All ASPAN Members Eligible for MHAUS Member Discount

CHERRY HILL, NEW JERSEY, May 12, 2016—The American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ASPN) has partnered with the Malignant Hyperthermia Association of the United States (MHAUS) to offer MHAUS membership benefits to active ASPAN members at a reduced rate.

“For many years, ASPAN has supported and upheld the mission of MHAUS, and remains focused on assuring their patients remain safe from an MH crisis through MH preparedness action plans. The mutual respect and cooperation between our organizations is enhanced through consistent and open communication. It was recently decided this partner membership option will allow us to combine each group’s individual members into a larger, focused group with the ability to yield positive and impactful action in the future. By sharing robust feedback between the leaders and members of ASPAN and MHAUS, we will most certainly enhance and improve the MHAUS products and programs designed to save patients’ lives,” said Dianne Daugherty, MHAUS Executive Director.

ASPN Members can learn more by going to www.mhaus.org and clicking on the Membership button.

What is Malignant Hyperthermia
Malignant Hyperthermia (MH) is an inherited genetic disorder found in an estimated 1 out of 2,000 people and triggered by certain anesthetics and/or the drug succinylcholine and most often experienced in individuals undergoing routine surgery, but in rare cases MH can happen without anesthesia. The disorder is due to abnormally increased levels of cell calcium in the skeletal muscle. Symptoms include body temperature up to 107°F, muscle rigidity, system-wide organ failure, and possible death.

Evidence is mounting to indicate some patients will also develop MH with exercise and/or on exposure to hot environments. Without proper and prompt treatment with dantrolene sodium, mortality is extremely high.

About the Malignant Hyperthermia Association of the United States (MHAUS)
MHAUS was founded by families who lost their children to MH or could not find
information about MH. In 1981 they found each other—and a doctor performing MH testing—and agreed “to make current information about MH available to all who need it!”

Since 1981 MHAUS has fostered the following: the World Health Organization (WHO) to add MH to its list of recognized diseases and disorders. In 1983 the first MHAUS healthcare professional and patient teaching conference. In 1992 the FDA ordered pharmaceutical companies that manufacture succinylcholine to change the package insert to indicate that the drug should not be used routinely in children. In 1995 the MH 24-hour Hotline was formalized and MHAUS merged with the North American MH Registry, which had been established in 1987. In 1997 the MHAUS website was formed along with the Neuroleptic Malignant Information Service of MHAUS. In 2000 the MH Procedure Manual was created for ambulatory surgery centers, hospitals, and office based surgery suites. In 2001 the MH Patient Liaison Committee was formed. More at: www.mhaus.org.

The mission of Malignant Hyperthermia Association of the United States is to promote optimum care and scientific understanding of MH and related disorders. MH episodes can happen at any time and MHAUS will always be ready to provide assistance when you need it. The best way protect your family and patients is to be prepared before it’s too late. Get Involved with MHAUS today to find out what you can do to make a difference.

About ASPAN
Founded in 1980, the American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ASPN) represents the interests of nurses who specialize in preanesthesia and postanesthesia care, ambulatory surgery, and pain management. With over 15,000 members and growing, ASPAN is the only professional organization dedicated exclusively to the practice of perianesthesia nursing. The Society serves its members by continually providing the latest in perianesthesia education, research, clinical practice expertise, standards and advocacy. ASPAN is online at www.aspan.org.

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