

ASPAN'S 36th National Conference Report
Indianapolis, Indiana
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I am honored to have been selected this year as one of the recipients of the National Conference Scholarship from ASPAN. My first conference was in 2007 when my colleagues encouraged me to present a poster with them on our Day Surgery Discharge instruction sheets we created. I can't believe that 10 years later I am still just as excited to attend this conference and spend time connecting with other perianesthesia nurses around the country. I always return inspired and re-energized about my professional practice and proud of the work I do every day!

This year was extra special because I was able to be there to support and honor my colleague, ASPAN President Katrina Bickerstaff, as she passed on her role to the incoming president. Katrina has not only been a colleague and friend to me over the past 18 years, working with her, but she has inspired me, motivated me and supported me and my growth as a perianesthesia nurse. Without her leadership and dedication, I would not have been able to accomplish studying, taking and passing both my CAPA and CPAN exams. She encouraged me to participate and develop posters for presentation, and every day shows me just how important it is to be involved in your practice. I am so grateful to her and the entire ASPAN community for this experience and support over the years. It is so important to me to continue to learn and grow in this ever-changing environment.

The speakers were also excellent and really spoke to me this year. Starting with the opening ceremonies to the lectures I attended, I really took away a lot of valuable information and best practice suggestions to share with my colleagues as I return from this conference.

Spending time outside of work is also a treat on these trips. It is a great way to network and get to know other perianesthesia nurses, but also to connect with your own group. I can't tell you how much it has meant to me this year and over the years to have this wonderful positive experience with all of these amazing nurses. I am very thankful for this generous scholarship that helped me attend the 36th National Conference.