

Special Message

SCA and *Anesthesia & Analgesia*: A history and future of innovation

For this newsletter, as a departure from the usual “President’s Message,” I asked Steve Shafer to outline his vision for *Anesthesia & Analgesia* for the SCA membership. I know you will find our new editor-in-chief’s comments inspirational, and will look forward to the continued development and enhancement of our journal, not only for SCA members, but for anesthesiologists worldwide.

— James G. Ramsay, MD
SCA President, 2005-2007

Steven L. Shafer, MD

Professor of Anesthesia, Stanford University
Editor-in-Chief, *Anesthesia & Analgesia*

When Ron Miller assumed the position of Editor-in-Chief of *Anesthesia & Analgesia* in 1991, he had a vision for creating “journals within a journal.” Dr. Miller’s vision required a partner, an organization willing to take risks with a new model for publication and strategic growth. That partner was the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists, which adopted *Anesthesia & Analgesia* as its official journal in 1994.

As Roger Moore articulated in February 2003 (<http://www.scahq.org/sca3/newsletters/2003feb/pres.shtml>), a core value of the SCA is to “provide new information on advances in cardiac, pulmonary and vascular anesthesia to all anesthesiologists.” *Anesthesia & Analgesia* shares this core value, although we might rewrite it as “provide new information on advances in anesthesiology and perioperative medicine to all anesthesiologists.” However, the purpose of the Journal goes well beyond providing new information. The Journal can serve as a catalyst for research, a forum for debating controversial clinical issues, and a voice of reason amidst the cacophony of competing interests.

Since 2003, the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists has contributed two members to our Editorial Board: an Associate Editor-in-Chief for Cardiovascular Anesthesia (Dr. Ken Tuman prior to April 2006), and an Assistant to the Associate Editor-in-Chief (Dr. Charles Hogue prior to April 2006). Under their leadership, *Anesthesia & Analgesia* adopted many of the innovations found in the SCA newsletter, including Pro/Con editorials, commissioned reviews, Echo Rounds, and case conferences. Dr. Tuman recently completed his term on the editorial board, and we owe him an enormous “Thank You” for leadership that has made the SCA our flagship affiliation.

The SCA elected Dr. Charles Hogue as the new Associate Editor-in-Chief for Cardiovascular Anesthesia, and Dr. Marty London as Dr. Hogue’s replacement for the “Assistant to the Associate” position. Dr. London inaugurated the position by redefining it, and he is now the Section Editor for Cardiovascular and Thoracic Education.

Drs. Hogue and London are bringing more innovation and intellectual content to the Cardiovascular Anesthesia section of the Journal. They are aggressively recruiting Pro/Con debates on important clinical controversies, such as our recent editorials on aprotinin and perioperative beta blockers. They have commissioned high quality reviews on both established and emerging clinical topics. They have made Echo Rounds a vital part of the

Journal. They have worked to make the Journal the conduit for publishing clinical and practice guidelines developed by the SCA. Dr. London has also taken responsibility for ensuring that our new CME program (to be announced in an upcoming editorial in *Anesthesia & Analgesia*) features at least one article every month of interest to SCA members, including echo specific CME usable for certification.

Drs. Hogue and London have expedited the review process and improved the quality of feedback to authors. They use the review process to provide positive and useful critiques about the research question, hypotheses, study design, and manuscript organization and style. SCA members who submit their papers to *Anesthesia & Analgesia* will find the process respectful, educational, and rigorous. On a related note, I’d like to express my gratitude to the many members of the SCA who serve as reviewers for *Anesthesia & Analgesia*.

Ongoing innovations at *Anesthesia & Analgesia* go well beyond the redesigned cover. In the past year we have:

- Created a more rigorous Journal (only a third of submitted manuscripts are eventually accepted for publication, and case reports must be truly exceptional to be considered for publication)
- Expanded our Editorial Board, adding intellectual and geographic diversity (including increased expertise in cardiovascular anesthesia)
- Added a new section, Pain Mechanisms
- Collected Pain Medicine, Pain Mechanisms and Regional Anesthesia into a cohesive new pain section, called Analgesia
- Revised and expanded our online Journal (www.anesthesia-analgesia.org), which has been set up to permit other journals to create specialized home pages for their content
- Expanded the Chinese Language Edition (now one of the most widely read anesthesia journals in Asia)
- Expanded the correspondence section, sharply editing letters to enhance their focus, under the editorial leadership of Dr. Lawrence Saidman
- Recruited internationally recognized experts as Section Editors for Economics, Education, and Policy (Dr. Franklin Dexter), Neurosurgical Anesthesia (Dr. Adrian Gelb), Technology, Computing, and Simulation (Dr. Jeffrey Feldman), Pain Mechanisms (Dr. Tony Yaksh), and Pain Medicine (Dr. Spencer Liu)
- Added three specialized editors: Dr. Keith Gregg, Statistical Editor; Dr. Jeffrey Gross, CME Editor; and Dr. Paul White, special projects editor (stay tuned: the details will be announced in an upcoming Editorial in the Journal)
- Created a far more detailed (and hopefully more helpful) Guide for Authors.



Dr. Shafer

