



**FLORIDA SOCIETY OF
ANESTHESIOLOGISTS**

Physician-led. Patient-centered.

NEWSLETTER

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

FRANK ROSEMEIER, MD

Dear FSA Members,

With elective surgical volume approaching pre-pandemic 2019 levels, our professional life appears to be back on track to normality. Preop areas, OR and PACU are buzzing with commotion; caring for COVID affected is now a matter of second nature; our fear of uncertainty has been replaced with the ever-growing body of scientific knowledge shared in the most impressive and unprecedented fashion amongst researchers and clinicians across departments, institutions, healthcare system and in fact nations.

My recent trip to the State Capital, however, brought back the reality of the ongoing pandemic. What is typically a beehive of activity is now a building with empty halls, walkways, elevators, and lobbies. All in-person visits to the legislative buildings are prohibited; testimony is restricted to a video link from an outside building; galleries to witness the democratic process are empty.

Yet, I had an opportunity to meet with prominent Senate and House members shortly before our State Legislature commenced its session on March 2nd, 2021. We discussed openly the ill-suited attempts to further destroy the physician-led care team model and emphasized that the field of anesthesiology does not have an access issue in Florida; that costs would in fact increase for anesthesia care, and that safety is at risk as physician anesthesiologists save seven lives per 1000 anesthetic or surgical complications compared to unsupervised non physician anesthesia providers. I portrayed the misappropriation of physician titles by nonphysicians as a blatant attempt to confuse the public.

The FSA's "Doctor of the Day" program opened another opportunity to demonstrate our value. For this legislative session more than ten anesthesiologists signed up to serve as the primary care doctor for the Florida's House and the Senate. I am grateful for these physicians who took out time from their family and professional life and spent a day in the State Legislature.

On the regulatory side, the FSA with strong support from several state and national organizations submitted patient centered, safe practice proposals for rules regarding pediatric ambulatory surgical center which will soon be allowed to provide overnight care. We are eagerly awaiting a final and amended rule by AHCA to safeguard these most vulnerable, young patients.

As summer arrives, I am optimistic that we will once again, without angst, enjoy what makes us whole as human beings: Meeting up with friends and relatives, sharing laughter and a meal, hugging Oma and Opa. Certainly, our young children are looking forward to it come May when we will visit my mother-in law in South Florida after hiatus of over 14 months.

Keep safe and continue to serve your patients and community to the highest standards.

Sincerely,

Frank Rosemeier, MD
FSA President



LOOKING BACK AT PHYSICIAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS WEEK

JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 6, 2021

Florida celebrated with the rest of the nation in recognizing **Physician Anesthesiologists Week**, Jan. 31 – Feb. 6, 2021. This week highlighted the importance of maintaining physician-led anesthesia care and the role our specialty plays in providing Floridians with safe, high-quality care.

Physician anesthesiologists are guardians of patient safety in health care and make a difference when it matters most — in the operating room, in the delivery room, in the intensive care unit, and pain clinic. During the pandemic, our education and training prepared us to navigate life-and-death moments, as we transitioned from the operating room to the emergency room. Anesthesiology doctors acted as airway management experts and ICU physicians for the sickest of patient diagnosed with COVID-19.

We're proud to be on the front lines and to use our experience, including 12 to 14 years of education and 12,000 to 16,000 hours of clinical training, to combat the pandemic in these critical care situations. And while nurse anesthetists play a valuable role on the anesthesia care team, they only have half the education and 2,500 hours of training and cannot replace a physician.

Laws in 45 states and the District of Columbia require physician involvement for anesthesia care to ensure patient safety. This supervision also is supported by independent research and its elimination would not improve access to care or save medical costs.

Every patient deserves and wants the highest quality care from a physician when it matters most.

The FSA appreciates Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' recognition of what Physician Anesthesiologists do with the signing of the attached proclamation. **To view the proclamation, [CLICK HERE](#).**

Read how our
FSA Members are
**MADE FOR THIS
MOMENT**
Click here.



PHYSICIAN HIGHLIGHT

MEET YOUR FSA PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR

Dr. Luis Rodriguez is a valuable member of the FSA Board of Directors. He is currently the FSA Program Chair for the FSA Annual Meeting and has led the committee through the challenge of converting the Annual Meeting into a valuable virtual format. He is also District 5 FSA Membership Director and was elected in 2019 to serve as the Delegate At-Large and represent Florida in the ASA House of Delegates. In addition, he is actively involved with the Pediatrics Task Force and Legislative Committee.

Luis I. Rodriguez, MD FASA obtained his Medical Degree at the Universidad Central de Venezuela, Luis Razetti School of Medicine. He completed his anesthesia residency and Pediatric Anesthesia Fellowship at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Since 2012, he works as an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology where he serves as Chief of the Division of Pediatric Anesthesiology at the University of Miami. Dr. Rodriguez also serves as the Co-Director of Informatics for Anesthesia, at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Recently, he was elected as a Representative At-Large to the University of Miami Medical Group Leadership Council for the Department of Anesthesia. Dr. Rodriguez serves as a Faculty Mentor for medical students, residents, and fellows.



FSA WEBSITE – MEMBER LOGIN

We are pleased to announce a new **Membership Section** on the FSA website! This section contains news and information available only to FSA members, including legislative materials and recordings of the recently completed webinar series, The Business of Medicine. To access these pages:

1. Go to the [FSA Website](#)
2. Click "**Member Login**" in the top right corner.
3. Set your password - click "**Lost your Password**" and enter your email in the field that appears. The system will then send you a link to create your password.
4. Once set, you will be automatically redirected to the Membership section.

Should you have any questions or issues accessing the membership section, please contact FSA Associate Executive Director [Lauren Frenkel](#).

In the months to come, we will be announcing more useful content - for members and the general public - on the FSA website. And as always, your feedback and ideas are always welcome.

TASK FORCE HIGHLIGHT

PEDIATRICS ANESTHESIA TASK FORCE

The FSA Pediatrics Anesthesia Task Force presents Hot Topics in Pediatrics Anesthesia: A quarterly webinar series focused on pediatric anesthesia topics for ALL anesthesiologists. Each quarter, the Task Force members will present on two topics to engage in discussion surrounding both the pediatric specialty and the general anesthesiologist. Each session will be recorded and available to FSA members. The live webinar sessions will be FREE to everyone, only a zoom registration is required. If you missed the first session, check the FSA Member portal for the recording. The task force started this series on March 18th - congratulations to a successful first presentation!

If you are interested in joining the Pediatric Anesthesia Task Force, please contact Lauren@fsqh.org.

Task Force Goals:

- To establish a forum and platform for the FSA to discuss topics regarding anesthetic care and pain management for the pediatric patient
- To provide a cadre of expertise in pediatric anesthesia for the FSA
- To improve quality and patient safety for the pediatric population



The FSA Pediatrics Anesthesia Task Force Presents...

HOT TOPICS IN PEDIATRIC ANESTHESIA WEBINAR SERIES

A webinar series dedicated to the discussion of pediatric anesthesia topics for ALL anesthesiologists.

Registration is FREE and all webinars will be offered quarterly.



INTERESTED IN JOINING A COMMITTEE?

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE FLORIDA SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS

The FSA has several active committees – if you're interested in getting more involved with your Society, a committee is a great way to start. If you'd like to join up, please contact FSA Executive Director JJ Jackman to learn more (jj@fsahq.org)

Communications Committee, chaired by Dr. Sher-Lu Pai & Zachary Deutch

This committee's duties encompass all matters relating to the improvement of the practice of Anesthesiology in the eyes of organized medicine and the public at large. This committee produces the FSA e-newsletter, oversees creates content for and maintains the Society's website and social media outlets.

Legislative Affairs Committee, chaired by Dr. Jay Epstein

This Committee follows all legislative, regulatory and court actions affecting Anesthesiology which may emanate from Federal, State or County governments, and also from actions of AMA and FMA. It represents this Society in aiding the membership to secure and enforce legislation and rulings in interest of the specialty of Anesthesiology.

Program Committee, chaired by Drs. Luis Rodriguez & Steven Porter

This Committee facilitates the selection of meeting sites and dates, and plans, prepares and secures all scientific and educational programs of the Society.

Professional Diversity Committee, chaired by Drs. Rosemarie Garcia-Getting & Sher-Lu Pai

The FSA Diversity Committee works to foster increased involvement for women and minority groups within the FSA's leadership, as well as exploring ways to increase the diversity of the FSA membership in general.

Membership Committee, chaired by Drs. Adam Fier & Suvikram Puri

The membership committee works to encourage qualified members of the medical profession to apply for membership and works closely with the ASA to ensure members renew annually.

Obstetrics Committee, chaired by Dr. Jean Miles

The committee address issues related to obstetric anesthesia including, but not limited to, issues related to patient care and economics.

ASA MENTORING GRANT PROGRAM

ASA COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL DIVERSITY – CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The mission of the Committee on Professional Diversity is to promote membership and support members of diverse backgrounds, which include gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability and religious affiliation. The duties of the committee include addressing issues that affect members' professional development and career satisfaction, and to promote an environment that encourages personal well-being and contentment as caring physicians, productive professionals and responsible family members.

For more information, please click [HERE](#)!

Call for Proposals:

The ASA Committee on Professional Diversity's annual call for proposals for the ASA Mentoring Grant Program is now open. The goal of this grant is to foster diversity within ASA through mentorship. The program provides funding up to \$5,000 to mentor/mentee pairs who submit a project that addresses the goals of the Committee on Professional Diversity. The project may be oriented to research, education, political advocacy or an organized medicine endeavor that clearly speaks to the mission and duties of the ASA Committee on Professional Diversity.

The matched mentee/mentor pair should submit their application form, individual curricula vitae and a 1-2 page description of their project to the ASA Committee on Professional Diversity via the [web portal](#). The deadline for the 2021 grant is Wednesday, June 30, 2021. The submission should include:

- A **detailed** description of the project's objective along with an explanation of how it will enhance the professional growth and leadership potential of the mentee.
- A designation of the length of time, required equipment/supplies, travel, meetings and requested funding; also include co-funding provided by the home institution of record in support of the project chosen by the mentee/mentor, if any. **No electronic equipment such as computers or tablets may be included in the budget. The grant does not cover operational expenses, institutional or grant administrative costs, food, or beverage. Total budget should not exceed \$5,000.**
- Potential barriers to the completion of the grant.
- Description of how this project speaks to the mission and duties of the ASA Committee on Professional Diversity.

Both the mentor and mentee must be active members of ASA and their state component society at the time of submission of their application.

Last year's award-winning submissions can be found [HERE](#).

Timeline

For 2021 applicants, the committee will review all submissions and notify the mentor/mentee pairs of potential funding status and support of the project by August 7, 2021. Funding to grant recipients will be distributed via mailed check after the ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2021 annual meeting. **A one-page written update of the progress of the project will be due June 30, 2022.**

Mentees are expected to give a **one-slide, five-minute presentation** at the Committee on Professional Diversity reception at the ANESTHESIOLOGY® annual meeting upon completion of their project at ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2022. If attendance is possible, mentees are also encouraged to give a brief overview of their project at this same event at ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2021.

For questions or comments, please contact DiversityMentor@asahq.org.