



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Message from the President

Reach Out...Dare to be Different...Follow Your Dreams

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ASPAN President 2002-2003

The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to his or her commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor. – Vincent T. Lombardi

In the next year ASPAN has many exciting activities and projects planned. Our mission statement, The American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses advances nursing practice through education, research and standards, guides us as we establish our priorities and direction. Each year brings new endeavors and challenges for ASPAN, and this year will not be different. ASPAN is as strong as its member involvement and we depend on many dedicated volunteers from around the country and the world. I would like to share with you just some of the expected activities from the ASPAN Committees, Strategic Work Teams, Board of Directors, and National Office Staff as we work to promote perianesthesia nursing practice.

Standards of Practice

Up-to-date professional standards of practice are essential to ASPAN's mission as they identify, define, and support our practice. The Standards and Guidelines Committee has been revising the 2002 Standards of Perianesthesia Nursing Practice, which will be released soon. Updated in January 2002, this publication will include: the ASPAN Standards, all available ASPAN Position Statements, a new Resource for Conscious Sedation, a Resource for Safe Transfer of Care from the perianesthesia settings, and the newly developed thermoregulation guidelines.

Every month the ASPAN Clinical Practice Committee receives, on the average, 100 calls from the ASPAN members and non-members alike regarding clinical practice issues. Each question is answered through a regional representative of the clinical practice network, who provides the caller with current information and suggestions.

The *Competency Based Orientation Manual* is currently being updated and revised. Watch for information in Breathline concerning its availability for purchase.

Research

Several current studies are in progress, including "Regional Anesthesia Discharge Criteria," "Waste Anesthetic Gases," and "Pain Management." The ASPAN Pain and Comfort Consensus Conference was a success. Currently the Research Committee is collaborating with ASPAN's Pain and Comfort Clinical Practice Guidelines Task Force to finalize the Perianesthesia Pain and Comfort Clinical Practice Guidelines. These guidelines will then be tested through a multi-site research study, which will be coordinated by the ASPAN Director for Research. Our goal is to have the *Perianesthesia Pain and Comfort Clinical Practice Guidelines* ready for distribution by the 2003 ASPAN National Conference.

Education

The Education Approver Committee reviews all continuing education applications received through the national office for contact hours. Additionally, the committee will be revising the ASPAN Approver Manual to meet the newly revised American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation Regulations.

The Education Provider Committee will continue to provide new, innovative seminars and programs for members. Some of the exciting new topics include "Basic Therapeutic Touch: An Extension of Professional Skills in Nursing," "Critical Care Topics for Perianesthesia Nurses," "Computers in the Personal and Professional Life of the Perianesthesia Nurse," and "Domestic Terrorism Preparedness – An Introduction for Perianesthesia Nurses." In addition to seminars already scheduled, these topics are pertinent to today's perianesthesia nurse. Look for an ASPAN seminar coming to a city near you!

Make your plans now to attend the 2003 ASPAN National Conference, which is scheduled for April 6-10, 2003 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Preparation is under way as the National Conference Strategic Work Team (SWT) is planning a fabulous conference. Plans will be finalized at the mid-summer meeting in July.

Several key national committees, chairpersons, and the national office staff will be very active this May when the American Nurses Credentialing Center conducts a site inspection at the ASPAN national office. This is part of the re-accreditation process for ASPAN to remain a provider and approver of continuing education in nursing. The entire ASPAN education team and staff are always working diligently to assure the continuing education process is followed according to the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation regulations. I am certain they will pass the accreditation process with flying colors!

A collaborative education project is underway with the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). Working together we will revise the three current videos entitled, "Perianesthesia Patient Education for General, Regional and Conscious Sedation / MAC Anesthesia." The goal is to combine three videos into one.

Component Development

This fall Philadelphia will be the site of the new ASPAN component development workshop. On September 6-8, 2002, the Education and Research Institute will be the third consecutive workshop developed for components by ASPAN. The goals of this program are to: discuss key points in conference planning, review the application process for continuing education contact hours, review the process used to plan and carry out a research study, and identify various types of research that can be done on the component level. More information will be provided to component leaders and communicated through Breathline.

As you can tell we are prepared for a very exciting year ahead! As I represent this wonderful, influential organization as your President, I will be reaching out to you, the member, for information, for dialogue, for feedback, and for support to face the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for our specialty. Continue to **Reach Out** to your patients through your care and expertise. Take the opportunity to **Reach Out** to other perianesthesia nurses by sharing your innovative practice tips, mentoring a new nurse, or highlighting the benefits of our organization. **Reach Out** to your community by promoting the profession of nursing during a school career day or volunteering at a health fair. **Reach Out** and share your knowledge by participating in a local component committee, serving as an officer for the component or writing an article related to your practice. **Reach Out** to other specialties by communicating the ASPAN mission and vision and inviting collaborative activities. Never underestimate the influence you can have on your practice. **Reach Out** and experience it!