



# ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

## Message from the President

### Share the Vision: The State of the Society

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**ASPAN President 1999-2000**

ASPAN's future in the new millennium promises energy and vitality. Society accomplishments are achieved through dedicated individuals serving on committees, visioning teams, and the board of directors. At the 1999 National Conference, all leaders were called to action to signify their role as shipmates, eager to sail and chart a new course for ASPAN. These individuals beam the light and carry the message of a new future. They are goal driven and passionate about perianesthesia nursing.

#### **The State of the Society**

As other specialty nursing organizations struggle with significant declining memberships and the nursing shortage, ASPAN has successfully had increasing memberships and the development of new settings for perianesthesia nursing practice. However, our society must be prepared to meet the continued challenges of health care reforms, downsizing, redesigning and restructuring to ensure that we promote patient safety through adherence to ASPAN Standards and our new Ethics of Care. Presently, the Board has endorsed an ASPAN joint position statement on ICU overflow. It was written collaboratively with the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) and the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). In addition, this statement and the position statement on Fast Tracking were presented at the Anesthesia Care Team Meeting during the annual ASA meeting in October 1999 for potential collaborative research opportunities.

The Standards and Guidelines Committee reviewed and revised the ASPAN *Standards of Perianesthesia Nursing Practice*. A new format will be presented during the hearings of the Representative Assembly (RA) in Kansas City. The RA will come prepared to discuss and debate the proposed revision.

#### **Visioning Team for Unlicensed Assistive Personnel**

Now, more than ever before, ASPAN needs to actively explore providing educational opportunities, developing competencies, and embracing a potential membership category for our unlicensed assistive personnel to enhance the care provided to our patients. Charged with this exciting task is our Visioning Team for Unlicensed Assistive Personnel.

#### **Visioning Team for Public Relations/Marketing**

ASPAN's membership theme "Feel the Passion: Envision the Future" creates the concept of perianesthesia nurses experiencing the significance of belonging to a passionate specialty nursing organization. ASPAN encourages members to expand their involvement with the society and to be a part of our future. ASPAN needs to reach out to our culturally diverse perianesthesia nurses, our student nurses, and our international nurses. We need to market our expertise in perianesthesia care because our practice is benchmarked as the gold standard of nursing care for sedation and analgesia. The theme for PANAW 2000 is "Our Patients Are Our Passion." Passion in the soul is what drives perianesthesia nurses to provide the highest standard of care for our patients. Our theme, "Our Patients Are Our Passion," is our way to honor those we serve in our health care facilities.

#### **Visioning Team for Research**

The Research Grant Program is completed; members may apply. In addition, the ASPAN Research Committee will conduct two multisite studies: the first is to validate the Preoperative Patient Teaching Video and the second will validate the newly formulated "Unplanned Hypothermia Practice Guidelines."

An active research Visioning Team of eight doctoral prepared health care professionals serve as consultants.

### **Visioning Team for Publications**

ASPAN's publications *Breathline* and *Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing (JoPAN)* are the main communication arm of the society. *Breathline* has introduced new two columns and redesigned featured sections. A new model for the *JoPAN* editorial structure has been developed. The philosophy and mission statements have been updated and revised. The viability and integrity of JoPAN through a period of transition, have been maintained.

### **Share the Vision**

ASPAN has expanded its vision to constantly move our specialty organization forward. We are concentrating attention on the strategic priorities that will promote opportunities of growth and development. Our society is positioned to meet future challenges and opportunities by virtue of dedication and expertise. November 1999 proved to be of critical importance to ASPAN's vision as selected committee chairs were invited to participate in the mid-year Board of Directors meeting. Time was recognized for chairpersons to report accomplishments and assess society priorities as well as future strategies. ASPAN commends our leaders, committee members, and visioning teams for their contributions in advancing our specialty practice. United we are one voice committed to a bright vision for the future of perianesthesia nursing.

As we approach the new millennium, ASPAN is positioning itself strategically to move to a stand alone, self-managed style of operational structure. It has been the vision of ASPAN for years to become self-managed and planning is underway to make it a reality. You will be hearing much more about this in the coming months with new address announcements and other exciting changes being planned. ASPAN will continue to put the needs of its membership at the forefront of all it does.