



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Embracing Creativity and Curiosity

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We must not be afraid to push boundaries; instead, we should leverage our science and our technology, together with our creativity and our curiosity, to solve the world's problems.¹

Solving the world's problems may be a bit beyond the scope of ASPAN's Core Purpose and Vision, but creativity and curiosity played a significant role in our past. These attributes continue to influence the present and future as we push the boundaries and test the limits of what we can accomplish. Through our committees and strategic work teams, ASPAN sets goals every year to advance its core purpose. The creativity and ingenuity of the committees and work teams is visible all around us. How creative have we been lately? Where is ASPAN's curiosity leading us? Let's take a peek.

Updating a Retired Position Statement

As a result of concern over air quality and other environmental hazards in perianesthesia settings, ASPAN re-examined a retired position statement and introduced a new statement on "Air Quality and Occupational Hazard Exposure Prevention"² to the 2016 Representative Assembly. Taking this concern further, ASPAN enlisted the assistance of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to investigate the presence of waste anesthesia gases in the PACU. The resulting collaboration with NIOSH is a tribute to ASPAN's curiosity and creative approach to problem solving.

Although many studies exist to support scavenging systems in areas where anesthetic gases are administered, there is a lack of research and evidence to support stronger air quality standards in PACUs. The NIOSH studies should help fill that gap. This is just one example of combining curiosity and creativity to find a solution. "Curiosity is the engine of achievement."³

Innovative Education

Guided by our strategic plan and our core values, ASPAN strives to offer innovative education, and sponsor research which leads to evidence we can use at the bedside. Meeting the educational needs of today's perianesthesia nurse requires creative approaches. We now provide member access to education 24/7 by varying the start times for webcasts and providing popular modules through ASPAN Select and On Demand. These new approaches increase educational opportunities for all perianesthesia nurses.

Gauging member needs by reviewing questions posted to the Clinical Practice Committee ensures that members have a voice in planning new educational offerings. "Creativity involves breaking out of established patterns in order to look at things in a different way."⁴

New Approaches to Standards and Guidelines

Recognizing that the goal of adding leveled evidence to every practice recommendation requires ongoing work, the Standards and Guidelines (S&G) SWT members committed to projects in their "off" year (the year there is no face-to-face meeting). Previously, little work was accomplished in the "off" year. Time is precious, and this team was not being utilized to its full potential. By looking at this team in a different way, leaders were able to accomplish more by managing their projects and their teams over a two-year period.

The S&G meeting this past October proved that this approach is highly effective. With the assistance of the Evidence Based Practice (EBP) SWT and a medical librarian, S&G teams are constantly engaged in literature reviews on assigned topics. With Dropbox as a repository, articles culled by our medical librarian and team members are accessible to education, research, clinical practice, EBP and S&G.

Increased Curiosity and Innovation in Research

Research often combines creativity and curiosity. This is palpably evident during the showcase for EBP/Research and Celebrate Successful Practices (CSP) posters during ASPAN's National Conferences. These projects epitomize curiosity, creativity and innovation. The posters awe and inspire, and, if the thought of conducting research is intimidating, partner with an experienced nurse researcher. ASPAN can assist with identifying research mentors.

Tackling a research project may be your opportunity to do something which scares you, just a little. "Curiosity will conquer fear even more than bravery will."⁵ Insatiable curiosity may be the common denominator among nurse scientists, but we also need perianesthesia nurses who take a pragmatic approach by translating research into evidence we can apply at the bedside. Curiosity is essential for research and often starts with the question, "Why?"

Curiosity and Innovation to Validate Perianesthesia Staffing

ASPAN's Clinical Practice Committee is frequently asked about perianesthesia staffing levels. "Practice Recommendation 1, Patient Classification/Staffing Recommendations,"⁶ relies on best practices for safe patient care, but there are no research studies to validate the recommendations. The staffing recommendations for Phase I are the most clearly defined, likely because that area has been in existence the longest. ASPAN is currently conducting research on acuity-based PACU staffing. Once completed, this study will add credibility and evidence to one of ASPAN's oldest and most important practice recommendations.

Commitment to Creativity

Reaching organizational goals requires commitment, dedication and creativity. ASPAN's position as a world leader in perianesthesia nursing stems from a passion for excellence and an unquenchable curiosity. We live to uncover new possibilities. As Franklin Adams said, "I find that a great part of the information I have was acquired by looking up something and finding something else on the way."⁷

REFERENCES

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