

# NEW HAMPSHIRE SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS NEWS

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March 2014

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## New Hampshire State Component Society Update

*Your New Hampshire state component society is pleased to present you with this periodic newsletter to update you on state, regional and national affairs and events. As you know we are working closely with ASA to provide you with better membership dues billing and collection, as well as this new collaborative communication. We hope that this periodical is both informative and worthwhile.*

*Your New Hampshire leadership is preparing its annual pilgrimage to the nation's capital to meet with our Senators and Representatives and staff. We welcome you to join us in this important trip as we meet with our nation's policy-makers during this most critical stage of implementation of the Affordable Care Act. See below for more information.*

*Plans are underway for our annual fall meeting on **October 25, 2014** to be held at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH. Our distinguished speakers will include faculty from Dartmouth Hitchcock, as well **ASA President-elect J.P. Abenstein, M.S.E.E., MD**, Associate Professor of Anesthesiology, Mayo Clinic, and **Fred Shapiro, MD** Chair, ASA Committee on Patient Safety and Education, Assistant Professor of Anesthesia, Harvard Medical School, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Department of Anesthesia Critical Care and Pain Medicine, Boston, MA. Registration information and meeting agenda will be available soon.*



John P. Abenstein,  
M.S.E.E., M.D. **President-Elect, ASA  
House of Delegates**, Associate Professor of  
Anesthesiology, Mayo Clinic, Oronoco,  
MN



Fred E. Shapiro, D.O.  
Assistant Professor of Anesthesia, Harvard  
Medical School, Beth Israel Deaconess  
Medical Center Dept of Anesthesia Critical  
Care and Pain Medicine, Boston, MA

## Regional Events

### **New England Anesthesia Residents Conference**

April 5, 2014 at Baystate Medical Center, Springfield, MA

This conference is specifically designed for residents and is packed with engaging events such as anesthesia jeopardy, hands-on workshops, and a keynote speaker who will be discussing the evolving role of critical care medicine in today's anesthesia practice and job market. ***Our Keynote Speaker is Professor Stephen D. Surgenor, who serves as Section Chief, Critical Care Medicine and Medical Director, Intensive Care Unit, at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth.***

For more information contact: Maria Lopez : [2014nearc@gmail.com](mailto:2014nearc@gmail.com), 413-794-4326

### **Massachusetts Society of Anesthesiologists "Seventh Update in Sedation & Analgesia Meeting"**

April 12, 2014 at Waltham Woods Conference Center, Waltham, MA

This course is specifically designed for physicians and nurses who provide sedation and analgesia for patients during diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.

[http://www.massanesthesiology.org/images/pdfs/CME\\_Meetings/2014\\_sedation\\_analgesia\\_program.pdf](http://www.massanesthesiology.org/images/pdfs/CME_Meetings/2014_sedation_analgesia_program.pdf)

### **2014 ASA Legislative Conference: Come meet your NH Senators and Reps**

May 5-7, 2014 at J.W. Marriott, Washington, DC

The ASA Legislative Conference is the premier meeting for ASA advocacy education. Congress WILL BE IN SESSION this year, providing the opportunity for ASA members to forge lasting Key Contact relationships! If you are interested in joining your **NH representatives**, please contact Robin Rosenbleeth ([rosenbleeth@gmail.com](mailto:rosenbleeth@gmail.com)) or see [2014 ASA Legislative Conference](#)

### **57th Annual New England Society of Anesthesiologists Fall Conference**

September 18-21, 2014 at Woodstock Inn, Woodstock, VT

[http://www.massanesthesiology.org/images/pdfs/CME\\_Meetings/nesa\\_57th\\_announcemt.pdf](http://www.massanesthesiology.org/images/pdfs/CME_Meetings/nesa_57th_announcemt.pdf)

### **CT STATE SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**Saturday, September, 20, 2014 at the Sheraton Hartford South, Rocky Hill, CT**

Guest Speakers Richard Dutton, MD, MBA , Executive Director, Anesthesia Quality Institute; Judith Semo, JD, Semo Law Group, Washington D.C; Nirav Shah, MD, University of Michigan, Register at

<http://www.cssahq.org>

### **New Hampshire Society of Anesthesiologists 2014 Annual Meeting**

October 25, 2014 at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH

More Details to follow

## Federal Update

- [A Message from ASA President Jane Fitch Regarding the VA APRN Independent Practice Initiative](#)
- [Perioperative Surgical Home Model of Care - Join the Learning Collaborative](#)
- [ASA Asks CMS to Halt Cuts for Pain Procedures](#)
- [ASA Offers Recommendations for Using SEDASYS®](#)
- [Key Lawmakers Announce Bicameral Bipartisan Deal to Replace SGR](#)
- [Senate Passes Budget Deal Including Three Month SGR Patch](#)
- [GAO Releases Drug Shortages Report; Finds Anesthetic Drugs Comprise Highest Percent of Shortages](#)
- [ASA Successfully Nominates Johnathan Pregler, M.D. to the CMS Panel on Hospital Outpatient Payment](#)
- New ASA Payment and Practice Management Memos
  - [Integrating Anesthesiologist Assistants Into Your Practice \(February 2014\)](#)
  - [The Rulemaking Process and the Medicare Fee Schedule \(January 2014\)](#)
  - [Meaningful Use - Stage 2 Extension and Stage 3 Delay \(December 2013\)](#)
- [Physician Anesthesiologists Head to Rwanda: Improving Health Through Education](#)
- [More Than 14 Percent of Pregnant Women Prescribed Opioids, Study Says](#)

## Make 2014 Count for Patient Safety

Welcome to 2014 – a huge election year resplendent with opportunities to meet legislative candidates and regulatory board members. This is your year to share your story about what it means to be a physician anesthesiologist and form working relationships with elected officials that will last for years to come.

Good advocacy begins with good relationships; it is usually easier to talk about serious issues with a friend than with a stranger, and discussing legislative issues is no different. Forming working relationships with lawmakers is as easy as setting up a meeting at their office and offering yourself as a source of information on health care policy.

If your lawmaker is not available for a meeting when you are, try to meet with legislative staff instead. Having good interaction with staff is often the best way to relay your ideas and concerns to a lawmaker. If your work environment allows, invite lawmakers and their staff to spend a day with you; this hands-on experience will stay with them for life and really drive home the importance of patient-centered, physician-led health care.

Even if your state is not in legislative session this year, remember that the state boards of medicine, nursing, insurance, health or other relevant regulatory boards are always meeting and promulgating rules. In fact, we are witnessing more instances of non-physicians promoting their agendas through regulatory boards instead of the more appropriate legislative route. Additionally, in 2013 medical and nursing boards in two states were asked for their opinions on opt outs, so establishing close contacts within the boards is more vital than ever for the promotion of patient safety.

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## Join Us: Our Patients. Their Safety. Their Lives. Our Top Priority.

We took bold steps as a society in 2013 with the launch of ASA's When Seconds Count...Physician Anesthesiologists Save Lives™ (WSC) educational endeavor. As a society, we have embraced new messaging based on compelling research, and have been proactively working to raise the visibility of the critical role physician anesthesiologists have in medically caring for patients before, during and after surgery.

In 2014, we will extend the WSC endeavor to position ASA as a society whose members are committed to providing quality patient care; continue our work to shift policymaker and public perceptions and increase awareness of the specialty; and ensure physician anesthesiologists remain the leaders of anesthesia care.

ASA will:

- Expand the plethora of existing tools available to members at [asahq.org/WhenSecondsCount](http://asahq.org/WhenSecondsCount), developed based on research to help you communicate the most effective messages about the importance of patient-centered, physician-led care to target audiences.
- Offer more opportunities for our members to become an ASA Official Spokesperson. There is no better spokesperson for our specialty than you. Your next opportunity to register for a Leadership Spokesperson Training Program (LSTP) session is at the **2014 Legislative Conference** in Washington, D.C. this May.
- Improve social media exchanges. This year, expect more interactive posts that encourage two-way dialogue, integrating our tested-messages and promoting advocacy and educational initiatives. More videos, images and resources will be regularly shared via Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube, and most importantly we'll expand our networks to ensure our messages remain top-of-mind for all audiences.

**Patients, policymakers, hospital administrators and the general public need to understand that it is you, the physician anesthesiologist, who is in charge of their life before, during and after surgery.** Join us as we forge ahead in this endeavor. We need your help! We simply can't do it without you.

For more information on becoming an ASA Official Spokesperson or actively joining our efforts to protect patient-centered, physician-led care, contact [PR@asahq.org](mailto:PR@asahq.org).

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## Physician Anesthesiologist Runs for State Senate

Recently, long-time ASA member and past-president of the Oklahoma Society of Anesthesiologists, Ervin Yen, M.D., announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination to represent Oklahoma's District 40 in the Oklahoma State Senate. District 40 covers Oklahoma City and is currently represented by Sen. Cliff Branam (R), who is term-limited from seeking reelection.

Dr. Yen was born in Taipei, Taiwan. His parents were originally from mainland China and were worried about the Communist threat to Taiwan. For the sake of their family, Dr. Yen's parents chose to immigrate to the United States when he was four years old. The Yen family selected Oklahoma City as their home, and Dr. Yen has lived there ever since – now with his wife of 27 years and five children.

After graduating from the University of Oklahoma, Dr. Yen attended the College of Medicine at the University of Oklahoma. He completed his residency in anesthesiology in Oklahoma City, where he has practiced medicine for almost 30 years. His primary hospital of practice for the last 20 years is Integris Baptist Medical Center, where he has focused on cardiac anesthesiology, taking care of patients for vascular surgery, chest surgery and heart surgery, including heart transplants, lung transplants and left ventricular assist devices.

Although the Oklahoma legislature currently has two physicians in the state house, there are no physicians in the Oklahoma State Senate. Dr. Ervin Yen is committed to bringing a physician's voice to the health care discussion in the Oklahoma Senate. Dr. Yen says that he "want[s] to be the go-to guy in the Senate when health care issues appear" and is "more concerned with health care reform as a health care consumer than as a health care provider." In his press release announcing his candidacy, Dr. Yen said that "When I'm elected, I will do everything in my power to enact meaningful health policies that benefit Oklahomans."

Two other physician anesthesiologists are currently serving as state legislators in Tennessee and Texas. ASA Immediate Past President John Zerwas, M.D., is currently serving his fourth term as state representative for the 28<sup>th</sup> District of Texas. Former president of the Tennessee Society of Anesthesiologists, Steve Dickerson, M.D., was elected to the Tennessee Senate last year and serves Tennessee's 20<sup>th</sup> District.

One physician anesthesiologist is currently serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, Andy Harris, M.D. Currently in his second term, Dr. Harris represents Maryland's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District. Two ASA members are running to join Dr. Harris

in Congress, Valarie Arkoosh, M.D., is running in Pennsylvania's 13<sup>th</sup> District and Vanila Singh, M.D., is running in California's 17<sup>th</sup> District.

More physician anesthesiologists involved in the political process means exponentially more opportunities to advocate for patient safety and improved health care practices. For more information on how to become politically involved in your state, please contact Jason Hansen at [j.hansen@asahq.org](mailto:j.hansen@asahq.org) or Erin Berry Philp at [e.philp@asahq.org](mailto:e.philp@asahq.org). For information regarding the Specialty Physician Candidate Workshop ASA co-hosts, contact ASA's Political Affairs Manager Michelle Mathy at [m.mathy@asahq.org](mailto:m.mathy@asahq.org).

For more information on Dr. Yen's campaign, please visit his campaign website at [yen4senate.com](http://yen4senate.com).

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## Advocacy Engagement – You Have the Power!

As a constituent and physician, you have the power to influence your lawmakers in a meaningful way by sharing your personal practice stories and perspectives. By [joining the ASA Grassroots Network and becoming a Key Contact](#) you will be given the tools to help advance ASA advocacy efforts through grassroots action.

As a member of the [ASA Grassroots Network](#), you will join ASA members and allies across the country in providing a powerful voice to help influence legislative and regulatory issues, in both Washington, D.C. and in your state, protecting both our patients and our specialty.

Members of the [ASA Grassroots Network](#) receive "Call to Action" alerts, as well as other important communications that assist in grassroots engagement in ASA's advocacy efforts.

Federal and state government actions impact the practice of medicine more and more every day. **ASA advocacy efforts to preserve our specialty are only as strong as the relationships you forge with your elected officials.** By becoming a Key Contact, you help strengthen the voice of anesthesiology.

For more information contact [Pat Daly](#), ASA senior grassroots program administrator, at [p.daly@asahq.org](mailto:p.daly@asahq.org) or (202) 289-2222.

Become an ASA Advocate today at [http://grassroots.asahq.org/!](http://grassroots.asahq.org/)

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## AA Partnership Takes Flight

Since the initial certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAs) in 1992, the pool of certified practitioners has grown to nearly 1600 with authority to practice in 16 states. The Anesthesiologist Assistants Partnership (AAP), formed in February, 2013, acknowledges the progression of the profession but also recognizes the need to progress into the future. This partnership, formed by representatives of the ASA (American Society of Anesthesiologists), AAPD (Association of Anesthesiologist Assistant Program Directors), ARC-AA (Accreditation Review Commission – Anesthesiologist Assistants) AAAA (American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants), and the NCCAA (National Commission for the Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants), was developed to serve as a steering committee to drive growth initiatives in every aspect of the AA profession. Representation by all stakeholder organizations including representation by both physician anesthesiologists and AAs demonstrates the tangible benefits of a truly effective team model to pre-emptively address issues facing the anesthesia workforce with the primary objective being patient safety.

To get the wheels of progress rolling, the AA Partnership has contracted with Professional Examination Services of New York to strategically administer a comprehensive AA practice analysis survey. This analysis will not only serve to specify the tasks requested of AAs in the workforce in various regions and across various practice models, but will also be used as a tool to ensure that AAs are provided with the education to perform the necessary skills to remain competitive in the workforce and to succeed as exemplary care team providers. A special task force composed of experienced physician anesthesiologists, anesthesiologist assistants, and educational program directors from a diverse cross section of providers throughout the

country, have been selected to participate in this valuable initiative. Other key thought leaders and educational stakeholders will be used to conduct interviews and analyze sequential data as needed.

The task force met in August with ProExam’s testing experts and psychometricians. The result of this first meeting was the delineation of specific job tasks and core competencies of AAs as well as the identification of target audiences to be addressed. The upcoming survey will focus on practicing AAs, employers of AAs, and prospective employers of AAs. The results of the study will be used not only as a blueprint for future certification examinations but to drive necessary revisions to the minimum standards of AA education, and provide insight on how current employers of AAs utilize practitioners. The AA Partnership also hopes to gain insight on barriers to AA employment.

#### How You Can Help

The promotion and progression of the AA profession through the statistical data retrieved from the practice analysis can only be achieved with your active participation. When ready, the AAP hopes to count on your participation in completing the survey. So, please watch your emails, and PLEASE complete the survey when it arrives.

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## **NHSA and ASA Membership**

For more information on our new combined NHSA and ASA membership and dues, please contact:

ASA Member Services, (847) 268-9202 or [membership@asahq.org](mailto:membership@asahq.org)

or

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