

# ADVANCED PRACTICE NEWS

National CRNA Week  
January 21-27, 2024



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# Advanced Practice News

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Director of Advanced Practice Providers

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- Julie Pham, CRNA

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## OUR VISION STATEMENT

The UCI Health Advanced Practice Providers Program aims to be a leader in **patient-centered care, research, and “top of the license practice.”** We believe that when APPs are used to their fullest potential, the entire healthcare system benefits.

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# A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS

VASCO DEON KIDD, DHSC, MPH, MS, PA-C



**H**appy New Year! I'm delighted to welcome you to the 14th edition advanced practice newsletter in celebration of

National Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) Week. According to the American Academy of Nurse Anesthesia (AANA), CRNA's administer more than 50 million anesthetics to patients every year and currently make up more than 50% of the anesthesia workforce.

Although, CRNA employment is expected to grow by 40% between 2021 and 2031, there remains a critical shortage of anesthesia providers nationwide. We are very fortunate at UCI to have 80 outstanding, talented, and dedicated CRNAs. Our CRNAs provide anesthesia care in a variety of clinical and procedural settings across the enterprise including training the next generation of nurse anesthetists. Our highly educated CRNA group is essential in maintaining high-quality anesthesia and efficiency in a high-throughput operating room. Please join me in acknowledging and celebrating National CRNA week.

As I close, I would like to thank you ALL for your hard work and dedication to our patients and their families. We hold you in high esteem and are grateful for all that you do every day.

Please stay healthy and strong.

Best regards,

*Vasco Deon Kidd*

Vasco Deon Kidd, DHSc, MPH, MS, PA-C  
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# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP: CRNA

Jonathan McIntyre, PhD(c), CRNA, APRN

## 1) Tell us about your path to become a CRNA.

I didn't have nurse anesthesia on my radar until five years into my nursing career. A friend from nursing school was in anesthesia school at USC and was trying to convince me to apply as well. I was happy working in the emergency department here at UCI and wasn't particularly interested in going back to school. I decided to give it a shot and shadow a nurse anesthetist and was immediately hooked! Nine years later I'm still grateful that my friend talked me into taking a chance on this career.

## 2) Tell us about your day-to-day on the job and in your PhD program.

At work, I spend about two-thirds of my time in the operating rooms or other procedural areas such as the GI lab or interventional radiology suites. We deliver a range of anesthetics, from light sedation to general anesthesia, depending on the surgery or procedure as well as the patient. At the most essential level, we work to make sure that the patient is safe and comfortable during and immediately after their procedures. This involves a variety of activities such as preoperative assessment, vascular access and airway management, interoperative monitoring and assessment, administering medications and immediate postoperative assessment.

The other third of the time, I work in the labor and delivery unit. Unlike the operating room I'm usually involved in the care of multiple patients simultaneously in L&D. We place and manage epidurals for labor analgesia and provide spinal, epidural or general anesthesia for patients requiring cesarian sections or other obstetrical surgical interventions. Covering labor and delivery reminds me a lot of the emergency department; there are a ton of moving parts and conditions can change very quickly without warning!

On my days off, I spend time with my family and work on my dissertation. In 2019, I started my PhD at UCI's School of Nursing. I finished my didactic coursework and conducted my research looking at nurses' relationships to their organizations during the pandemic. I'm finally in the last stages of dissertation writing and hope to finish this quarter. Eventually, I would like to combine my clinical work with a role as an educator.



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP: CRNA

Jonathan McIntyre, PhD(c), CRNA, APRN

### **3) What is the most rewarding part of your job?**

As a self-described control freak, I really sympathize with the loss of control and vulnerability that patients experience with surgery and anesthesia. There are few times in life where you are as dependent upon others for every aspect of your well-being. The most rewarding part of my job is when a patient wakes up from anesthesia and recognizes that they are safe and cared for.

### **4) What advice would you give an aspiring CRNA?**

I tell aspiring CRNAs that if you love pathophysiology, pharmacology, procedures and working with multidisciplinary teams, it may be a good fit. I also like to emphasize that developing strong foundations as a critical care nurse is essential to their future success as a nurse anesthetist. Strong assessment skills, sound clinical judgement and prioritization, creativity and flexibility, patient advocacy and well-developed interpersonal skills are essential for successful nurse anesthetists as they are for other nurses. I tell them to value these skills and the nursing principles that they are built upon.

### **5) What is the most rewarding part of your job?**

I resided on the UCI campus in the graduate student and faculty housing. One of my first jobs was a summer gig as a cashier at a café on campus. It disappeared years ago, but I don't think it was (only) because of my poor cashing skills.

# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP: CRNA

Julie Pham, CRNA

## 1) Tell us about your path to become a CRNA.

The first time I learned about CRNAs was when I worked as an ICU nurse. A CRNA was providing me with a report as I admitted the patient to the ICU after surgery. I was quickly intrigued by the fact that CRNAs could administer anesthesia. Without hesitation, I conducted further research and was once again in awe of the information I gained. This strengthened my decision to pursue a career as a CRNA.



## 2) Tell us about your day-to-day on the job including your involvement with SRNAs.

A day in my life as a CRNA/SRNA Clinical Coordinator typically varies depending on the assignment. I may be assigned to provide anesthesia in various settings, including the main operating room, GI suites, radiology, and outpatient surgery. Despite the differences in locations, the day-to-day responsibilities for me involve conducting pre-anesthetic assessments to evaluate patients' medical history, lab results, and overall health status.

I then develop an anesthesia care plan tailored to each individual patient, considering their medical condition, the type of surgery, and potential complications. Responsibilities also include administering various types of anesthesia such as general, regional, or local anesthesia depending on the surgical procedure. Additionally, I maintain accurate and detailed records of the anesthesia care provided, including administered medications.

Continuous monitoring of the patient's vital signs, adjustment of anesthesia levels as needed, and responding to any changes in the patient's condition during surgery are crucial aspects of my role. I also collaborate with surgeons, physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to ensure patient safety and optimal surgical conditions.

As an SRNA Clinical Coordinator, I oversee the clinical education and training of Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists (SRNAs). I work closely with SRNAs during their clinical rotations, providing guidance, supervision, and constructive feedback to help them improve and develop their skills in the field of anesthesia. The specific responsibilities as an SRNA Clinical Coordinator include:

- Coordinating and organizing clinical assignments for SRNAs.
- Ensuring that SRNAs meet the required competencies and learning objectives.
- Regularly assessing the performance of SRNAs during their clinical rotations, addressing both strengths and areas for improvement.
- Addressing challenges and concerns that may arise.
- Ensuring effective communication between SRNAs and clinical staff.
- Being supportive and available to address the needs of SRNAs.

# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP: CRNA

Julie Pham, CRNA

### **3) What is the most rewarding part of your job?**

The most rewarding aspect of my job is the impact on patients. I take pride in contributing to ensuring their comfort, safety, and positive outcomes. Additionally, I find fulfillment in guiding and supporting aspiring nurse anesthetists in their clinical education, fostering their growth, and ensuring the delivery of high-quality patient care.

I appreciate the dynamic nature of anesthesia, which requires CRNAs to stay updated on the latest advancements in medical technology, drugs, and anesthesia techniques. This continuous learning is not only satisfying but also crucial for my professional growth.

### **4) What advice would you give an aspiring CRNA?**

For aspiring CRNAs, be prepared to invest both money and time into your education to obtain the necessary licenses and certificates. The path to becoming a CRNA can be challenging, but perseverance is key. Expect a rigorous educational journey and stay focused on your goal.

Gain experience in critical care areas such as the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Emergency Room (ER), Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit (CTICU), or Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU). This experience is crucial for developing the skills necessary to manage complex patients. As a CRNA, you will take on high-precision, challenging tasks, which can be both thrilling and rewarding.

### **5) What is one fun fact that most people don't know about you?**

I enjoy exploring diverse cuisines during my travel adventures. Whether savoring street food in bustling markets or trying regional specialties, it adds a flavorful dimension to my journey.

# CRNA HIGHLIGHT PHOTO COLLAGE





# IRVINE MEDICAL CENTER UPDATE

Below is an image of the new medical complex under construction at the north end of the UC Irvine campus. Interested in learning more, please visit this link: <https://designandconstruction.uci.edu/projects/uci-medical-center-irvine/index.php>



# SPOTLIGHT ON APP ACHIEVEMENTS FOR WINTER 2024



The purpose of this section is to recognize any achievements of the APP workforce during the Winter of 2024. Future newsletters will continue to highlight APP awards, research publications, book chapters, poster presentations, and leadership nominations in your professional associations or at UCI Health. We firmly believe in giving spotlight to our amazing and dedicated APP workforce.

## **Vasco Deon Kidd, DHSc, MPH, MS, PA-C.** | Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, and Director of Advanced Practice Providers

**Vasco Deon Kidd** completed a presentation to UCLA HIGH AIMS SCHOLARS students about his career trajectory, the PA profession, and admission to health professions schools. This is a great program offered by UCLA for undergraduate students interested in healthcare.

**Vasco Deon Kidd** will be moderating a session on the topic of Measuring APP Productivity & Value: Panel & Case Discussion at the first Annual Oncology APP Leadership Forum In Las Vegas.

## **Nilu Patel, CRNA, DNP**

Congratulations to **Nilu Patel** on being appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to the California Board of Registered Nursing. The BRN is responsible for implementation and enforcement of the Nursing Practice Act: the laws related to nursing education, licensure, practice, and discipline. The BRN is committed to successfully achieving its mission to protect California's health care consumers and promote quality nursing care.

# New APP Hires

We are pleased to welcome new advanced practice providers to our team in FY2024

## Department of Surgery

- Alain Raymond, PA
- Kareem Sharaf, PA

