

NARAYANA VARHABHATLA, MD

Curriculum Vitae

Associate Professor of Anesthesiology (Pain Medicine)
University of Colorado School of Medicine
Office Phone: 720-848-1970

BOARD CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE

American Board of Anesthesiology – Pain Medicine (2015)
American Board of Anesthesiology – Anesthesiology (2013)
American Board of Headache Medicine – Headache Medicine (2020)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Medical Education

Doctor of Medicine, Mercer University School of Medicine (2005–2009)
Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology (2001–2004)

Graduate Medical Education

Pain Medicine Fellowship, Harvard University / Brigham and Women's Hospital (2014–2015)
Residency, Anesthesiology, University of Virginia School of Medicine (2010–2013)
Transitional Internship, University of Virginia School of Medicine (2009–2010)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor, Department of Anesthesiology, University of Colorado School of Medicine (2021–Present)
Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesiology, University of Colorado School of Medicine (2017–2021)
Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesiology, University of Virginia School of Medicine (2013–2014)

CLINICAL AND PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Medical Director, Interventional Pain Clinic, University of Colorado (2020–Present)
Staff Pain Physician / Anesthesiologist, Northside Anesthesiology Consultants (2015–2017)
Attending Physician, Anesthesiology, University of Virginia (2013–2014)

HONORS AND AWARDS

5280 Magazine – Top Doctors in Pain Medicine (2020)
ASA Resident Research Competition – 3rd Place, Clinical Studies
Young Scientist Award, University of Virginia
Brian Korbon Award, Department of Anesthesiology, University of Virginia

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

American Society of Anesthesiologists (2009–Present)
American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine (2010–Present)
Spine Intervention Society (2014–Present)
North American Neuromodulation Society (2018–Present)
American Interventional Headache Society (2016–Present)
Society for Education in Anesthesia (2019–Present)
World Association of Pain Medicine United (2019–Present)

NATIONAL, INSTITUTIONAL, AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

National Committees

American Society of Anesthesiologists Pain Medicine Committee (2019–2023)

American Society of Anesthesiologists Pain Medicine Education Committee (2019–2023)

Spine Intervention Society, Education Division (2018–2024)

Examination and Certification Service

Question Writer, American Board of Anesthesiology MOCA Program (2017–2021)

Institutional Service

Committee Member, Multidisciplinary Pain Rehabilitation Program, University of Colorado (2019–Present)

EDITORIAL AND PEER REVIEW ACTIVITY

Editorial Board Member, Interventional Pain Medicine (2021–Present)

Editorial Board Member, Pain Physician (2019–Present)

Ad Hoc Reviewer, Pain Medicine (2017–Present)

Ad Hoc Reviewer, Pain Practice (2017–Present)

Ad Hoc Reviewer, Pain Physician (2017–Present)

Ad Hoc Reviewer, Annals of Headache Medicine (2020–Present)

TEACHING AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Graduate Medical Education

Supervision and intraoperative teaching of residents and medical students, University of Virginia (2013–2014)

Supervision and bedside teaching of residents and fellows, Interventional Pain Medicine Clinic, University of Colorado (2017–Present)

Invited and Recurring Didactics

"Management of Neuropathic Pain in Foot and Ankle Patients," Foot and Ankle Surgeons (2026)

"Generative AI – Real vs. Hype," Resident Didactics (2025)

"Management of Cervicogenic Headaches," Neurology Resident Didactics, University of Colorado (2023)

"Management of Neuropathic Pain," Foot and Ankle Department Didactics, University of Colorado (2021)

"Management of Cervicogenic Headaches," Neurology Resident Didactics, University of Colorado (2022)

"Cervicogenic Headaches," Neurology Resident Didactics, University of Colorado (2020)

"MRI Basics," Anesthesiology Resident Didactics, University of Colorado (2017–2020)

"Pain Board Review," Anesthesiology Resident Didactics, University of Colorado (2017–2020)

"Interventions for Headaches," Neurology Resident Didactics, University of Colorado (2019)

"Interventional Options for Cancer Pain," PM&R Resident Didactics, University of Colorado (2019)

Curriculum Development

Developer and Director, Online Pain Medicine Resident Education Curriculum (Canvas-based), including lectures, procedural videos, quizzes, and curated readings

Formal Education in Medical Education and Research

Society for Education in Anesthesia, Coaching for Leaders (2025)

Pain Reprocessing Therapy Training (2025)

MIT xPRO Certificate, Drug and Device Development (2019)

University of Michigan Certificate, Instructional Methods in Health Professions Education (2020)

Stanford University, Medical Statistics I–III (Online, 2020)

PsychWire, Motivational Interviewing Certificate (2020)

INVITED LECTURES AND VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

"Novel Approaches to Pain Management," CRASH Anesthesia Conference (2020)

Invited Instructor, Pain Medicine Ultrasound Procedures, American Academy of Pain Medicine (2019)

Invited Instructor, Pain Medicine Ultrasound Procedures, American Society of Regional Anesthesia (2020; canceled due to COVID-19)

Invited Speaker, Annual Family Medicine Review (2019, 2021, 2022)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

1. Basharat A, Shah R, Wilcox N, Tur G, Tripathi S, Kansal P, Gandhi N, Pokuri S, Chong G, Odonkor CA, Varhabhatla N, Chow R. ChatGPT and low back pain: Evaluating AI-driven patient education in the context of interventional pain medicine. *Interventional Pain Medicine*. 2025;4(3):100636.
2. Chow RM, Rajput K, Howie BA, Varhabhatla N. The COVID-19 vaccine and interventional procedures: Exploring the relationship between steroid administration and subsequent vaccine efficacy. *Pain Practice*. 2021;21(8):966–973.
3. Henson JV, Varhabhatla N, Bebic Z, et al. Spinal cord stimulation for painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy: A systematic review. *Pain and Therapy*. 2021;10(2):895–908.
4. Chou CZ, Hopkins TJ, Badiola I, et al., Varhabhatla N. Top ten tips palliative care clinicians should know about interventional pain and procedures. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. 2020;23(10):1386–1391.
5. Merkow J, Varhabhatla N, Manchikanti L, et al. Minimally invasive lumbar decompression and interspinous process devices for lumbar spinal stenosis. *Current Pain and Headache Reports*. 2020;24:13.
6. Varhabhatla N, Zuo Z. Rising complication rates after intrathecal catheter and pump placement in the pediatric population. *Pain Physician*. 2012;15(1):65–74.
7. Varhabhatla N, Zuo Z. Effects of chronic pulmonary disease on length of stay and cost after neurosurgery. *Journal of Neurosurgery*. 2011;115(2):375–379.
8. Holmen IC, Merkow J, Kummer J, Varhabhatla N. A case of successful treatment of iatrogenic superficial cervical plexus neuropathy following upper extremity surgery with interscalene brachial plexus block. *Annals of Head Medicine*. 2021.

Book Chapters and Invited Reviews

Henson J, Varhabhatla N. Chronic abdominal wall pain. In: *Interventional Management of Chronic Visceral Pain Syndromes*. Elsevier; 2020.

Beatty J, Varhabhatla N. Irritable bowel syndrome. In: *Interventional Management of Chronic Visceral Pain Syndromes*. Elsevier; 2020.

Alvey N, Varhabhatla N, Souza D, Kohan LR. Patient safety considerations for bedside interventions. In: *Bedside Pain Management Interventions*. Springer; 2022:101–106.

Henson J, Merkow J, Varhabhatla N, Souza D, Kohan LR. Superior cluneal nerve block. In: *Bedside Pain Management Interventions*. Springer; 2022:349–356.

Varhabhatla N, Nelson E. Minimally invasive ligamentum flavum decompression (MILD). In: *Pain Medicine: An Essential Review*. Springer; 2017.

Varhabhatla N, Nelson E. Stimulation-produced analgesia. In: *Pain Medicine: An Essential Review*. Springer; 2017.

Shilling A, Varhabhatla N, Amato P. Anesthesia for orthopedic sports medicine. In: *DeLee & Drez's Orthopaedic Sports Medicine*. Elsevier; 2014.

Other Publications

Bartel K, Sharma G, Varhabhatla N. Safety of Intermediate to Long-Term Intravenous Bisphosphonate Therapy in Complex Regional Pain Syndrome. *Neuromodulation*. 26(4):S130.

Coleman P, Nill S, Merkow J, Varhabhatla N. What's new in pain. *ASA Monitor*. December 2020.

Merkow J, Varhabhatla N. Cancer pain: A review of interventional treatment. *ASRA News*. August 2018.

ABSTRACTS AND SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS

Titterington B, Bloom A, Merkow J, Varhabhatla N. Intrathecal drug delivery systems in metastatic malignant pain. Poster. University of Colorado Palliative Care Research Day, 2020.

Henson J, Merkow J, Varhabhatla N. Successful spinal cord stimulator implantation in a thrombocytopenic patient. Poster. NANS Annual Meeting, 2020.

Henson J, Merkow J, Varhabhatla N. Minimally invasive lumbar decompression for spinal stenosis. Poster. ASRA Annual Meeting, 2019.

Varhabhatla N, Zuo Z. Rising complication rates after intrathecal pump placement. Poster. ASA Annual Meeting, 2011.

Varhabhatla N, Zuo Z. Chronic pulmonary disease and postoperative length of stay. Poster. ASA Annual Meeting, 2010.

CLINICAL EXPERTISE

Interventional Pain Medicine

- Fluoroscopy-guided spinal interventions (epidural steroid injections, facet procedures, radiofrequency ablations)
- Ultrasound-guided peripheral nerve blocks and joint injections
- Neuromodulation (spinal cord stimulation, peripheral nerve stimulation)
- Intrathecal drug delivery systems
- Interventional headache management
- Interventional facial pain management

Specialized Areas of Practice

- Complex regional pain syndrome
- Fibromyalgia and chronic widespread pain
- Neuropathic pain syndromes
- Chronic headache and facial pain
- Cancer pain management
- Non-opioid pain management strategies