Critical Care Anesthesiology

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Questions and Answers about Critical Care Anesthesiology
1. What role does critical care play in anesthesiology?
Critical Care's Role

• The first expansion of anesthesiologist’s role outside the OR
• The most challenging, diverse and complex patient population
• Biggest growth area in a hospital
Pathways to Critical Care

• Anesthesia
• Surgery
• Medicine
  – Pulmonary & Critical Care
  – Other fellowship & Critical Care
  – “Straight” Critical Care
• Emergency Medicine
• Neurology
2. How much critical care experience will I get as an anesthesia resident?
Resident experience in Crit Care

- Internship (Clinical Base Year): 2 months
- Anesthesia Residency: 4 months
- More than Medicine & Surgery residents!
3. Why is critical care exciting to many medical students interested in anesthesiology?
Med students & critical care

- Physiology
- Pharmacology
- Stuff happens
- Novelty
- Variety of patients
4. Why do relatively few anesthesia residents pursue critical care fellowships?
ICU Fellowship vs. OR practice

- OR is a really fun place to work
- Discrete episodes of care in OR
- OR has 1 patient, 1 surgeon, 1 nurse
- Other interesting subspecialties
- Physiology, pharmacology, stuff happening, etc.
- Economics-training, $, practice setting
5. What is the structure of an ICU fellowship?
ICU Fellowship structure

• One year program
• At least 9 months ICU rotations
• Up to 3 months electives/research
• Apply during CA-2 year of residency
ICU Fellowship structure

• New combined residency/fellowship tracks
  • OHSU, UCSF
  • Wash U St. Louis, Stanford, UW-Seattle...

• 5 years including internship

• Apply as MEDICAL STUDENT
6. Why should you consider an ICU fellowship after anesthesia residency?
Why ICU fellowship

- Challenge and complexity
- It makes you a better anesthesiologist
- It's consistent with a growing perioperative role for anesthesiologists
- It's a marker of leadership potential
Leadership roles of intensivists

- ICU director
- Chair, Hospital QI committee
- President, Medical Staff
- Division Chief
- Department Chair
- Acute Pain Service Director
- PACU Director
- Vice Dean
- Residency Director
Conclusion:
Critical Care is critical to Anesthesiology!