

2012 National Conference Report

I enjoyed the whole conference. This is my second one that I have attended and each one has been wonderful. I thoroughly enjoyed the ASPAN Development Luncheon that recognized the scholarship winners. The speaker, Lois Schick, was excellent. She always is a breath of fresh air and so knowledgeable. She is an excellent resource and very easy to talk to.

There were a lot of great topics this year. I could not attend all of them though. The speakers were knowledgeable in their topics and answered all questions.

The one session that I attended regarding the "Treatment of Acute Pain in the Chronic Pain Patient" by M. Katherine Boone MSPAC was excellent. I can relate on a daily basis with a lot of the patients that come through PACU that have chronic pain. I have a better understanding on how to treat and care for a chronic pain patient. I try to redirect the pain by using imagery. This helps with some of the patients. I also ask them what their pain level was prior to surgery. Asking this helps me to have an idea where I may be able to get their pain level down to. This also gives the patient a better understanding of how the nurse can treat the patient. The goal is to help them determine what may be the acute surgical pain versus the chronic pain.

I really liked that there were boxed lunches that you could purchase so you did not have to eat at the hotel restaurants. This made it real easy and convenient especially between sessions.

Thank you again,

Tracy Welch, RN, CPAN