

Boris Heifets, M.D., Ph.D., has had a lifelong interest in neuroscience and hopes to apply basic neuroscience insights to the practice of anesthesiology and perioperative medicine. He is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine at the Stanford School of Medicine. He received his undergraduate degree in neuroscience from Yale University, M.D./Ph.D. degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and completed anesthesiology residency and a neuroanesthesiology fellowship at Stanford Hospital. Dr. Heifets' basic and clinical research aims to understand the mechanisms of action for emerging rapid-acting treatments for psychiatric disease, including ketamine, MDMA and psilocybin, and how they might be incorporated into perioperative clinical care to improve patient outcomes. During his time at Stanford he has collaborated extensively with the psychiatry department. After finishing residency, he was mentored by Dr. Robert Malenka on a project investigating neural mechanisms of MDMA's prosocial effects, and has worked closely with Drs. Nolan Williams, Alan Schatzberg and Carolyn Rodriguez on a controversial study which reported an opioid receptor-dependent mechanism for ketamine's antidepressant effect. He is currently supported by a K08 award from the National Institute of Mental Health.