

**FOR CONFIRMATION****PUBLIC****CLOSED SESSION**

**TO:** Executive Committee

**SPONSOR:** Cheryl Regehr, Vice-President & Provost  
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**PRESENTER:** As above  
**CONTACT INFO:**

**DATE:** November 27, 2019 for December 4, 2019

**AGENDA ITEM:** 5(c.)

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Change in the name of the Faculty of Medicine's *Department of Anesthesia* to the *Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine*.

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

Name changes in academic divisions (excluding namings) are considered by the Academic Board and confirmed by the Executive Committee. (*AB Terms of Reference, Section 5.2.7*)

**GOVERNANCE PATH:**

1. Academic Board [For Approval] (November 21, 2019)
2. **Executive Committee [For Confirmation] (December 4, 2019)**

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

The change to the name of the Faculty of Medicine's *Department of Anesthesia* to the *Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine* received approval from the Faculty of Medicine's Faculty Council on October 21, 2019.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

This is a proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to change the name of the *Department of Anesthesia* to the *Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine*, effective January 1, 2020.

The name change will more accurately reflect the scope of the clinical and academic areas of the department's faculty and will better reflect the experiences of patients. The proposed name also aligns with many Canadian, American and international departments in the area.

“Anesthesiology” refers to the academic specialty and better encompasses the faculty members’ clinical activities. It also is used by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and professional organizations to describe the area.

The addition of “Pain Management” to the department’s name recognizes that this has become a core activity of the specialty. The proposal noted that the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada has determined that residency programs in the subspecialty of Pain Medicine should be “housed in” and supported by Departments of Anesthesiology.

Consultation has taken place within the department, with the Faculty of Medicine chairs of clinical and basic science departments and with the Vice-Dean of the MD program. The Director of the University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain (EDU:C), and the EDU:C’s lead and partner Deans (Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy; Faculty of Dentistry; Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing) were consulted. All were supportive of the name change.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Any new/additional financial obligations resulting from this change will be met at the Faculty/Divisional level.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Be It Confirmed by the Executive Committee

THAT the name of the *Department of Anesthesia* be changed to the *Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine*, effective January 1, 2020.

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**DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:**

*Proposal to change the name of the Department of Anesthesia*

# **Proposal to Change the Name of the University of Toronto Department of Anesthesia**

September 5, 2019

**Provided below is a proposal to change the name of *The Department of Anesthesia* to the *Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine*, effective January 1, 2020.**

## **RATIONALE AND CONTEXT**

During the development of the Department of Anesthesia's [5-year Strategic Plan](#), many of the faculty noted that the wide range of their clinical and scholarly activities was no longer reflected in the department's name. They requested that the name be changed for the following reasons.

In 1951, when the University of Toronto's Department of Anaesthesia first formed, it made sense to use the word "anaesthesia". That department name recognized the artistry and clinical expertise physicians needed to provide safe anesthetic care to patients. However, times have changed; even the spelling of the word anaesthesia has changed in North America to anesthesia. Modern anesthesiologists are medical and procedural specialists who provide care throughout the entire perioperative period, serving patients before, during, and after surgery. They are also involved in many non-anesthesia activities, including the treatment of acute and chronic pain, intensive care, and a wide range of education and research activities. As well, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons has formally recognized Pain Medicine as a subspecialty and all Pain Residency Training Programs in Canada are positioned in Departments of Anesthesia. To better reflect the many clinical and academic contributions of the faculty, they have requested that we change that name to the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine.

The proposed change has received strong support from the entire department. The Executive Council of the Department of Anesthesia unanimously endorsed the name change. A referendum sent to all members of the department indicated that 100% of the residents and 94% of faculty supported the change. The Chairs of all the clinical and basic science departments of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto approved the name change without dissent at an All Chairs Committee meeting. The Director and the lead/partner Deans (Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy) of the University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain (EDU:C), support the name change. Finally, consultation has been completed and support has been given by the Vice Dean of the MD Program. As a clinical department, Anesthesia does not offer degree programs so this change will have no direct impact on students or programs.

Provided below is additional information that supports the name change.

## **WHY "ANESTHESIOLOGY" RATHER THAN "ANESTHESIA"?**

The term "anesthesia" refers to a drug-induced state, whereas "anesthesiology" refers to an academic specialty. Currently, our clinical activities extend well beyond the operating room to encompass many off-site services, including pioneering image-guided therapies, the management of acute and chronic pain, perioperative care, and intensive care. Anesthesiologists are also academic leaders in education and research. The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and professional organizations including the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society use the word Anesthesiology.

## WHY INCLUDE PAIN MEDICINE?

The management of pain has become a core activity of the specialty. Anesthesiologists practice acute pain medicine every day. We also lead transitional, regional, and chronic pain programs across and within multiple institutions and are leaders in pain education. The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada determined that residency programs in the subspecialty of Pain Medicine should be “housed in” and supported by Departments of Anesthesiology.

## DOES THE NAME CHANGE ALIGN WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRENDS?

This change aligns with trends occurring at local, national and international levels to include the terms anesthesiology and pain medicine in the names of hospital and university departments. At the local level, three departments in fully affiliated hospitals include the word “pain,” in their names. We expect that other hospital departments will follow suit.

A geographic scan identified many Canadian, American and International departments with similar names:

- University of Calgary: Department of **Anesthesiology**, Perioperative and **Pain Medicine**
- University of Alberta: Department of **Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine**
- University of Manitoba: Department of **Anesthesiology**, Perioperative and **Pain Medicine**
- University of Saskatchewan: Department of **Anesthesiology**, Perioperative Medicine and **Pain** Management
- University of Ottawa: Department of **Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine**
- Université de Montréal: Department of **Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine** (Département d’anesthésiologie et de médecine de la douleur)
- Dalhousie University: Department of Anesthesia, **Pain** Management & Perioperative Medicine
- University of British Columbia: Department of **Anesthesiology**, Pharmacology, & Therapeutics
- Stanford: Department of **Anesthesiology**, Perioperative and **Pain Medicine**
- University of Washington: Department of **Anesthesiology** and **Pain Medicine**
- Cleveland Clinic: Department of **Anesthesiology & Pain** Management
- Hiroshima University Hospital: Department of **Anesthesiology** and **Pain Medicine**

Most importantly, the new name better describes the experiences of patients and reflects the knowledge, care and expertise of modern anesthesiologists. Thus, for the reasons outlined above, we propose to change the name.