

Highlighting SCA's Committees

'A President's Message highlighting the SCA's Committees? Is there a topic that could elicit a louder yawn?' opined one of my colleagues. Please, yawn not. This message outlines opportunities for you to connect, contribute, and convene with other active SCA members. This message really is not fluff, but a reflection of my belief that our society is critically dependent on the diverse abilities of our members and their willingness to work for the SCA. We cannot excel as an 'Ivory Tower' or as an 'Old Boys Club'. We are only as effective as our membership allows. Our committees are tasked with general areas of work—but the most interesting committee initiatives are typically sown by a rank and file SCA member with a particular passion or question.

Listed below are our existing committees, their areas of focus and each Chairman's contact information. The Chairs are looking for new members and new initiatives. CT Anesthesia Fellowship Program Directors and CT Anesthesia Fellows please note: this year we will appoint 1 to 2 fellows to most of our standing committees this year for one to two year terms. Please nominate your most able fellows to work with the SCA.

ELECTRONICS COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

There is substantial opportunity to contribute to this committee's efforts. The Society depends on the members of the "ECC" to maintain, develop and enhance interest in our Website. The current Chair of the ECC is committed to the development of educational tools for our members. However, the fluidity and elasticity of the Web instrument permits rapid placement of initiatives. The committee would greatly benefit from the input of our private practice SCA members. The Chair of the committee, Mike Eaton, can be e-mailed at michael_eaton@urmc.rochester.edu.

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE (previously the Allied Health Committee)

Traditionally, the Chair of this committee was responsible for representing the SCA to other professional organizations involved with the care of the cardiovascular patient. Under the leadership of Mike D'Ambra, this group is assuming greater responsibilities. The SCA hopes to nurture formal partnerships with other sovereign professional societies. The establishment of a multispecialty group (anesthesiologists, surgeons, and perfusionists) to develop best practice guidelines for the conduct of CPB is one of the first initiatives of this refocused committee. Membership on this committee will avail the SCA member the opportunity to make an important contribution and interface with our larger clinical community. Contact Mike at mdambra@partners.org.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

The SCA Bylaws are critical to the mission of our society. Maintenance and careful revision of our guiding rules requires individuals committed to the process. Steve Young (no not that Steve Young), served as the quarterback of this committee for over a decade. We are fortunate to have Glenn Gravlee currently at the helm. If you can contribute to brief, focused tasks that will make a difference, please contact Glenn at glenn.gravlee@ucdenver.edu.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE (Committee work sounds exotic, frequently is)

This committee interfaces with our international colleagues and is responsible for our abroad, every-other-year, symposiums. Membership on this committee provides the opportunity to be in the early

trenches regarding the designation and development of our international program. We are especially interested in recruiting international SCA members to join this industrious group. If you are able to contribute, please contact, committee chair, Al Perrino at albert.perrino@yale.edu.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

The members of this committee produce the material that you are reading. As our culture sinks further into electronic communication media, the SCA leadership struggles with the best use of the "paper" newsletter format. Help us in this evolution. Members of this Committee publish in the educational forums offered by the newsletter. Again, perspective and contributions from the private practice community are needed. Please call Tim Park at kwtimpark_md@yahoo.com.

ECONOMIC/GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The current Chair, Chris Troianos (ctroiano@wpahs.org), is also a member of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Committee on Economics. This SCA committee provides important consultation to both the ASA and governmental regulatory groups. There are ongoing projects and a need for members who can help triage issues that demand quick, focused management. Private practice input is especially important.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Rich Wolman (rlwolman@wisc.edu) leads this responsibility-laden group. Today, the practice of medicine and the associated professional societies are full of opportunities for unrecognized potential conflicts of interest (COI). Appropriately, physicians and organizations are more closely scrutinized in regards to apparent conflict. Our Ethics Committee is charged with overseeing and managing COI for all of our activities. Rich and his small group are active throughout the year and would welcome increased support. This is not a 'rubber-stamp' committee; members are challenged to identify COI and make sometimes unpopular recommendations.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

As the title suggests, this group actively develops recruitment and maintenance strategies for our membership ranks. In the current environment, the SCA must compete for physicians who are courted by many organizations. We are greatly indebted to Quinton Gurley (Qvandy@aol.com) for his commitment to the SCA as chair of this committee. Join this committee to help maintain the roots of our society.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This Committee is led by the immediate past-president and consists of the President, President Elect and two elected members. This group is responsible for vetting nominations to the Board of Directors



Christina Mora Mangano, MD
President, 2007-2009

and Executive Committee. Please consider submitting your name for election to this influential committee.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

One of the important prerequisites of SCA membership is the receipt of an annual monograph on a topic relevant to the practice of CV anesthesia. This Committee considers potential topics for publication and monitors the progress of the yearly monograph. The members also assist the Program Committee in developing a panel for the Annual Meeting to complement the publication. Call John Butterworth (jfbutter@iupui.edu) to express an interest in working with this group.

EDUCATIONAL LIASON COMMITTEE

This is the SCA working group that interfaces with the editors of *Anesthesia & Analgesia*. Marty London (londonm@anesthesia.ucsf.edu) has worked tirelessly on behalf of the SCA to represent our interests to the editorial board of A&A. However, unlike other SCA Committees, this Committee can only make recommendations to A&A, and the SCA Board has no power to mandate content in the Journal. Marty's mission is to cull interesting topics from SCA meetings that might be suited to discussion in A&A, educate new reviewers, and develop strategies for integrating new educational content published in A&A into SCA website activities.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE AND ANNUAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Research (hgrocott@sbgh.mb.ca), and Annual Program (david.zvara@osumc.edu) Committees are very popular, but task-heavy,

work-horses that demand a substantial commitment from participating SCA members. The former committee reviews all the submitted requests for starter and mid-career grants and makes recommendations for funding. The latter Committee is responsible for the development of our Annual Meeting program. If you are interested in helping either of these busy groups, please contact John and/or David. There is competition for positions on the Program Committee, but the SCA is keen to include individuals from all types of practices. Write David or myself (christina.mora@stanford.edu) if you believe that you have an unrepresented viewpoint on this Committee.

Find a place to contribute? Have an idea or initiative for our Society that does not fit in neatly to the Committee structure? Write or call me (650-245-3128). We need you.

Finally, our sister Foundation (SCAF), who is dedicated to raising money to support the SCA missions in education and research, is always looking for a few good people who can contribute financially and supply vision for this endowment group.

Cardiothoracic anesthesiology, the practice and the politics, is similar to a shifting tectonic plate at this time. There are many stresses and competing forces. Please let us know which way you would like the fault lines to move. (I will never become accustomed to living in the Bay area.) Remember, there is wisdom in crowds.