

Dermot P. Maher, MD, MS

Dermot P. Maher, MD, MS, Assistant Professor, Division of Pain Medicine and Pain Research
Dr. Maher joined the faculty of the Johns Hopkins Department of Anesthesiology/Critical Care Medicine in 2016. Dr. Maher is involved in the clinical care of patients at the Blaustein Pain Treatment Center. He sees patients with a wide variety of painful conditions including chronic lower and upper back pain, musculoskeletal pain, neuropathic pain and cancer pain. He believes that the management of these conditions requires an individualized, and often multi-faceted, approach in order to achieve symptomatic and functional improvement. Dr. Maher offers a number of interventional pain management strategies including epidural steroid injections, radiofrequency nerve ablation, joint injections, spinal cord stimulation and a number of other x-ray and ultrasound guided procedures. Additionally, his expertise in pharmacology, with a particular focus on pain medications, allows for tailoring of pharmacologic therapy for his patients.

Dr. Maher is active in research at Johns Hopkins with a focus on cancer pain management. Specifically, he seeks to characterize the weakening of the immune system, or immunosuppression, that is observed with certain types of pharmacologic pain therapies, including opioids. He also seeks to understand the relationship between this pharmacologically induced-immunosuppression and the rate of recurrence and manifestation of certain types of malignancies. The goal of this research is to have a more complete understanding of pain medication pharmacology, including anticipated benefits and side effects. This will hopefully help patients suffering from complex and painful conditions, such as cancer pain, more effectively manage their symptoms. Dr. Maher's research is currently funded by an institutional training grant with future plans for a transition to independent funding. His work has been published in *Anesthesia and Analgesia*, *The British Journal of Anesthesia*, and *Pain Medicine*.

Education: Dr. Maher graduated from the Georgetown University School of Medicine. He completed his training with a residency in anesthesiology at Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles and a clinical fellowship in Pain Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School.