

2018 ASPAN National Conference Scholarship Report
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First of all, I want to thank everyone involved in awarding me this scholarship. With the changing health care climate, my hospital is still not affiliated with anyone, so therefore we do not have money to spend on education. The scholarship enabled me to come and be exposed to so many new ideas, reinforced how great our specialty is, and to be reenergized for the coming year.

Our hospital is changing our PAT process. We have been seeing every one of our surgical patients in our PAT area. We are now, calling each one and doing an in depth interview. There were so many sessions that seemed to address this subject.

"I Am Thirsty", session 007, was interesting and the speaker was so knowledgeable on the subject. She brought up so many questions that I never even thought about thirst. The session 012, "There's Always a Story in Pre-op," really intrigued me. I tend to think that my problems are unique to my hospital. I found that almost all PAT departments have the same issues. Another session 501, "The Lean, Mean, PAT Machine", talked about the assignments of each team member and how they are implemented. They discussed problems and what they did to resolve them. They set time limits to talk about if the things that they changed to solve the problem, worked. This is something that we need to do at our hospital. "Venous Thromboembolism and the Surgical Patient", was fascinating to me. We only use SCD's when the surgery is more than 60 minutes long. The speaker recommended putting SCD's on everyone going to surgery. This is a new concept for me.

We have many Geriatric patients in our practice. The Pre-Operative assessment for this group was reinforcing what we do and, a few new updates were mentioned. Patients with PTSD, included specific topics to talk with my patients before surgery. The information was useful and I can use this for my practice. I thought there was a lot of emphasis on pre-op teaching and the PAT process this year. The posters that I viewed were so well done. I took pictures of some of them to share with my colleagues.

The time I spent in California was something I will never forget. I love being able to learn and talk with other nurses in our specialty. ASPAN should be proud of all it has accomplished through the years. Once again, thank you!