



PSPS Fall 2019 Newsletter

Welcome! We started implementing the PSPS Newsletter in Spring 2019. Our goal is to share interesting news and pertinent events, in hopes of enhancing awareness and kinship among perfusionists in South Carolina!

2019 has been a productive and busy year for PSPS. We hosted the 1st PSPS Meeting and Membership Drive, we participated in the Little Heart Hero Day, and Fall 2019 is proving to be quite busy! We are excited to promote the MUSC's 'Update on Perfusion' Conference, as well as the North Carolina Society of Perfusion Annual Seminar. Included in this Newsletter will be photos from the events, detailed information for conference registration, and an interview celebrating MUSC's new CVP Director, Dr. David Fitzgerald.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter, and will provide feedback as to methods and information aimed to enrich its intended purpose!

Warm regards,
PSPS Board of Directors

News from around the State

Congratulations Dr. David Fitzgerald, the newly named Clinical Director of MUSC's Cardiovascular Perfusion program!!

PSPS would like to congratulate Dr. David Fitzgerald for this recent appointment. This past April, Dave defended his dissertation and earned his Doctorate in Health Administration from MUSC. In addition to this credentialing accomplishment, Dr. Fitzgerald has been named Director for MUSC's Cardiovascular Perfusion program within the College of Health Professions. Many of us know Dave from his years of service to AmSECT, serving as President in 2012. Prior to joining MUSC, he served as Chief Perfusionist at INOVA Medical Center- Fairfax, Virginia. Dr. Fitzgerald is profoundly engaged in the perfusion community, and is a noted leader, innovator, mentor, colleague, teacher, and friend to many of us. Congratulations Dave! Below is a short interview regarding earning his DHA and his future plans for MUSC, ENJOY!



Dr. David Fitzgerald 2019 PSPS Interview

1) What was the official title of your dissertation?

Title: Determinants of variation in perioperative red blood cell transfusion during adult CABG surgery.

2) What drove you to choose this topic?

Conventional wisdom suggests that differences in baseline patient risk may be predominant drivers in center level transfusion rates following CABG surgery. Despite the continued emergence of clinical practice guidelines describing the indications for RBC transfusion, wide variability in transfusion rates persist across cardiac surgical programs. While the determinants underlying this variability include patient and procedural-related factors, evaluation of these key factors has not been fully explored. With this in mind, we aimed to identify to what extent distinguishing patient and procedural characteristics can explain center-level RBC transfusion variation.

3) What was one of the greatest challenges you faced while working towards this goal? My greatest challenge was time management. While everything I learned in the program was both so fascinating and relevant to the workplace environment, finding the time to complete all of the assignments was sometimes challenging. All of my classmates were employed full-time during the program, so we had a lot in common!

4) As the new director of the MUSC CVP program and your new doctorate, what plans do you have for the future? As incoming Director, I am honored and privileged to continue the legacy that James Dearing started here in 1979. The program has a rich tradition of academic excellence, with many of the most successful educators in our profession contributing to the program. While I plan to keep many of these traditions ongoing, there are emerging opportunities to continually refine perfusion education. Some of these areas include quality informatics, leadership, and ECMO and MCS management. Additionally, we will leverage opportunities to partner with international organizations to strengthen our understanding of perfusion science, here and abroad. Perfusionists have a unique clinical skill set that is paramount to delivering high quality cardiac care. However, perfusionists can also be instrumental in organizational management and leadership roles.

5) What is your advice for other perfusionists considering continued education and higher education degrees? My advice for perfusionists considering continued education is to take each day one at a time. As my biostatistics professor once asked "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time". Find a major that truly interests you. It will make the readings and assignments more meaningful. Nearly everything I learned in my program I was able to apply in my current role. Lastly, enjoy the time spent learning- always be a student!

Other News:

Palmetto State Perfusion Society June 1st Meeting and Membership Drive

PSPS hosted the first Meeting and Membership Drive in Greenville, SC on June 1st. We had several goals for this event. First and foremost, PSPS was established to encourage collaboration and increase communication amongst SC CCPs. The meeting attracted attendance from 6 different SC heart centers, in addition to several MUSC CVP students. Another goal was to encourage membership and participation in the society. The 2020 goal is to reach 50% or more participation. Through the June 1st meeting, we had achieved 45%! Lastly, and just as importantly, we wanted to create an opportunity for students to present research and shared ideas. The June 1st meeting marked the debut of the Palmetto State Perfusion Society Student Scholarship. This scholarship was established to aid CVP students in their education journey. At PSPS, we strongly believe current students will shape the Perfusion Community of the future, and it is important to instill a duty of participation and activism within state and national perfusion organizations. The 2019 PSPS Student Scholarship recipients: Ashley Merkel, Amanda Wood, Brianna Wiscount, and Grant Richards. Congratulations to all, and THANK YOU to all who attended this exciting event!

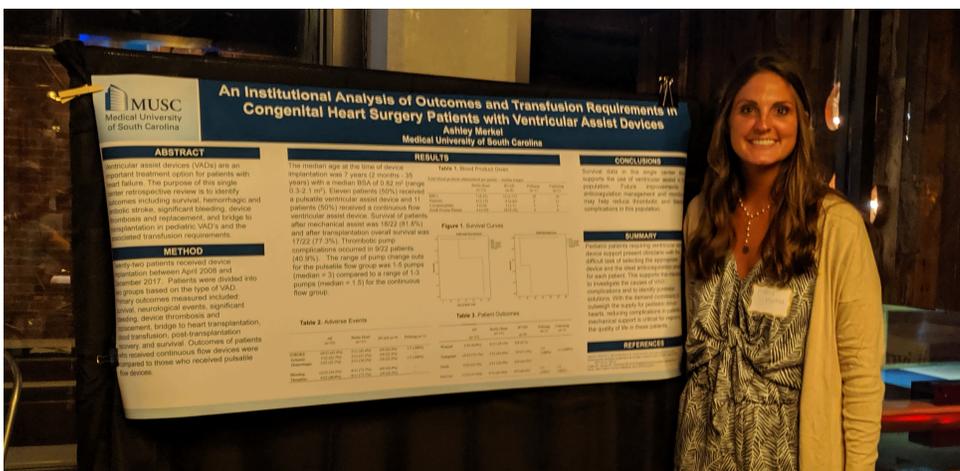
A HUGE thank you to the sponsors:

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(Top Right) PSPS Student Scholarship recipients and PSPS Board Members: Ashley Merkel, Amanda Wood, Dafne Chianella, CCP, Albert Cain, CCP, Bianna Wiscount, Grant Richards
(Bottom Left) Ashley Merkel presenting her poster on CHD and VADs

Little Heart Hero Day

2019 marked the 20th anniversary of our Little Hearts program in the Lowcountry. For 20 years, they have been working alongside the American Heart Association to bring together families that have been affected by heart disease to celebrate their heroes, reunite with their doctors, nurses, perfusionists, and staff, honor those we have lost too soon, and create a unique network for support. PSPS paired with the Lowcountry branch of AHA and hosted the Little Heart Hospital. PSPS members and MUSC Perfusion student volunteers helped our littlest patients dress up in OR attire, bandage and operate on dolls and superheros, and even hand crank a System1 Pump for emergency bypass! It was a very rewarding and heartfelt event. Thank you to all the volunteers and MUSC Cardiovascular Perfusion program!



(left) Little Heart Hero patients posing with their families and the Stingray Hockey team mascot. (right) Little heart Hero Day/PSPS volunteers.

Announcements:

Don't forget to visit our website! www.scperfusion.org

Follow us on social media: PalmettoStatePerfusionSociety -Instagram and Facebook



Merchandise For Sale!

<https://www.scperfusion.org/online-store>

Shirt and hat for sale, 15\$-25\$. Proceeds support PSPS and the PSPS Student Scholarship!



20th Annual Update on Perfusion

**October 25th - 26th: Medical University of South Carolina,
151-A Rutledge Avenue Charleston, SC**

CEUs: The 21st Annual Update on Perfusion Conference has been approved by the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP) for a total of 18.0 Category 1 continuing education units.



Locations of the Conference:

October 24th: Homewood Suites Charleston Historic District Hotel, 415 Meeting Street Charleston, SC

Conference Details:

As one of the longest running multi-disciplinary scientific programs, The Update on Perfusion Conference features the industry's most contemporary techniques and emerging technological advancements.

NCSP 2019 Annual Educational Seminar



**The North Carolina Society of Perfusionists
will be holding its annual educational meeting on
November 2nd and 3rd, 2019 in Durham, North Carolina.**

This event will take place at the newly built JB Duke Hotel
on the beautiful Duke University campus.
This event is likely to receive approximately 18 CME points and attracts attendees
from across the Southeastern United States as well as nationally.

