
Dr. Papper’s leadership in anesthesiology dates back to 1949, when he became director of anesthesiology at Columbia University’s College of Physicians and Surgeons. In 1952 he was appointed chairman of the department, the third independent department of anesthesiology in the nation. Dr. Papper is credited with many innovative clinical practices and groundbreaking research studies in the field of anesthesiology. He was also a pioneer in focusing on the importance of research in anesthesiology and was instrumental, through his work with the National Institutes of Health and the legislative and executive branches of government, in greatly increasing federal funding for anesthesiology research.

A mentor of the first order, Dr. Papper trained and influenced many of the country’s great academic anesthesiologists. He was the recipient of numerous awards and honorary degrees and a founding member of the most eminent research association in the field, the Association of University Anesthesiologists, which honored Dr. Papper at its 50th anniversary meeting in May 2003.

In 1969 Dr. Papper was recruited from Columbia to become dean of the University of Miami School of Medicine. During Dean Papper’s tenure, the school made important strides in research, education, and patient care.

Research funding for the school also increased 70 percent, placing it 20th among the nation’s 119 medical schools. Dr. Papper guided the institution during the establishment of the Public Health Trust and the Decade of Progress bond issue, which provided $55 million for renovation and expansion of the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center. His vision for the medical school continues to be fulfilled with the construction of facilities for research and clinical endeavors.

Dr. Papper was a Renaissance man whose intelligence, diverse interests, and visionary leadership had an enormous impact on the University, his profession, and the community. In the later stages of his career, Dr. Papper returned to mentoring anesthesiologists at the University of Miami and, at age 75, earned a Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of Miami. Since Dr. Papper’s death in December 2002, his legacy of excellence continues to inspire and guide his colleagues and students. The Emanuel M. Papper Chair in Anesthesiology will be a permanent tribute to Dr. Papper’s goals and ideals.
To achieve its goals, the department is seeking private support for improved pain management, higher levels of subspecialty anesthesia care and research, and patient safety. A $2.5 million endowment will establish the Emanuel M. Papper Endowed Chair in Anesthesiology and fund a promising young investigator.

The chairman of the department will hold the Emanuel M. Papper Chair in Anesthesiology. A portion of the funds from the endowment will be directed annually to support a promising young investigator who will be designated the Emanuel M. Papper Young Investigator. The funds will pay the researcher’s salary and provide necessary lab resources until independent funding is generated. The support of both science and career development pays tribute to Dr. Papper’s most strongly held interests and values. The establishment of this chair will honor his memory in a practical and meaningful way.

The practice of anesthesia today demands knowledge and skill that span the entire surgical experience – from preoperative preparation and safe anesthesia, to recovery and pain management. Newly renamed, the Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative Medicine and Pain Management at the University of Miami School of Medicine reflects this commitment to helping patients at each point in their surgical care. The department’s outreach focuses on educating the medical community about pain management to alleviate unnecessary suffering.

Research is also one of the department’s major priorities. Current research projects include seeking ways to protect the heart, brain, and kidneys after severe trauma; identifying the best techniques for teaching and evaluating young doctors; providing safer anesthesia and pain relief for high-risk pregnancies; developing new therapies for chronic pain; and devising techniques to improve kidney and liver organ transplant success.

David A. Lubarsky, MD, MBA, the department’s chairman, is recruiting talented academic subspecialists (pediatric, transplant, and cardiac anesthesiologists) to elevate patient care and scientific research to the highest levels. The latest technology is transforming education and training within the department. This includes recently established simulation laboratories where trainees practice difficult procedures and crisis management. The simulation areas are in the Patient Safety Center, which is breaking new ground by investigating the use of simulation and communication techniques in advancing patient care.
David A. Lubarsky, MD, MBA, who will be the first chairholder of the Emanuel M. Papper Chair in Anesthesiology at the University of Miami, serves as professor and chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative Medicine and Pain Management. He is also chief of anesthesiology at Jackson Memorial Hospital and a professor in the Department of Management at the University of Miami School of Business Administration.

Dr. Lubarsky earned his medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis and completed his anesthesia residency and cardiac anesthesia fellowship at New York University Medical Center.

Before joining the University of Miami School of Medicine, Dr. Lubarsky was vice chairman of anesthesiology, and chief of the Division of General, Vascular, Transplant Anesthesia, and Critical Care Medicine at Duke University Medical Center. He also served on the faculty of Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business.

The University of Miami School of Medicine seeks contributions toward the Emanuel M. Papper Chair in Anesthesiology. Please join us in honoring a man who, as a clinician and researcher, was a pioneer in the field of anesthesiology and who, as dean for twelve years, led the University of Miami School of Medicine to its position of national prominence.

For more information, please contact the Office of Medical Development at 305-243-6256 or papperchair@med.miami.edu.