I am proud of what FAER accomplished in 2019. Grant applications continued to increase during both the fall and spring cycles. The Medical Student Anesthesia Research Fellowship (MSARF) program also continues to increase in popularity; this year, 194 highly qualified students applied for our 60 slots. We launched two new collaborations in 2019: the APSF–FAER Mentored Research Training Grant and the FAER–ABA Research in Education grant. In order to strengthen the relationships of FAER grantees with leadership, with mentors, and with each other, we held a highly successful first Annual MRTG Meeting in July in Washington, D.C.

I am grateful for your contributions to these successes and many others. I hope you enjoy learning more about the impact we have made together in the past year in this Annual Report. FAER continues to build a life-long community of support for physician-scientists in anesthesiology. None of these efforts would be possible without your investment in FAER. Thank you for your commitment to our specialty, your dedication to research, and for understanding and contributing to the important role that FAER plays in its future.

Thank you for donating to FAER in 2019. I am always encouraged by the breadth of support from individuals, corporations, state component societies, academic anesthesia departments, and many others. Your commitment to FAER’s mission is very much appreciated by the ASA. I’m thrilled to see the research being done by the next generation of physician scientists. A FAER grant is often the start of a long and illustrious career in medical research. Thank you for supporting these young scientists who are helping to keep anesthesiology at the forefront of innovation and discovery. ASA is proud to support this work.

Mary Dale Peterson, MD, MSCHA, FACHE, FASA
ASA President
Since 1986, FAER has supported high-quality research to foster the development of early career physician-scientists. By offering a range of grants, including Mentored Research Training Grants (MRTG), Research Fellowship Grants (RFG) for residents to obtain training in research techniques and scientific methods, Research in Education Grants (REG) focused on the development of innovative education techniques, and Transition to Independence Grants (TIG) to help junior faculty transition from mentored to independent research, FAER is transforming the field of anesthesiology by funding the research of talented investigators. FAER-funded anesthesiologists have built on their successes continuing the evolution of medicine through their work. FAER awarded 14 grants in 2019. We celebrate the individuals and their projects below.

Mentored Research Training Grant

Spring Cycle

Victoria M. Bedell, MD, PhD; University of Pennsylvania
*Anesthetic Effects on Mitochondrial Localization During Neural Development in Zebrafish*
Primary Research Mentor: Roderic G. Eckenhoff, MD

Benjamin F. Gruenbaum, MD; Yale University School of Medicine
*Neuronal Mechanisms of Unconsciousness in an Absence Seizure Model*
Primary Research Mentor: Hal Blumenfeld, MD, PhD
Secondary Research Mentor: Helene Benveniste, MD, PhD

Vesela P. Kovacheva, MD, PhD; Brigham and Women’s Hospital
*Genome Wide Association Study of Patients with History of Postpartum Hemorrhage*
Primary Research Mentor: Richa Saxena, PhD
Secondary Research Mentor: Brian Bateman, MD, MSc

Li Li, MD, PhD; University of Washington
*Deciphering the Locus Coeruleus-Thalamic Circuit in Anesthetic Emergence*
Primary Research Mentor: Michael Bruchas, PhD
Secondary Research Mentor: Garret Stuber, PhD

Seyed A. Safavynia, MD, PhD; Weill Medical College of Cornell University
*Probing the Neural Mechanisms of Post-Anesthesia Care Unit Delirium Using Functional Near-Infrared Spectroscopy*
Primary Research Mentor: Nicholas D. Schiff, MD
Secondary Research Mentor: Kane O. Pryor, MD
Third Research Mentor: Johnathan D. Victor, MD, PhD

Mieke A. Soens, MD; Brigham and Women’s Hospital
*The Role of Specialized Pro-resolving Mediators in the Development of Persistent Post-Surgical Pain*
Primary Research Mentor: Charles N. Serhan, PhD, DSc
Secondary Research Mentor: James P. Rathmell, MD
Third Research Mentor: Kristin L. Schreiber, MD, PhD
APSF–FAER Mentored Research Training Grant
Alexander F. Arriaga, MD, MPH, ScD; Brigham and Women’s Hospital
*Increasing the Frequency of Debriefing after Perioperative Crises: Altering Trajectories that Impact Provider Burnout and Wellness*
Primary Research Mentor: Angela M. Bader, MD, MPH

**Fall Cycle**

Adam Gerber, MD, PhD; Columbia University Medical Center
*Attenuation of Lung Injury with an Inhaled Matrix Metalloproteinase Inhibitor*
Primary Research Mentor: Jeanine D’Armiento, MD, PhD
Secondary Research Mentor: Charles Emala, MD
Third Research Mentor: George Hasko, MD, PhD

Michael P. Puglia, II, MD, PhD; University of Michigan
*Connectivity and Complexity During General Anesthesia in the Developing Brain*
Primary Research Mentor: George A. Mashour, MD, PhD
Secondary Research Mentor: UnCheol Lee, PhD
Third Research Mentor: Anthony G. Hudetz, PhD

Brittney Williams, MD; University of Maryland, Baltimore
*Role of TLR7 in Platelet Activation and Dysfunction in Sepsis*
Primary Research Mentor: Wei Chao, MD, PhD

Research In Education Grants

**Spring Cycle**

FAER–ABA Research in Education Grant
Benjamin H. Cloyd, MD; University of Michigan
*Is Participation in Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology Associated with Clinical Outcomes?*
Primary Research Mentor: Lauryn R. Rochlen, MD

Research Fellowship Grants

**Spring Cycle**

Elizabeth Railey White, MD, PhD; University of Pennsylvania
*Identification of Molecular Targets of Fropofol-induced Cardiac Depression with the Novel Photoaffinity Label Ortho-azi-fropofol*
Primary Research Mentor: Roderic G. Eckenhoff, MD
Secondary Research Mentor: Wei Dong Gao, MD, PhD

**Fall Cycle**

Stephan G. Frangakis, MD, PhD; Duke University
*Analgesic Effects of Perioperative Propranolol Administration for Spine Surgery*
Primary Research Mentor: William Maixner, DDS, PhD

Yifan Xu, MD, PhD; Oregon Health and Science University
*Modulation of Microvascular Blood Flow and Stroke Outcome via GPR39*
Primary Research Mentor: Nabil Alkayed, MD, PhD
Secondary Research Mentor: Ines Koerner, MD, PhD
FAER congratulates our former grantees who received National Institutes of Health (NIH) K and R awards in 2019. These awards ranged from basic science career development (K08) to patient-oriented career development (K23) to independent investigator-initiated research (R01) or encouraging exploratory/developmental research (R21). NIH awards, like FAER’s own awards, ensure the continued growth of both anesthesiology as a specialty as well as its practitioners. The physician-scientists listed below exemplify a commitment to this growth that FAER looks for and strives to foster in our grantees, and we look forward to seeing the important work these individuals conduct through the NIH’s funding.

**NIH K08 Awardees**

Jochen Steppan, MD; Johns Hopkins University
*The Therapeutic Role for LOLX2 in Pulmonary Hypertension*
2014 FAER MRTG

Soban Umar, MD, PhD; University of California, Los Angeles
*Role of the Novel MicroRNA-125b in Pulmonary Hypertension Associated with Pulmonary Fibrosis*
2015 FAER MRTG

Paul M. Riegelhaupt, MD, PhD; Weill Cornell Medical Center of Cornell University
*Mechanisms of Volatile Anesthetic Modulation of Tandem Pore Potassium Channels*
2016 FAER MRTG

Aaron J. Norris, MD, PhD; Washington University
*A Novel Node in Threat Response Neurocircuitry: VGLUT2 Positive Supramammillary Neurons Projecting to Preoptic Hypothalamus*
2017 FAER MRTG

**NIH K23 Awardees**

Jacob E. Sunshine, MD, M5; University of Washington
*Low-Cost Mobile Detection of Opioid Overdose Events*
2016 FAER MRTG

**NIH R01 Awardees**

Keith M. Vogt, MD, PhD; University of Pittsburgh
*Anesthetic Modulation of Human Memory During Acute Pain*
2017 FAER MRTG

Vijay Krishnamoorthy, MD; Duke University
*Mechanisms and Clinical Impact of Myocardial Injury Following Traumatic Brain Injury*
2018 FAER MRTG

**NIH R21 Awardees**

Amanda A. Fox, MD; University of Texas Southwestern
*Blood and Urine Biomarkers for Predicting Long-Term Adverse Kidney and Cardiovascular Outcomes after Cardiac Surgery*
2007 Research Starter Grant

Robert B. Schonberger, MD; Yale University School of Medicine
*Anesthetic Induction Overdose Among Elderly Surgical Patients*
2008 Resident Scholar Program

**NIH R21 Awardee**

Sajid S. Shahul, MBBS; University of Chicago
*Siglec 9 for the Diagnosis of ARDS*
2017 Transition to Independence Grant

“FAER’s mission is to support young researchers and educators. These young doctors bring the creativity and energy that is the future of our specialty. We all celebrate research and education. It is time to put our money toward the issues that our mouths support.”
Pamela Flood, MD, MA
The FAER Annual MRTG Meeting was held in 2019 with the aim of creating a community for current MRTG awardees as they move forward in their careers. Taking place in the summer of 2019 in Washington, D.C., this two-and-a-half-day program provided career development lectures and exercises, networking, the opportunity to meet with NIH program officers, and a mock study section.

“FAER is critical to maintaining a pipeline of young investigators to ensure the future vitality of anesthesiology.”
Hugh C. Hemmings Jr., MD, PhD
The Friends of FAER reception recognized donors for their commitment to FAER grants and programs at a lunch held at the Orange County Convention Center. FAER was fortunate to have Vice Admiral Jerome M. Adams, U.S. Surgeon General, speak to the attendees.

**Swimming with Sharks:**

How Anesthesiologist Inventors Can Move Their Ideas Forward

This popular FAER session at ANESTHESIOLOGY showcased anesthesiologists with ideas for innovations interacting with a panel of experts involved in developing and bringing such innovations to market.
A new collaboration between FAER and eSAS (Early-Stage Anesthesiology Scholars) expanded on FAER’s Medical Student and Resident Scholar Research Symposium to provide a day fully dedicated to the growth of early career physician-scientists. Sessions organized by eSAS preceded FAER’s poster presentations, providing a great opportunity to foster interest and create community among the next generation of physician-scientists in the specialty.

2019 Program Highlights:
- The Role of Anesthesiologists in Current Major Healthcare Issues: The Opioid Epidemic
- Science Advocacy in Anesthesiology: The Perioperative Brain Health Initiative
- Research and Residency Panel
- Team Science & Pathways to Productivity as an Academic Anesthesiologist Panel
- MSARF and RSP Moderated Poster Presentations
2019 Grant Recipients and Program Participants by State
Anesthetics, Surgery, and Alzheimer’s Disease; Hypotheses Come and Go

The FAER-Helrich Research Lecture recognizes outstanding scholarship by a scientist. It is part of an effort by the Foundation of Anesthesia Education and Research to encourage early career anesthesiologists and trainees to consider careers in research and teaching.

Fundamental molecular mechanisms research identified anesthetic-amyloid beta interactions that allowed the hypothesis that anesthesia should accelerate the development of Alzheimer’s disease. Translating this to animals and ultimately to humans identified weaknesses in this original hypothesis but provided data for new hypotheses. This session unraveled the bench to bedside story that linked ‘POCD’ to Alzheimer’s disease and dementia, and that ultimately formed the basis for the ASA Perioperative Brain Health Initiative, as well as a host of questions for which answers are urgently needed.

The FAER Mentoring Excellence in Research Award honors those individuals who, through their activities as mentors, have contributed importantly to the development and advancement of academic anesthesiologists in the area of research, and have promoted the activities of mentoring among others in the specialty, increasing academic activity in research and enhancing research success in academic anesthesiology. FAER was delighted to recognize Pratik Pandharipande, MD, as the 2019 Mentoring Excellence in Research recipient.

As a testament to the quality of mentorship in basic science, Dr. Pandharipande has directly mentored five recipients of FAER funded awards, many of whom have continued on to receive NIH funding. Dr. Pandharipande has remained invested in the future of science in anesthesiology, having served on the FAER Academy of Research Mentors in Anesthesiology since 2014.

“Pratik creates an opportunity for his mentees to envision a world, a goal, a direction in our careers that was once felt to be unattainable, and help us utilize our skills with his direction to achieve greatness for ourselves, but more importantly, for our patients.”
– Heidi AB Smith, MD, MSCI, Vanderbilt University

“I cannot think of a physician who more exemplifies the work ethic and teamwork necessary to be successful in the academic medicine environment than Pratik. He readily covers for others when the need arises in the clinical or education realm and serves as a counselor to junior and senior faculty on dealing with difficult situations and dynamics within the medical center, providing an honest and revered perspective and evaluation of circumstances.”
– Christopher G. Hughes, MD, Vanderbilt University

“He embodies the attributes of a successful research mentor and has been an important factor in the development of numerous academic anesthesiologists who are now making important contributions to our field.”
– Edward R. Sherwood, MD, PhD, Vanderbilt University
Thank you for your support of the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research in 2019. By supporting anesthesiology research and scientific discovery, you have made possible life-enhancing advances in medicine and improvements in patient care. You have enabled talented anesthesiologists pursuing new knowledge to transform our specialty and our hospitals, and most importantly, to improve lives.

This report recognizes donations made between January 1, 2019, and December 31, 2019. Great effort was made to include all contributors in this report and to ensure the accuracy of names and titles. If we have erred, please accept our apologies, and let us know at FAER@faer.org, so we may make corrections in the future.

NOTE: Individual contributors with a (+) have supported FAER for 10 or more consecutive years (2010-2019).

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“My FAER awards were instrumental in providing me not only the funding to complete my research but also in providing the vital protected non-clinical time that, as busy anesthesiologists, is hard to come by. I encourage everyone to donate to FAER to fund the future physician-scientists of our specialty.”

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“The future of the specialty really depends upon it not fossilizing, that it depends on continuing to do research to continue to advance the science. Be that basic, clinical or health services in the teaching arena. If we don’t innovate, we don’t advance how we are caring for patients, we will die and therefore FAER is critically important as a starting grant, an incubator for young people.”

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On March 18, 2020, Alan Davies Sessler, MD, died peacefully in his sleep. Alan was one of the original founders of FAER, led FAER in various capacities including serving as FAER’s President and CEO for many years, and was passionate about FAER’s role in education and research for young physicians in our specialty. This is a brief, personal tribute to Alan from the perspective of a mentee and current President and CEO of FAER.

My path intersected with Alan many times. I first met him in 1982 when he was Chair of Anesthesiology at Mayo Clinic and I was interviewing for residency. To be honest, I don’t remember much about residency interviews, but I clearly recall sitting down with Dr. Sessler in his office and being struck with his relaxed manner. Not informal, but inviting, kind of like the quiet uncle who was always your favorite in part because he would just listen. Now when I think of Alan, I see the beginning of a smile on his lips and a little twinkle in his eyes and perhaps he had that expression during the interview. He was a keen listener and absorbed what he heard. Nonetheless, I was accepted into the program.

I entered residency with a certainty that I would settle in a moderate sized, Midwest town and enjoy a life in private practice. Alan didn’t disabuse me of that thought, but by the end of anesthesia residency I had somehow rediscovered a passion for research and education and was headed to Wake Forest for an obstetric anesthesia fellowship and an NIH application that was eventually funded. Mayo Clinic is a remarkable place, but it wasn’t just the Clinic. Alan clearly led a large faculty of accomplished clinicians, educators, and scientists and set the tone that residents should learn at least something of the latter two. The program he established at Mayo transformed many lives as it did mine.

My next series of intersections with Alan occurred in the late 80s when I was asked to serve as an oral examiner for the ABA, a time when Alan was an officer of the Board. Over the next 25 years I saw him nearly every year, partnering frequently with him during exams and occasionally observing him introducing the process to batches of candidates prior to their exams. Again, I was struck by his relaxed manner, non-confrontational approach to a very stressful situation, and his deep concern that everyone be given a fair chance and be treated with dignity. In the short debrief after completing our scores, I was also struck by his ability to define the essential weaknesses, but also strengths of every individual.

Finally, I intersected with Alan on several occasions at FAER, serving on the ASA Committee on Research which reviews FAER grants, on the FAER Board, as Steve Shafer and I served as Editors to coordinate celebrations of FAER’s 25th birthday in Anesthesia & Analgesia and Anesthesiology®, and then as FAER President and CEO. To me as to many others, Alan was the embodiment of FAER – he lived FAER’s mission, worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure that FAER thrived, and thoroughly enjoyed meeting the students, residents, fellows, and faculty FAER was supporting and had supported. As one of the new FAER staff noted after her first ASA Annual Meeting with Alan in attendance that he was a “rock star” in the sense that everyone wanted to shake his hand, spend a few minutes with him, and leave with a smile or a hug.
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- Individuals $261,508.00
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- Foundations $48,115.00
- Schools $421,500.00

Total Revenue: $2,998,391.00

EXPENSES
- Program Services $2,987,807.00
- Fundraising $243,977.00
- Management & General $320,622.00

Total Expenses: $3,552,406.00

Statement of Financial Position (as of December 31, 2019)

ASSETS
- Cash $23,824.00
- Receivables and Other Assets $103,780.00
- Investments $27,465,684.00
- Beneficial Interest in Trust $765,600.00
- Other $230,651.00

Total Assets: $28,589,539.00

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS
- Liabilities $2,100,071.00
- Unrestricted Net Assets $23,520,035.00
- Restricted Net Assets $2,969,433.00

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