American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses  
Policy

Subject: Specialty Practice Group (SPG) #14-010

Review Responsibility: Designated ASPAN Director or Officer

Resource: Board of Directors

Effective Date: April 2018

Purpose: To define ASPAN’s Specialty Practice Groups.

The purpose of a Specialty Practice Group (SPG) is to bring sub-specialty nurses together. The forum offers a variety of networking and educational opportunities. SPGs may serve as a resource on practice and professional issues as requested by the ASPAN Board of Directors. SPG members are encouraged to participate in research opportunities within the organization.

Policy Statements:
I. Structure:
   A. Organized at the National level only.
   B. A SPG requires a minimum membership of 50 perianesthesia nurses.
   C. There is no limit to the number of SPGs a member may join.
   D. A Coordinator manages the activities of each SPG and reports to a designated member of the Board of Directors, who is a resource to the SPG, supports the SPG’s leadership succession plan and serves as a liaison to the Board of Directors. (Reference: Job Description #14-400, SPG Coordinator.)
   E. The Coordinator mentors a SPG member serving in the role of Vice-Coordinator. The Vice-Coordinator will become the next Coordinator. (Reference: Job Description #14-110, SPG Vice-Coordinator.)

II. Membership Criteria:
   A. Interest in practice and professional issues related to a particular specialty area.
   B. Active, Affiliate or Retired ASPAN membership.
   C. Completion of a SPG membership application and dues payment for each SPG joined.

III. Dues:
   A. Annual SPG dues will be determined by the Board of Directors.
   B. Members may join any time during the year with the understanding that SPG dues will not be prorated.
   C. SPG membership renewal will coincide with ASPAN’s annual dues.

IV. Fiscal responsibility:
   A. SPGs do not have separate treasuries. Dues and expenses are managed through the National Office within the ASPAN budget.
   B. Each SPG will function annually on a financial break-even basis.
   C. No SPG will enter into contracts or solicit outside funding for projects.
V. Member Benefits:
   A. Two newsletters/informational flyers per year.
   B. Roster of SPG members to promote individual contacts/networking.
   C. Annual meeting for SPG members held during ASPAN National Conference.
   D. Discussion, networking via various options including online forum, blast email, conference calls and/or social media.

VI. Formation:
   A. Member-driven rather than pre-determined by ASPAN.
   B. A minimum of 50 members is required to establish a Specialty Practice Group.
   C. The individual responsible for the successful SPG application will be designated to serve as the first group Coordinator.

VII. Dissolution:
   A. The ASPAN BOD may dissolve a SPG in the event the minimum number of members (50) is not maintained and/or the defined activities are not provided.

Procedure:

I. Individual(s) interested in forming a Specialty Practice Group should contact the ASPAN National Office for information. (Reference Policy #14-200 National Support to Specialty Practice Groups.)

   Options to generate interest and recruit members may include, but are not necessarily limited to:
   A. Announcements in Breathline, and/or National PArtiCULArS.
   B. Notices in ASPAN Web site Conference Center.
   C. Use of a complimentary list of ASPAN members that are demographically defined as prospects for the SPG membership.
   D. Promotion of SPG during National Conference.
   E. Networking with individual components.
   F. Liaison with ASPAN leadership.

II. A list with a minimum of 50 current ASPAN members who have expressed interest in joining the SPG must be completed and submitted to the ASPAN Secretary, who will present the application to the Board of Directors.

III. The President will notify the Specialty Practice Group Coordinator its affiliation status after review by the Board of Directors.