



**FLORIDA SOCIETY OF
ANESTHESIOLOGISTS**

Physician-led. Patient-centered.

NEWSLETTER

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

FRANK ROSEMEIER, MD

Dear FSA Members,

It is no understatement that it continues to be a challenging year. While I typically focus on issues related to our state, and surely, we will be facing a few in this upcoming year's legislative session, I cannot ignore the triple threat to our profession which has emerged on a *national* level on top of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic:

- [Changes to the Medicare supervision rule](#),
- [Dismantling of physician-led anesthesia care in the VA system](#) and,
- [Medicare reimbursement cuts](#).

I want to assure you that both the ASA and its state components (including the FSA) will continue to advocate for you and our profession to protect patients and promote safe physician-led anesthesia care while raising the standard and awareness of the medical specialty, anesthesiology – especially in light of these important developments. Please take a minute to learn more by following the links above. I hope that you will find them as informative and compelling as I have.

Though we face challenges to our practice and the physician-led model, I would like to also share where we have seen positive developments in our fight by highlighting just a few examples of where our hard work has paid off:

“Nurse anesthesiologists”

This week the New Hampshire Supreme Court heard oral arguments ([view video](#)) to the petition of the NH Association of Nurse Anesthetists to vacate the declaratory ruling by the NH Board of Medicine which in part states that anyone in NH identifying as a “nurse anesthesiologist” or otherwise using the term anesthesiologist without a license from the Board of Medicine is presenting as qualified to practice medicine when *not* qualified or licensed to do so. The video (linked above) offers insight into those legal arguments. While a verdict is not expected for the next three to six months, I want to clarify that aside from a single named nurse, no other nurse anesthetist in Florida has been granted this misnomer. In fact, the FSA learned of several nurse anesthetists who misappropriated the title “anesthesiologist” in their clinical environment and were reprimanded by their local facility and medical staff to cease and desist. I would encourage you to contact our office should you know of similar offenses.

Pediatric Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC)

Vice president of the FSA, Dr. Leo Rodriguez, participated in a public hearing on a recently published [rule](#) proposed by the FL Agency of Healthcare Administration (AHCA). The FSA commended the Agency on acknowledging that pediatric surgical patients deserve special considerations and safety measures in line with the FSA's mission to provide safe, physician-led anesthesia care. Dr. Rodriguez, as a pediatric anesthesiologist and current President of SAMBA, counteracted arguments from the ASC lobby and attempted scope expansion by nurse anesthetists by bringing a focus to what is right for these young patients.

FSAPAC

The FSA Board of Directors recently ratified new FSAPAC bylaws, which after a hiatus of nearly two decades underwent a major revision under my leadership. The new bylaws result in greater transparency, accountability, and reporting mandate. They will ultimately strengthen the mission of the FSAPAC by providing a framework for successful and targeted lobbying efforts under the FSAPAC Board's leadership which is now comprised of multiple members, namely Drs. Christian Diez (Immediate Past President of the FSA), Jay Epstein (Committee Chair on Legislative Affairs), John Doyle (appointed by the FSA President), Dr. Mo Azam (elected by the FSA BOD), and myself, assisted by the FSA's lobbyists Jon Johnson and Travis Blanton.

I want to thank everyone who made our successes and fight possible this year, especially considering the scope of challenges we faced both in our practice and in the larger field of medicine. I look forward to a productive and promising year ahead with even more opportunities to continue fighting for the FSA's mission to protect the safe, cost-effective, and proven model of physician-led anesthesia care.



PHYSICIAN HIGHLIGHT

MEET YOUR NEW FSA 5 SOUTH DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Alecia L. Sabartinelli Stein, MD is our newly elected FSA District Director 5 South. She is an assistant professor at the University of Miami, where she serves in the roles of Associate Program Director for Recruitment and Development and Director of Education for the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital Center for Patient Safety simulation center. Dr. Stein oversees and supports the simulation-based education program for several graduate medical specialties at Miller School of Medicine in addition to the anesthesia residents' simulation educational experiences. She also serves as a member of the Medical School Admissions Committee, Dean's Faculty Council, and the Faculty Senate Administrative Services Committee. Dr. Stein is active in specialty societies including the Society of Pediatric Anesthesia simulation education committee. In addition to being one of our newest FSA District Directors, she is a member of the FSA Board of Directors and an Alternate Delegate for the American Society of Anesthesiologists.



Dr. Stein graduated Tulane University followed by Louisiana State University - New Orleans, LA for medical school and then came to University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital for residency where she served as Chief Resident and then stayed for Pediatric Anesthesia fellowship. She joined the faculty as assistant professor of clinical anesthesiology in the Division of Pediatric Anesthesia in 2015. Passionate about education, simulation research and global outreach, Dr. Stein has traveled internationally for medical mission trips in developing countries, including Haiti. Her research interests include simulation education, pediatric regional anesthesia, and pediatric ophthalmic anesthesia, on which she has given talks nationally and published in journals such as *Anesthesia & Analgesia*.

FSA Member Spotlight Interview

Congratulations on being elected for the FSA 5 South District Director position. Besides fulfilling the duties of a district director, what plans do you have for the upcoming year?

I am looking forward to being able to attend the next FSA and ASA legislative sessions. When we can attend in-person meetings again, I would love to serve as doctor of the day.

What is your clinical interest?

I focus my clinical practice on pediatric anesthesia, including pediatric ambulatory, regional, and transplant anesthesia.

Do you have any hobbies that you enjoy to help decompress from your busy work schedule?

I enjoy yoga, staying active with any outdoor or water activities, traveling when we can, and reading. What I enjoy the most is to spend time with my daughters, Penny and Lilou, my husband Bob, and our two goofy hound dogs, Hank and Merle.

What is your goal in life?

My goal is to stay healthy by being active and serve as a role model to my daughters and to young women in the field. I plan to continue building up my academic career. Once the pandemic is over, I want to finally travel to every continent of the globe!

Now we have the most important question of all: What are the top 3 reasons that make you an awesome FSA member?

- 1. Because FSA serves a vital role in advocating for our specialty and for physician-led patient care, I lead by example through active professional membership and participation.*
- 2. As I continue to have access to amazing colleagues who excel in different areas of our anesthesia practice, I learn from these FSA members and bring back those lessons to our residents, teaching the residents the value of advocacy and protecting our profession.*
- 3. I have been dedicated my time to the FSA Annual Meeting Abstract Committee, fortifying the academic and research aspects of the society. I sure enjoy the opportunities to network and obtain CME hours from our annual meeting at the beautiful Breakers!*

KNOW YOUR DISTRICT DIRECTOR

A NOTE FROM THE FSA MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, ADAM FIER, MD

The FSA's District Directors' primary duty is to assist and lead membership efforts. Throughout the year they work with the FSA Membership Chairperson to promote membership most importantly to district constituents. In addition, district directors work to develop initiatives to increase and promote member engagement. During key points in the year all district directors contact un-renewed members within their district to network and understand comments and concerns that come with renewals. Together this group works as a team to communicate and identify the aspects that are most important to FSA members. Each FSA member should know their district director should they have concerns or want to get involved with engagement efforts.

Each region is assigned to the following district director listed below. To find out your region, view the map here: **[FIND YOUR DISTRICT](#)** (click the link)

NORTH DISTRICT:

John Doyle, MD
Steven Porter, MD
Hickman, MD

CENTRAL DISTRICT:

Moeed Azam, MD
Adam Fier, MD
Jonathan Hadaway, MD

EAST DISTRICT:

Javier Lopez, MD
Alecia Stein, MD
Luis I. Rodriguez, MD

WEST DISTRICT:

Suvikram Puri, MD
Rosemarie Getting, MD
Sean Daley, MD

EAST DISTRICT:

Gary Gomez, MD
Steven Minear, MD
Mark Schlangel, MD

FSA WEBINAR SERIES: THE BUSINESS OF MEDICINE



**REGISTER
HERE**

The Florida Society of Anesthesiologists is very pleased to continue its series of webinar presentations focused on career planning for residents, fellows and junior faculty interested in working as an Anesthesiologist or one of its subspecialties in the state of Florida. Join presentations that bring a thoughtful and informative discussion on a comprehensive list of subjects relating to you and your career path. The December webinar is listed below:

Thursday, Dec 17 6:00 PM EST
"Troubleshooting My Application"
Moderator: Cameron Howard, MD, CPE
Speakers: Aparna Chunduri, MD & Jeff Scott

The webinars are FREE – only Zoom registration is required!

For the full schedule visit here: [VIEW SCHEDULE](#)

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT

THE NEWEST FSA COMMITTEE: PROFESSIONAL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

PROFESSIONAL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE GOALS:

- ✓ Increase the diversity of FSA members and leaders.
- ✓ Form a strong network between the current FSA leaders and the new FSA members.
- ✓ Improve inclusiveness and participation of diverse members at all levels of the FSA.
- ✓ Increase the proportion of women and minority members.
- ✓ Identify and eliminate health disparities; become a state-wide leader in the science and promotion of health equity.
- ✓ Coordinate and disseminate programs and scholarship activities that promote diversity values.

At the most recent FSA Board of Directors meeting on Monday, November 2, 2020, the Professional Diversity Task Force was approved to become an official standing FSA committee. This monumental change was reflected by the revisions to the FSA Bylaws. This new committee is tasked with the important duties to continually evaluate and promote diversity and inclusivity within the Society and its leadership.

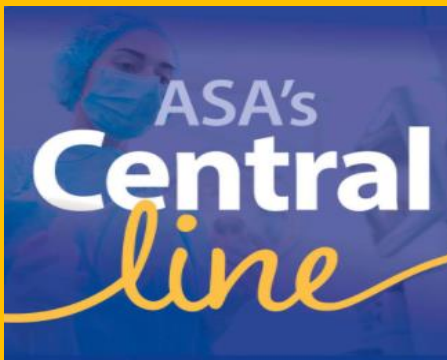
This committee is actively recruiting new members. If you are an active FSA member and you would like to help us reach these goals, please contact Rosemarie Garcia Getting, M.D. at rosemarie.garciagetting@moffitt.org and save the date for our first committee meeting on Tuesday, December 15th at 5 PM EST.

ASA Podcasts on Diversity, Equality, & Inclusiveness

ASA's podcast series features leaders in our field discussing a wide variety of challenges and opportunities vital to our profession from candid conversation regarding race, gender, compensation gap, unconscious bias, mentorship, to social determinants. The podcasts spark celebrations for the diversity of our specialty and make us realize the challenges we still face.

Visit the [ASA Podcast Webpage](#) to listen to these important topics. Central Line: Diversity in Anesthesia Episodes:

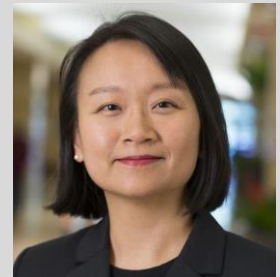
- Episode 24: *The Black Experience with Dr. Williams*
- Episode 23: *Empowering Shifts with Dr. Wright*
- Episode 18: *The LGBTQ Experience with Dr. Hernandez-Conte*



Professional Diversity Mentoring Grant Program Winners

The FSA Professional Diversity Committee would like to congratulate Sher-Lu Pai, MD and Hong Liang, DO from the Mayo Clinic in Florida for being selected as the winners of the 2020 ASA Mentoring Grant Program. Their project titled, "New Disease Diagnoses by the Preoperative Clinic: A Review of 15,000 Patients Scheduled for Elective Surgeries," is a retrospective chart review of approximately 15,000 patients who underwent evaluation and medical optimization at the preoperative evaluation (POE) clinic. The POE clinic provides an opportunity to evaluate the global health of the patients, optimizing pre-existing medical conditions, and treating newly diagnosed diseases. The study compares the percentage of new diagnoses and other baseline healthcare disparities between gender and race. Thus, the results may help us gain a better understanding of global diversity-related health issues.

The ASA Committee on Professional Diversity announces its annual call for proposals for the program in the spring of each year. The goal of this grant is to foster diversity within ASA and its state component through mentorship. Stay tuned for the upcoming 2021 grant submission time if you have any projects oriented to research, education, political advocacy, or an organized medicine endeavor that clearly speaks to the mission and duties of the Professional Diversity Committee.



THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE NAME “PHYSICIAN ANESTHESIOLOGIST”

What's in a name?

A lot. Widespread adoption of the name *physician anesthesiologist* can help clarify that you and your peers are the source of expertise, education and training that policymakers and the public prefer. ASA's research highlights why you should reinforce your status as a physician, and the critical position you have in your patients' care by using the term *physician anesthesiologist*.

What did the research find?

As physicians, you depend on science, data and clear facts to make decisions for your patients. These same tools were used to uncover both the lack of understanding around the significant expertise, education and training of anesthesiologists and the positive impact inserting “physician” in your title could have for the specialty.

Extensive research conducted in 2013 and in 2019 showed that policymakers and the public prefer physicians over nurses, and yet, they are largely unaware that anesthesiologists ARE physicians:



82% of consumers prefer a physician anesthesiologist over a nurse to handle medical emergencies during surgery.



92% of consumers believe that physician-led care improves health care, and **48%** say empowering nurses leads to worse care.



45% of consumers consider physicians to be the most credible messengers about health care quality, compared with **15%** who consider nurses to be the most credible.

And yet...



Nearly six in 10 consumers don't know that an anesthesiologist is a physician



Almost one in three policymakers don't know that an anesthesiologist is a physician.

To address this lack of awareness, ASA introduced the term *physician anesthesiologist* in 2013 to explicitly explain the education and training completed by anesthesiologists.

To be clear, ASA is not advocating for a formal change to the name of the specialty. Anesthesiologists are physicians. ASA supports the use of this term in the context of public and policymaker education.



American Society of
Anesthesiologists



What do physician anesthesiologists think?

In addition to public opinion research, ASA also surveyed physician anesthesiologists. ASA found the majority of members and other physician anesthesiologists are **not** opposed to the term *physician anesthesiologist*, and one in three were not aware it came from public opinion polling. They also indicated they would begin using it moving forward.

But what about nurse anesthesiologists?

Nurse anesthetists first began using the term “nurse anesthesiologist” decades ago, long before the term *physician anesthesiologist* was introduced. This included a failed resolution in 1985 when the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists’ (AANA) members proposed to modify the name of AANA with “anesthesiologist” rather than “anesthetist.” More recently, the AANA has begun to seek formal recognition of “nurse anesthesiologist” through state nursing boards.

To ensure clarity and patient safety, ASA strongly opposes the term “nurse anesthesiologist.” The term is intended to confuse and mislead patients regarding the education, training and licensure of their anesthesia professional. Anesthesiology is the practice of medicine and the term anesthesiologist must be reserved for a licensed physician with extensive specialty training.



Physician
Anesthesiologists

Made for
This Moment

What can you do?

You can make an immediate impact and shape public perceptions – there is no better advocate for the specialty than you. It’s critical that members of the specialty stress that they are physicians. Act now and use the term *physician anesthesiologist*.