



SOCIETY FOR OBSTETRIC  
ANESTHESIA AND PERINATOLOGY

**CENTER of  
EXCELLENCE**

# OBSTETRIC ANESTHESIA **FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**



**UAB** SCHOOL OF  
MEDICINE

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine

# OBSTETRIC ANESTHESIA FACULTY



**Tekuila Carter, M.D.**



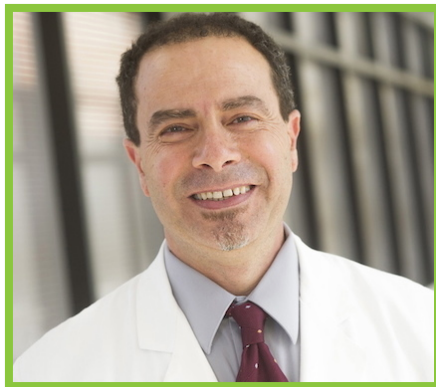
**Hanna Hussey, M.D.**



**Michael Froelich, M.D.,  
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**Mark Powell, M.D.**



**Yasser Sakawi, M.D.,  
CMQ**



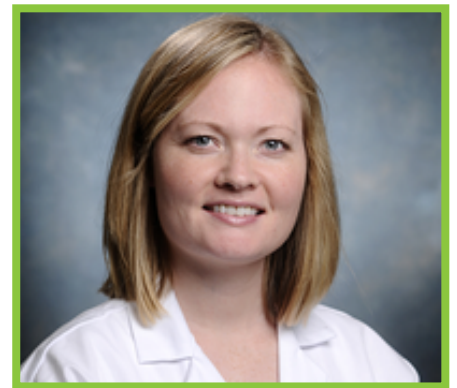
**Sandra Sipe, M.D.**



**Michelle Tubinis, M.D.**



**Pam Varner, M.D.**



**Stacy Wade, M.D.**

# MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Thank you for your interest in the obstetric anesthesiology fellowship at UAB. We pride ourselves at UAB in providing our fellows with significant exposure and opportunities in patient care, research, and education. We are a large referral center with the **only level IV RNICU in the state**. With approximately **4,500 deliveries** per year, many of those high-risk, the fellow will have ample opportunity to grow in knowledge and gain expert experience in caring for these patients. UAB cares for a wide range of patients, from healthy to those with significant comorbidities. These comorbidities include significant hypertensive disorders, congenital cardiac disease, neurologic disease, hematologic disorders, trauma, and more. This necessitates our own high-risk obstetric anesthesia clinic that is staffed twice a month by our faculty and fellow and a congenital cardiac team that meets monthly to discuss our high-risk cardiac patients. The fellow will assist in managing all parturients and be actively involved in delivery planning, including those patients who require delivery in the cardiac operating room.

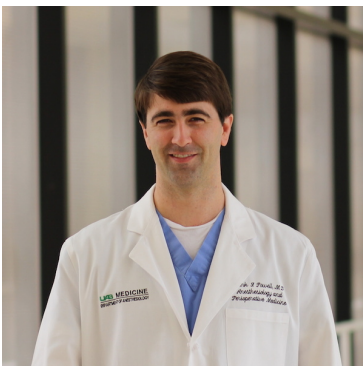
Among public universities, **UAB ranks 12th in public funding**. We are fortunate to have world-renown researchers in both the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Through the Center for Women's Reproductive Health, both departments have collaborated on several projects. With mentorship from senior-level faculty, the fellow will have a significant opportunity to design and conduct a meaningful research project that will lead to national recognition.

A significant component of the fellow's training is **education with an expansive didactic curriculum**. Within the fellowship, we have a fellowship lecture series that occurs weekly. The department has also created a combined fellows' lecture series for common lectures that encompasses all fellowships. This will also allow the fellow to meet colleagues from different subspecialties. Lectures are given on the RNICU rotation as well as by the congenital cardiologist. The fellow will have the opportunity to create the daily resident lecture series for the obstetric anesthesia rotation and provide several resident lectures each month.

We also have the fellow give one departmental grand rounds presentation each year. We coordinate with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology to have the fellow lecture to their residents and fellows. Didactics is capped off by having two obstetric anesthesia journals clubs each year that the fellow also helps facilitate.

Our goal is to provide a **well-rounded training experience** for the fellow in a welcoming and friendly environment. At the end of the academic year, the fellow will be an expert obstetric anesthesiology consultant who will be comfortable providing care to the obstetric patient in any setting. The fellow will also have the opportunity to live in Birmingham, Alabama's friendly, welcoming city with great food, wonderful entertainment, and all four seasons that allow for ample opportunity to explore everything this wonderful city and the surrounding area has to offer. Again, thank you for your interest in our program.

**We look forward to meeting you!**



**Mark Powell, M.D.**

Associate Professor  
Program Director  
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# OVERVIEW

Obstetric anesthesiology is the subspecialty of anesthesiology devoted to the comprehensive anesthetic management of women during pregnancy and the puerperium. The Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) approved the Obstetric Anesthesiology Fellowship in 2011. The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) received its full OB Anesthesiology Fellowship accreditation starting in 2014. UAB is a comprehensive university and medical center that encompasses 82 city blocks and has over 17,000 students. It



is

home to a large graduate school, a world-renowned healthcare complex, and more than 70 research centers. We are one of the original eight National Institute of Child Health and Development (NICHD) research sites involved in maternal, child, and family health research initiatives.

The fellow in Obstetric Anesthesiology will primarily work in the Women and Infants Center (WIC), a \$140-million, 60,000-square-foot freestanding facility. It has 11 maternity evaluation rooms, 17 labor and delivery rooms, 28 antepartum beds, 28 postpartum beds, three operating suites, and 56 beds for gynecology and gynecologic oncology patients. Our Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit is classified as a Level IV RNICU, the highest level possible and the only Level IV in the state. The fellow will be trained and supported by a dedicated group of fellowship-trained obstetric anesthesiologists, experienced clinicians, educators, and scientists in anesthesiology, critical care medicine, fetal-maternal medicine, and neonatology. In addition, the fellow will have their own office, 24-hour access to our premier anesthesia library and university library, and statistical and administrative support.

OB Anesthesiology training consists of gaining clinical expertise in all aspects of normal and advanced obstetric anesthesiology, and fetal-maternal medicine cases in our Women and Infants Center with approximately 4,500 deliveries. The fellow is expected to learn about all aspects of obstetric anesthesia and progress towards an independent teacher and consultant. We also expect the fellow to conduct original clinical or basic research, present results at a national meeting and publish in a peer-reviewed journal. We will promote engagement with other Obstetric Anesthesiology specialists around the country and worldwide as the first step towards a successful and distinguished career in our subspecialty.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Learn more about the only Level IV Regional Intensive Care Unit in the state at the Women and Infants Center.

**4500**

labor deliveries  
per year

**3**

maternal  
operating rooms

**17**

labor and delivery  
rooms

**18**

high-risk obstetric  
beds

# OUR VISION



## Mission

The mission of the obstetric anesthesia fellowship is to provide the training and resources needed for the fellow to excel in the areas of patient care, quality improvement, and research as it relates to obstetric anesthesiology.

## Program Aims

- To provide the training, experience, and education that will allow our fellows to become excellent clinicians in preparation for independent practice as expert consultants in the field of obstetric anesthesia.
- To instill the practice of quality improvement and patient safety through teamwork and a multidisciplinary approach as critical components to the practice of obstetric anesthesia.
- To foster academic development by promoting scholarly activity.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The University of Alabama at Birmingham received the "Center of Excellence" designation by the Society of Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology (SOAP).

The SOAP Center of Excellence designation was created to recognize institutions and programs that demonstrate high quality obstetric anesthesia care. Our program sets a benchmark of expected care to improve standards nationally.

# BIRMINGHAM

THE MAGIC CITY

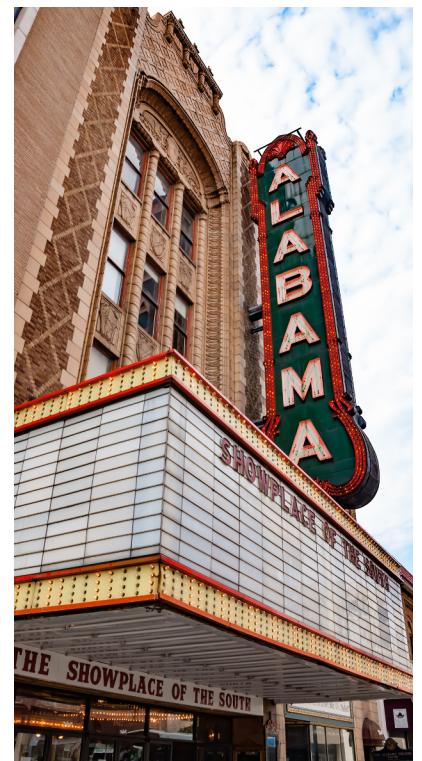
Named **America's No. 1 Best Large Employer** and **No. 4 Best Employer for Diversity** by **Forbes**, UAB has a substantial impact on the region. But the region also plays an important role in making UAB attractive to a 21st-century workforce.

Birmingham has been undergoing a subtle but distinctive shift—one influenced by a revitalized downtown, thriving neighborhoods and suburbs, and urban parks that build upon the city's industrial past. As the region prepares to host the International World Games in 2022, optimism can be sensed in the city's renewal—underscored by the technology-driven Innovation Depot and upscale new hotels such as the Grand Bohemian in Mountain brook and the Westin in the Uptown Entertainment District.

Situated on the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, the urban Southern setting is unique in that it wasn't founded along a river—it was founded atop vast reserves of iron in the late 19th century, making it an industrial hub. Major employers in the area include UAB, Regions Financial Coporation, AT&T, St. Vincent's Health System, Alabama Power Company, Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Alabama, and BBVA Compass.

Higher education in the area includes UAB, Birmingham-Southern College, Samford University, as well as the University of Alabama less than 60 miles away in Tuscaloosa.

Birmingham has a strong culinary culture. Its dining scene, led by renowned chef Frank Stitt III of restaurants such as Highlands Bar & Grill, has received accolades from the James Beard Foundation, Zagat's, and Bon Appetit. But there are also less-established entrepreneurial talents opening up vibrant and noteworthy restaurants across the city. the Market at Pepper Place is a favored Saturday morning tradition among our residents.



# BIRMINGHAM: THE MAGIC CITY

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**ATTRACTIONS:** Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Birmingham Museum of Art, Barber Motorsports Park, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, the Birmingham Zoo, Vulcan Park & Museum, the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame

**CULTURE:** The Alabama Symphony Orchestra, Sidewalk Film Festival, Sloss Music & Arts Festival, Magic City Art Connection

**OUTDOOR/SPORTS:** Beautiful Gulf Coast beaches are just a few hours away. Oak Mountain State Park is one of many nearby getaways for mountain biking, camping, and fishing. The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail includes links at both Ross Bridge and Oxmoor Valley. The annual Mercedes Marathon demonstrates the area's affection for both running and charitable events. And of course, there's football.

**SHOPPING:** Major department stores include Saks Fifth Avenue, Gus Mayer, and Macy's along with specialty shops such as Lily Pulitzer, Michael Kors, Anthropologie, Lululemon, and Tumi

**Downtown:** newly revitalized, youthful energy

**Lakeview:** plenty of condos, restaurants, and nightlife

**Highland Park:** verdant parks anchor early 20th century architecture

**Forest Park:** stately older homes and a strong neighborhood association

**Avondale:** hip, up-and-coming, home to breweries and restaurants

**Crestwood:** Arts & Crafts bunaglow with a laid-back vibe

**Southside:** classic architecture next to UAB

**Homewood:** family-friendly cottages minutes away

**Mountain Brooke:** elegant and refined homes, home to the beautiful Jemison Trail

**Vestavia Hills:** outstanding public schools and family atmosphere



## STAY CONNECTED

The Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine is here to help you learn more. If you have questions about the fellowship or would like to learn more about our department, please visit our website and follow us on social media.

[uab.edu/medicine/anesthesiology](http://uab.edu/medicine/anesthesiology)



**UAB** THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM.

