

# New Hampshire Society of Anesthesiologists News

October 2014

## Updates

### New Hampshire State Component Society Update

*Please join us on **October 25, 2014** from 8:30 am -3:30 pm at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH for our annual meeting. Our distinguished speakers will include faculty from Dartmouth Hitchcock, as well **ASA President 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. Additional speakers from Dartmouth Hitchcock include **Tim Quill., MD**, **Randy Loftus., MD**, **Christopher Manfred., MD**, and NH Medical Society Executive Vice President, **Scott Colby**.*



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

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## ASA 2014- New Orleans, LA



ASA 2014 was hosted in New Orleans, LA. The New Hampshire Society of Anesthesiologists was represented by Director Steven Hattamer, President, Gary Friedman, Vice President/Delegate Timothy Quill, Secretary Treasurer Stephen Surgenor, Alternate Director Sean Hunt and Delegate Cathy Hunt. The House of Delegates meeting took place on October 12 and 15th.

The New England Caucus met on October 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and was attended by many residents. Medical School and Residency reunions were well attended, including the Dartmouth reunion. Highlights of the House of Delegates Meeting included: Over 370 delegates from around the country considered multiple items including trauma anesthesia training and leadership, election of new officers and chairs, budget items, dues considerations, membership value and engagement, and MOCA improvements. Educational sessions at the ASA covered a broad spectrum of topics including the PSH, Perioperative Surgical Home and the expansion of the AQI, Anesthesia Quality Institute. More information about the PSH and AQI can be found on the ASA Website and in future Newsletters from NHSA.

## State Components Society Meeting, Chicago, IL

The State Components Society meeting took place in Chicago, IL in August. NH Society President, Gary Friedman, attended this very informative and interactive meeting. We discussed ways to improve communication between ASA and component societies, increasing resident involvement, membership issues including value enhancement and engagement. As you know, our component society began utilizing ASA membership services more broadly, including the unified billing. This will be our third year of participation and so far we have realized the value of this enhanced relationship with lower costs, better data and demographics, and improved efficiency and convenience of a single bill realizing better collections.

## ASA PAC data

- ASA PAC has raised over 3 Million dollars for the election cycle 2013 and ytd 2014.
- 4.5 Million dollars have been raised by the trial lawyers PAC.
- The CRNA PAC has raised 1.2 Million Dollars.
- \$301 is the per member average donation by Alabama. **NH is at \$188, and below the national average of \$246 per member.**

- 100% Resident Participation rate by Maine Medical Center.
- 38 residency programs were at 100% participation this year.
- Four AA programs gave to ASA at 100%.

**Maine** Society member participation rate for ASA PAC in 2014 is **68.9%**. This is obviously our neighboring state and was singled out for their outstanding participation rate. **New Hampshire participation rate is well below this at 33.2%**. If you haven't already given, please consider donating through the link on the ASA website.

#### Federal Legislative Update

- [Meet with Your Lawmaker During the Fall Recess on the VHA Nursing Handbook!](#)
- [ASA Welcomes New VA Secretary, Urges Halt to Nursing Handbook](#)

#### Federal Regulatory Update

- [ASA Thanks CMS for Reversing Pain Code Cuts in Proposed 2015 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule](#)
- [ASA Sends Formal Letter to FDA Supporting Development of Appropriately Sized Vials](#)
- [CMS Finalizes Rule on Postponing MU Stage 3](#)
- [AMA Releases Fact Sheet Describing New Requirements for Hydrocodone Combination Products](#)
- [DEA Publishes Final Rule Rescheduling Hydrocodone Combination Products](#)

#### Payment and Practice Management Update

- [Submit an Abstract for PRACTICE MANAGEMENT 2015 and Earn a Chance to Win Prizes](#)
- [Open Payments Launches September 30](#)
- [Bundled Payments for Care Improvement Initiative](#)
- New ASA Payment and Practice Management Articles
  - [New Specific HCPCS Modifiers for Distinct Procedural Services](#) (September 2014)
  - [ICD-10: Getting Ready for October 1, 2015](#) (August 2014)
  - [Change is NOW: Learn More About Bundled Payments](#) (August 2014)
  - [Revalidation](#) (August 2014)

#### Public Relations Update

- [ASA Urges Critical Conversations about Anesthesia Between Patients and Physicians](#)

## Join ASA! Advocate for the Specialty During Inaugural Physician Anesthesiologists Week Jan. 11-17, 2015

The inaugural Physician Anesthesiologists Week 2015 is your chance to alert policymakers, the media and the public that when seconds count, physician anesthesiologists save lives.

There has never been a more important time to advocate for our specialty and our patients. Join the American Society of Anesthesiologists® (ASA®) for this action-packed week and showcase the role all physician anesthesiologists play in providing the safe, high-quality care all patients deserve.

During the week, ASA is asking all physician anesthesiologists to illustrate how every one of our members protects patient safety. Schedule meetings with your legislators, talk to local press, engage in social media and connect with colleagues and the community.

Planning for these activities should start in December! ASA has developed materials and resources to help you beginning with a Physician Anesthesiologists Week member engagement webinar in December that will provide specific instructions on how to make the event a success. The webinar will highlight and review the materials contained in the comprehensive support tool kit developed for the week's activities. Watch ASAP to learn more and get involved in this inaugural event.

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## **The ASA and AQI partner to provide quality reporting to Physician Anesthesiologists**

The National Anesthesia Clinical Outcomes Registry (NACOR), maintained by the Anesthesia Quality Institute (AQI), has been designated as a Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR) by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) reporting. NACOR is the only anesthesia QCDR in the market. The American Society of Anesthesiologists® (ASA®) and AQI has partnered to provide this reporting to physician anesthesiologists.

The program's goal is to move responsibility for collecting data on physician performance from CMS to certified professional society registries. The responsibility of the registry will be to establish performance measures, collect data from providers, score performance, and report the final results to CMS.

To become certified as a QCDR, registries must have experience collecting data from multiple physicians in multiple different locations and practices, must already be providing participants with risk-adjusted benchmarking information for quality management, and must have measures in place for the secure handling of protected healthcare information. At least nine measures must be documented by professionals (with at least one outcome) from at least three performance domains in order to qualify for future incentive payments and at least three measures to avoid negative payment adjustments.

One of the most important benefits of a QCDR certification is that registries were asked to nominate specialty-specific measures for performance reporting. AQI's approved measures for 2014 include our specialty's previously approved four PQRS measures, four new PQRS measures, and 11 new measures not previously part of any public reporting system.

The complete details of these measures as well as QCDR can be found on the AQI website at [aqihq.org/pqrs](http://aqihq.org/pqrs). In 2015, QCDR reporting to CMS will be free for ASA members who are participating in NACOR. ASA will offer QCDR reporting to non-members in NACOR for a fee. For more information contact Lance Mueller at [l.mueller@asahq.org](mailto:l.mueller@asahq.org) or 847-268-9190.

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## Nurse Anesthetists Approve First Fellowship

The Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA) recently announced the first COA accredited fellowship - [Hamline University's Advanced Pain Management Certificate](#). According to the [Hamline University website](#): "The program is collaboration between Hamline University and the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA)."

The four semester program requires the completion of 19 didactic credits (\$1,200 per didactic credit in addition to \$2,500 per clinical semester) and 240 mandatory clinic hours. Didactic credits are completed online while clinic hours are completed at program-approved sites.

According to the [COA](#): "The Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs has existed since 1978 as an autonomous, multidisciplinary body under the corporate structure of the AANA [emphasis added], representing the various publics within the nurse anesthesia community of interest in which the profession resides." In 2014, the COA established [Standards for Accreditation of Post Graduate CRNA Fellowships \(SPGF\)](#). The standards permit fellowships in areas including pain medicine, pediatrics, and obstetrics as well as in government affairs and leadership.

In November 2012, CMS published a [final rule](#) (77 FR 68892) allowing Medicare funds to be used to pay nurse anesthetists to diagnose and treat chronic pain so long as it is permitted by their state's laws. The rule effectively charges individual states with determining whether nurse anesthetists may receive payment for these services. [ASA strongly opposes this rule](#) and supports efforts at the state and national level to recognize interventional pain management as the practice of medicine and ensure that interventional treatment of pain is provided only by qualified MDs/DOs.

In 2015, more states are expected to consider legislation or regulations that will determine whether nurse anesthetists may provide pain medicine services to chronic pain patients. It is incredibly important for your patients' safety that physician anesthesiologists and other pain medicine trained physicians engage their lawmakers and share why medical training is crucial for the comprehensive medical management of such patients.

For more information or questions about this or any state level advocacy topic, please contact Jason Hansen at [j.hansen@asahq.org](mailto:j.hansen@asahq.org) or by phone at or (202) 289-2222.

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## Cochrane Collaboration Conducts Review Comparing Anesthesia Providers

In July 2014, The Cochrane Collaboration, an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization, published a literature review, “Physician anaesthetists versus non-physician providers of anaesthesia for surgical patients.” The review examined existing peer-reviewed literature, therefore **no new data were provided**. The authors hoped that the review would “lead to an increase in confidence in the skills of nonphysician anaesthetists (NPs) within the medical community.” Due to the small number of studies examined and their respective biases, the authors properly concluded that it was not possible to provide an answer to the review question. The American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), however, once again employed the logic fallacy “*argument from ignorance*” and incorrectly interpreted the review by stating that the researchers found “no differences in care provided by CRNAs and anesthesiologists.”

The lack of evidence comparing physician anesthesiologists to nurse anesthetists should not be used to suggest that physician anesthesiologists and nurse anesthetists provide equivalent care for their patients. In response to the review, the [ASA Committee on Health Policy Research \(HPR\) created a Policy Brief](#) which discusses the authors’ findings and calls for a new perioperative research agenda. For additional questions about the Cochrane review or the HPR Policy Brief, please contact ASA Health Policy Research at [ask.HPR@asahq.org](mailto:ask.HPR@asahq.org).

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## ASA Members Win State Primaries, Prepare for General Election

This year, several American Society of Anesthesiologists® (ASA®) members are taking advocacy to the next level and are running for state elected office. Such ASA members include:

- Timothy Melson, M.D. - Republican candidate for Alabama State Senate District 1
- Tim Robinson, M.D. - Republican candidate for Maryland State Senate District 42
- Ervin Yen, M.D. - Republican candidate for Oklahoma State Senate District 40
- Bryan Terry, M.D. - Republican candidate for District 48 of the Tennessee House of Representatives
- John Zerwas, M.D. (Immediate Past President of ASA) - Incumbent Republican candidate for District 28 of the Texas House of Representatives

ASA member Timothy Melson, M.D., won a runoff election on July 15 to become the Republican candidate for Alabama State Senate District 1, which includes parts of Limestone, Lauderdale, and Madison counties. If Dr. Melson is successful against his opponent Mike Curtis (D) in November, he will be the first physician anesthesiologist elected to the Alabama State Senate.

On June 24, 2014, ASA member Tim Robinson, M.D., won the Republican primary for Maryland State Senate District 42. District 42 covers part of Baltimore County. On November 4, Dr. Robinson will face incumbent opponent Jim Brochin (D) in the general election.

ASA member Ervin Yen, M.D., won the Republican primary runoff election on August 26 for the Oklahoma District 40 Senate seat. District 40 covers Oklahoma City and is currently represented by Senator Cliff Branam (R), who is term limited from seeking re-election. Dr. Yen will now face John Handy Edwards (D) in the general election on November 4.

On August 7, ASA member Bryan Terry, M.D., won the Republican primary for District 48 of the Tennessee House of Representatives. District 48 covers part of Rutherford County. Dr. Terry will face his opponent, Bill Campbell (D), in the general election on November 4. If elected in November, Dr. Terry will become Tennessee's second physician anesthesiologist lawmaker, joining Steve Dickerson, M.D., former president of the Tennessee Society of Anesthesiologists, who was elected to the Tennessee Senate in 2012. Dr. Dickerson serves Tennessee's 20th District.

Immediate Past President of ASA, John Zerwas, M.D., is currently serving his fourth term as state representative for the 28th District of Texas. Dr. Zerwas (R) was unopposed in the Republican primary on March 4, and is unchallenged in the November 4 general election.

If you are running for state office, or know of another ASA member who is, please contact Jason Hansen at [j.hansen@asahq.org](mailto:j.hansen@asahq.org) or Erin Philp at [e.philp@asahq.org](mailto:e.philp@asahq.org) or (202) 289-2222.

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## **Anesthesiology Promoted at NCSL**

This August, American Society of Anesthesiologists® (ASA®) members and staff represented ASA at the National Conference of State Legislatures' (NCSL) 40th annual Legislative Summit at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

During this year's Legislative Summit, ASA President-Elect John Abenstein, M.S.E.E., M.D., Minnesota Society of Anesthesiologists (MSA) Past President Peter Boosalis, M.D., Former MSA President Charles Rich, M.D., and MSA lobbyist Nate Mussell joined ASA staff in interacting with state legislators and legislative staff at the exhibit booth.

Since its formation in 1975, NCSL has become one of the largest bipartisan organizations of state lawmakers in the country. It currently serves all 7,383 state lawmakers and more than 20,000 legislative staff throughout the United States with policy research and technical assistance. Each year, the Legislative Summit offers state legislators and staff the opportunity to meet with each other and exchange ideas on important state issues.

For the past 14 years, ASA has participated in NCSL as an exhibitor. This year, ASA again represented physician anesthesiologists at the joint physician booth "Physicians Advocating for Patients."

The exhibit booth included representatives from the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Surgeons, and the American Academy of Dermatology.

The NCSL Legislative Summit provides ASA with a great opportunity to increase the visibility of physician anesthesiologists and educate state legislators about physician anesthesiologists and their achievements in advancing patient safety. State legislators and staff stopped by ASA's booth to speak with ASA staff and MSA representatives, as well as others at the joint booth representing their respective medical specialties. ASA is already planning for NCSL's 2015 Legislative Summit, which will be held in Seattle from August 3-6, 2015.

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## NHSA and ASA Membership

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

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

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