

# **ASA Academic Caucus Summary**

**Saturday, 10/22/2016 – 6:30AM- 8:30AM**

**Hyatt Regency McCormick Place – Jackson Park BCD**

*Hosted by: Society of Academic Anesthesiology Associations (SAAA)*

## **Format**

The power to influence the direction of our specialty and the ASA is substantially improved by engagement of members of academic anesthesiology. The purpose of the academic caucus, formed in 2015, is to establish a forum at which academic anesthesiologists can voice their opinions regarding issues facing our specialty and our society. The agenda of the caucus is defined by the Director and Alternate Director for Academic Anesthesiology. A list of topics of importance to the academic anesthesiology community was developed by these individuals. ASA leadership addressed these topics. Candidates for contested elections were invited to present for 5 minutes each at the end of the caucus.

## **Target Audience:**

- ASA Members in Academic Medicine. Invite sent to the entire SAAA Membership.
  - The Association of Academic Anesthesia Chairs (AAAC) representing the Chairs of the academic departments.
  - The Association of Anesthesiology Core Program Directors (AACPD) representing ACGME designated core program directors.
  - The Association of Anesthesiology Subspecialty Program Directors (AASPD) representing the currently recognized subspecialty program directors.
  - The Association of Anesthesiology Program Administrators and Educators (AAPAE) representing program administrators and educators in ACGME approved programs.

## **Academic Caucus Topics for ASA Officers:**

The following topics of discussion were submitted in advance to the ASA Officers invited to the Academic Caucus:

1. **Strategic Planning** (*Dr. Dan Cole*): Please explain some of the main items affecting academic anesthesiology that have been identified by the ASA strategic planning exercise lead by Alex Evers with a small group of academic leaders. Can academic leaders continue to provide feedback to the overall strategic plan each year?
2. **VA** (*Dr. Jeff Plagenhoef*): What are the ASA's plans if the VA goes through with Full Practice Authority for nurse anesthetists?
3. **Brain Health Initiative** (*Dr. James D. Grant*): The academic caucus applauds ASA for taking a leadership role for perioperative brain health. Please provide a brief update and the plans for:
  - a. Making sure that the initiative continues even as leadership changes for the ASA over the coming years?
  - b. As a "White Hat Concept" what does the ASA think about offering co-sponsorship opportunities to the AUA, IARS, SAAA, and AAAA?
  - c. How would ASA plan to respond if AANA requests the opportunity to be involved?
4. **Anesthesiology Chair Qualifications** (*Dr. Linda J. Mason*): Please discuss the ASA's plan for helping convince the Anesthesia RRC/ACGME that interim and permanent chairs for anesthesiology departments must be anesthesiologists.
5. **Celebrating Research and Other Scholarly Work** (*Dr. Beverly K. Philip*): Please discuss the ASA's plans for celebrating research and other scholarly work in anesthesiology. Specifically, does the ASA plan to add more events at the annual meeting that will emphasize the importance of research to the entire anesthesiology community?
6. **MACRA** (*Dr. Stanley Stead*): Please describe the ASA's plan to help members prepare for MACRA.
7. **ASA Finances** (*Dr. Mary Dale Peterson*):
  - a. Please provide an overview of the ASA's finances to the Academic Caucus and the plans of the ASA's Executive Committee to put the ASA on a more sound financial footing.

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- b. Please explain to the Academic Caucus the implications for ASA's projected budget shortfall and how it will impact investment in areas that are most important to academic anesthesiology. This would include the ASA's yearly investment in FAER, upgrading their website to better recognize academic accomplishments of our members, etc.
8. **Fellowship Designation:** Please inform the academic caucus about the new ASA "fellowship" designation, including the rationale, requirements, and cost.

### Moderators:

- Dr. Jeffrey Kirsch – SAAA President/ ASA Director, Academic Anesthesiology
- Dr. Peter Rock – SAAA President-Elect / ASA Alternate Director, Academic Anesthesiology

### Summary of Caucus

**Strategic Planning (Dr. Dan Cole):** One of D. Cole's goals as President is to connect with academics. He also wants to focus on the Brain Health Initiative and Safety Initiative. FAER, AUA, FAER and IARS collaborated with ASA's strategic planning. They will be working on a white paper together on research priorities.

**VA (Dr. Jeff Plagenhoef):** Part of J. Plagenhoef's goal as President-Elect is to connect with academic anesthesiology. He would like to improve funding for anesthesiology research. Over 90,000 comments were received by ASA members on the VA handbook. A very high percentage of anesthesiologists in academics submitted comments. The ruling is scheduled to be released after the election.

**Brain Health Initiative (Dr. James D. Grant):** The Brain Health Initiative is a 4 to 6-year project. A summit was recently held on the initiative and it was very well attended.

**Anesthesiology Chair Qualifications (Dr. Linda J. Mason):** The RRC is no longer requiring that the Chair of an anesthesiology department be an anesthesiologist. It is also the same way for other specialties. The RRC is continuing to require that the program director be an anesthesiologist. L. Mason made a plea for each member to contact the RRC and communicate their thoughts. It was asked if ASA could assist with letter writing to the ACGME/RRC.

**Celebrating Research and Other Scholarly Work (Dr. Beverly K. Philip):** B. Phillip asked for the academic anesthesiologists to tell ASA what scientific information needs to be disseminated to all ASA members.

**MACRA (Dr. Stanley Stead):** S. Stead provided a brief overview of MACRA. The Perioperative Surgical Home model is expected to be a successful method. MACRA is going into effect next year.

**ASA Finances (Dr. Mary Dale Peterson):** M. Peterson reported that there is currently \$89 million in reserves. ASA's policy used to require 1x operating revenue in reserves. Now it only requires 75%. \$1 to \$2 million was being pulled from reserves for operations to fund initiatives such as the VA CRNA issue and MACRA. After the proposed dues increase, the current proposed budget still has a \$1.2 million deficit, but ASA is looking for ways to decrease spending without lowering the quality of programs and staffing. Funding has not been reduced for FAER. ASA currently has a \$50 million annual budget.

**Additional Discussion on Web Site Content and Celebration/Recognition of Research (Dr. James C. Eisenach):** E. Kharasch reported that ASA is working to create pages on the ASA Web site to recognize and celebrate anesthesiology research. The pages will be designed as a membership-centric, information portal.

**FAER Updates (Dr. James C. Eisenach):** J. Eisenach reported that FAER recently developed a new strategic plan. A portion of everyone's ASA membership dues is being directed towards the Foundation.

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Only 1% of the membership provides additional funding to FAER. ASA is now allowing FAER to solicit donations from the entire membership.

**ACTION:** The Academic Caucus recommended that the option of offering a “Quality Seal” be explored once again. The quality seal would be like the Surgeon Certifications for Trauma Centers (Level 1).

**IARS Updates (Dr. Davy Cheng):** D. Cheng provided an update on IARS. IARS promotes the teaching of research, science and patient outcome. They focus on early career anesthesiologists. They are looking for ways to collaborate with FAER.

**ASA Candidate Presentations:** 5 minutes was offered to each of the ASA candidate in a contested election to present their platform. Candidates that participated were: Dr. Kenneth Elmassian for Assistant Secretary, Dr. Linda Hertzberg for Assistant Secretary and Dr. Lawrence Epstein for Vice Speaker. Dr. Patrick Giam for Vice Speaker was not able to attend. After their presentations, a vote was taken by the Caucus for whom the Academic Representative should cast their vote. Dr. Linda Hertzberg for Assistant Secretary and Dr. Lawrence Epstein for Vice Speaker received the highest number of votes.

### **Recommendations for the 2017 Caucus:**

- Determine the ASA Shuttle Schedule and make sure shuttle service has started before the academic caucus.
- Re-explore giving candidates bullet points to address in their presentations.
- Look at alternate times and dates to host the academic caucus.
- The ASA House of Delegates needs to be informed of the academic caucus and be encouraged to attend.
  - Is there a way to get a list of those that are in academics serving on a caucus?
  - Invite all house of delegate participants even if they are not in academics?
- Poll academic members in advance of the meeting for whom they support in the ASA contested elections.