



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Passion and Excellence: Growing, Learning, and Leading Together

September/October 2024

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Value of Education

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” – Benjamin Franklin¹

ASPAN's core purpose is to empower and advance the unique specialty of perianesthesia nursing.² One of the ways to accomplish this is advancing your knowledge and expertise in perianesthesia nursing through education, clinical practice, and inquiry. I hope you have had an opportunity to view some of the online recorded educational sessions from the 2024 ASPAN National Conference in Orlando. There are a total of 53 sessions offering a total of 67.5 contact hours. If you attended the full conference, you have access to these sessions at no additional cost. If you were not able to attend the conference this year, you can purchase access to the recorded sessions. Take the time to view the 2024 National Conference Abstract and Poster Presentations, now available online under Education and Events.

The abstracts and posters are divided into Clinical Inquiry (Research/EBP/QI) and Celebrate Successful Perianesthesia Practices.

“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young.” – Henry Ford¹

Learning is a lifelong process. The Cambridge Dictionary defines lifelong learning as “the process of gaining knowledge and skills throughout your life, often to help you do your job properly.”³ Thus, learning is a never-ending process. Learning is vital to our personal and professional growth where we need to adapt to change, stay relevant in our ever-changing practice, and the world.

We should all commit ourselves to lifelong learning in our specialty practice of perianesthesia nursing. ASPAN is the premier organization for perianesthesia excellence.

ASPAN is excited to announce there are currently 15 selected continuing education articles online from the *Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing (JoPAN)* that are available for free contact hours for members. These articles are available on the ASPAN website under ASPAN Learn. Just read the articles, complete the evaluation and review quiz to receive contact hours. These articles total up to 21.25 contact hours.

Collaboration and Education at the Local Level

“Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.” – Anthony J. D’Angelo¹

One of the exciting things I look forward to every year is the various local/state/component fall seminars. The ASPAN National Conference happens in the spring and is the largest educational event of the year. But there are so many other opportunities to gain new knowledge in our

specialty practice throughout the year. Many components are scheduled to have fall seminars through the months of September to November. Some component seminars offer an in-person and virtual option.

For those who may be new to ASPAN and not familiar with the term “component,” the organization is broken into five regions across the country and each region is broken into components. ASPAN has a total of 40 components. Some components comprise one state, like California, called the PeriAnesthesia Nurses Association of California (PANAC). Other components may be made up of several states, such as the Northwest PeriAnesthesia Nurses Association (NPANA), which is made up of members from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Another example is the Chesapeake Bay Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (CBSPAN), comprising members from Maryland, Delaware, and Washington, D.C. To find out more about what region or component you belong, go to the ASPAN website – www.aspan.org, go to the “About” tab, and click on Components/Regions. Your ASPAN Board of Directors and component presidents are happy to assist with any questions. The Regional Events Calendar under the Education and Events tab is another useful resource for upcoming events, as well as your component webpage.

Local events such as ASPAN Perianesthesia Certification Review seminars or local chapter/district meetings are an important part of collaboration and learning. I had the great pleasure of meeting many ASPAN members and non-members attending local seminars and state seminars. Whether you can attend a seminar in person or virtually, the chance to learn and share best practices enriches our personal and professional growth. ASPAN's various committees, strategic work teams, and specialty practice groups have been meeting via Zoom. They are making great strides on projects such as updating publications, seminars, governmental affairs issues, and answering clinical practice and clinical inquiry questions.

We come together from various facilities and phases of perianesthesia nursing, but we come with a similar goal: to advance our knowledge and expertise to provide the best care for our patients, provide an excellent experience for our patients and families, and advocate for patient and nurse safety. Thank you for what you do every day, making a difference in the lives of your patients, families, colleagues, and perianesthesia nursing practice.

“The capacity to learn is a gift; the ability to learn is a skill; the willingness to learn is a choice.” – Brian Herbert¹

REFERENCES

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2. ASPAN's Core ideology. ASPAN website. Accessed July 19, 2024. <https://www.aspan.org/About/About-ASPAN/Core-Ideology>
3. Lifelong Learning. Cambridge Dictionary website. Accessed July 13, 2024. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/lifelong-learning>