

# DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY  
MEDICAL CENTER

**Title:** Department of Anesthesiology Clinical Research Advisory Committee (VACRAC)

**Created:** 04-10-09;

**Revised:** 08-27-12; 04-23-16

**Overview:** The role of the Vanderbilt Anesthesiology Clinical Research Advisory Committee is to provide oversight of the Department's clinical research activities. Specific functions of the committee include:

1. Supporting new investigators in developing clinical research projects that will lead to publication and extramural funding, where appropriate;
2. Overseeing the development and conduct of industry-sponsored and investigator-initiated research by the Perioperative Clinical Research Institute (PCRI);
3. Mentoring potential investigators throughout the research development process and creating opportunities for ongoing learning regarding research methods and skill development; and,
4. Reviewing all new clinical research proposals prior to initiation, as well as periodically reviewing the progress of research initiatives for effectiveness and compliance with regulatory and safety guidelines.

**Membership and meetings:** The committee is chaired by a senior faculty member appointed by the Department Chair. The committee meets at least quarterly. Many functions are conducted by members outside of regular meetings.

## **Procedures:**

1. VACRAC maintains a website <http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/root/vumc.php?site=1anesthesiology&doc=31633> that describes and supports the clinical research application process and reviews all new clinical research proposals. New investigators are mentored in design, planning, and analysis by VACRAC members or other senior faculty. Projects requiring more than minimal resources (e.g., requiring more than simple IRB regulatory support and/or requiring significant statistical consultation) are referred to the Anesthesiology Research Executive Committee (AREC) for consideration for Departmental Innovation grants.
2. VACRAC reviews all ongoing projects at least annually to ensure that goals are being met, resources are appropriately allocated, and regulatory requirements are met.
3. The VACRAC Chair provides summary reports of the committee's activities to AREC and the Vice Chair for Research at least annually.