


LAURA LEE WIGGINS, DNP, CRNA

 School of Nursing, 360A Victoria Building, 3500 Victoria Building, Pittsburgh, PA 15261 LLW46@pitt.edu
412-624-4860 F: 412-624-1508

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH JAN 2024-PRESENT
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM

BPW MEDICAL ASSOCIATES, PC. - WEST, MIFFLIN, PA, USA JAN 2018 - PRESENT
CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETIST (CRNA) FOR:
SURGERY CENTERS, ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITALS, DENTIST OFFICES, KETAMINE CLINICS

ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY | MOON TOWNSHIP, PA, USA AUG 2018- 2020
Part-Time Simulation Educator - Regional RISE Center

- SIMULATION EDUCATOR FOR TRANSITIONS TO PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE - SCHOOL OF NURSING - RAPID RESPONSE TEAM/ FIRST FIVE MINUTES
- MILITARY READINESS SKILLS/ EXPEDITIONARY SIMULATION EXPERT

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH MEDICAL CENTER (UPMC) | PITTSBURGH, PA, USA Jul 2011-Present
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)

- Serve as CRNA for Passavant Hospital, Magee Women's Hospital, and UPMC East; provide anesthesia services throughout 21 operating rooms and off-site clinics, while ensuring safety of hand-off and consistent coordination
- Function effectively as program director for the Nurse Anesthetist Regional Anesthesia Course within the Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation, Education, and Research (WISER); clinical preceptor for nurse anesthesia students from University of Pittsburgh and Allegheny Valley
- Demonstrate adeptness by serving as member and chair for the Anesthesia Professional Practice Council
- Adjunct faculty for University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program - frequent lecturer and simulation educator
- OB Clinical Coordinator - Magee Women's Hospital - University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program 2020-present

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE RESERVE, 911TH ASTS/ 445TH ASTS | PITTSBURGH, PA, USA; WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OH, USA Jan 2011-April 2018 (retired - 25 years of service)
Chief Nurse | Flight One Commander - (Lieutenant Colonel)

- Critical care nurse for the Critical Care Air Transport Team, accountable for providing critical care while airborne serving America's Finest
- Directly supervise 16 nurses and 45 enlisted medical technicians, while managing all nursing services and flight member activities
- Administer medical specialist training and instruction for peacetime and wartime missions


ANESTHESIOLOGY SERVICES NETWORK | DAYTON, OH, USA Jul 2011-2018
Independent Contractor (pro re nata)
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Apr 2008-July 2011

- Offer anesthesia services for Level One Trauma Center comprised of 24 operating rooms and diverse areas, including neurosurgery, vascular, thoracic, orthopedics, general, gynecology, pediatrics, ENT, trauma, and obstetrics
- Fulfill the role of clinical preceptor for nurse anesthesia students from Akron, Texas-Wesleyan, and Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS)
- Manage the administration of subarachnoid block (SAB) and epidurals within the Obstetrics Unit

81ST SURGICAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON | KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MS, USA Apr 2007-Apr 2008
Senior Staff Nurse Anesthetist

- Developed plans and executed clinical management of both regional and general anesthesia for the second largest medical center in Air Force which served population of 54,000 members and dependents
- Facilitated arranging the residency program for junior nurse anesthetists
- Assumed the role of departmental advisor, responsible for leading personnel; equipment contract development and quality assurance

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- Spearheaded the development and implementation of policies regarding anesthesia services for more than 1000 anesthetics on a yearly basis which involved services for various areas, such as orthopedics, general surgery, ENT surgery, gynecological surgery, and obstetrics
- Acted as program anesthesia administrator for the entire vascular and cardio-thoracic equipment and set-up

376TH EXPEDITIONARY MEDICAL GROUP | MANAS, KYRGYZSTAN

Anesthesia Director

Sep 2006–Jan 2007

- Drove improvements in clinical anesthesia management for Manas Air Base's Surgical Support Team which included surgical cases, including appendectomies, reparation of retroperitoneal bleeds, open cholecystectomy, thoracotomies, and minor/major trauma surgeries
- Implemented trauma sustainment and readiness exercises, nursing leadership, and training
- Offered hands-on support to the application of international post-mortem investigation, involving the completion of vital report to Wing Commander and the United States Air Force
- Contributed in the coordination of local medical resources which included evaluation of three surgical centers and generation of vital reports to Central Command and Headquarters, USAF
- Facilitated training to the coalition, the United States State Department, and local national medics regarding all facets of airway management; instructed local nationals concerning intravenous access, arterial puncture, and central line placement
- Played an integral role in the development of the Expeditionary Airway Management Program and the Joint Operation Trauma Care Plan for 1,800 coalition forces
- Regulated pharmacy inventory, as well as acquisition and distribution valued at \$750K as the pharmacy operations manager

48TH MEDICAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON | LAKENHEATH, ENGLAND

Deputy Operations Manager

Sep 2005–Apr 2007

- Led the implementation of clinical management of regional and general anesthesia at the United States Air Forces in Europe's largest medical facility
- Provided excellent support to 19 surgeons in 10 surgical subspecialties which included seven obstetric providers in delivering more than 50 infants monthly
- Served as the advanced cardiac life support instructor in educating 110 students with emphasis in airway management and acute coronary syndromes
- Held responsibility in scheduling five anesthesia providers to cover high-operations tempo department to maintain leaves, readiness, training, and deployment requirements
- Played vital role as the project manager for the overall facets of strategic and transition management and planning along with the development of Self Inspection Program for the Joint Commission Accreditation Hospital Organization
- Earned designation as the department's first choice for clinical expertise and support

Earlier Positions Held:

81ST SURGICAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON | KEESLER AFB, MS, USA

Anesthesia Operations Officer

759TH SURGICAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON | LACKLAND AFB, TX, USA

Clinical Nurse - Surgical Intensive Care Flight

MARYLAND PROFESSIONAL STAFFING SERVICES | BETHESDA, MD, USA

Clinical Nurse - Medical-Surgical, Critical Care

89TH MEDICAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON | ANDREWS AFB, MD, USA

Clinical Nurse, Critical Care, Ambulatory Surgical Unit, Post Anesthesia Care Unit, Surgical Ward


TRI-COUNTY NURSES | STATE COLLEGE, PA, USA

Certified Nursing Assistant

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY | STATE COLLEGE, PA

Home Health Care

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ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH—SCHOOL OF NURSING ANESTHESIA DEPARTMENT | PITTSBURGH, PA, USA

Adjunct Faculty/ Clinical Preceptor 2015–Present

- Fulfilled role as clinical instructor for various courses, including Difficult Airway Course; Regional Anesthesia; and Obstetrics Anesthesia.

UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES | BETHESDA, MD, USA

Adjunct Clinical Director 2004–2005

- Led clinical coordination for 15 nurse anesthesia students, while performing daily scheduling and anesthesia care plan management

ANESTHESIOLOGY SERVICES NETWORK | DAYTON, OH, USA

Clinical Preceptor 2008–2011

- Liaison for Wright Patterson Air Force Base nurse anesthesia students; and as resource person for anesthetic management plans; scheduling; and counseling.
- Specialized in OB anesthesia and pain management

EDUCATION

Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, GPA 3.85 May 2017

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, PITTSBURGH, PA

Research Projects:

- USING EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES OF SIMULATION, CHECKLISTS, AND DELIBERATE PRACTICE TO DEVELOP AND IMPROVE A REGIONAL ANESTHESIA TRAINING COURSE – PUBLISHED IN AANA JOURNAL – APRIL 2018

Master of Science in Nursing, with Specialization in Anesthesia, GPA: 3.45: Dec 2003

UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY, BETHESDA, MD

Research Projects:

- The Ethical Considerations of Stem Cell Research
- Pain Management in the Critical Care Setting
- Instructing Anesthesia Providers on the Assembly, and Functional Check of the Drager Narkomed Mobile Field Anesthesia Machine

Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Dean's List, Air Force Scholarship: May 1994

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, STATE COLLEGE, PA


PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2007–Present	Ohio Certificate of Authority
2007–Present	Virginia Nurse Anesthetist
2007–Present	Virginia Registered Nurse
2003–Present	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
2001–Present	Ohio Registered Nurse
1994–Present	Pennsylvania Registered Nurse
1994–Present	Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification
1994–Present	Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) Certification
1994–Present	Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) Certification
2007–2009	Neonatal Resuscitation
2006–2009	Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses – Provider Certification
1996–2009	ACLS Instructor

Military Training

Air War College – Completed first 9 courses prior to retirement

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Critical Care Air Transport Team Advanced Course – Class Leader | University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

Chief Nurse – 4N Functional Manager Course | Air Force Reserve Command, Robins AFB, GA

Health Services Executive Management Course | Air Force Reserve Command, Robins AFB, GA

Critical Care Air Transport Team Basic Course – Class Leader, Wright Patterson-AFB, OH

Air Command and Staff College (Correspondence) | College of Aerospace Doctrine, Maxwell AFB, AL

Advanced Trauma Life Support Course - *Graduated #1 out of 200 with instructor potential*
University of Maryland Medical Center - Shock Trauma, Baltimore, MD

Squadron Officer’s School (Correspondence) | College of Aerospace Doctrine, Maxwell AFB, AL

Trauma Nursing Core Course | Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB, TX

Nurse Internship Program Class President | Malcolm Grow Medical Center, Andrews AFB, MD

AFFILIATIONS

Member, Federal Political Director, Board Trustee, Practice Committee Chair, President -Elect, President (2022-20230 - Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA)

Member, Curriculum Committee (2023-24), American Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Member, Association of Military Surgeons of the United States

Member, International Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning

Member, Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society

UPMC Passavant Chair/Member, Anesthesia Professional Practice Committee

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

2022	American Association of Nurse Anesthetist’s Daniel D. Vigness Federal Political Director Award
2017	Field Grade Officer of the Year – 911 th Air Wing, Pittsburgh, PA
2017	Field Grade Officer of the Quarter – 911 th Air Wing, Pittsburgh, PA
2016	Recipient - Kuzma Veterans Scholarship – University of Pittsburgh
2016	Field Grade Officer of the Quarter – 911 th Aeromedical Staging Squadron/ 911 th Air Wing
2013-2018	Key Personnel for USAF Reserves Top 3% of USAFR Officer Corps
2009	Clinical Preceptor of the Year – Wright-Patterson AFB Nurse Anesthesia Program
2006	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist of the Year - United States Air Forces Europe
2006	48 th Medical Group CRNA of the Year Award
2006	48 th Medical Operations Squadron Company Grade Officer of the Year
2003	Most Improved Resident Award – Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Graduate School of Nursing
2003	Graduate School of Nursing Honors Society - Uniformed Services University
2000	759 th Surgical Intensive Care Flight Company Grade Officer of the Quarter
1994	High Academic Achievement and Distinctive Military Cadet – Outstanding Performance Award, United States Air Force ROTC Program

Military Decorations:

Meritorious Service Medal (*with one oak leaf cluster*)

Air Force Commendation Medal (*with three oak leaf clusters*)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (*with three devices*)

Air Medal (for meritorious achievement during aerial flight)

National Defense Service Medal (*with one device*)

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal


Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon

Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon (*with Gold Border*)

Air Force Longevity of Service Ribbon

Air Force Training Ribbon

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ACTIVITIES

Assistant Soccer Coach, Affinity Sports Soccer Team
Chair Member, Fox Chapel Area Band Parent Association
Foster Parent, Every Child in Pittsburgh
Sponsor of United States Air Force Heritage Ball

PRESENTATIONS

- Koontz, L.L.** (1999). *Hemodynamics and the critically ill parturient*. Wilford Hall Medical Center, San Antonio, TX.
- Koontz, L.L.** (2000a). *Pain management in the critical care setting*. American Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS) Conference, Las Vegas, NV
- Koontz, L.L.** (2000b). *Hemodynamics and the critically ill parturient*. Wilford Hall Medical Center, San Antonio, TX.
- Koontz, L.L.** (2003). *Instructing anesthesia providers on the assembly, disassembly, and functional check of the Drager Narkomed mobile field anesthesia machine*. American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- Koontz, L.L.** (2004a). *Difficult airway algorithm: A systematic approach*. Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Conference, Bethesda, MD
- Koontz, L. L.** (2004b). *Basic airway management*. Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Conference, Bethesda, MD
- Koontz, L.L.** (2004c). *Pseudocholinesterase Deficiency: A case study*. Grand Rounds - Keesler Medical Center, Biloxi, MS.
- Koontz, L.L.** (2005a). *Difficult airway algorithm: A systematic approach*. Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Conference, Bethesda, MD
- Koontz, L.L.** (2005b). *Basic airway management*. Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Conference, Bethesda, MD
- Koontz, L.L.** (2006). *Management of epidurals for clinical nurses*. Lakenheath, England - Nursing Stand-up, 48th Medical Group, Lakenheath, England
- Wiggins, L.L.** (2015a). *Ebola awareness and prevention - The long road ahead*. Magee Women's Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA
- Wiggins, L.L.** (2015b). *Ebola awareness and prevention - The long road ahead*. Passavant Hospital - Passavant Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Wiggins, L.L.** (2016a). *The Law of Priorities: Based on the 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*. Air Force Reserve Command, Robins AFB, GA.
- Wiggins, L.L.** (2016b). *Difficult Airway Simulation Based Course*. Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists Spring Symposium, Hershey, PA.
- Wiggins, LL.** (2016c). *Difficult Airway Algorithm: A systematic approach*. 33rd Annual Metro Life Flight Critical Care Symposium, Cleveland, OH.
- Wiggins, LL.** (2016a). *Disaster Preparedness: Northeast United States Anesthesia Technologist Conference*, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Wiggins, LL.** (2017). *Disaster Preparedness: Penn State School of Nursing, Fayette Campus*, Furnace, PA.
- Wiggins, LL.** (2018). *Expeditionary Critical Care: Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Symposium*, Magee Women's Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA
- Wiggins, LL** (2018). *Professional Role Development for the Nurse Anesthetist: University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program*, Pittsburgh, PA
- Wiggins, LL** (2018). *Neurological Complications of Pregnancy and Neuraxial Anesthesia: University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program*, Pittsburgh, PA
- Wiggins, LL** (2018). *Maternal Mortality and Complications: University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program*, Pittsburgh, PA
- Wiggins, LL** (2018). *Embolic Events in Pregnancy: University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program*, Pittsburgh, PA
- Wiggins, LL** (2018). *Thromboelastography - Clinical Application, Interpretation, and Transfusion Management: University of Pittsburgh*, Pittsburgh, PA

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- Wiggins, LL** (2019). *Active Shooter/ Violence in the Workplace*: University of Pittsburgh Medical Center/ University of Pittsburgh Physicians' CRNA Conference, Nemacolin Woodlands Resort, Farmington, PA
- Wiggins, LL** (2019). *Expeditionary Critical Care Anesthesia/ REBOA (Resuscitative Endovascular Balloon Occlusion of the Aorta)*: Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists Spring Symposium, Hershey, PA
- Wiggins, LL** (2022). *Alpha-Gal Syndrome and Anesthesia*: Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists Spring Fall Symposium Hershey, PA
- Wiggins, LL** (2023). *Active Shooter Violence in the Workplace*: AVANA - VA Association of Nurse Anesthetists Annual Conference - San Antonio, TX
- Wiggins, LL** (2023). *GLP-1 Receptor Agonists and Anesthesia*: Magee Women's Hospital Anesthesia Department Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA
- Wiggins, LL** (2023). *GLP-1 Receptor Agonists and Anesthesia*: Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists Fall Symposium, Bedford, PA