



# ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

## Message from the President

### Visioning for the Future

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**Myrna Mamaril MS, RN, CPAN, CAPA**  
**ASPAN President 1999-2000**

As we fast approach the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we, as leaders of the American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ASPAN), must have a clear mental image of our preferable future. To vision is to think in a “future” tense. It is articulating an ideal: a hope of how our organization will operationalize its mission and values. The visionary leader, one who goes first or tends toward a certain goal, communicates the perceived “ideal” and then brings this image of the future into reality.

One of our great leaders, Dr. Martin Luther King, once said, “I have a dream.” Every one today knows what that dream was. In August 1963, I watched Dr. King speak that message in Washington, DC, on the Mall overlooking the Lincoln Memorial. I, too, could envision what that dream was: the dream of equality for all men - true freedom for all races and ethnic backgrounds. Dr. King created a clear mental image: the vision for freedom. His legacy still lives on today. Today our dreams, the “what ifs” and all the possibilities we can create for our future, are vital for ASPAN to thrive in the 21st Century.

Mary McKinley, the American Association of Critical Care Nurses’ (AACN) President, epitomizes a true mentor. Last fall Maureen Iacono, ASPAN’s Immediate Past President, heard Mary speak on “Vision, Values, and Voice.” Afterwards Maureen met her and informed her that I was developing a leadership institute for ASPAN’s National Conference in Hawaii. Maureen asked if she would share a copy of that speech with me. Mary not only sent her speaker notes, but also a Powerpoint diskette and a letter instructing her to share that presentation with me. This is one of the most powerful forms of mentoring. Through Mary McKinley’s presentation, her legacy lives on, touching others and helping them understand her perspective of visioning.

Mary McKinley relates, that in times of turbulent changes in healthcare, each person needs a “touchstone, a source of strength and direction,” in other words vision and values. Clarity of vision is essential for success in any endeavor. Values are the foundation - the basis of our everyday action. Mary proceeds to warn us that, unless given a voice, vision and values are only statements. Through verbal and written communication, such as journal articles and research studies, we share our vision and the meaning and purpose are realized. It is like creating a picture: a vision that others may see.

#### **Vision for Clinical Practice**

Creating the vision for clinical practice begins as our Standards and Guidelines Committee revise our standards of perianesthesia nursing practice. This summer ASPAN’s Ethics Committee will collaborate with the Standards and Guidelines Committee to write our first code of ethics. ASPAN’s code of ethics will address the sensitive ethical issues unique to our perianesthesia nursing specialty. This code of ethics will guide our nursing practice when we are challenged with ethical clinical dilemmas. ASPAN’s Clinical Practice Committee will continue to address practice inquiries from our members.

This year we have formed an Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP) Visioning Team that will help the Standards and Guidelines Committee write competencies for our perianesthesia competent support personnel. Additionally, this UAP Visioning Team is charged with investigating the possibilities of developing educational opportunities at the National Conference and even the possibility of an ASPAN membership category for support personnel.

ASPAN will continue to collaborate on a national level with other nursing and medical professional organizations to promote safe, quality patient care. Last year under the leadership of our president, Maureen Iacono, ASPAN collaborated with the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) on fast tracking: bypassing Phase I PACU. In addition, ASPAN collaborated with ASA, AACN, and the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) on postanesthesia care units functioning as intensive care overflow units. ASPAN will continue to dialogue on these and other important patient safety issues.

### **Vision for Education**

Creating the vision for education reveals multidimensional educational opportunities. We will continue to offer ASPAN Workshops and Seminars, and we plan to develop our Independent Studies through the Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing (JOPAN) and the Internet. Our "cutting edge" Clinical Practice Hot Topics will be expanded in spring 2000. Next year ASPAN hopes to partner with W. B. Saunders in sponsoring a writing workshop for mentoring novice authors. Promoting ASPAN as the "Showcase for Ambulatory Surgery," we hope to increase our membership in the same day surgery arenas, such as conscious sedation units, freestanding Phase III recovery centers, and office based practice settings.

### **Vision for Research**

Creating the vision for research is also multifaceted. First, ASPAN's Research Committee will focus on validating the thermoregulation practice guidelines. They will continue to investigate the clinical outcomes of fast tracking PACU Phase I patients. Research consultation will be made available to the members through internet access. Another initiative that will enhance the advancement of perianesthesia nursing research is the formation of the Research Visioning Team.

### **Sharing the Vision**

In sharing ASPAN's vision, great leaders possess four key attributes. The first important attribute is the personal power used to make a difference in the nursing colleagues' lives that one touches. The second key attribute to leadership is championing change. Using the forces of change to support those involved in the chaos helps positively to create a new stronger strategic vision. The third attribute is the art of professional caring which leads to personal satisfaction and professional commitment that increases self esteem as well the possibilities for new opportunities. Finally, visionary leaders create passion for their nursing specialty by taking risks. These leaders are mentors who challenge apathy in nursing and share their vision for the future. These leaders choose to make a difference in perianesthesia nursing and through their work forever leave their legacy.

### **Celebrate ASPAN's Vision**

Today ASPAN celebrates the achievements of our perianesthesia nursing organization. We have over 12,000 members in diverse practice settings. The diversity of our members strengthens ASPAN. We need each member to be part of our vision. ASPAN has a proud past, but we need new leaders to become involved, to use their power, to champion change, to demonstrate caring, to take risks, and to imprint their legacy in the advancement of perianesthesia nursing. We must share our vision to create enthusiasm for nursing and ASPAN. We, as leaders, must be like Dr. Martin Luther King. We must ignite our member's passion helping to fuel our nursing specialty into the next century. Sharing our vision of what the future holds will transform our very being and ensure a new commitment to ASPAN.