

The Hottest Ticket in Town: FAER's 2023 Annual MRTG Meeting

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On May 10, 2023, emerging research leaders in anesthesiology from across the country will gather in Washington, D.C., for the Third Annual FAER MRTG Meeting. Since its beginning in 2019, this yearly event has provided vital opportunities for early-career faculty supported by FAER Mentored Research Training Grants (MRTG), IARS Mentored Research Awards (IMRA), and NIH GEMSSTAR grants (Grants for Early Medical/Surgical Specialists' Transition to Aging Research) to come together for one and a-half days of networking, professional career development and leadership training, and opportunities to present and receive feedback on their research from peers, mid-career and senior-career faculty scientists, and ASA and NIH leaders.

The FAER MRTG Meeting was inspired by and modeled on approaches used in programs that have been highly successful in developing generations of research leaders within and outside of anesthesiology, including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars and Harold Amos Minority Faculty Development programs and the NIH Beeson program. Like these initiatives, the FAER MRTG Meeting seeks to make the most of an important – but often overlooked – resource with potential to accelerate success for our field's early-career scientists: their connections with each other.

Connection and engagement are core themes of this year's MRTG Meeting, which will be held in space made available through ASA's Washington, D.C., office and organized by FAER's outstanding staff. Attendees will hear keynotes by 2015 ASA Excellence in Research Awardee Emery Brown, PhD, MD, and FAER Board Chair-Elect Dolores Njoku, MD, PhD. Attendees will also present and receive in-depth feedback on their own FAER-, IARS-, and NIH-funded work, attend career development sessions on negotiation, career planning, and grant writing, learn to develop short "elevator pitch"-style talks to communicate with media and policymakers, and find ample time to make new connections with program faculty and each other.

The MRTG Meeting forms just one part of FAER's ongoing commitment to



Dr. Mark Neuman presents to his fellow FAER grantees and attendees at the 2022 MRTG Meeting in Washington, D.C.



2022 MRTG Meeting attendees deep in discussion during the meeting's first full day of CME sessions and networking.



FAER President James Eisenach, MD, and grantees Drs. Elizabeth Railey White and Victoria Bedell enjoying the evening reception kicking off the 2022 MRTG Meeting.

nurturing high-quality, impactful scientific research and education scholarship in our specialty. The creation of such a nurturing community for early-career researchers and education leaders – through the MRTG Meeting as well as other activ-

ities – supplements the direct funding of research and career development of FAER MRTG awardees.

Tying back to the theme of this month's issue of the *Monitor*, "The Value of Global Engagement," the FAER MRTG Meeting



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makes up an important part of a continuum of FAER programs that spans multiple stages of professional development in anesthesiology, from the Medical Student Anesthesia Research Fellowship through the FAER Resident Scholar Program, FAER Research Fellowship Grant program, and finally the MRTG program itself. FAER's longitudinal approach reflects the reality of career development in physician-led research, where ongoing, tailored support, mentorship, and guidance are required across stages to foster resilience and ensure success over time. As connections and networks established at the MRTG Meeting often extend beyond the duration of the FAER award itself, the meeting represents a key way for FAER to continue its impact on awardees' work over the course of their career. Finally, as FAER works to fulfill its commitment to increasing diversity and representativeness among anesthesiology's future leaders in research, the FAER MRTG Meeting and nurturing community activities can help to provide new mechanisms to identify, develop, and elevate leaders from historically underrepresented and marginalized communities.

This spring's meeting in Washington, D.C., will be an opportunity for FAER's grantees and mentors to honor and celebrate not only the achievements of our awardees, but also the longstanding, deep commitment of ASA and its members to investing in the future of anesthesiology research and education through FAER. Indeed, FAER's MRTG Meeting is only the latest in a long line of innovative FAER programs that support the ability of ASA and its members to produce outstanding research and innovations in education that all work to advance ASA's mission of advancing the practice and securing the future. Now *that's* a hot ticket. ■