

Women in Medicine Month



Caryl Bailey, MD

Dr. Caryl Bailey is a board-certified anesthesiologist and educator based in Augusta, Georgia. She serves as Associate Residency Program Director and Clerkship Director in the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine at the Medical College of Georgia. Dr. Bailey has built a distinguished career specializing in cardiothoracic anesthesia and is a dedicated advocate for women in medicine. Beyond her academic roles, Dr. Bailey is also engaged in regional professional leadership within the Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists (GSA) as Chair of the Vendor Relations Committee and as a valued member of the Women in Anesthesia Committee. Her clinical and educational dedication combined with her advocacy for women in medicine highlights a deep commitment to advancing anesthesiology both within academic and professional communities.

1. What inspired you to remain in an academic setting and take on leadership roles such as associate residency program director and clerkship director?

I have always found energy and purpose in working with learners. Academic anesthesiology allows me to combine clinical practice with teaching, mentorship, and program development. Serving as Associate Residency Program Director and Clerkship Director gives me the opportunity to help shape the growth of residents and medical students, while also building the kind of supportive, forward-looking culture that drew me to this specialty in the first place.

2. How has being a member of the Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists contributed to your professional development?

GSA has given me both a platform and a community. As Vendor Relations Chair, I have gained experience in organizational leadership and advocacy. Serving as an ASA Delegate for GSA in 2024 was a highlight—it broadened my perspective on how state and national societies influence the practice of anesthesiology. I have also enjoyed working with medical students across Georgia, helping them plan for their future careers and connecting them with mentors. These opportunities have deepened my professional network while also reinforcing the importance of service to our specialty.

3. What current issues or challenges in anesthesiology in Georgia do you think deserve more attention?

Workforce sustainability is a pressing concern, both in terms of recruiting future anesthesiologists and supporting the teams we already have. We need to continue addressing pipeline challenges, such as engaging medical students early and encouraging them to explore anesthesiology, which the GSA has done a tremendous job with in the last few years. Advocacy around patient safety, equitable access to anesthesia care across Georgia, and supporting physician leadership in perioperative medicine are also areas that deserve attention.

4. Outside of your professional life, what activities or interests help you recharge?

Travel is my favorite way to recharge—it gives me perspective, joy, and renewed creativity. I also love exploring local food scenes, and spending time with friends and family. Whether it's planning a themed event, or planning my next trip, these moments help me return to work with balance and enthusiasm.

5. What advice or encouragement would you give to the next generation of women entering anesthesiology?

You belong here. Anesthesiology is a specialty where your voice, leadership, and perspective are needed. Seek out mentors but also don't be afraid to chart your own path—you can lead from wherever you are. Remember that growth comes from stretching yourself into roles that may feel uncomfortable at first. Most importantly, build a support system of colleagues and friends who will celebrate your successes and remind you of your strengths when challenges arise.