



**FLORIDA SOCIETY OF
ANESTHESIOLOGISTS**

Physician-led. Patient-centered.

NEWSLETTER

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

LEOPOLDO RODRIGUEZ, MD, MBA, FASA

Dear FSA Members,

Our Board of Directors and Legislative Affairs Committee have been very active for the past few weeks.

The Florida Legislature opened its 2022 Session on January 11th, 2022. Ever since then, our leaders have been visiting Tallahassee and continuing the work we began last year at the district offices of legislators.

We develop good relations with Legislators, this is the best way for them to understand who we are and what we do for patient safety. Our lobbyists, many of our members, and leaders began working on relations on the campaign trail, by being there and participating in the legislative process. Once an official has been elected, we are able to continue developing our relations, by offering to become their point person for any medical need, by giving them our cell phone number, and helping them navigate the healthcare system for themselves and their families.

Many of us, have also volunteered to be “Doctor of the Day” for the Legislative Chamber in Tallahassee. We serve as Physicians, as Primary care doctors, who either take care of a small problem or triage a major problem, directing the care to a hospital if needed. The reason why we can do this is that Anesthesiologists are Physicians first. This activity is appreciated by Legislators and their staff, as they visit the Legislative Clinic through the session.

Some of us have invited our Legislators to visit us at work, at our hospitals, or ASCs, so they can see how we lead the Anesthesia Care Team, as well as the Perioperative staff. This is the best way to experience what we do.

Our team has also invested in videos informing the citizens of Tallahassee on Physician-Led Anesthesiology. This is a common topic discussed during legislative visits. The Florida Society of Anesthesiologists lobbyists and the legislative affairs team continues to work on your behalf to maintain Physician-Led Anesthesiology in Florida.



Dr. Rodriguez (FSA President) as Doctor of the Day for the Florida House of Representatives, sponsored by Rep. Joseph Geller



We would like to shift our focus to our **Annual Meeting**. In 2021 we produced free webinars for our members to obtain CMEs. For 2022, the FSA Program Committee has organized a great in-person meeting from June 10 to 12, 2022, at The Breakers, West Palm Beach. Visit our [FSA webpage](#) to learn more about our family-oriented meeting in one of the most luxurious resorts in Florida and the U.S. We hope you can join us and enjoy the company of friends and colleagues, meet with ASA leaders, as well as Congressman Andy Harris, the only Anesthesiologist in Congress. This year we will have a VIP reception to FSAPAC members who are in the FSAPAC circle of distinction or higher category.

See you in the Breakers,

Leopoldo V. Rodriguez MD MBA FASA SAMBA-F
President, Florida Society of Anesthesiologists

2022 Florida Legislative Session Recap

JAY EPSTEIN, MD, FASA –FSA COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN



Dr Jay Epstein as “Doctor of the Day” at the Florida Capitol, January 25, 2022



Jay Epstein, MD with the 2022 Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, Chris Sprowls.

Advocating for patient safety and our profession is a 366-day endeavor in 2022 for the Florida Society of Anesthesiologists Committee on Governmental Affairs. This comes into focus during the 60-day session of the Florida Legislature, which kicked off on January 11. The FSA has been well represented in Tallahassee, highlighted by our legislative days of January 24-25. Over 25 of your physician anesthesiologist colleagues sacrificed family and vacation time to press their elected officials to make sound policy decisions affecting how you practice perioperative medicine.

This year, the FSA will again be working to prevent independent anesthesia nurse practice by opposing HB 437: Collaborative Practice of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists and SB 986: Collaborative Practice in Health Care. The Senate bill is sponsored by the powerful Senate Health Care Policy Chairman, so we will be challenged for the 22nd year in a row to keep physicians as the undisputed leaders of the anesthesia care team.

The FSA will also be supporting clarity and transparency in clinical medical titles, HB 861 and SB 1192, Medical Specialty Designations. These bills address the deliberate blurring of the lines between physicians and nurses by the clinical use of confusing terms like “nurse anesthesiologist” and “nurse dermatologist”. We are also following two pieces of legislation, HB 1101 and SB 1366, which will modernize the statute concerning Anesthesiologist Assistants and remove barriers to AA’s entering the healthcare marketplace while still maintaining their supervision by anesthesiologists.

FSA leaders have spent time in the Capitol as the “Doctor of the Day”, serving as the primary care physician for lawmakers, staff, and Hill personnel. This very public service demonstrates that all anesthesiologists are physicians first and specialists in anesthesia second, further highlighting our unique medical education, training, and skill set that differentiates us from our nursing teammates.

The FSA is only as strong as its membership allows it to be. Thanks to all of you who are virtually supporting our causes not only as FSA members and FSAPAC contributors, but also by allowing your practice colleagues the opportunity to do so in person on your behalf and those of our patients.

Legislative Session Recap (Continued)

BY SHER-LU PAI, MD, FASA (DIRECTOR OF PREOPERATIVE EVALUATION CLINIC – MAYO CLINIC FL)

The Florida Society of Anesthesiologists (FSA) wants to thank all the members who represented the FSA during the Tallahassee 2022 Legislative Session this past January. Your leadership on legislative affairs will have long lasting effects on the future of healthcare and anesthesiology as a medical specialty. We are grateful for all the members who have contributed to our FSA Political Action Committee, making it possible for FSA to have more than 30 people in Tallahassee this year. Our FSA members were able to educate our legislators on how physician-led healthcare has and will continue to keep our patients safe.

We also want to thank Dr. Jay Epstein, for all the work and preparation on keeping us up to date on all legislative issues pertaining to our specialty.

In this 2022 Florida Legislative Session Recap, you will find a fresh perspective from Dr. Bodin, who attended the session for the first time. You will also find photos from the week.

If you were not able to attend this year, I hope we will see your photos in the 2023 legislative session recap.



FSA Leaders in Tallahassee for 2022 FSA Legislative Days

FSA MEMBERS AT THE CAPITOL





2022 Florida Legislative Session: A Fresh Perspective from Our FSA Member

SARAH G. BODIN, MD, FASA

After moving to St. Augustine from North Carolina in the summer of 2019, settling in, and then delaying life events for all the COVID-19 debacle, I was finally able to meet my Florida Society of Anesthesiologists (FSA) colleagues in person during my first visit to Tallahassee, representing the FSA for the 2022 Florida Legislative Session. Led by the FSA President, Dr. Leo Rodriguez, and attorney Jon Johnson with his great team, we met Monday night over dinner and prepared for visits Tuesday to our state legislators to discuss bills in committee this session. Dr. Jay Epstein, Chair of the FSA Legislative Affairs Committee, will summarize the meeting results and the bills elsewhere, but as a newcomer to the Florida anesthesiology scene, I would like to share my observations and insights from the trip.

Though I have been involved with state societies in past years (North Carolina and Georgia), the FSA feels different. “Like herding cats” is the phrase that often comes to mind when I think of trying to get physicians together. But this passionate group of doctors were well organized and worked together for clear goals for the visit. I and several other newcomers were heartily welcomed, and intentionally included in discussions and targeted visits to legislators. We were a group of thirty FSA members, diverse (though 86% male), from all over the state, academicians, private practice,

corporate employed, and per diem docs like me. We missed work and time with family to gather and devote effort to patient safety in Florida. Simply being with others who feel strongly enough to make that sacrifice was inspiring. Individual discussions, as well as group meetings, help spread ideas and enthusiasm among professionals – we have been missing this personal growth for several years now.

The demoralization of physician anesthesiologists is at an all-time high, my own included. Reimbursement is continually eroded, by insurers and the government. Documentation gets more onerous by the day. Corporate employers control our practice pattern. COVID-19 – well, we all know how that has affected the whole healthcare system, eroding doctor-patient relationships and trust, pay cuts for many of us during the darkest parts, despite personal risk and unchanged workload. Many nurse anesthetists, it seems, will never stop their attempts to evade physician supervision, despite almost comically less education and training than physician anesthesiologists. The flat out lying by the nursing lobby is unrestrained. My local representative from House District 17, Rep. Cyndi Stevenson, related being visited several weeks ago by several FANA (Florida Association of Nurse Anesthetists which recently changed to Florida Association of Nurse Anesthesiology to confuse the public) members. She asked them did they ever feel they needed a physician’s help? “No, never,” was their answer!

Too many physicians suffer from “learned helplessness,” having lost the motivation to resist the forces against good practice. The FSA leaders and others maintain the fight for good patient care and common sense in anesthesia practice. Being with this strong group reinvigorated my determination to stop this nonsense, every year if we must. New issues with insurance and regulation arise every year, so the need to consistently visit and educate is clear. The attack on physician-led care has spread to all other medical specialties as well, and anesthesiologists help lead the battle against that “scope creep,” with our experience. Several FSA members are also involved in the Florida Medical Society, in pursuit of that goal.

Our legislators and aides were welcoming, though their time for each constituent is brief. They were receptive to the message of patient safety, and to facts refuting the lies brought by the FANA. I enjoyed seeing the buzzing Senate and House office buildings. That money drives the whole machine is disappointing, but no surprise. But our representatives seem eager to hear from thoughtful physicians. I will return in February to serve as Doctor of the Day for the Senate, open to any physician sponsored by her or his senator or representative. The FSA should be proud our physician anesthesiologists are the most strongly represented specialty serving in that volunteer role this year, I believe. Those who have already served have found it a fun and interesting day to interact with staff and representatives, answer medical questions and discuss policy, as well as help take care of medical problems arising that day.

If you want to keep patient care in anesthesiology moving forward, get personally involved with the FSA! I am so glad I did.



ASAPAC Vital Signs

READ THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE ASAPAC VITAL SIGNS NEWSLETTER

February 11, 2022



Florida Society of Anesthesiologists Vigilant in Tallahassee

The Florida Society of Anesthesiologists has been well represented in Tallahassee, highlighted by our legislative days of January 24-25. Over 25 of your physician anesthesiologist colleagues encouraged their elected officials to make sound policy decisions affecting how you practice perioperative medicine. Key issues before the Florida legislature include scope of practice, truth and transparency, and CAA legislation.

Please send us your state's "Hill Day" photos and news for publication in Vital Signs.





Master the Art of Physician Leadership

The Karl M. Altenburger, MD Physician Leadership Academy

Clinical excellence is central to your daily practice of medicine. But to excel as healthcare leaders, physicians need critical non-clinical skills that often aren't formally taught in medical school and residency.

The FMA's Karl M. Altenburger, MD Physician Leadership Academy has helped 145 physicians master the art of medical leadership. The online application site is now open for the 2022-23 session. Selected FMA members will be invited to participate in five in-person, intensive workshops facilitated by nationally recognized experts, with expenses for materials, lodging, sponsored meals, and speaker fees covered by the FMA Foundation for Healthy Floridians.

The 2022-23 Leadership Academy will also include a virtual Journal Club, *The Science of Leadership*, which will meet periodically between the live workshops. This facilitated Journal Club will present a series of research articles related to leadership and provide an opportunity for class members to discuss each article's application to medicine and their clinical practice.

Apply Now

Visit www.flmedical.org/leadershipacademy to submit your application for the 2022-23 Karl M. Altenburger, MD Physician Leadership Academy no later than March 15, 2022. For more information, contact FMA Senior Vice President of Education & Member Services Melissa Carter at mcarte@flmedical.org or (800) 762-0233.

Leadership Academy Sessions 2022-2023

Saturday, June 25, 2022:

Strategic Leadership: Tools and Tactics for Effective Communication, Dialogue and Conflict Management

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort, Ponte Vedra

Friday, Aug. 5:

Emotional Intelligence and Strategic Leadership

Hyatt Grand Cypress, Orlando

Saturday, Oct. 8:

Healthcare Executive Leadership

Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay

Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023:

Professional Communication for Physician Leaders

Hilton Orlando

Summer 2023:

The Art of Small Talk and Maximum Impact Presentation

Final date and location TBA

Women of Impact in Anesthesiology

DR. ALLISON FERNANDEZ - PODCAST

Understand how female anesthesiologists flourish in the face of a busy career. This video series is developed and hosted by dr. Allison Fernandez, pediatric anesthesiologist, pain medicine physician, clinical researcher, mother, and wife.

Go behind the scenes with Dr. Fernandez in this podcast and [ASA Monitor article](#) that describes her desire to create a kind of professional advice column for women in anesthesiologists.



Introduction

Learn more about the Women of Impact in Anesthesiology video series, developed and hosted by Dr. Allison Fernandez.

Linda Mason MD, FASA

Dr. Mason discusses the importance of leadership development for anesthesiologists looking to climb the academic ladder.

This Month in Anesthesiology:
View the March 2022 Issue
(Volume 136, Issue 3)

