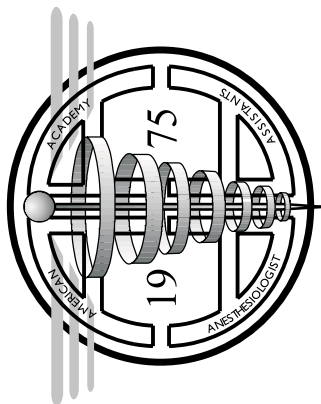


# The Anesthesia Record

The Newsletter of the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2005



## The President's Message

By Donald Biggs, AA-C

### The Year Ahead:

As we start this new year, I want to take this opportunity to thank Rob Wagner for the excellent job he has done as President during the last four years. I will be depending on him, as Immediate Past President, to guide me through whatever rough spots come our way. We also have the great good fortune to have Ellen Allinger as the President-Elect and a capable and energetic Board. I know that they will continue to be most effective for the AAAA.

The year ahead holds many opportunities and challenges for AAs. Although this seems to be true for almost every new year for AAs, I think this year will be one of continuing evolution for the practice of AAs and for the function and activity of the AAAA. Many of the goals that were seen as revolutionary for us in the past, recognition of AAs by the ASA, opening of new states to AA practice, and the opening of new AA programs, have been accomplished in recent years. The furthering of these accomplishments leads to the necessity of our continuing to evolve and grow along these same lines.

This year brings the reality of licensure in Florida and the prospect of similar action in additional states. This year also brings the growth of the newest certified AA program in Savannah and the prospect of additional programs in other states. These and other developments insure the increasing solidification of AA practice for all AAs. Extending these developments also requires increased participation on the part of the AAAA and its members to secure beneficial outcomes of our undertakings.

To continue to accomplish these goals we need (and here it comes) increased membership and increased contributions to the AAAA Legislative Fund. We also need an increase in the willingness of AAs to make their physical presence known when necessary. This may be no more than sending emails when asked to do so, up to making yourself available to accompany AAAA leaders to State Houses if needed. We must take every opportunity to advance our presence on the national stage very seriously; I assure you there are others who will take these opportunities for us as a very serious matter indeed.

A great many elements are in place for this year to be another year of advancement for AAs. I look forward to working with and for the AAAA membership and its leaders to accomplish the continued advancement of our practice throughout the country.

### In This Issue . . .

President's Message .....	1
Editor's Column .....	2

### Inside AAAA

2005 Annual Meeting .....	3
National Affairs Update .....	4
Florida Update .....	4
Second Annual Job Fair .....	5
2004 Legislative Fund Update .....	6
AAAA Hires Public Relations Firm .....	6

### Professional News

Allied Health Advocacy .....	7
Ohio Lawsuit Update .....	8
AA Education: Are We on Track? .	8

### Other News

JobLine .....	9
Calendar .....	10

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# The Editor's Column

By Ellen Allinger, AA-C, Co-editor

## The Fear of Failure

We have all experienced it at some point in our lives. Maybe your first memory of feeling that fear revolves around some game during school recess. No one wants to hear the laughter of all of the other kids as you swing a bat and miss the ball. Later, you may have felt it when the teacher returned to you the history mid-term test, or when you held the envelope from the admissions office from the colleges and universities to which you applied. After all, wasn't getting good grades and getting into the right school the foundation for a successful future?

However, we found out later in life that those fears were very black and white compared to the fears that adults face. Will I be successful in love and/or marriage? Will I be a good mother or father? Will I be able to provide for myself and for my family? Failure in these areas will affect not only me but also those around me, those who mean the most to me.

When I entered my anesthesiologist assistant training, I was afraid of failing. What if I wasn't smart enough to become an AA? What if my professors and clinical instructors thought that I wasn't performing at the appropriate level for a student? What if I didn't pass that final comprehensive exam? Part of my motivation to perform well as an AA student came from these fears.

My fears after graduation, although still focused on my knowledge, were not so concerned with how it affected me. It became focused on how it affected my patient. I literally shook during every intubation for the first six months after being a practicing AA. Why? Because I knew that after the intubation was successful the anesthesiologist would walk out of the operating room. I had to be concerned that everything that I did was the best thing for my patient that was now under my care. I feared failing the person before me whose well-being was in my hands. Now, eighteen years later, I still have that fear in my mind. It's what keeps me vigilant and current in my anesthetic practices. I don't want to fail my patient.

My professional fear of failure extends beyond the realm of the operating room. It extends to the entire anesthesiologist assistant profession. It seems to me that we are always taking two steps forward and then one step back professionally. At the same time that one state opens its doors to the AA profession (Florida) another state passes legislation that does not allow AAs to practice there (Louisiana). At the same time that the American Society of Anesthesiologists voted to make the education of AAs a standing committee of its society, the Ohio State Medical Board sought to limit AA scope of practice. So much of what directly affects our profession is completely out of our hands. And some of these seem to drag on and on. The lengthy wait for the Veterans Affairs system to update its Handbook of Anesthesia Services is beyond our control. The language of AA legislation and the course chosen for its introduction is beyond our control. The ability of a university to open a new AA school is beyond our control. And when these things do not happen, it seems to be a failure for our profession.

However, we can still use our experience and knowledge to influence that which is best for the promulgation and continuation of the anesthesiologist assistant career. It is an onerous task to keep up with all of the items which potentially affect our profession. The AAAA leadership sets out to deal with all of the issues that affect this profession and to make decisions, which is in the best interest of all AAs. At some point, I hope that all that we have to fear is fear itself. Until then, we all need to be a little bit fearful of what lies ahead for the AA profession.

## Inside AAAA

# The 2005 Annual Meeting — Keeping our sights on Florida

By **Sandra Madariaga, AA-C, MBA**

The 2005 Annual Meeting is fast approaching and we are putting the final touches on a great meeting. Please be sure to watch your mailbox and email for separate announcements, program brochure, and meeting registration forms. All information will also be posted on the AAAA website. As a reminder, the meeting will be held April 9-12, 2005, in the Tampa Bay area at the Tradewinds Island Grand Beach Resort in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida. The resort is located between the Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. It is a beachfront family friendly resort with many amenities to enjoy. As a reminder the Tradewinds Grand Island Resort is holding rooms at the special \$150/ night rate until March 15<sup>th</sup>. Make your reservations early, so you can take advantage of this great rate. Be sure to mention the AAAA to get this rate. You can also visit their website for more information at [www.tradewindsresort.com](http://www.tradewindsresort.com). Select the Island Grand Resort once on the hotel website. You can make reservations by phone (727) 367-6461 or 1-800-808-9833.

If you are flying in for the meeting, you will need to arrive in Tampa and use ground transportation to reach the hotel. US Airways has agreed to provide a conference rate for our meeting. Keep in mind, here too, these fares and discounts are not for last minute travel. Delta no longer provides this service since they have reorganized and discounted their fares. The hotel does not have a private shuttle service, but there is a regularly scheduled shuttle that leaves the baggage claim area of the airport to St. Pete Beach for a reasonable fare. It is a 35-minute ride from the airport to the resort. Within minutes, you will begin to enjoy the blue waters and sandy beaches that surround this area.

Class reunions and early registration will take place Friday evening for those of you who wish to begin enjoying the Tampa Bay area early. Plan on arriving early and catching up with classmates from long ago. The meeting officially kicks off Saturday morning at 8am. The education session schedule will be the same for Saturday and Sunday. Sessions will run until 11:30am and reconvene once again at 4:30pm to 6:30pm. The optional Airway and TEE workshops as well as the NCCAA Exam Review course will run Saturday from 11:30am to 4pm with lunch included. Sunday there will be a AAAA Business Luncheon. You will need to let us know if you will attend for an accurate head count. Monday and Tuesday education lectures will begin at 8am and continue until 12:30pm. Please visit the exhibit area during breaks and spend some time with our sponsors and job fair participants. Monday evening the job fair will continue and will end with a student social.

Our topics this year include: TEE for non-cardiac surgery, bioethical issues that arise in the OR, malignant hyperthermia, perioperative pain management in children, malpractice and the anesthesia provider, “the ASA think TAAAnk”, cardiovascular considerations in vascular surgery, basic neurophysiology principles for the anesthetist, neurosurgery positioning, trauma, pacemakers, Controversies in OB anesthesia, Anesthesia Jeopardy- an interactive 3-school competition, and multiple problem based learning sessions. As previously mentioned, there will be an optional airway workshop, a TEE workshop, and a NCCAA Exam Review course, all for additional CME credit.

We hope you will make every effort to attend this year’s meeting in Florida. Let us show off our strong, positive organization as we begin to build relationships in the newest state to gain AA medical licensure. The meeting has been organized to allow the greatest number of AAs to attend, even if for just the weekend. It is an opportunity to earn CME credits and support your organization. This year’s schedule allows for more flexibility in sessions and number of CMEs, while allowing for more free time. This meeting is being approved for up to 22 CME credit hours. The optional workshops and NCCAA Exam Review are being approved for 4 CME hours each and are part of the 22 CME credit hour total.

*Please check you mail regularly as well as the AAAA website for upcoming information. See you in Florida!*



*the beautiful Tradewinds Island Grand Beach Resort in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida*

## Inside AAAA

# National Affairs Update

By Pete Kaluszyk, AA-C

For legislation, this time of year is like the winter landscape in that it shows little signs of life. The federal and state legislatures are just starting to reconvene for the new year. Regulatory agencies are just shaking off the holiday season and beginning to get back to the business of reviewing rules and regulations. This is where we find ourselves and at press time there is little to report and little that has been made official.

The AAAA sent a letter in mid January to the president of the Uniformed Services Society of Anesthesiologists (USSA) which is comprised of anesthesiologists in all branches of the military. The goal was to obtain information about how AAs can begin to bid on anesthesiologist positions in military health facilities under the TRICARE program. Additional goals were to define credentialing process, learn about the administrative process for TRICARE, establish professional liaisons within the military health structure, locate facilities that use the ASA's anesthesia care team model, proactively ensure a fair application process for members of our profession, and develop a job description.

Meanwhile, the Veterans Administration still has not updated its new version of the Handbook for Anesthesia Services as of press time. When updated it will allow AAs to be employed within the Federal VA system. As soon as we find out

anything officially we will announce this to our membership immediately.

The District of Columbia sent Bill # 15-634 for the licensing of AAs to the U.S. Congress for review and approval on January 25<sup>th</sup>. All bills enacted in the District of Columbia go to the U.S. Congress for review. The DC City Council had passed the bill on October 5<sup>th</sup> and the Mayor of the District of Columbia signed it and enacted it on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Once the U.S. Congress approves the bill it will be published in the DC Register and will become law. The projected date for this final enactment is March 15, 2005. We have been told that we should have no concerns.

In South Carolina, the South Carolina Board of Medicine has introduced Senate Bill 0142 to amend the existing statutes for anesthesiologist assistants. The bill will amend the statutes to increase supervisory ratios for anesthesiologists supervising AAs from the current 1:2 ratio to the Federal standard of 1:4. The bill was pre-filed in December and has not had any official committee hearing as of press time.

We hope to have more legislative activity to report in the coming weeks as the winter's lethargy melts away and exposes some new growth in our profession.

# Florida Update

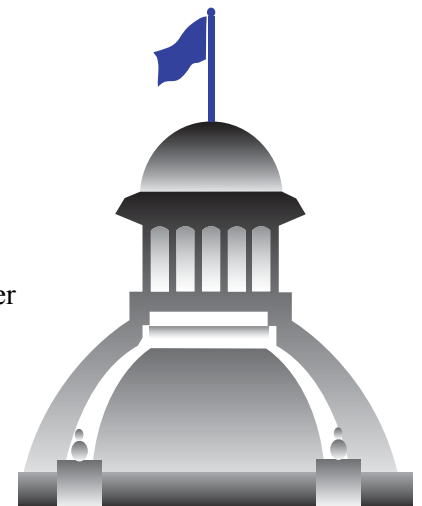
By Rob Wagner, AA-C

The 2004 Florida Legislature passed senate bill 626 and was signed by Governor Bush in June 2004. The bill creates the licensing of Anesthesiologist Assistants. The Board of Medicine and the Osteopathic Medical Board created a Joint Committee. The Committee has finalized rule language and submitted them to the Florida Department of State for adoption. At this time, the Florida Board of Medicine is ready to accept applications for licensure as Anesthesiologist Assistants.

**Please go to the following web site to download an application form:**

**[www.doh.state.fl.us/MQA/Anes/aa\\_home.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/MQA/Anes/aa_home.html)**

The AAAA and the FSA (Florida Society of Anesthesiologists) are working together to promote the AA profession to anesthesia groups in Florida. You will begin to see job listings from these anesthesia groups on the AAAA website, in the member's only section very soon.





## Inside AAAA

# The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Job Fair

By Chris Caldwell, CWRU, MSAS II, AAAA Student Committee Chairman

After living in Ohio for my entire life, let me just say how nice it would be to escape the ice, snow, and wind-chill factors of Cleveland, even if it were just for a week. Now try to picture white sandy beaches, crystal-clear blue water, and the sun (yes...the sun) coming through the palm trees. Throw in some very informative lectures and meeting-up with old classmates and friends, and I ask you, is there any reason not to attend the AAAA national conference this year.

Still need some convincing? Well, this year's conference will also be the home for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual AAAA job fair. Last year's job fair was a great success, but this year's hopes to be bigger and better. Last year the job fair was held one evening after a long day of education sessions, this year, hospitals, anesthesia groups, and placement agencies have been given the opportunity to participate in operating a booth for the duration of the conference. There will still be a recruitment workshop on Monday evening for everyone to meet and speak with the representatives, but now students and practicing AAs alike

will be able to sit and talk with perspective employees at their leisure at whatever time is most convenient for them. Many hospitals and anesthesia groups have been asked to participate, but this marks the first opportunity for all the Florida hospitals and Florida-based anesthesia groups interested in hiring AAs to meet the largest collection of practicing AAs and students at the premier AA educational event of the year.

In addition, proceeds collected from the job fair participates will be collected into the Student Scholarship Fund. The student committee, with the support of the AAAA general membership, began this fund with last year's job fair in hopes of providing financial aid to AAAA student members attending the annual conference, who would not otherwise be able to attend. If you would like additional information about this year's job fair or need booth reservation materials, please email myself ([chris.caldwell@uhhs.com](mailto:chris.caldwell@uhhs.com)) or Sandy Watts ([sandy@anesthetist.org](mailto:sandy@anesthetist.org)) at the AAAA office. I look forward to seeing everyone in Florida!

## North Carolina seeks licensing of AAs

By Ellen Allinger, AA-C

For some time now, the North Carolina Society of Anesthesiologists (NCSA) has planned to introduce a bill in the state's legislative session that will allow AAs medical licensure. The NCSA plans to introduce the "North Carolina Anesthesia Patient Safety and Access Act" at the beginning of March. However, the NCSA has already been hard at work promoting this bill to North Carolina legislators since before the beginning of this year's legislative session.

In addition, the NCSA has enlisted the help of the AAAA in obtaining information about the AA profession and our education. The knowledge and experience of the AAAA leadership in legislative endeavors in other states has been heavily utilized. This has resulted in one of the best efforts by a state society to provide compelling information about AAs to their state legislators to date. The NCSA is also enlisting the help of individual AAs with their effort to gain support of this bill. On March 2<sup>nd</sup> and

9<sup>th</sup>, practicing AAs and AA students will meet with NC legislators in an well organized effort by the NCSA to show that there is interest by AAs to live and work in their state.

This bill is not purely an AA licensing act. It also places in the state's Medical Practice Act the statement that nurse anesthetists must be supervised by a licensed physician. This statement, along with licensing a new anesthesia provider in the state, makes the bill one that nurse anesthetists in NC will contest. In fact, heavy lobbying against this bill is already underway. As in other state efforts, the involvement of the AAAA membership will be necessary. Emails and phone calls to legislators do make an impact. The AAAA membership will be updated on the progress of this bill and you will be called upon for its support. Regardless of your personal interest in any state, your support of the expansion of our chosen profession into another state will enhance the AA profession everywhere.

## Inside AAAA

# 2004 Legislative Fund Update

**Michael S. Nichols, AA-C**

As we ‘put a lid’ on the fiscal year 2004, we can reflect back on the legislative victories that have been achieved by the AAAA. We have seen positive outcomes in Florida, Ohio, and the District of Columbia, among others. AAs have procured formal recognition by TRICARE and the Veteran’s Administration, and there is significant interest within the Department of Defense for the utilization of the AA model.

All of these achievements, while the result of many hours of hard work by your elected AAAA leadership, would not have been possible without the generous donations you have made to the Legislative Fund. At the beginning of the year, we made a fiscal goal of \$25,000 in donated funds. I am proud, and honored, to announce that the AAAA membership has rallied together and eclipsed that goal in astounding fashion! In 2004, you donated a total of just under \$30,000! Way to go AAAA!

The Legislative Fund was utilized to advance the agenda of the AAAA, and to aid in our overall goals of expanding the presence of the AA profession nationwide, while allying with those professional organizations that support our ideals. As might be expected, the two main outlets receiving money from the Fund were Ohio and Florida. A contribution was made on behalf of the AAAA to support the ongoing legal effort in Ohio. A

monetary contribution, on behalf of the entire AAAA, was also made to the re-election campaign of Senator Michael Fasano, the two-time sponsor of AA legislation in Florida. Additionally, money was used to reimburse travel and lobbyist fees for the Florida initiative.

As we take pride in our past accomplishments, it is critically important to also look into the future, and envision the goals of the future. The AAAA has already engaged in legislative activities in North Carolina and Michigan, and is working in an ongoing inquiry with the Federal Trade Commission. These activities are going to prove extremely lucrative for the AAAA membership, but must be fiscally supported by those whom it will benefit.

For the past four years, the Legislative Fund has had a annual goal of \$25,000 in donations, and for the past two years, we have exceeded that expectation. In light of an all-time high membership level, and the increased number of legislative efforts, I am increasing the goal to \$30,000 for the fiscal year 2005.

**Let’s prove to everyone that the AAAA can meet ANY goal that’s put in front of it!**

Thank you for your support, in the past, and in the future.

## AAAA Hires Public Relations Firm

**Michael S. Nichols, AA-C**

The AAAA has taken another positive step towards expanding its service to the AAAA members. In addition to legal counsel, a lobbyist, and it’s management company, the organization has recently contracted with a professional public relations firm to promote our message.

Rothstein Media Services, P.C. will be working with the AAAA Media & Public Relations Committee to craft a message about the AA profession. This message will not only be a positive expression of our goals and direction, but it will be attractive to media outlets, in an effort to increase the media exposure of the AA profession.

Over the next year, those involved with the public relations for the AAAA will be working on the following projects:

- 1.) Creation of AAAA ‘message’ for the media
- 2.) Creation of a “Media Resource Room” on the AAAA website
- 3.) Establish contact with professional publications to encourage positive coverage of the AA profession
- 4.) Provide identification and training for those interested in becoming spokespersons of the organization
- 5.) Development of a “Crisis Communication Protocol” to handle any future negative coverage

If you are interested in becoming involved with the AAAA Media & Public Relations Committee, please contact me directly at [pledgeaac@yahoo.com](mailto:pledgeaac@yahoo.com).



## Professional News

### Allied Health Advocacy

**Theresa Green, AA-C, MBA**

Health Professions Network (HPN), the largest national coalition of allied health professional organizations, has been concentrating its efforts towards allied health advocacy. I chair the HPN Advocacy Team, which meets during the HPN meetings twice a year, to discuss how best to support current pro-allied health initiatives.

Anesthesiologist Assistants are allied health providers, professionals working in health care but who often fall into the “other” category — not nurses and not doctors. We are not alone! In fact at least 60% of the entire health care workforce falls into this category, including radiologic technologists, laboratory technologists, music therapists, perfusionists, massage therapists, etc. Health Professions Network is committed to get all these “others” to work together so that we will have the powerful voice that we deserve. Together we could make huge improvements in issues that are bothering all of us, such as licensing, reimbursement, and recognition.

The HPN initiative is working! Last year, together we sent over 6000 packets of information across the country promoting allied health during Allied Health Professions Week, which was held the first week in November. These packets went to high school students, deans and educators, professional organizations and regulators and described the importance of allied health in the health care of the nation. This information should encourage students to research allied health professions as career options and inform health leadership of the important role we play in health care delivery. Since I organized the project, there is a picture of a front-liner giving anesthesia (could be an AA!) and Anesthesiologist Assistant is listed as one of the interesting professions in allied health, twice!

Within the federal government there is a section called the Division of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Within DHHS there is a section called HRSA, Health Resource and Service Administration. An advisory committee within HRSA held the first ever committee meeting entirely devoted to allied health at the end of January 2005. I was invited to speak to the Advisory Committee on behalf of the Health Professions Network. It was a great meeting and the Committee listed increased funding and representation for allied health as two of its top priorities. During my presentation, I of course mentioned my background and described Anesthesiologist Assistants to them, and the problems that we face with recognition and licensing. Slowly but surely we are becoming known.

AAAA has been a member of Health Professions Network since its infancy and continues to support this very important organization. When we support allied health professions we are making our small organization part of a much larger group gaining national attention. Any benefit to allied health, as a whole, is a positive for anesthesiologist assistants.

To learn more about HPN, please visit our website at [www.healthpronet.org](http://www.healthpronet.org) and check out the ADVOCACY link to see more of the outstanding initiatives that HPN has been involved with. For those who don't know, I have moved to Michigan and, at least temporarily, have changed careers. Things are going wonderfully! I will continue to fight for the rights of allied health providers, and of course, AAs. Email me at [tmgreen123@aol.com](mailto:tmgreen123@aol.com). To follow more allied health news, subscribe to the AMA allied health newsletter by checking [www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/2302.html](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/2302.html).

## Mark Your Calendars!

### American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants 2005 Annual Meeting TradeWinds Island Grand Resort | St. Petersburg Beach | Florida, April 9-12, 2005

The Annual Meeting will be held amidst the warm temperatures and cool Gulf breezes at the TradeWinds Island Grand Resort. A beautiful peninsula located on Florida's West Coast, the area is bordered by the Gulf of Mexico to the west and by Tampa Bay to the east. Come personally experience the warm Gulf sunsets, the unique cultural heritage, the vast sporting and recreational activities, fresh seafood and great shopping.

Make your reservations early by calling the TradeWinds Island Grand Resort at 727/367-6461. Visit their website at [www.tradewindsresort.com](http://www.tradewindsresort.com), and click on the link for the Island Grand. Special AAAA room rate of \$150 single/double available until March 15, 2005.

(This meeting offers up to  
**22 Category 1 Credits**  
towards the AMA Physician's  
Recognition Award)

**Exhibitor and Sponsor Opportunities Now Available!**  
For more information, contact the AAAA office at 850/656-8848.

## Professional News

# Ohio Lawsuit Update

By Greg Menendez, AA-C

On February 2, 2005, the Tenth District Court of Appeals in Columbus, Ohio, heard the case of *Joseph Hoffman vs. State Medical Board of Ohio*. The state medical board appealed a decision by a previous judge that gave a technical definition to the word “assist” which allowed AAs to perform epidurals/spinals and invasive monitoring techniques under direct supervision of an anesthesiologist. On this day, a panel of three judges heard arguments from each side and will render a decision in the next 30 days to 12 months.

As we wait for a decision, the challenge of paying legal fees approaching \$300,000 has become a tremendous task. The majority of this burden has fallen on the shoulders of the 100 AAs employed in Ohio. We are thankful for the many donations from anesthesia departments, physicians, and AAs outside of Ohio. Inevitably, as our legal fees continue to rise, the need for your personal donations will be most beneficial to securing practice standards for AAs.

The AAs in Ohio could have taken a path six years ago that would have been less controversial and much less expensive. Instead, we sought to clarify the practice standards of AAs and are still defending these standards today. Many AAs were apprehensive about the litigation and viewed this as a dispute over the performance of epidurals. However, we merely contested a prohibitive definition of “assist.” This alone will avoid serious problems in recently licensed states. The greater accomplishment was AAs defending their role in the anesthesia care team. A team led by an anesthesiologist able to delegate to an AA or CRNA as **equal members of that team**. A devastating setback for our profession would have been to sit idly by as AAs became reduced to a third tier provider. As a Nobel Prize winner once said, it is better to be hated for what you are than loved for what you are not.

**Please consider giving your financial support to the OAAA.**

### Editor's Addendum

Donations may be sent directly to the OAAA at the following address:

OAAA  
PMB #124  
32818 Walker Rd.  
Avon Lake, OH 44012-1473

## AA Education: Are We on Track?

David Buzzetti MMSc, AA-C

There is little doubt a shortage exists in non-physician anesthesia providers. Demand in the field is high due to a shortfall of 1,400 to 4,000 anesthesiologists nationally, according to an April 2001 article in the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Newsletter. A January 2005 article in USNews.Com described the nursing shortage as “...a shortage that won't quit.” In fact, by the year 2020 the profession will be some 800,000 nurses short (by their figures) and would require an increase in enrollment of 40% per year just to compensate for retiring RNs. While there is more interest in AA training programs and state societies are very supportive, money is not readily available to start new academic programs. So, where do we go from here?

According to AAPA News (March 2004), recent work by the faculty of the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) was focused on setting up a postgraduate training program to train Primary Care PAs in anesthesiology. An informal survey of Texas PAs found significant interest in attending an anesthesia training program, especially among new graduates. Their course was to be based on the curriculum used by anesthesiologist assistant training programs, currently 2.5 years.

Originally begun as a “feasibility exercise”, the faculty of the Master of Medical Science Program in Anesthesiology at Emory University has moved forward with the development of this basic concept. The premise is to attract highly motivated, master-level PA-Cs into an accelerated curriculum of anesthesia education without adversely impacting didactic content or clinical hour requirements. The stated goals are to provide a point of access for PA-Cs into a credentialed anesthesia training program, address the national deficiency in non-physician anesthesia providers, and increase the number of AAs practicing nationwide.

With a proposed start date of June 2005, the new admissions track is now available for the individual who is a graduate of an accredited US Physician Assistant educational program awarding a Masters Degree and who holds current certification as a primary care physician assistant. This five-semester curriculum (2 academic and 3 clinical semesters) continues to meet Emory University's requirements for awarding the Master of Medical Science degree, the accreditation standards of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, and the clinical hours standards of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Graduates of the program will then function as AAs with regard to practice and billing of anesthesia services.

Although this may raise eyebrows, I believe it represents a novel approach in AA education that provides high quality training with maximum use of limited resources. By its design, this new track provides an additional pool of highly educated applicants and virtually limitless growth in the number of clinical sites nationwide. With the right guidance, it may well become the impetus for joint efforts among educational programs and academic departments where limited resources have traditionally been a hindrance to growth



## Opportunities

### JobLine Listing

#### Georgia:

##### Kennestone Wellstar Hospital, Marietta

Contact: Karin Monaghan fax 770-794-3108 or gapc@mindspring.com

##### Memorial Health Anesthetists, Inc., Savannah

Contact: Debbie Ryan 912-350-7219

#### Ohio:

##### Medical College of Ohio, Toledo

Contact: Dr. Alan Marco  
amarco@mco.edu

#### South Carolina

##### Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Spartanburg

Contact: Kristin Baker 800-288-7762 or kbaker@srhs.com

##### Lancaster Anesthesia and Associates, 25 miles south of Charlotte

Contact: Dr. Peter Mankaus  
PJMenkaus@aol.com 803-804-2159

#### Vermont:

##### Southwestern Vermont Healthcare, Bennington

Contact: Donna Madigan 802-447-5353

#### About JobLine Listings

JobLine is a free service provided to potential employees of AAAA members. For more complete information, current members can visit JobLine on the AAAA web site at [www.anesthetist.org](http://www.anesthetist.org). Anyone wishing to post a job opportunity should contact Kris Tindol at [kwindol@comcast.net](mailto:kwindol@comcast.net) or Sandy Watts at [sandy@anesthetist.org](mailto:sandy@anesthetist.org).

#### Kansas City, Missouri

Excellent opportunity to join 5 anesthesiologists and 1 CRNA in cardiothoracic/vascular practice. Work with skilled, friendly surgeons in an amiable work environment. Some cath lab work.

Position offers a highly competitive compensation package including generous salary, profit sharing and 401K plans, and 7 weeks of vacation the first year.

**No call, weekends, or holidays!**

Malpractice and individual health insurance provided.

Send CV to James Lonergan, M.D.

Mid-America Heart Institute at St. Luke's Hospital,  
4401 Wornall, Kansas City, MO 64111  
[jlonegan@saint-lukes.org](mailto:jlonegan@saint-lukes.org) Phone: 816-932-3679



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# Calendar



If you know of an educational event that would be of interest to AAAA members, please contact the newsletter editor for inclusion in this calendar.

## 2005

### **April 9 – 12 — St. Petersburg, FL**

29<sup>th</sup> American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants Annual Meeting  
(Offering up to 22.0 hours of AMA PRA category I credits)  
Contact: AAAA office at 866/328-6868 or go to [www.anesthetist.org](http://www.anesthetist.org)

### **April 15 – 16 — Tucson, AZ**

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs (CAAHEP) Annual Meeting.

### **April 22 – 23 — Hilton Head Island, SC**

South Carolina Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting  
Contact: Robert Morgan, Jr., M.D. at 864/242-4602 or go to [www.scanesthesia.com](http://www.scanesthesia.com).

### **June 24 – 26 — Palm Beach, FL**

Florida Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting  
Contact: Susan Cabrera at 800/400-3211 or go to [www.fsahq.org](http://www.fsahq.org).

### **June 25 – 28 — Hilton Head Island, SC**

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Cardiothoracic and Regional Update (Offering up to 21 hours of AMA PRA category I credits)

Contact: 919/660-1760 or register online at <http://anesthesia.duhs.duke.edu/ctu>

### **July 25 – 28 — Hilton Head Island, SC**

(Sea Pines Resort)  
Anesthesiology Update  
Visit [www.seapinescme.com](http://www.seapinescme.com)

### **August 5 – 7 — St. Simons Island, GA**

Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists meeting - "Anesthesia and Inflammation: The Next Challenge"  
Contact: Teresa Killian at 404/249-9178 or at [teresa@cstone1.com](mailto:teresa@cstone1.com)

### **Sept. 16 – 18 — Asheville, NC (Grove Park Inn)**

North Carolina Society of Anesthesiologists; "Medicine and the Law"  
Contact: NCSA at 919/821-6698 or go to [www.ncsoa.com](http://www.ncsoa.com).

### **Sept. 22 – 25 — Louisville, KY**

Health Professions Network Fall Meeting

### **Sept. 24 – 25 — Sandusky, OH**

Ohio Society of Anesthesiologists 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Contact: OSA, Inc. at 614/784-9721 or go to [www.osainc.org](http://www.osainc.org).

### **Oct. 22 – 26 — New Orleans, LA**

ASA Annual Meeting  
Contact: ASA at 847/825-5586 or go to [www.asahq.org](http://www.asahq.org).

### **Oct. 25 — New Orleans, LA**

Accreditation Review Committee for the Anesthesiologist Assistant (ARC-AA)

## **June 04, 2005**

The National Commission for the Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants, in conjunction with the National Board of Medical Examiners, will offer Certifying Examination for Anesthesiologist Assistants 2005 and Examination for Continued Demonstration for Qualifications of Anesthesiologist Assistants 2005 on **Saturday, 04 June 2005, in Atlanta, Georgia, and in Cleveland, Ohio.** Complete application, including full payment of fee, must be received on or before 31 January 2005 by NCCAA at PO Box 15519, Atlanta, GA 30333-0519. To obtain an original application and a copy of the Rules and Regulations, write NCCAA at PO Box 15519, Atlanta, GA 30333-0519, or fax your request to NCCAA at 404/ 687-9978. Photocopied applications will not be accepted.