

Paul García, MD, PhD, Candidate Statement for Director at Large

Paul García, MD, PhD is currently an anesthesiologist and researcher at Emory University School of Medicine and the Atlanta VA Medical Center. He studied electrical engineering and computational neuroscience at the University of Florida, before matriculating at Emory's MD/PhD program. Through his medical-scientist training, he obtained his PhD in Bioengineering at Georgia Institute of Technology and completed his medical degree and anesthesiology residency training at Emory. Since joining the Emory faculty in 2010, his research experience has focused on neurophysiology (including human/rodent EEG and patch-clamp electrophysiology) and behavioral testing in animal models. His translational laboratory research focuses on models of neuronal degeneration caused by age, anesthesia, or other pharmacologic exposure. He has transitioned some of this research into the human/clinical realm. His clinical research projects involve investigating intraoperative EEG signatures and their association with adverse postoperative outcomes. Early recognition of cognitive problems can aid in preventing an escalation of clinical acuity and bring down hospital costs. Specific sequences observed in frontal EEG during emergence from general anesthesia are associated with pain and delirium in the recovery room. Understanding the generation of these signals can lead to improved care for patients in the care of anesthesiologists.

Dr. García has accepted a position as Chief of Neuroanesthesia at the Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, Department of Anesthesiology and will be moving there as an Associate Professor, effective October 1, 2018. Throughout his training and faculty career, Dr. García has been dedicated to awareness of diversity issues and increasing the national/international scholarly profile of groups historically underrepresented in academic biosciences.

He looks forward to continuing these efforts at his own institution and through his participation with professional organizations like SNACC.