

2024 ASPAN National Conference – Orlando, FL

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I had the good fortune to receive a scholarship to attend the 2024 ASPAN conference in Orlando Florida. The opening ceremonies included a motivating address by ASPAN President Dr Alphonzo Baker titled “Fulfilling the Dream with Foresight Vision: A World of Belonging, Innovation, and Solutions”. Dr. Jimmy Moss closed the ceremonies with a moving talk “From Homeless to Harvard...to Healthcare”, in which he covered his challenging journey that he chronicled in his book “A Doctored Life”. This was an exciting start to a terrific ASPAN conference.

There were so many sessions to chose from. Leading With Grace During Difficult Leadership Challenges in Perianesthesia, given by Dr Myrna Mamaril, was an excellent session for nurse leaders. A session on Ketamine infusions for postoperative pain management spurred many questions and much interest from the audience, a testament to the dedication of perianesthesia nurses’ interest in relieving pain and suffering in our patients. I attended the Research Consultation session led by Dr Amy Berardinelli, and several attendees discussed their projects and sought guidance.

Tuesday started with the Research/EBP/QI Poster Grand Rounds. Over 40 posters demonstrating impressive efforts to improve patient outcomes were on display. Several of these projects were presented in the oral session, held later during the conference. Such impressive work!

Several sessions also covered Clinical Inquiry topics, from appraisal of literature to evidence-based practice. I had the opportunity to present on Sustaining Practice Change, and the State of the Science. A Team from Cleveland Clinical presented on a new assessment tool, the COLDs score, which generated much interest and discussion. The Simulation Solution presented by Kaitlin Bolster was a wonderful talk on education using simulation, with a review of best practices and experiences. Many educators were in attendance.

The Development Breakfast presentation, “I cried so Hard I Laughed” was a delightful reminder of all the funny situations we encounter amidst the hard work we do. The closing keynote was an inspiring reminder of the important tools we can use as we positively impact the lives of our patients and their families. The conference was a wonderful event where we learned and connected with peers.