Essentials of Pediatric Anesthesiology
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Edited by

Alan David Kaye, M.D., Ph.D.
Chairman and Director of Pain Services, Department of Anesthesiology, and Professor of Pharmacology, Louisiana State University School of Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Charles James Fox, M.D.
Professor and Chair, Department of Anesthesiology, Louisiana State University School of Medicine, Shreveport, Louisiana, USA

James H. Diaz, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H., D.A.B.A., F.A.A.P.
Professor of Anesthesiology, Professor of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, and Director of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
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James H. Diaz, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H., F.A.C.M.T.
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Contributors

Naila A. Ahmad, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Congenital Cardiac Anesthesia Co-ordinator, Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, Saint Louis University School of Medicine, MO, USA

Dua M. Anderson, M.D., M.S.
Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, University of California Davis Medical Center, Sacramento, CA, USA

Jennifer Aunspaugh, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, Arkansas Children’s Hospital, Little Rock, AR, USA

Sabrina T. Bent, M.D., M.S.
Clinical Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Pediatrics, Department of Anesthesiology, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA, USA

Adam Broussard, M.D.
Resident, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA, USA

Staci Cameron, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Anesthesia, University of Texas, Health Science Center Houston, TX, USA

Rahul Dasgupta, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, Pediatric Cardiac Anesthesia Team, Arkansas Children’s Hospital, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR, USA

Ravinder Devgun, D.O.
University at Buffalo Pediatric Anesthesiology Fellow, Buffalo, NY, USA.

Ofer N. Eytan, M.D.
Desert Eye Specialists Ltd., Peoria, AZ, USA

Sean H. Flack, M.B.Ch.B., F.C.A.
Associate Professor, Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, University of Washington and Seattle Children’s Hospital, Seattle, WA

Terry G. Fletcher, M.D., Ph.D.
Co-Director, Burn Anesthesia, Arkansas Children’s Hospital Burn Center, Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, UAMS COM Division of Pediatric Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine Little Rock, AR, USA

Charles James Fox, M.D.
Department of Anesthesiology, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, Shreveport, LA, USA

Mary Elise Fox, B.S.
Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA, USA

Scott Friedman, M.D.
Department of Anesthesiology, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA, USA

Louise K. Furukawa, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Clinical Associate Professor, Stanford University School of Medicine, Menlo Park, CA, USA

Sonja Gennuso, M.D.
Associate Professor, Department of Anesthesiology, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and Clinical Attending Staff, Childrens Hospital, New Orleans, LA, USA

Stanley M. Hall, M.D., Ph.D.
Clinical Chief Anesthesiologist, Children’s Hospital New Orleans; Clinical Professor of Nursing, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA, USA
List of contributors

Hani Hanna, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, Arkansas Children’s Hospital, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR, USA

Jacob Hummel, M.D.
Department of Anesthesiology, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA, USA

James E. Hunt, M.D.
Co-Director, Burn Anesthesia, Arkansas Children’s Hospital Burn Center; Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, UAMS COM Division of Pediatric Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, Little Rock, AR, USA

Ranu Jain, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Anesthesia, University of Texas, Health Science Center Houston, TX, USA

Joe R. Jansen, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, UAMS COM Division of Pediatric Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, Arkansas Children’s Hospital Burn Center, Little Rock, AR, USA

Deepa Kattail, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, Division of Pediatric Anesthesiology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA

Alan David Kaye, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor and Chairman, Department of Anesthesiology, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center; Professor, Departments of Anesthesiology and Pharmacology, Tulane School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA, USA

David J. Krodel, M.D.
Instructor in Anesthesiology, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine Anesthesiologist, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA

Gregory J. Latham, M.D.
Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, Seattle Children’s Hospital, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, WA, USA

Sungeun Lee, M.D.
Assistant Clinical Professor, University of California, Davis, Sacramento, CA, USA

Michael G. Levitzky, Ph.D.
Professor of Physiology and Anesthesiology, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA, USA

Alexander Y. Lin, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Section Chief, Pediatric Plastic Surgery, Division of Plastic Surgery, Department of Surgery, Saint Louis University School of Medicine, MO, USA

Carl Lo, M.D.
Pediatric Anesthesiology Clinical Fellow, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA

Hoa N. Luu, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, Shreveport, LA, USA

Camila Lyon, M.D.
Pediatric Anesthesiology Clinical Fellow, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA

Kelly A. Machovec, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC, USA

Lizabeth D. Martin, M.D.
Acting Assistant Professor, Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine University of Washington and Seattle Children’s Hospital, Seattle, WA, USA

Maria Matuszczak, M.D.
Professor, Division Chief of Pediatric Anesthesia, University of Texas, Health Science Center Houston, TX, USA

Patrick S. McCarty, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Pediatrics, Department of Anesthesiology, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA, USA

Brenda C. McClain, M.D.
Medical Director, Section of Pediatric Anesthesia, Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, Saint Louis University School of Medicine, Missouri, MO, USA

J. Grant McFadyen, M.B.Ch.B., F.R.C.A.
Clinical Assistant Professor, Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA, USA
Helen Nazareth, M.D., Ph.D.
University at Buffalo Pediatric Anesthesiology Fellow

Dolores B. Njoku, M.D.
Associate Professor, ACCM, Pediatrics and Pathology, Director, The Fellowship in Pediatric Anesthesiology, Lead Investigator, Drug-Induced, Immune-mediated Liver Injury, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA

Christina M. Pabelick, M.D.
Departments of Anesthesiology, Physiology, and Biomedical Engineering, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA

Shannon M. Peters, M.D.
Valley Anesthesiology and Pain Consultants, Phoenix, AZ, USA

Amit Prabhakar, M.D.
Department of Anesthesiology, LSU School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA, USA

Michael Richards, B.M., F.R.C.A.
Senior Resident, Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, Seattle Children’s Hospital, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, WA, USA

Kasia Rubin, M.D.
University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Cleveland, OH, USA

Joel A. Saltzman, M.D.
Medical Director, Anesthesiology, Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, Memphis, TN, USA

Lisgelia Santana, M.D.
Director of Pediatric Pain Management, Pediatric Anesthesiologist, Nemours Children’s Hospital, Orlando, FL, USA

Gabriel Sarah, M.D.
Fellow, Pediatric Anesthesiology, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL, USA

Katherine Stammen, M.D.
Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, Shreveport, LA, USA

John Stork, M.D.
University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Cleveland, OH, USA

Kim M. Strupp, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, Children’s Hospital Colorado, University of Colorado, Aurora, CO, USA

Lalitha V. Sundararaman, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Anesthesia, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA

Rosalie F. Tassone, M.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA

Douglas R. Thompson, M.D.
Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, Seattle Children’s Hospital, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, WA, USA

Nicole C. P. Thompson, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesiology, University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, IL, USA

Paul A. Tripi, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Pediatrics, Chief, Division of Pediatric Anesthesiology, Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital, University Hospitals Case Medical Center, OH, USA

Jacqueline L. Tutiven, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology, Director, Pediatric Anesthesia Fellowship Program, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL, USA

Navyugjit Virk, M.D.
University at Buffalo Obstetric Anesthesiology Fellow, Buffalo, NY, USA

Stacey Watt, M.D.
Associate Professor, Pediatric Anesthesiology Fellowship Program Director, University at Buffalo Department of Anesthesiology, Buffalo, NY, USA

B. Craig Weldon, M.D.
Professor of Anesthesiology and Child Health, Chief, Division of Pediatric Anesthesia, University of Missouri School of Medicine, Columbia, MO, USA

Maria Zestus, M.D.
Department of Anesthesiology, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, MI, USA
Preface

My first experiences with pediatric anesthesia were as a four-year-old inpatient undergoing a tonsillectomy. I recall the following events very clearly – a premedication shot, likely morphine and atropine or scopolamine; the smell of ether; postoperative vomiting; and going home from the hospital the next day with a sore throat. Although intramuscular premedication injections and ether anesthesia have now been replaced by gentler selections for premedication and nonflammable halogenated agents for general anesthesia, nausea and vomiting still remain unwelcomed postoperative events for pediatric patients and anesthesiologists.

Years later, I joined the staff of that same hospital as a pediatric anesthesiologist and intensivist in a modern, new facility for multispecialty group practice. I had frequent access to my medical records over the years including the original anesthesia record for my tonsillectomy, which included the names of the anesthesiologist and surgeon, the anesthetic agents administered, and a few heart rate measurements. The anesthetic was conducted under mask ether without an endotracheal tube, precordial stethoscope, or an intravenous line for fluid therapy. No blood pressures and no temperatures were recorded. The equipment for transcutaneous oxygen saturation and end tidal carbon dioxide measurements had not been invented yet.

When I served as a pediatric anesthesiology fellow, the Jackson Rees modification of the Mapleson F circuit was used for endotracheal halothane in oxygen and nitrous oxide anesthesia during spontaneous assisted ventilation and the Bain modification of the Mapleson D circuit was used for controlled mechanical ventilation. Fentanyl had recently been introduced as an intravenous anesthetic adjunct, and pediatric surgeons infiltrated surgical wounds prior to closing with local anesthetics. There was only one textbook of pediatric anesthesia, Smith’s Anesthesia for Infants and Children, which was updated in subsequent editions to include the anesthetic management of new procedures in cardiac surgery and neonatal surgery. I had to supplement my pediatric anesthesia library with classic British texts, now out of print, including Paediatric Anaesthesia by Drs. G. Jackson Rees and Cecil T. Gray, and Neonatal Anaesthesia and Perioperative Care by Drs. David Hatch and Edward Sumner. Later, I was invited to serve a summer fellowship with Drs. Hatch and Sumner at the Hospital for Sick Children on Great Ormond Street in London, where I learned how to incorporate regional blocks into general anesthetics, especially caudal injections, and to conduct cyclopropane inductions in the sickest neonates with congenital heart disease.

Although the modern operating room has eliminated the use of flammable anesthetics, such as ether and cyclopropane, caudal and lumbar epidural-administered local anesthetics and opioids are in increasingly frequent use today and provide excellent postoperative pain relief in children. Today, pediatric anesthesia techniques, anesthesia breathing systems, and cardiopulmonary function monitors have improved dramatically and continue to evolve rapidly. Endotracheal or laryngeal mask-administered anesthesia, the use of multiple intravenous and local anesthetic agents to control hemodynamics and provide perioperative analgesia, and the continuous monitoring of oxygen saturation, end tidal carbon dioxide, inspired anesthetic fraction, and body temperature are now regarded as national standards for the safe anesthesia care of infants and children. Newly installed electronic anesthetic records can capture all of the patient’s physiologic measurements, and the anesthesiologist simply indicates the agents used and tubes inserted with a keystroke, completely eliminating the old paper anesthetic record. Pediatric anesthesia is now its own multispecialty practice that includes fetal and neonatal anesthesia, anesthesia for complex congenital heart and craniofacial defects, pediatric organ transplant anesthesia, and many other specialized indications and techniques.
Although the United States (US) may have lagged behind the British and Canadians in earlier advancements in pediatric anesthesia equipment and techniques, US-trained pediatric anesthesiologists are at the forefront of the very latest advances today. *Essentials of Pediatric Anesthesiology* will allow anesthesiologists to prepare rapidly for the most complex cases, such as in utero fetal surgery, abdominal organ transplants, or separation of conjoined twins. Concise chapters are illustrated with diagrams and images and feature clear tables to organize information for quick recall. Single-answer pretest and post-test questions accompany each chapter to identify pre-existing knowledge and confirm newly acquired knowledge respectively.

With more approved anesthesiology residency programs and pediatric anesthesiology fellowship programs and a new American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA)-administered subspecialty board certification examination in pediatric anesthesia, a new multi-authored textbook in pediatric anesthesia is needed now. *Essentials of Pediatric Anesthesiology* is that text. *Essentials of Pediatric Anesthesiology* will effectively supplement the current multivolume treatises in the field and appeal to a broad audience of residents, fellows, attending anesthesiologists, pediatric intensivists, and other practitioners caring for pediatric patients in the perioperative period, especially those seeking rapid reviews before taking oral board and subspecialty board certification examinations. *Essentials of Pediatric Anesthesiology* will definitely be a valuable addition to any perioperative physician’s library.

**James H. Diaz, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H., D.A.B.A., F.A.A.P.**

*Professor of Anesthesiology and Public Health*  
*Louisiana State University*  
*Schools of Medicine and Public Health*  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*

**References**