



# ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

## Message from the President

### ASPAN: Your Professional Connection

*January/February 2001*

**Nancy M. Saufl, MS, RN, CPAN, CAPA**  
**ASPAN President 2000-2001**

The American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ASPAN) is your professional specialty nursing organization representing more than 12,000 registered nurses practicing in all phases of ambulatory surgery, preanesthesia and postanesthesia care. Positioning ASPAN as a leader in the nursing community means that we have to strive for continuous improvement and simultaneous growth. Maintaining the strength and viability of our Society demands consideration of the needs, interests, and goals of perianesthesia nurses. The ASPAN Board of Directors promotes opportunities and growth for the Society by supporting member benefits that will enhance the reasons perianesthesia nurses want to belong to their professional Society. Membership demonstrates you have made the connection to professional commitment.

#### **Education**

Pertinent, timely, and quality perianesthesia education is critical to ASPAN's mission. ASPAN provides a wide variety of ways to meet the educational needs of our members. Our 20<sup>th</sup> National Conference, "Making the Connection through Teaching, Touch, and Technology," will be held in Boston, April 1-5, 2001. We also offer co-sponsored Regional Workshops; Seminars; Independent Studies; and continuing education articles on-line. ASPAN's Independent Study programs provide the convenience of learning based on your personal needs and schedule. The very successful Leadership Institute, "Making the Leadership Connection," was held this past September for component leaders, and a writer's workshop for mentoring novice authors is planned for next fall. We are also looking into teleconferences for the future, as well as an Ambulatory Perianesthesia Nursing Conference. ASPAN members experience the benefit of discounted fees for all our educational offerings. The Seminars, Workshops, and National Conference offer excellent educational learning opportunities as well as an environment for networking with your peers.

#### **Clinical Practice**

ASPAN's Standards and Guidelines Committee reviewed and revised the ASPAN Standards of Perianesthesia Nursing Practice this year. This publication provides a basis for nurses practicing in all phases of perianesthesia care and addresses the major aspects of administration and clinical practice in this environment. The Perianesthesia Standards for Ethical Practice are included in the new edition of the Standards and focus on ethical issues unique to our specialty. The Standards also include all current ASPAN position statements ranging from Minimum Staffing in Phase I PACU to Fast Tracking and ICU Overflow. ASPAN members also have access to the Clinical Practice Network. Inquiries regarding any clinical practice issue, whether clarification on a particular ASPAN Standard or how other perianesthesia units are handling a certain issue, may be submitted to the National Office. All inquiries are forwarded to a member of the Clinical Practice Committee who will then research the inquiry and follow up with you directly. A task force on Unlicensed Assistive Personnel is working to complete competencies for perianesthesia support personnel.

#### **Research**

ASPAN's Research Committee facilitates and participates in research projects to improve patient outcomes, patient safety and workplace safety. Research grants are available for members who want to investigate pertinent clinical issues affecting perianesthesia practice. Projects this year include the

preoperative patient teaching/video study, the multi-site study on thermoregulation/unplanned hypothermia, and discharge criteria for regional anesthesia patients.

### **Patient Education**

ASPAN has developed a consumer web site to familiarize the potential surgical patient with the preanesthesia and postanesthesia phases of the surgical experience. The goal is to educate the consumer and ultimately improve the overall outcome of their perianesthesia experience. Topics range from preanesthesia testing to pain management.

### **Publications**

ASPAN members receive *The Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing* bimonthly, as well as our official newsletter, *Breathline*, also published bimonthly. ASPAN publications available for purchase include the aforementioned, *Standards of Perianesthesia Nursing Practice 2000*; *The Research Primer*, *Redi-Ref*; and the *Competency Based Orientation Credentialing Program*. ASPAN members can order these publications by mail, fax or online and receive member discounts.

### **Foundation**

The ASPAN Foundation is dedicated to supporting the various programs of ASPAN. The ASPAN Foundation utilizes its resources to implement initiatives focused on scholarships and awards, public awareness and education, and research. Programs such as the Leadership Institute, Research Grants, Scholarships, and Consensus Conferences are made possible through the efforts of the Foundation.

### **Web Site**

ASPAN's Web site [www.aspan.org](http://www.aspan.org) is an invaluable resource. Information regarding education, publications, membership, scholarships, certification and much more can be obtained from the web site. Links to other professional organizations and component web sites are also available. The on-line conference center offers a unique style of posting queries, concerns, and announcements from you and your colleagues. The open conference center allows the opportunity to network with your peers on issues pertinent to perianesthesia nursing.

### **Governmental Affairs**

ASPAN's Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) monitors legislative issues and provides status reports. The GAC strives to provide ASPAN members with information about the legislative process, health care policy, and legislative, political and economic forces that drive health care policy today.

### **Specialty Practice Groups**

ASPAN members have the opportunity to join any of our three Specialty Practice Groups: Preoperative Assessment; Management; and/or Pain Management. These groups allow for additional networking and information sharing specific to these practice areas.

### **Certification**

The American Board of Perianesthesia Nursing Certification provides certification exams for perianesthesia nurses to validate knowledge gained through professional education and experience. Perianesthesia nurses can become certified in postanesthesia nursing, CPAN, or in ambulatory perianesthesia nursing, CAPA. ASPAN members receive significantly reduced examination fees for the certification exams.

### **Components**

In addition to the national affiliation, ASPAN members also belong to regional components. ASPAN has forty components throughout the United States that offer additional networking and educational opportunities at the state and regional level. The components are the grass roots of ASPAN and provide the forums for sharing information and creating a climate for perianesthesia excellence.

### **Collaboration**

ASPAN collaborates and networks with other specialty nursing organizations on an ongoing basis. These professional societies include AORN, AACN, NAON, ENA, AMSN, and others. ASPAN communicates regularly with the American Nurses Association, the National Student Nurses Association, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the American Association of Nurses Anesthetists, the Federation of Ambulatory Surgery Association, and the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation. We also are participating in conferences on nurse: patient ratios, staffing issues, and the nursing shortage with Cross-Country University.

**ASPAN: Your Professional Connection**

While the scope of perianesthesia nursing practice continues to grow and change, ASPAN is committed to keeping the membership connected. The Society's goal is to keep you informed and knowledgeable about the issues affecting nursing and our specialty practice. The benefits go beyond discounts on educational offerings and publications. It is a shared vision of networking, mentoring, and communicating. Member participation is key to the success of any organization. The Board of Directors and the Representative Assembly have the challenge of determining the direction for the future of ASPAN. It is our responsibility to represent the membership with enthusiasm, commitment, passion and understanding. In this year of national elections, controversial counts and recounts, and questioning of the Constitution, it is up to us to make the connection and move our profession forward. We can do this by believing in ASPAN's mission, belonging to and participating in our professional association, and promoting quality patient care and safety.