



INTERFACE

SOCIETY FOR TECHNOLOGY IN ANESTHESIA

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President's Message

Matthew Weinger, MD, STA President

It has been an interesting, challenging, and exciting time for STA. We had outstanding attendance at the Annual Dinner at the ASA where Drs. Tom Patapoff and Tom Bewley of Genetech entertained us with their well-crafted optical illusions and hallucinations. The STA Breakfast on Tuesday morning of the ASA was extremely well attended. Senior representatives of Datex-Ohmeda, Drager, and Siemens presented the essential features of their newest integrated anesthesia workstations. Three esteemed academicians then posed difficult clinical situations and pointed questions to our industry colleagues to clarify further how these new workstations will function in clinical practice. Everyone with whom I have talked (including the participants themselves) felt the presentation was extremely useful. Charlotte Bell deserves huge kudos for orchestrating these two successful events.

The Computers in Anesthesia meeting, held in Monterrey immediately after the ASA was an unqualified success, attended by over 60 enthusiastic participants. Dan Raemer, our President-Elect, was largely responsible for pulling the scientific program together. Thanks Dan.

At its mid-year meeting, your Board of Directors made some important decisions

that we believe will have significant long-term beneficial effects for STA.

First, the Bad News. As all of you have become aware, the performance of Kluwer, the owner and publisher of the Journal of Clinical Monitoring and Computing, has been suboptimal. Issues of the journal have consistently been 6 or

more months late in arriving to our members. Additionally, many new members of STA have not received any issues of JCMC despite repeated notifications and reminders by STA to Kluwer. Finally, STA members who serve on the JCMC Editorial Board and those who review manuscripts for JCMC have become increasingly

dissatisfied with other aspects of Kluwer's performance. The publisher, despite the Editorial Board's repeated complaints, has failed to adequately address these issues. At its most recent Editorial Board meeting, the entire JCMC Editorial Board tendered its resignation.

Therefore, effective immediately, we have notified the Editors of JCMC and Kluwer that *STA no longer considers JCMC its "official journal"*. In addition, STA has cancelled its subscription, on behalf of its members, to JCMC. For the present year, STA will pay Klu-

wer only for those two issues thus far published this year. The balance of the money you paid for the JCMC subscription (\$70) will be distributed back to you in one of two ways: Either it can be applied to next year's membership dues or, upon your written request to the STA Offices, we can provide you with a direct refund or you can donate it to the STA Education/Research fund.

Now, the Good News. First, in light of the above developments, we are pleased to announce that next year's membership dues will be reduced to only \$85. Thus, if you decide to apply the JCMC refund to next year's dues, joining STA for 2001 will only cost you \$15!

Much more importantly, STA is in the final stages of negotiations to become affiliated with the International Anesthesia Research Society (IARS), the publisher of the highly respected and widely read journal, *Anesthesia and Analgesia*. A number of very important benefits will accrue to STA as a result of this relationship.

- A special "Journal within a Journal" will be initiated, called the "Technology, Computing, and

... "Changes in membership and new journal relationships reflect the growth of STA and importance of anesthesia technologies,

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Simulation" (TC&S) Section of *Anesthesia and Analgesia*.

- STA will nominate a STA member to be the Section Editor of the TC&S Section.
- Authors submitting manuscripts to *Anesthesia and Analgesia*. will be able to request that their papers appear in the TC&S Section should they be published.
- STA activities will be advertised in *Anesthesia and Analgesia*.
- Review articles of relevance to the STA membership, reports of STA-sponsored meetings, and "What's New: Technology, Computing, and Simulation" will appear annually in *Anesthesia and Analgesia*.
- STA members who do not already receive *Anesthesia and Analgesia* will be able to subscribe, through STA, to this prominent monthly journal for only \$85/year.
- STA and IARS will seek to promote each others' Society including mutual web site links, booths at annual meetings, etc.
- In future years, you will have the chance to join the IARS through STA at a slightly reduced price and receive the additional benefits of IARS membership.

The Board hopes that these exciting developments will be in place by time of the Annual Meeting and it will give a full report to the membership.

2000 Board of Directors

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COMPUTERS IN ANESTHESIA XXI a success

The first STA-sponsored Computers in Anesthesia meeting was held in October in Monterey CA immediately following the 2000 ASA. In January 2000, STA officially recognized a Section on Computing to incorporate the former independent CIA group. Dan Raemer, program chair, organized a three day conference of panels, workshops, and presentations attended by over 60 anesthesiologists. Evaluations of the conference sessions and faculty were excellent. And...they couldn't help but enjoy the surroundings and the evening Pacific Rim wine tasting and buffet.

Next year's meeting, around New Orleans, will be chaired by Ollie Wenker (wenker@ispub.com) who has already outlined the 2001 program and which will focus on electronic publishing. Please feel free to contact him if you are interested in participating in planning or presenting. The meeting's goal is to remain small so that there is significant networking and interaction between those attending.

Mark your calendars

CIA XXII October 24-27, 2001

INTERFACE is the official newsletter of the Society for Technology in Anesthesia. The newsletter is published quarterly. The winter and summer issues are the scientific issues published on the website only and spring and fall membership news mailed to all members. The editors invite suggestions, contributions and commentary about published items. Please send all correspondence to:

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NOTICE OF STA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Notice is hereby given to all members of the annual STA membership meeting and report of the Board of Directors to be held on Friday, January 13, 2001 at 12 noon..

Highlights of Upcoming STA Scientific Meetings

STA 2001 – An Information Odyssey January 10-13, 2001

Explore the many facets of information technology as they relate to your practice now and in the future. Jeff Feldman, Chair, has put together a program with an exciting venue to showcase technologies and research of special interest to clinicians. STA offers participants first-hand experience with the capabilities

of new information and anesthesia technologies.

➤ Rolling deadline for abstract review and acceptance. Deadline December 1, 2000

➤ Technology Showcase and Workshops to feature newest information systems

➤ STA Annual Debate

➤ Simulator sessions

➤ Unique field trips to Arizona State University East and Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West

International Meeting on Medical Simulation January 12-14, 2001

Bosseau Murrery, Chair, has provided a forum for the discussion and advancement of simulator use in clinical medicine and other health sciences. A focus will be the application of simulator technology in teaching health sciences curricula. Small group workshops, always a feature of STA

meetings, affords first-hand knowledge of simulation technologies and their uses.

➤ Rolling deadline for abstract review and acceptance. Deadline December 1, 2000

➤ Three-four workshops Friday and Saturday using varied methods of simulation

➤ Friday night Harley Happening (yes this means motorcycles.)

**Make your hotel
reservations NOW at
Doubletree Paradise
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Room block held until
December 9, 2000**

NOW
**Secure registration,
membership renewal &
election voting on-line**

www.AnesTech.org

Elections for 2001 Officers – vote only on line at www.AnesTech.org

Two positions are on the ballot for 2001 officers for STA; one member at large and the president elect. The President-elect is responsible for over-seeing the educational activities of STA including ASA and the annual scientific meetings which now number three. The At-large member is assigned an area of responsibility by the President.

You must cast your vote on the web at www.AnesTech.org under Elections 2001. Our secure site will automatically calculate the results. Results will be announced in January.

FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT **George Blike, MD**

I am an Associate Professor of Anesthesiology at Dartmouth Medical School and a staff anesthesiologist at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. I am originally from the midwest, having received a BS in biochemistry from the Case Institute of Technology, Case Western Reserve University and my MD from the University of Cincinnati. I was first introduced to the Society for Technology in Anesthesiology while in residency training at Yale in 1990. I found STA and its members to be very influential in my career path.

STA's focus on technology and how best to leverage it to provide optimal outcomes for patients made sense to me. STA was facilitating cross-disciplinary collaboration more than any other component society I was aware of. The insights I have gained in the last ten years from STA members (both from the medical and industry communities) seem visionary now that a patient safety movement is gaining momentum throughout the practice of medicine.

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There are many challenges before the society in the coming years. I believe STA's most significant challenge is to attract newly trained members from both industry and medicine. STA's current members are its strength, having supported technology transfer through collaboration with industry in practice rather than principle. As president of STA I would focus on using this collaborative philosophy to attract new members. These are exciting times for advancing all technologies that extend our human capabilities to practice safe and effective medicine.

David Seitman

I have been a loyal member of the STA since its inception, and I have been involved with numerous aspects of the running of the STA. Most of you probably remember me as the Program Chair for STA '99 in San Diego where I managed to convert a conference budgeted to lose \$10,000 into one which earned us a few thousand dollars.

I have two engineering degrees (B.S.E.E., and an M.S. in BME), and an M.D. degree. I started my practice in academic anesthesia (12 years at Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia, followed by 3 years at Robert Wood Johnson in New Brunswick). Currently, I am a full-time anesthesiologist working in private practice in Mount Holly, N.J.

As President of the STA, I will have four major goals for our organization: 1. promote our meeting as a forum and testing ground for new anesthesia-related technologies 2. incorporate the Internet into the lifestyle of the modern anesthesiologist. 3. encourage further interest in technology by promoting technology research. 4. strengthen our alliances with similar interest groups. To some extent, we are performing all of these activities at the present time.

One of our strengths lies in the diversity of our members. Each one of us brings to the STA knowledge based upon different backgrounds and experiences. Together we comprise a group of professionals whose common interest is ultimately the betterment of the anesthesia

field. As your President, I'd be honored to lead us forward toward this goal.

FOR AT-LARGE

Thomas Engel

I am employed as Residency Program Director in the Department of Anesthesiology and faculty in the Graduate Group on Medical Informatics at the University of California, Davis. I have been a member of STA since 1991, and I have been very active speaking at STA meetings, serving on the STA membership committee and attending STA Board of Directors meetings.

As a Director I would work to continue the progress that STA has made in financial security, quality meeting programs and other membership benefits. Recruitment of new members from industry, other societies and residency programs is a priority for the society. Response to the challenges of the incorporation of the Computers in Anesthesia meeting and changes in the Society's relationship with the Journal of Clinical Monitoring and Computing can result in better service for our members. Increased use of Internet technologies has the potential to increase information resources for members, increase opportunities for collaboration, reduce expenses and aid recruitment efforts.

Keith Ruskin

I have been interested in technology during my entire career. I obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Biotechnology at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and went to medical school at the University of Miami, where I developed a wireless, voice activated control system for disabled people. During and after my residency at New York University School of Medicine, I began to explore how networks could be used as communication tools. This early research led to the development of GASNet and investigations into new forms of educational technology. I also hold several positions at the national level including Chair of the ASA Committee on Electronic Media and Information Technology, Chair of the ASA Task Force on the Web Site, and Electronic Publications Editor and a seat on the Board of Directors of the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation.

The Member at Large is an important part of the Society for Technology in

Anesthesia Board of Directors. As a Member at Large, I would offer advice to the other Directors as they make decisions about the future of the Society. The Society is now exploring new opportunities in electronic publication, including creation of an electronic journal. I feel that my years of experience in this area would be a valuable asset to the Board as well as to the Society.

Rene Hagenouw

After graduating from college in Nairobi, Kenya, I studied medicine at the University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands. I then worked as a research assistant at the departments of Anesthesiology in Nijmegen, the Netherlands and Cincinnati, Ohio, before specializing in Anesthesiology at the University Hospital Rotterdam. I have been a staff anesthesiologist at the Thorax Center of the University Hospital in Rotterdam since 1991.

As many STA members, I've been involved in technology since High School. Starting off initially in radio telecommunications and digital technology as a radio amateur, I moved into computing in the mid-eighties, and merged both interests into computer aided telecommunication with the advent of the Internet. Currently, my main interest lies in Internet user interface design and Internet information transfer in its widest sense.

As a specialized interest group within Anesthesiology STA members are geographically separated, and only get together at the STA annual meeting and at the ASA annual meeting. Though many founding members have been loyal through the years, the influx of younger members into the society has not translated well into participation in STA's many committees. Many jobs that would be very suitable for relatively inexperienced members are done by STA's most senior members. STA needs to make itself more attractive to residents and starting Anesthesiologists with affinity to technology, and one way to do so is to give them more responsibility within the society.

Given the restraints of members physically meeting more than once or twice a year, we need to use modern