



“When the Covid crisis reached the United States, New York City and surrounding areas were particularly hard hit and there was a sudden and urgent need for critical care skills in the hospitals. An opportunity to help a sister company in New Jersey arose and I realized that I had the good fortune of having trained at Mayo Clinic Arizona and had some of the best anesthesia and critical care training in the world. I showed up at an overwhelmed New Jersey Hospital (just outside of NYC). When I arrived their ICUs were all full, they had converted several of their step down units to makeshift ICUs, as well as the having converted the PACU and operating rooms to temporary ICUs. Anesthesiologists had stepped up and were running most of the ICUs and handling all the codes and intubations in the hospital. After a few hours of orienting, I was managing 16 critically ill, mechanically ventilated COVID positive patients. Nurse anesthetists acted as mid-level providers and registered nurses all stepped up to help handle the critical care patients. For the next three weeks we ran a 16 patient closed COVID ICU as well as rotate through the airway team until the surge had

passed and the local staff was able to resume full care of patients. Everyone felt overwhelmed at times but as I have reflected on my experience I realized that my anesthesia training at Mayo Clinic AZ had me as prepared as almost anyone I encountered to step in and help. Managing ventilators and airways, failing organ systems, putting in urgent central lines or dialysis catheters, and managing a team all are all part of our training. The clinical care was challenging but I feel extremely fortunate to have trained at the Mayo Clinic, and I am grateful to have been able to employ the knowledge and skills that were imparted to me by so many in the care of patients in need.”

Daniel Hansen, M.D.

General Anesthesiologist

Class of 2018