

President's Message

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Thank You for the Opportunity!

Christopher A. Troianos, MD FASE, SCA President



As I write this last message during my term as your President, it gives me the opportunity to reflect on these past 2 years. The time went by quickly, but looking back, it is amazing what we accomplished as a team working together to promote the subspecialty of cardiac anesthesiology and our Society. Year after year, many volunteers dedicate their time, talents, and vision to making our Society what it is today. Everyone deserves credit—from the SCA Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Committee and Task Force members and Chairs, speakers, our SCA staff who make it all happen, and, of course, the members who support our Society with their membership and attendance at our meetings. Thank you for your contributions to the Society!



I'd like to share a few of the Society's accomplishments from the past 2 years:

We had the opportunity to enhance the perception of SCA as a “welcoming society” in response to our 2017 member survey. As a result, we had a record number of members apply to serve on our committees, subcommittees, and other groups—growing from 136 in 2018 to over 200 in 2019. Our presence on social media was promoted, where we now have 664 followers on Twitter and over 2,400 likes on Facebook. We have launched Facebook events and Facebook advertising as a part of our social media strategy, along with content-driven messaging. We also promoted engagement activities at our meetings with a new attendee engagement tool that allowed for “social Q&A” and polling for real-time engagement among attendees and faculty.

Along these lines, we planned, developed, and launched our first SCA podcast, which also was a first for our association management company, Association Management Center (AMC). We created the Anesthesiology Women of Excellence “AWESome Women” recognition program to feature the accomplishments of women in cardiovascular anesthesiology. And, although a group met informally at our Annual Meeting during the past few years, we now have a new Women in Cardiothoracic Anesthesia Special Interest Group (SIG), who will have their first “official” meeting as a recognized SIG at our upcoming 2019 SCA Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Our national scientific meetings continue to be the cornerstone of our educational offerings. Our various program committees for the Annual Meeting & Workshops, Echo Week, Thoracic Anesthesia Symposium, and Perioperative Ultrasound Course (PoCUS) continue to develop innovative and cutting-edge presentations that keep these activities interesting and relevant to daily practice for both the private-practice and academic anesthesiologist. PoCUS is our most recent program (now in its third year), providing attendees a “hands-on” interactive experience for an in-depth and focused learning environment with a faculty-participant ration of about 1:4.

The Annual Meeting celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2018 with a record number of participants (1,450) and a record number of Past Presidents (13) in attendance to commemorate the event (see photo). Since then, we have also expanded the CME benefits of select meetings by offering MOCA® Patient Safety credits in 2019. The core mission of SCA was also preserved through our reaccreditation by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), where we achieved full compliance with all of their standards and requirements, allowing us to continue providing our members with accredited education programs.



Recognizing the need to invest in the future of our Society, our Annual Meeting offered a redesigned Fellow/Resident Mentor Program in 2018 in the form of structured networking circles to increase their engagement. This “speed-networking” event provided the opportunity for fellows and residents to meet accomplished leaders in the field of cardiovascular anesthesiology face-to-face, in a small group setting. We also launched Early Career Investigator Awards in 2018 to motivate physicians early in their career to pursue their interest in research on topics in cardiac, thoracic, and vascular anesthesia.

The SCA Foundation became an endowment fund within SCA in December 2018 in order to better align administrative oversight and strategy with SCA. We thank our SCA Foundation Board for their hard work over the years in establishing this endowment by securing the future research dollars that will improve patient care. Their prudent oversight in utilizing precious donations in the most cost-effective arrangement will serve our patients’ needs well into the future, in terms of research and innovation.

Recognizing that SCA membership is the *heart* of our organization, we have enhanced and provided flexibility to our membership structure in response to the individual needs of our members. Members can now choose SCA membership only, subscription to *Anesthesia Analgesia* as online only or online with print, and with or without IARS



joint membership. New for 2019, members also can elect to subscribe to the *Journal of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anesthesia* at a discounted rate, as a member benefit.

We took major steps toward securing the future of our subspecialty by partnering with the National Board of Echocardiography to develop an examination of special competency in the non-echocardiography-related aspects of cardiac anesthesia. We subsequently formed a task force to prepare an application to the American Board of Anesthesiology for creating Board Certification in Cardiac Anesthesia. We enhanced our relationship with several related organizations through partnership in new and existing collaborative agreements. These include the European Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthesiology, the Chinese Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiology, the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, the American Society of Echocardiography, the Society of Anesthesiology of the State of Sao Paulo (SAESP), the American Association of Thoracic Surgeons, and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons.

I am very humbled and honored for the opportunity to have served as your 21st President. It has certainly been one of the highlights of my professional career. The Society is in great hands with the passing of the baton to Stan Shernan during our upcoming Annual Meeting in May, as he has been intimately involved in the activities of SCA for decades and has been an integral part of the Executive Committee as President-Elect. Stan; Linda Shore-Lesserson, our immediate Past-President; Andy Shaw, our Secretary/Treasurer; Colleen Lawler, our Executive Director; and the entire SCA team have done tremendous work. We cannot thank them and the Board of Directors enough for their countless hours of work and dedication to the function of SCA. It has been a team effort, along with our many committee chairs and members, to achieve the successes outlined in this message. Space and time did not allow me to mention all of the successes enjoyed by our Society over the past 2 years, but this does not diminish the importance of the work or impact on SCA in the years ahead. We are grateful to have so many willing and able volunteers that all contribute to making this Society great!

Our next Annual Meeting is already just a month away! Make your plans now to join us in Chicago, May 18–21, 2019. Workshops are filling up fast, so [register now](#) and secure your room in the Windy City. See you there!

Christopher A. Troianos, MD FASE
SCA President

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