



# ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

## Message from the President

### Perianesthesia Nurses are Beacons of Change

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**ASPAN President 2011-2012**

I have been a perianesthesia nurse for over 30 years, and ASPAN has been a constant beacon for my practice. This holds true now, more than ever, in this unpredictable and exciting time for nursing. We are at the forefront for creating opportunities and changes in healthcare delivery. In this age of modern technology and advances, we are experiencing changes almost as quickly as we can process them. But, no matter what changes occur, our collective commitment to patient advocacy shines like a beacon!

As practicing perianesthesia nurses we are true patient advocates, first and foremost. Our 14,000 ASPAN members represent a national snapshot of the 55,000 nurses practicing in all phases of perianesthesia care. We make a difference every day to all those for whom we advocate. We assess and reassess our patients, with inherent commitment, clinical expertise and dedication that may not be recognized or even remembered by those for whom we nurse. Do be assured that the families, husbands, wives, partners, daughters, sons, grandchildren and friends who witness our caring and compassion know...and they remember.

#### **WE are Experts**

Our critical thinking and clinical forethought ensure that our assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of care validate our expertise. As clinicians, advanced practice nurses, educators and managers, our experiential knowledge and assessments are timely, thorough and comprehensive. Our light shines through each decision and action taken.

Perianesthesia nurses are the ultimate rapid responders! Before that terminology evolved, we developed expertise in preempting emergencies, recognizing problems and promoting optimal outcomes. We are recognized as clinical experts and resources by non-perianesthesia nurses, the public, our patients and their families, novice nurses and physician colleagues. Our practice gives meaning to the term "change agent" as we are most effective when intervening on behalf of our patients, stable or unstable, to protect and guide them to the best possible outcome during their perianesthesia course. Quite simply, we understand change and the associated need to take action.

By responding daily and momentarily to the physiologic, emotional and psychological needs of our patients and assuring these needs are met in a variety of settings, in the provision of all phases of care at all levels, we remain the true patient advocates – whatever the course. There is no question that we share a unique specialty. Not only do we advocate for our patients – we have a clear focus on each other. We build on our professional and personal relationships. We make caring real.

#### **Collegial Connections**

Every year at Conference, new and old friends connect and pick up where we left off the previous year. Because of these relationships, and our common passion and purpose, we reach out to each other. These connections form a bond of advocacy for each other. We have connections to assure that our own family members are cared for by a competent and caring colleague, just an e-mail or phone call away. When I could not arrive on time, my Chesapeake Bay Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses colleagues took care of my father at Johns Hopkins, and what a comfort it was to know that their competent and capable hands had indeed touched and cared for my dad. I hear similar stories of caring and advocacy from all of

you. We are one family built on relationships forged at Conference, in our practice, and through years in the making.

Beacon is described as a guiding or warning signal, or a light or fire, especially from an elevated position. Beacons, similar to those from lighthouses or search helicopters, are not unlike you and your practice - taking the lead and chartering the safest journey in the provision of care for perianesthesia patients. From nursing's beginnings, it is the nurse who is the one constant, the beacon leading the journey into the future of our nation's high expectations for patient care. We are, and have always been, the safe harbor that our patients and the public demand.

### **A Bright Future**

We stand on the edge of unprecedented changes in healthcare. We are entering uncharted waters, so opportunities abound. Representing 40 components and each member, ASPAN is focusing on the future without sacrificing the vision that revered past leaders created for perianesthesia safety, public policy, research, education, clinical practice and standards. As nurses, we are at the forefront of these many opportunities and future changes. Know that ASPAN is committed to remain a beacon and guiding light for education, practice, and research while working to provide the tools we will need to ensure nursing's place in that future.

ASPAN's Big Audacious Goal is now its Compelling Vision. That vision is focused on advocacy, leadership development and education. ASPAN's strategic planning activities assure that needed resources are available to support a sound and viable future. Its educational resources are expanding to include diverse topics, new technologies, and choices to provide the very real answers to burning clinical issues in your daily practice. Online educational opportunities will become available. ASPAN's Advocacy Committee will chart the course for staff and patient safety. With a focus on your educational and professional goals, ASPAN's Leadership Development Committee is committed to advancing nurses to his or her full professional practice and organizational potential.

Our collective efforts will ensure that our journey - unpredictable, glorious or turbulent - meets challenges head on to provide that constant, guiding beacon to safe passage for our patients, our members, and our Society.