Stanford

Theresa Lii, M.D., M.S.

Instructor, Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine

CLINICAL OFFICE (PRIMARY)

- **Stanford Pain Management Center**

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Bio

BIO

Dr. Theresa Lii is an anesthesiology-trained pain management physician and clinical researcher at Stanford University. Her current research is focused on ketamine infusion therapy for treatment-refractory chronic pain, with particular interest in optimizing dosing, identifying predictors of response, and evaluating the impact of ketamine treatment on opioid use. She has previously studied the impact of anesthetic-based blinding methods on pain and depression outcomes after ketamine infusions.

CLINICAL FOCUS

- Pain Medicine
- Pain Management
- Ketamine

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Instructor, Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine
- Member, Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Board Certification: Pain Management, American Board of Anesthesiology (2022)
- Board Certification: Anesthesiology, American Board of Anesthesiology (2022)
- Fellowship: Stanford University Pain Management Fellowship (2021) CA
- Residency: Stanford University Anesthesiology Residency (2020) CA
- Internship: Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Dept of Medicine (2017) CA
- Medical Education: Warren Alpert Medical School Brown University (2016) RI
- Bachelor of Science, Brown University , Neuroscience (2012)

Research & Scholarship

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Research Methods

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Evaluating ketamine for chronic pain: dosing, predictors, and opioid outcomes

CLINICAL TRIALS

- Propofol-Enhanced Assessment of Ketamine for Chronic Pain and Depression, Recruiting

Teaching

GRADUATE AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Epidemiology (Masters Program)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Protocol and pilot results for a double-blind randomized placebo-controlled trial of ketamine under propofol sedation for chronic pain and depression.** *Pain management*
  Lii, T. R., Sikka, P., Deverett, B., Altirkawi, O. K., Heifets, B. D.
  2026: 1-11

- **General Anesthesia and Discrete Components of Ketamine Neurophysiology.** *JAMA psychiatry*
  Deverett, B., Li, D., Lii, T. R., Vlisides, P. E., Tarnal, V., Forsyth, A., Sumner, R., Sikka, P., Schatzberg, A. F., Muthukumaraswamy, S., Mashour, G. A., Heifets, B. D.
  2026

- **Dose-Response Characterization and Predictors of Opioid Reduction Following Multiday Ketamine Infusions for Chronic Pain**
  Lii, T., Altirkawi, O., Mackey, S.
  CHURCHILL LIVINGSTONE.2026

- **Opioids diminish the placebo antidepressant response: Observational post hoc findings from a randomized controlled ketamine trial.** *Journal of affective disorders*
  Lii, T. R., Flohr, J. R., Okada, R. L., Cianfichi, L. J., Hack, L. M., Schatzberg, A. F., Heifets, B. D.
  2025

- **Opioid Use May Enhance the Analgesic and Antidepressant Response to Ketamine: Preliminary Findings from a Small Observational Study**
  Lii, T., Salmasi, V., Heifets, B., Mackey, S.
  CHURCHILL LIVINGSTONE.2025: 54

- **Opioids Diminish the Placebo Antidepressant Response: A Post Hoc Analysis of a Randomized Controlled Ketamine Trial.** *medRxiv : the preprint server for health sciences*
  Lii, T. R., Flohr, J. R., Okada, R. L., Cianfichi, L. J., Hack, L. M., Schatzberg, A. F., Heifets, B. D.
  2024

- **"Evidence-based" needs to be based on evidence - a response to Giddon's letter regarding Edwards et al., Is there an association between lateralization of chronic pain in the body and depression?** *The journal of pain*
  Gilam, G., Darnall, B., Edwards, K. A., Lii, T., Mackey, S. C., Ziadni, M. S.
  2024: 104617

- **Prevalence and characteristics of preoperative patients with depression.** *British journal of anaesthesia*
  Hietamies, T. M., Smith, A. E., Lii, T. R., Muzzall, E., Flohr, J., Okada, R. L., Andriella, Z. G., Nyongesa, C. A., Cianfichi, L. J., Hack, L. M., Heifets, B. D.

2024

- **Opioid Use Diminishes Placebo Antidepressant Response Independently of Pain in a Ketamine Depression Trial: A Post Hoc Analysis**
  Lii, T., Smith, A., Flohr, J., Okada, R., Nyongesa, C., Cianfichi, L., Hack, L., Schatzberg, A., Heifets, B.
  ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2024: S184-S185
- **Clinical Outcomes and Biomarkers From a Randomized Trial of Ketamine Masked by Surgical Anesthesia in Depressed Patients**
  Heifets, B., Lii, T., Smith, A., Flohr, J., Nyongesa, C., Cianfichi, L., Hack, L., Schatzberg, A.
  ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2024: S47
- **Is there an association between lateralization of chronic pain in the body and depression?** *The journal of pain*
  Edwards, K. A., Lii, T., Schouten, T. D., Kearney, K. M., Ziadni, M. S., Darnall, B. D., Mackey, S. C., Gilam, G.
  2024
- **Randomized trial of ketamine masked by surgical anesthesia in patients with depression.** *Nature mental health*
  Lii, T. R., Smith, A. E., Flohr, J. R., Okada, R. L., Nyongesa, C. A., Cianfichi, L. J., Hack, L. M., Schatzberg, A. F., Heifets, B. D.
  2023; 1 (11): 876-886
- **Ketamine for Complex Regional Pain Syndrome: A Narrative Review Highlighting Dosing Practices and Treatment Response.** *Anesthesiology clinics*
  Lii, T. R., Singh, V.
  2023; 41 (2): 357-369
- **Trial of Ketamine Masked by Surgical Anesthesia in Depressed Patients.** *medRxiv : the preprint server for health sciences*
  Lii, T. R., Smith, A. E., Flohr, J. R., Okada, R. L., Nyongesa, C. A., Cianfichi, L. J., Hack, L. M., Schatzberg, A. F., Heifets, B. D.
  2023
- **A literature review of the impact of exclusion criteria on generalizability of clinical trial findings to patients with chronic pain** *PAIN REPORTS*
  Salmasi, V., Lii, T. R., Humphreys, K., Reddy, V., Mackey, S. C.
  2022; 7 (6): e1050
- **Management of Postoperative Pain in Patients Following Spine Surgery: A Narrative Review.** *International journal of general medicine*
  Prabhakar, N. K., Chadwick, A. L., Nwaneshiudu, C., Aggarwal, A., Salmasi, V., Lii, T. R., Hah, J. M.
  2022; 15: 4535-4549
- **Comparison of intravenous lidocaine versus epidural anesthesia for traumatic rib fracture pain: a retrospective cohort study.** *Regional anesthesia and pain medicine*
  Lii, T. R., Aggarwal, A. K.
  2020
- **Electroencephalographic signatures of pain and analgesia in rats.** *Pain*
  LeBlanc, B. W., Bowary, P. M., Chao, Y. C., Lii, T. R., Saab, C. Y.
  2016; 157 (10): 2330–40
- **T-type calcium channel blocker Z944 restores cortical synchrony and thalamocortical connectivity in a rat model of neuropathic pain.** *Pain*
  LeBlanc, B. W., Lii, T. R., Huang, J. J., Chao, Y. C., Bowary, P. M., Cross, B. S., Lee, M. S., Vera-Portocarrero, L. P., Saab, C. Y.
  2016; 157 (1): 255–63
- **Cortical theta is increased while thalamocortical coherence is decreased in rat models of acute and chronic pain.** *Pain*
  Leblanc, B. W., Lii, T. R., Silverman, A. E., Alleyne, R. T., Saab, C. Y.
  2014; 155 (4): 773–82