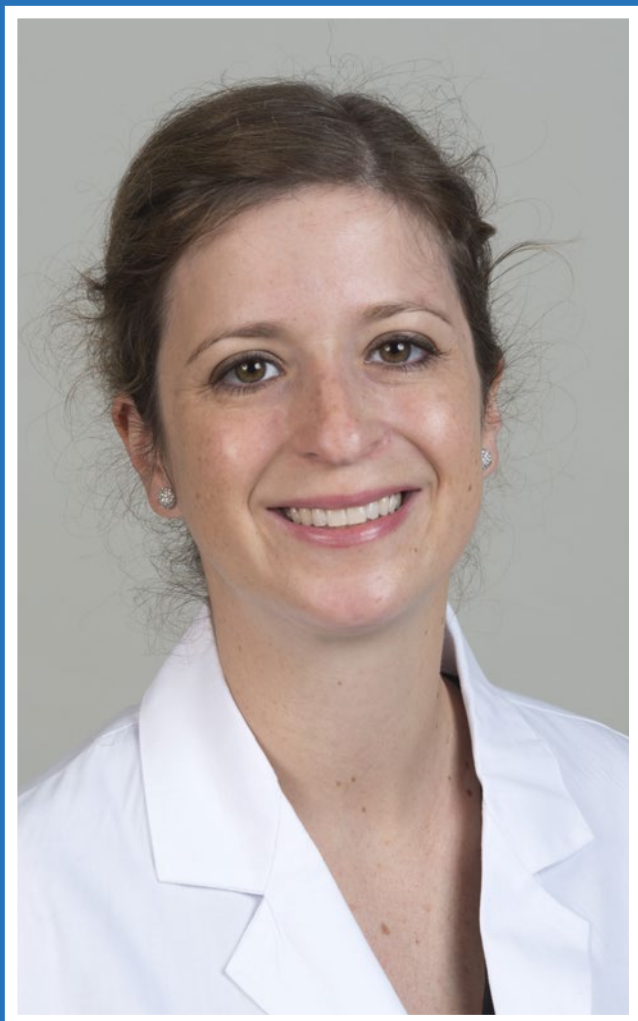


Advancing Anesthesiology

Progressos na Anestesiologia

<https://dx.doi.org/10.25751/rspa.16044>



As far back as I can remember, I always wanted to study medicine and science. I chose Anesthesiology because of the excitement of the operating theater and also due to its broad-based care and the many patients we encounter, each with their own unique pathologies and co-morbidities. Anesthesiology has a crucial impact on patient care, coalescing at the intersection of Surgery, Medicine, Obstetrics, and Pediatrics, thus opening the real and striking possibilities for research and leadership throughout the continuum of clinical care. Our responsibilities now extend beyond the operating and recovery rooms, with a fundamental evolution into the perioperative period and even risk management. To put it another way, modern anesthesiologists are not only physicians but also scientists, educators and patient safety advocates.

In this edition, we have a fantastic example of the expansive role anesthesiologists currently inhabit. Dr. Methangkool's article¹ shows the continuous efforts of world-wide institutions toward improving patient safety culture in Anesthesiology. Through the process of analyzing critical events, we generate valuable data which might lead to potential interventions aimed at avoiding adverse events from happening in the future. Recommendations are then tested to demonstrate their viability and success. In the past 50 years, patient morbidity and mortality directly associated with intraoperative anesthesia have been dramatically reduced, and Anesthesiology is held as an example of progress in patient safety. It was the first specialty in the USA to adopt a national standard for safety improvements. In 1986, anesthesiologists and other stakeholders came together to form the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation-the first-ever foundation dedicated to patient safety.²

Anesthesiologists are powerful leaders in the hospital setting, precisely because we are present through practically every department in the hospital and at each step along the patient's healthcare journey. We must focus our efforts on the many avenues of advancement in the field of Anesthesiology, for future clinicians, scientists and patients.

Um abraço,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Vacas'.

(Susana Vacas MD, PhD)

Author:

Susana Vacas MD, PhD - Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, Director Neuroanesthesiology Fellowship Program, Department of Anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles, United States of America.

References:

1. Methangkool E. Improving patient safety culture in anesthesia how do we get there? *Rev Soc Port Anesthesiol.* 2018; 4: 87-9.
2. Bartels K, McDonagh DL, Newman MF, Mathew JP. Neurocognitive outcomes after cardiac surgery. *Curr Opin Anaesthesiol.* 2013;26:91-7. doi: 10.1097/ACO.0b013e32835bf24c.