



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Renew Perianesthesia Passion: Inspire Excellence

May/June 2015

Armi Holcomb, BSN, RN, CPAN
ASPAN President 2015-2016

ASPAN's essential purpose is to advance the unique specialty of perianesthesia nursing. The Society's core values are: building integrity, modeling respect, honoring diversity, promoting stewardship, providing mentorship, cultivating passion, supporting community, vigilance to safety and standards and upholding excellence.¹ These values have been consistently explored and promoted by ASPAN's past presidents in their themes. For example, Sue Fossum inspired us to be advocates and the voice for our patients. Meg Betune honored diversity by "touching the world that touches us." Chris Price encouraged us to be "beacons of change" with a focus on our future. Terry Clifford planted "seeds of knowledge" in order to grow "roots of transformation." Twilla Shrout invited us to "deal with challenges and win with purpose, power and practice."

I would like to extend a warm and sincere thank you to President Jacque Crosson for igniting perianesthesia professionalism this past year. By actively choosing to listen, network and mentor with our co-workers and within our specialty organization, we find ourselves renewing our professionalism. Professionalism means we keep doing that which we are passionate about. I believe that we all are passionate about our work; if not, we would not be doing what we do.

Love What You Do

Confucius, the famous Chinese philosopher said, "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life."² Ray Bradbury, an American novelist, wrote, "Love what you do and do what you love. Don't listen to anyone else who tells you not to do it. You do what you want, what you love."³ This is how most perianesthesia nurses feel about the specialty.

Perianesthesia nursing has been a passion of mine since the early 1980s. Perianesthesia nurses are unique. We work in an equally unique practice, in an environment that changes every day. This practice requires that we be advocates, educators and vigilant caretakers with each patient encounter. The variety of practice roles throughout the course of the day is exactly what keeps me interested and passionate about perianesthesia practice. One often hears about specialty nurses getting "burned out." However, whether you work in preoperative care, PACU Phase I, PACU Phase II or postoperative care, each contact we have with our clients is unique. The episodic nature of our work leaves little room for burnout. Patient responses to perianesthesia experiences may seem predictable during the preoperative phase of assessment, but may present as an entirely new set of responses and challenges on the day of surgery. Critical thinking and innovative actions are required to provide safe, individualized care.

Constant Vigilance

"The most important room in the hospital"⁴ is what the judge in a 1969 landmark case involving a patient event in a PACU in Canada—Laidlaw v. Lions Gate Hospital – called the Phase I level of care in the PACU. The judge rationalized his statement by adding "because it [PACU] poses the greatest potential danger to patient."⁵ Throughout perianesthesia practices, there is no relaxing of vigilance, and there is constant and total care provided by the nurse. During the first phase of postanesthesia care, patients may be unconscious or semiconscious, and thus unable to fully participate in their care, answer questions, or advocate for themselves.⁵

Dedication and Passion

Perianesthesia nurses celebrated our specialty this past February during Perianesthesia Nurse Awareness Week (PANAW) with the theme, "Dedicated Professionals . . . Passionate Care." This week of celebrations is the perfect way to educate the community, our current and future patients and their families about who we are and what we do.

Practice with renewed passion. What is it that motivates you to do what you do each day? Whether you're working at the clinical bedside, providing patient and staff education or developing and conducting nursing research, your passion to keep learning, discovering new skills and implementing best practices for all phases of care benefits you as the patients for whom you care. ASPAN provides tools such as standards and other publications, education such as seminars and conferences, and research opportunities such as grants and training to ensure we provide the safest care for our patients.

Integrity and Ethics

Practice with integrity and strong ethics. The American Nurses Association (ANA) designated 2015 as the "Year of Ethics," highlighted by the release of a revised Code of Ethics for the profession.⁶ Regardless of the practice setting or practice specialty, all phases of the nursing process should be based on ethical principles. Patients and society expect it. Each nursing assessment and intervention can have profound implications for a patient's health and healthcare experience.

Conclusion

When one aspires to excellence and practices with passion, one can inspire excellence in others. ASPAN 2015-2016 will be another banner year. The year will conclude at the 35th National Conference in Philadelphia. Quoting one of our famous Founding Fathers, Benjamin Franklin:

"You tell me, and I forget
You teach me, and I remember
You involve me, and I learn."⁷

If you were fortunate to attend the national conference in San Antonio, it is my sincere hope that you all came away from the 34th ASPAN National Conference with renewed passion for perianesthesia practice. The thought-provoking keynote speech of Mr. Craig Clapper on "Excellence in Theory is Leadership in Practice," the wonderful speakers throughout the week and the hilarious, yet educational, closing speech of Ms. Bobbie Staten should fuel each and every one of you to continue the work we love. The honor you all bestowed on me as president of ASPAN means I will work hard to lead with passion and integrity. The entire ASPAN Board of Directors and the newly appointed committee and strategic work teams will work to inspire you, the members, so ASPAN can continue its excellent work.

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