

CHIEF RESIDENTS' MESSAGE

On behalf of our 57 categorical and 11 combined anesthesia/medicine residents, welcome to the Loma Linda University (LLU) Anesthesiology Residency website. We appreciate your interest in our program and hope you find this website informative. Our residents come from diverse backgrounds and represent medical schools from all across the nation.

We strongly believe that our clinical training is second to none. Residents complete a wide variety of cases throughout their training, and far exceed the minimum requirements in all categories, frequently by the end of their CA-2 year. LLU has a very strong regional reputation and is known as a hospital that takes care of extremely complex cases.

Residents rotate at the LLU Medical Center (LLUMC), Loma Linda VA hospital, LLU Preoperative Anesthesia Consultation and Education (PACE) clinic, and LLU's East Campus and Surgical hospitals. We consider it a major advantage that our pediatric anesthesia experience occurs in ORs connected to LLUMC's adult ORs. This allows residents to get additional pediatric experience even when not on pediatric rotations.

All CA-1 residents participate in a daily lecture series during their first month of residency to introduce them to the basics of anesthesia. Towards the end of their CA-1 year, they are performing anesthetics for advanced cardiac, vascular, pediatric, and obstetric cases. The CA-2 year consists primarily of subspecialty rotations. These rotations include pediatric anesthesia, cardiothoracic anesthesia, critical care, obstetric anesthesia, neuroanesthesia, and acute and chronic pain. CA-3 residents complete advanced clinical rotations during their final year and have the opportunity to focus on various other electives depending on individual interests. Residents of each class also participate in our perioperative surgical home, a program that has led to dramatic improvements in the perioperative outcomes of our surgical patients.

Loma Linda offers ACGME accredited fellowships in pediatric anesthesia, cardiothoracic anesthesia, critical care, and pain medicine. Though many graduates stay at LLU for fellowship, recent graduates have had great success in fellowship placement at top programs across the country – Stanford, Cleveland Clinic, Michigan, Cedars Sinai, UCSD, and UCLA among others.

Our didactic program consists of multiple components. Wednesday mornings have 2 hours of dedicated education time. On Thursday mornings, residents participate in a Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) workshop - a hands on, attending-led series about the perioperative use of ultrasound. This curriculum focuses on cardiac, pulmonary, and abdominal evaluations along with hemodynamic and ICP assessments, among others. Combining this with a new top-of-the-line manikin built for normal and pathological, realistic ultrasound findings, our residents are prepared for the future of perioperative ultrasound. This POCUS course is led by Dr. Ramsingh, a national leader in perioperative ultrasound in anesthesia. LLU is considered a national leader in perioperative ultrasound and many programs use our POCUS curriculum. Additionally, once a month our residents congregate for Journal Club in which 2-3 innovative articles are discussed on a selected topic, while enjoying a nice dinner and relaxing social interaction outside of work.

Our academic development is evaluated by the Anesthesia Knowledge Tests taken on the 1st day of residency, then subsequently at 1 month, 6 months, and 24 months of training. We also take the national In-Training Exam every February. Residents participate in Mock Oral Exams during their CA-3 year. Resident evaluation consists of regular feedback from attendings as well as formal written evaluations at the completion of every rotation. Residents also meet individually with Dr. Gatling or Dr. Chang every 6 months for evaluation and discussion.

Our department is very active in research, with all residents participating in a research or academic project. Residents with a particular interest in research may request dedicated research time, typically between one and four months of the CA-3 year. Opportunities for both clinical and basic science research are available. Recently our residents have presented and earned awards at multiple conferences including American Society of Anesthesiologists, Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists, the International Anesthesia Research Society, American Society of Regional Anesthesia, the Society for Pediatric Anesthesia, the Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology, and the Western Anesthesia Residents Conference. Our department strongly supports resident research and will financially support residents presenting at conferences.

Finally, our program allows residents to experience a broad range of activities outside of the hospital with family and friends. Residents generally have 2-3 weekends off per month allowing us to take advantage of the beaches, mountains, amusement parks, and many other attractions Southern California has to offer. Interns receive 3 weeks of paid vacation per year and residents receive 4 weeks of paid vacation per year.

Our clinical training has been spectacular, and our residents feel very confident with their skills after graduation. We appreciate your interest in our program and look forward to meeting you during the upcoming interview season! Please do not hesitate to contact us at lluanesth@gmail.com if you have further questions.