

Scholarship Recipient Report
2014 National Conference in Las Vegas
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I would like to thank ASPAN for awarding me this scholarship to attend the 2014 ASPAN National Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. The last time that I attended National conference was when it was held at Disneyland in 2007 (my first experience). Knowing what to expect this time, I was much more relaxed and able to enjoy the conference as well as getting to know the other conference attendees.

The keynote speaker Dr. Steve Maraboli took a serious subject and made it easy to listen to and enjoy with his personal anecdotes and sense of humor. It is amazing what one can do if they put their mind to it and not listen to the naysayers.

Likewise, the closing speaker, Jody Urquhart, gave a meaningful life lecture with humor and jokes. It was a breath of fresh air to end the seriousness of our conference with humor and camaraderie.

In my current educator role, I am responsible for four PeriAnesthesia Care areas with adult and pediatric populations. Our units are blended with Preop, Phase 1 and Phase 2 stages of care. Because of this, I took a variety of sessions such as; Hot Topics in ASPAN Standards related to Patient Safety, Patient Safety at Patient Discharge, Procedural Sedation, Pediatric Emergency Delirium, Prevalent PeriAnesthesia Complications and Care of the Adult Special Needs Patient.

In addition to attending the sessions, I was honored to present an evidenced-based research poster and at the Research EBP Oral presentation session. This is the first time that I had spoken at a National Conference. It was so gratifying to discuss my project with other nurses and to find out that throughout the country, other nurses experience the same issues.

One nice feature of the ASPAN conference is the availability to have the PowerPoint presentations and notes from mostly all the sessions that were presented. Time is so limited during the conference and you cannot sign up for as many sessions as you would like. These notes allowed me to review the sessions that I was unable to attend. Thank you for offering this feature.

I encourage every PACU nurse to attend National Conference at least once in their career. It is a great educational experience and the ability to meet so many PACU nurses throughout the country is a plus.