

## Society of Anesthesia and Sleep Medicine Annual Report • October 2018

This 2018 Annual Report for the Society of Anesthesia and Sleep Medicine (SASM), now brings to a close our seventh year of successful operation. Over these seven years, SASM has been growing and gaining influence as the premiere multispecialty organization that has contributed to improved perioperative care and influenced safety related to management of patients with sleep-disordered breathing (SDB). Our growth as a Society would have not been possible without the active engagement of our Officers, Board of Directors and members, as well as the staff of the Svinicki Association Management, Inc. (SAMI) in Wisconsin. I am particularly grateful to Marie Odden, who serves as our Executive Director. This relationship has proven a great benefit to the growth, expansion and success of SASM.

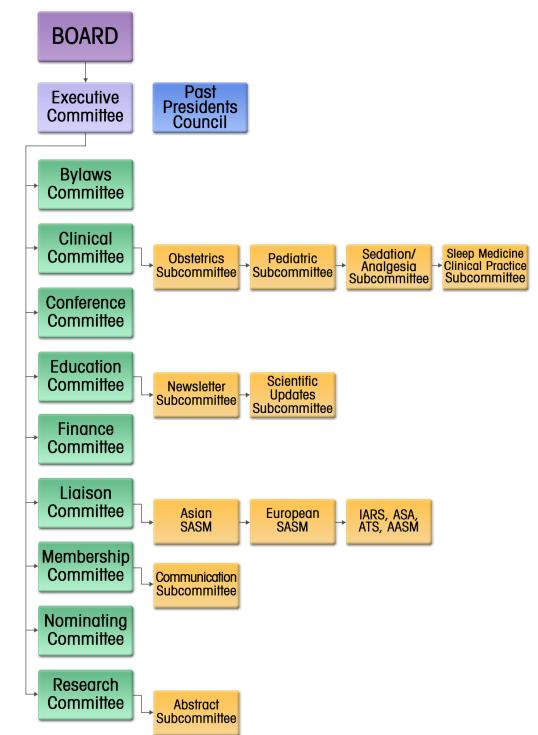
SASM was founded to promote education and scientific inquiry in two areas of medicine that share significant common ground: anesthesiology and sleep medicine. Our mission is to advance standards of care for clinical problems shared by anesthesiology and sleep medicine and to promote interdisciplinary communication, education and research in matters common to both fields. Over the past seven years, SASM has been successful in bringing together an outstanding group of clinicians and researchers in the field of anesthesia and sleep medicine to work together to achieve a common goal: improving the well-being of patients with sleep disorders during the perioperative period. As a testament to our mission, SASM has developed comprehensive, evidence-based recommendations for perioperative care of patients with sleep-disordered breathing.

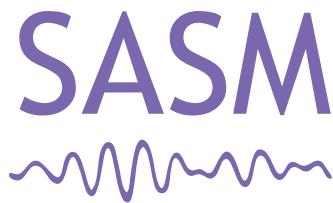
### Organizational Structure

Our organizational structure has evolved over the years, reflecting the expansion of our activities. The committee and subcommittee structure has been modified to include new initiatives of our organization.

### Affiliation with International Anesthesia Research Society (IARS) and Section on “Respiration and Sleep” in Anesthesia & Analgesia (A&A) Journal

In order to increase our scientific footprint, SASM continues to work diligently with the International Anesthesia Research Society (IARS). This partnership aligns with the mission and vision of SASM in terms of research and education. Moreover,





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this partnership helps achieve our goal to increase the number of sleep related publications in *Anesthesia & Analgesia*, thereby increasing exposure of the readership to the field of anesthesia and sleep medicine. For the past few years, Dr. David Hillman has been serving as the Executive Section Editor for Sleep and Respiration for *Anesthesia & Analgesia*, the flagship journal of IARS and the official journal of SASM. Both IARS and SASM share the goal of increasing the amount of published literature related to respiration and sleep medicine. This relationship has been most critical in helping disseminate knowledge of sleep medicine in the field of anesthesiology. We are grateful to Dr. Hillman for serving in this position given his unique qualification as an anesthesiologist, sleep medicine specialist, and a prolific clinical investigator. We would encourage SASM members to submit their scientific work related to anesthesia and sleep medicine to the Respiratory and Sleep section of *Anesthesia & Analgesia*.

### **Bylaws Committee**

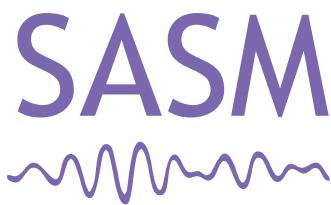
Bylaw changes are required to reflect the changes in the governance structure of SASM. In addition, there may be need for changes in Bylaws to ensure that they reflect current circumstances and needs of the Society. Dr. David Hillman, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, guides us through the process of modifying the Bylaws as necessary.

### **Clinical Committee**

Our Clinical Committee, under the outstanding leadership of Drs. Bhargavi Gali and Dennis Auckley, has undertaken several educational efforts, including preparation of white papers related to challenging and controversial aspects of care of OSA patients requiring procedural sedation/analgesia or general anesthesia, as well as pain management. They are most productive and have completed the following:

- 1) Clinician Educational Documents:
  - OSA Perioperative Help Sheet for Providers
  - OSA, Anesthesia and Surgery Patient Education Brochure
- 2) Clinician Slide Sets:
  - A) OSA: An Overview
  - B) Evaluation and Management of OSA in the Perioperative Period

Most recently, the committee also completed the development of a comprehensive slide set titled “Opioids and Respiratory Depression”. I am confident practitioners will find this document most useful.



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### **Obstetrics Subcommittee**

Sleep-disordered breathing during pregnancy can have a major effect on the health of the newborn, otherwise resulting in prematurity or stillbirth. The Obstetrics Subcommittee has been most productive with regards to education on effects of SDB on pregnancy and labor. The group has conducted multiple teleconferences to work on several issues that are of interest to anesthesiologists, obstetricians, and neonatologists. This subcommittee is chaired by Dr. Jennifer Dominguez and co-chaired by Dr. Ghada Bourjeily, and includes an international group of members from the US, Canada and Britain.

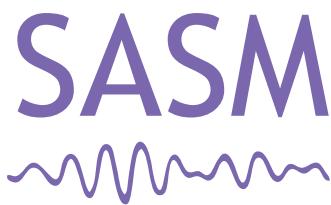
### **Pediatric Subcommittee**

The Pediatric Subcommittee, under the guidance of Dr. Rajeev Subramanyam, has worked hard to promote and take part in scholarly activity (e.g. clinical and bench research, guideline development, systematic review/meta-analysis) as it relates to the perioperative management of children and adolescents up to the age of 18 years with SDB, and to interpret what it means for the health care provider responsible for their care and ensure this knowledge reaches them. This year's Annual Meeting will include several presentations related to pediatric topics.

Another project of the Pediatric Committee was recently published in *Anesthesia & Analgesia*. This project was designed to identify research needs related to the care of children with obstructive sleep apnea undergoing diagnostic and surgical procedures. This is a part of a bigger project of developing guidance for appropriate selection of children undergoing airway surgery on an outpatient basis. This project was conducted in collaboration with Dr. Girish Joshi (Past President of SASM) and the Guidelines Committee of the Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia (SAMBA).

### **Sleep Medicine Clinical Practice Subcommittee**

The Sleep Medicine Clinical Practice Subcommittee, led by Dr. Sarah McConville and co-chair Dr. Mandeep Singh, includes anesthesiologists with dual specialties: anesthesia and sleep medicine. One of the goals of this subcommittee is to increase the interest in the field of sleep medicine and raise awareness of perioperative sleep-related issues. This subcommittee fosters formal networking and exchange of clinical ideas between anesthesiologists and sleep medicine physicians. The subcommittee is working on completing a survey designed specifically for trainees in order to solicit feedback and ideas related to: perceptions of sleep medicine training, challenges or barriers to such training for anesthesiologists and benefits of such training to an individual and the provider and patient community. In addition, this group works with the American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA) to advance the incorporation of sleep medicine into regular anesthesia residency curriculum and eventually into anesthesia board examinations.



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## Education Committee

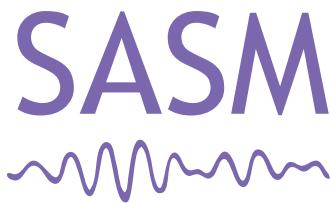
One of the major functions of SASM is to promote communication between anesthesiology and sleep medicine practitioners to improve patient care and safety. The multidisciplinary membership with expertise in anesthesia and sleep medicine is in the forefront of research addressing optimal management of patients with SDB. SASM can be considered as a “think tank” with focus on perioperative care of patients with SDB and has developed multiple avenues to achieve its educational goals, including the Annual Meeting, a newsletter, and web-based education such as white papers and review of recent literature, to mention a few.

The SASM Annual Meeting, held just before the ASA Annual Meeting, is the showcase of our educational efforts. This year, it has been organized under the direction of Drs. Satya Krishna Ramachadran and Tom Cloward and the Conference Committee. This year's theme, *Perioperative Care and Sleep Medicine: Controversies, Challenges and Special Populations*, has important implications for the broader issues and ailments for our hospitalized patients with SDB. This year we experimented with a new one-day format of scientific meetings instead of our typical one-and-a-half days. For the first time, the Conference Committee decided to introduce workshops during the scientific meeting. We planned for two concurrent workshops: 1) Positive Airway Pressure and Non-Invasive Ventilation Workshop, led by Drs. Peter Gay and David Hillman, and 2) Point of Care Ultrasound Workshop focused on assessing cardiac function and hemodynamic status, led by Dr. Stephen Haskins. I am confident that these workshops will be well-received by attendees. We will continue to build on this experience for subsequent SASM Annual Meetings.

The SASM Annual Meeting provides a perfect opportunity to exchange ideas with an expert group focused on the sleep-anesthesia interplay. Abstracts are an important component of the Annual Meeting. Drs. Malin Jonsson Fagerlund and Toby Weingarten ably lead the Abstract Subcommittee. This year, we again have over 25 abstracts with awards to be presented to the best research.

## Newsletter Subcommittee

The Newsletter Subcommittee, under the leadership of Drs. Jean Wong and Mahesh Nagappa and their diligent committee, produces excellent newsletters at a regular interval of three times a year. The SASM newsletter is a rich source of information and continues to update us on the activities of SASM and articles on current trends and controversies surrounding perioperative care of patients with SDB. The circulation of the SASM newsletter is an important task due to our connection to the IARS and the World Anesthesia Network. The newsletter is posted on the SASM website and affiliated society websites as well.



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### **Scientific Updates Subcommittee**

The Scientific Updates Subcommittee, under the outstanding guidance of Dr. Susana Vacas, provides continuing educational material to our members via the website. Moving forward, these web-based publications will occur on a quarterly basis.

### **Finance Committee**

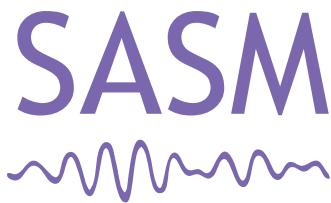
Our financial affairs are still in good order with continuing broad support from our many sponsors, who are listed in the meeting syllabus and on our website. We have worked hard to ensure that our administrative costs remain modest, allowing us to re-invest our funds in our educational program, outreach activities and in supporting research.

Under the excellent fiscal stewardship of our Treasurer, Dr. Anthony Doufas, our governance arrangements ensure appropriate oversight. Most importantly, there is a monthly financial reporting structure in place to the President and the Treasurer. We have worked hard to increase our membership and sponsorship from various sources to ensure a strong financial position.

We continue to work on obtaining more corporate support that would allow us to pursue various projects that expand membership benefits. As will be presented at this Annual Meeting, our financial support has diminished this year for a number of foreseen and unforeseen events. The very generous startup grants from our ResMed and Phillips Respiration colleagues have now been consumed and we are now competing in an ever more challenging medical societal world. We can only maintain our success with ongoing support from our present devoted followers and also continue to seek out new generous partners. I am personally grateful to the members of the Board and the Executive Committee who have reached out to their contacts in the industry to promote financial support for SASM.

### **Involvement in Activity of Other Professional Societies**

There is emerging opportunity for SASM to advance perioperative care of patients with SDB and enhance patient safety worldwide. The Liaison Committee, under the leadership of Drs. David Hillman, Frances Chung and Stavros Memtsoudis, continues to expand the activities of SASM to Asia and Europe. Such efforts will help cultivate relationships between SASM and international professional societies.



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## **Membership Committee**

The SASM Board members are always mindful of the need to attract new members, and therefore are always looking for ways of providing value to our members. We have introduced innovations in our membership drive to broaden our membership base. These efforts continue under the leadership of committee co-chairs, Dr. Meltem Yilmaz and Ellen Soffin. We will examine closely whether introduction of workshops will increase membership and attendance at our Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Earlier this year, the Board approved a change in the SASM membership year from July 1 – June 30 to January 1 – December 31. This change was implemented in hopes to decrease any confusion for members as to when their membership expires, as well as still offer the benefit of discounted registration to the Annual Meeting. Members will now renew their membership at the beginning of the year, and their membership will not expire until December 31<sup>st</sup>. More information to come on this in the coming months.

## **Communication Subcommittee**

Our website continues to flourish under the leadership of Dr. Michael Pilla and his committee.

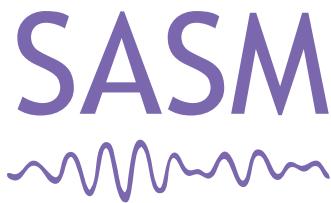
## **Obstructive Sleep Apnea Death and Near Miss Registry**

In May 2014, SASM partnered with the Anesthesia Quality Institute of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) to launch a registry to identify recurring patterns underlying perioperative deaths or adverse events in patients with known or suspected obstructive sleep apnea. Dr. Norman Bolden led the project in collaboration with Dr. Karen Posner at the University of Washington, Seattle, and the ASA Closed Claims Project. The members of the committee recently submitted an abstract to the ASA 2018 Annual Meeting. It was extremely well received and scheduled for an oral presentation. We look forward to this presentation and to the final manuscript being published.

## **Perioperative Care Guideline Taskforce**

SASM has been involved in the development of clinical practice guidelines, advisories, and statements that address clinical dilemmas we face in day-to-day practice when managing patients with SDB. A multidisciplinary task force led by Dr. Frances Chung developed guidelines on preoperative screening and assessment of adult patients with obstructive sleep apnea, which has already been published in the August 2016 issue of *Anesthesia & Analgesia*.

A task force on intraoperative care, under the leadership of Drs. Crispiana Cozowicz and Stavros Memtsoudis, worked diligently to develop guidelines for intraoperative management of patients with obstructive sleep apnea. I am pleased to announce that this new guideline has been



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published in *Anesthesia & Analgesia* in summer 2018. These guidelines will be of great value to our members and improve patient safety.

### **Conclusion**

SASM includes a large group of talented, dedicated and devoted members. Many of our members are thought leaders in the field of anesthesiology and/or sleep medicine. We are grateful to have them actively contributing to SASM. It goes without saying that our success is in great part due to the drive and eagerness of our members. Your input as a member is most valuable and I want to encourage you to share your thoughts with the leadership of SASM. Only working together as a group can we continue to promote our agenda as a Society. Our collective expertise and enthusiasm continues to be a catalyst for promoting patient safety and improved outcomes in the context of perioperative care of patients with sleep disorders. Although much has been achieved, more needs to be done. I am very grateful for the hard work of the Board Members, the Committee Chairs and Committee Members who contribute to the immense success of the SASM. SASM is always seeking involvement from its members. If you would like to serve in any capacity, please submit your request on the SASM website ([www.sasmhq.org](http://www.sasmhq.org)) with your CV.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Mokhlesi".

Babak Mokhlesi, MD, MSc  
President, Society of Anesthesia and Sleep Medicine