



**Axel Vargas, M.D.,**  
*Anesthesiology and Interventional Pain Management*  
Chicago, Illinois  
[www.rivernorthpmc.com](http://www.rivernorthpmc.com)

## CURRICULUM VITAE

---

(312) 961-6471 • [admin@rivernorthpmc.com](mailto:admin@rivernorthpmc.com)

### PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Attending Physician specializing in Minimally Invasive Spine (MIS) and Interventional Pain Medicine, as well as Regional Anesthesiology, with clinical appointments spanning outpatient minimally invasive spine and interventional pain medicine, ambulatory surgery, and academic anesthesiology. Experience includes consultation for neurosurgical, orthopedic, and sports medicine populations. Postgraduate training in Internal Medicine, General Surgery, and Anesthesiology at Case Western Reserve University Hospitals, Loyola University Medical Center, and Northwestern University.

### CURRENT CLINICAL PRACTICE

|                                                                                         |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>River North Interventional Pain Management Consultants, S.C. — Chicago, Illinois</b> | Current |
| Attending Physician — Minimally Invasive Spine (MIS) and Interventional Pain Medicine.  |         |

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

|                                                                                                        |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Advanced Surgery Center — Dearborn, Michigan</b>                                                    | 2019–2026 |
| Minimally Invasive Spine (MIS) and Interventional Pain Medicine                                        |           |
| <b>Lake Shore Surgery / Delaware Physicians — Chicago, Illinois</b>                                    | 2007–2026 |
| Minimally Invasive Spine (MIS) and Interventional Pain Medicine                                        |           |
| <b>Windy City Medical Specialists — Chicago, Illinois</b>                                              | 2014–2019 |
| Minimally Invasive Spine (MIS) and Interventional Pain Medicine                                        |           |
| <b>Chicago Pain &amp; Orthopedic Institute — Chicago, Illinois</b>                                     | 2013–2014 |
| Minimally Invasive Spine (MIS) and Interventional Pain Medicine                                        |           |
| <b>Michigan Avenue Medical Group — Chicago, Illinois</b>                                               | 2010–2013 |
| Minimally Invasive Spine (MIS) and Interventional Pain Medicine                                        |           |
| <b>Illinois Bone &amp; Joint Institute — Glenview, Illinois</b>                                        | 2007–2011 |
| Interventional Pain Management                                                                         |           |
| <b>Chicago Bears Organization — Lake Forest, Illinois</b>                                              | 2003–2010 |
| Interventional Pain Management Consultant                                                              |           |
| <b>North Shore Anesthesia Associates — Chicago, Illinois</b>                                           | 1998–2008 |
| Orthopedic Regional Anesthesiology and Minimally Invasive Spine (MIS) and Interventional Pain Medicine |           |
| <b>Porter Memorial Hospital — Valparaiso, Indiana</b>                                                  | 1997–1998 |
| Cardiac Anesthesiology and Interventional Pain Management                                              |           |

---

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

**University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Health Sciences — San Francisco, California** 2008–2009  
**Associate Clinical Professor**  
**Department of Anesthesia and Perioperative Care**  
Clinical Faculty Appointment in the Department of Anesthesia and Perioperative Care.

## HOSPITAL STAFF AFFILIATIONS

**Thorek–Methodist Hospital of Chicago — Chicago, Illinois** 2006–Present  
Surgery/Anesthesia — Active medical staff.

**Vista East Medical Center — Waukegan, Illinois** 2017–Present  
Surgery/Anesthesia — Active medical staff.

## MEDICAL EDUCATION AND POSTGRADUATE TRAINING

**Northwestern University School of Medicine / Northwestern University Hospitals — Chicago, Illinois** 1995–1997  
Anesthesiology (CA-2 and CA-3); pain management training.

**Loyola University / Stritch School of Medicine — Maywood, Illinois** 1994–1995  
Anesthesiology (CA-1).

**Western Reserve Care System — Youngstown, Ohio** 1993–1994  
General Surgery postgraduate training.

**Case Western Reserve University Hospitals — Cleveland, Ohio** 1991–1993  
General Surgery and Internal Medicine postgraduate training.

**Universidad del Rosario Hospitals — Bogotá, Colombia** 1985–1986  
Rotating internship / surgery.

**Universidad del Norte, School of Medicine — Barranquilla, Colombia** 1980–1985  
Medical Doctor (M.D.).

## ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

**Oklahoma State University — Stillwater, Oklahoma** 1978–1979  
Academic achievement certificate.

**Pontificia Universidad Javeriana — Bogotá, Colombia** 1977–1978  
Certificate.

**Military Academy of Cadets — Colombia** 1971–1977  
Baccalaureate diploma.

## LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

Medical licenses:

Illinois (expiration July 2029);

California (expiration July 2028);

Indiana (expiration October 2027);

Michigan (expiration June 2028).

Board Certification: American Board of Anesthesiology (re-certification 2026).

---

## SELECTED ADVANCED INTERVENTIONAL SPINE TRAINING

2025, 2026 — Abbott Neuromodulation: spinal cord stimulation training (July); KIC Ventures: InSpan interspinous fusion device techniques. Minimally Invasive spine (MIS) techniques.

Additional interventional spine expertise: Interspinous-interlaminar fixation; sacroiliac joint (SIJ) fixation; Trans facet posterior screw fixation; Intradiscal nucleoplasty and decompression; indirect decompression; Neuromodulation and Dorsal column Spinal Cord Stimulation (SCS); Kyphoplasty and Vertebroplasty; Radiofrequency and Cryoablation.

## PUBLICATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS

1984 — Causative Relation between Liver Cirrhosis and Hepatic Carcinoma: Study of Cases and Controls.

Universidad del Norte, Colombia.

1986 — Proper Management of the Critically Ill: Compendium of Algorithms.

Universidad del Norte, Colombia.

1991 — Superoxide Dismutase Inhibition: Role in Post-CABG Surgery Arrhythmias. Poster,

Mount Sinai Medical Center / Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland.

1996 — One-Lung Ventilation in a Patient with Bullous Emphysema. Poster,

Northwestern University Department of Anesthesiology.

## PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES AND AFFILIATIONS

North American Spine Society (member since March 15, 2009); American Society of Anesthesiologists; American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine; European Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Therapy; International Anesthesia Research Society; American Medical Association; Chicago Medical Society; Illinois State Medical Society (delegate).

## HONORS AND RECOGNITION

Resident of the Year recognition, Mount Sinai Medical Center (1992);

First Prize of Arts, International Congress of Surgery, Colombia (1986);

Medical School Dean's List / Academic Achievement (1984–1985);

Discovery Cruise Lines Excellence Award (1991);

Oklahoma State University Academic Achievement (1979);

Lufthansa German Airlines Medical Department Recognition (2004).

## ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Emergency Consultants (ECI), Emergency Department Physician, 1995–1997

Discovery / Norwegian Cruise Lines, Chief Medical Officer, 1989–1991

Colombian National Institute/Ministry of Health, Regional Health Care Coordinator, 1987–1988.

## LANGUAGES

English, Spanish, and Italian (fluent); French and Russian (working knowledge).