American Society of Anesthesiologists

Medical Student Component:

Guide to Building an Active Anesthesia Student Interest Group

Provided by the American Society of Anesthesiologists Medical Student Component
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Introduction

The purpose of the guide is to inform students about Anesthesiology Interest Groups (AIGs), offer tips for establishing new AIGs, and suggest ways for existing AIGs to improve. Information included in this guide is neither applicable to each AIG nor meant to be all-inclusive; however it is meant to be a guide that students may use to promote anesthesiology in medical school through Anesthesiology Interest Groups.

What is an Anesthesiology Interest Group?

Anesthesiology Interest Groups are independent groups of students from different medical schools across the country whose members share a common interest in anesthesiology. The purpose of AIGs is to promote education, communication, advocacy, research, and networking among students and physicians. AIGs are led by Executive Officers and overseen by Advisors. An Executive Officer particularly important to AIGs is the ASA Delegate, who acts as the liaison between an AIG and the ASA Medical Student Component (MSC).

New Anesthesiology Interest Groups

Most medical schools have an active AIG although some do not. For schools without an AIG, it is suggested that students interested in anesthesiology start a student group. It can be a lot of work, but starting a student group can be rewarding for all students involved because it offers a unique opportunity to work closely with faculty to bring ideas to fruition. Procedures for starting a group may vary at each school but the following should be considered:

1. Student Interest – How many students are interested in participating in an AIG? In what capacity are students willing to be active in the group?

2. Faculty Support – Is there a faculty member or members who are willing to help start a student group? Will faculty members be available during group meetings?

3. Becoming Official – What steps are necessary to become a “recognized” student group at each medical school? What documents will be needed?

4. Leadership – Who will act as student and faculty leaders and in what capacity?

5. Group Activity – How many meetings will the group hold? What will be the focus of the meetings?

Existing Anesthesiology Interest Groups

Once established, AIG members should spend most of their time improving the group. Important things to consider are:

1. Group Activity – How active should the AIG be? What activities are best for the AIG?

2. Member Responsibilities – For what will each member be responsible? In what capacity will Executive Officers act?

3. Capacity for Improvement – In what ways can the group offer more to students, physicians, and the community?

4. Leadership – Are the current leadership positions right for the group?

5. Governing Rules – Are the group bylaws current?

6. Communication – Is the student e-mail list up to date? Is the website current and representative of the AIG?

All of the above considerations are important for new and existing groups and must be discussed among student and faculty leaders and decisions are made among leaders of each AIG.

Outline and Structure of Anesthesiology Interest Groups

Leadership Positions

Anesthesiology Interest Groups should be led by students and faculty members who will enhance student involvement in anesthesiology. Student leaders are AIG Executive Officers and faculty members are AIG Advisors. Both are important for a successful AIG.

AIG Executive Officers

Executive Officers are elected by members of each medical school. They are recognized as AIG leaders. Below is a listing of suggested Executive Officers and a brief description of each role:

AIG President- Oversees and organizes activities and meetings and is involved with contacting departmental faculty

AIG Treasurer- Oversees fundraising activities

AIG Secretary- Maintains communication to the larger medical student community by sharing meeting minutes, ensuring newsletter delivery, and updating group websites

ASA Delegate- Communicates with the ASA Medical Student Component (www.asahq.org/msd) to maintain contact with the national office and provide group updates throughout the year. Also responsible for attending the ASA House of Delegates Meeting at the ASA Annual Meeting in October. Students are elected by their respective school and may also act as another Executive Officer such as President. Terms for ASA Delegates are July 1 – June 30. See also item 6 *Responsibilities of the Delegates* in the ASA MSC.

AIG Advisors

AIG Advisors are faculty members who participate in group activities. They should be leaders in the school and may or may not be associated with an anesthesiology department. Including young and old anesthesiologists provides opportunity for educating students about the development of the specialty. Suggested AIG Advisors are listed below:

(3) Department Faculty – Preside over group meetings and activities and offer advice. Three advisors prevents the possibility that one faculty member is unable to preside or attend meetings and activities.

(2) Teaching Scholars (Residents) - Attend clinical simulation activities and teach medical students clinical skills

(3-6) O.R Mentors- Department faculty listed by subspecialty of anesthesia who will act as student mentors

(4-6) Basic Science Mentors- Faculty who participate in anesthesiology related research who are interested in having students work in their labs

Group Activities

Group activities provide students with the opportunity to learn about anesthesiology outside of the classroom and clinic responsibilities. Provided below is a list of activities that AIGs may pursue throughout the academic year:

Suggested Activities	
1	Shadowing in the various subspecialties of anesthesiology
2	SimMan sessions: workshops to be scheduled after class hours or on weekends
3	*Clinical Procedures workshop on SimMan (Art Lines, Central Lines, LPs, Epidurals, Spinal)*
4	Interviewing Help Sessions (October/November)
5	Monitoring Workshop
6	Regional Anesthesia Workshop – (include anatomical models, neuraxial and peripheral nerve blocks)
7	Vascular Access (IVs/art line) Workshop
8	Interviewing for Residency in Anesthesiology with residency program director (October/November)
9	Residency Application Session with residency program director
10	Airway Management Workshop
11	Career Decisions workshop
12	Volunteering and community service activities in trauma center/critically ill patient care
13	Volunteering and community service in other place of group's choice
14	Away Rotations, Housing
15	ASAPAC Involvement
16	Research Opportunities
17	Residency Guide for Anesthesiology specific for school
18	Bioethical issues/discussions
19	Inter-student tutoring/mentoring
20	Faculty Mentoring
21	State Society involvement
22	Attending Resident Lectures
23	Joining Faculty for CME activities
24	Residency Fair w/ funding from program directors
25	BCLS Instruction to families in the community
26	ACLS certification
27	Academic Credit for Anesthesiology related-activities

Lecture Series

Lectures are a great way to educate students. A list of lecture topics geared for medical students is listed below:

Suggested Lectures

1. Kickoff Lecture - What is Anesthesiology?: I Don't Just Put People to Sleep
2. Residency Panel (MS4/Academic vs. Community Faculty/ Residents)
3. Residency Director to talk to med students
4. Pain Lecture
5. Critical Care Lecture/ICU
6. Peds Lecture
7. Ob Anesthesia Lecture
8. Ethics Issues in Anesthesiology (assisted suicides/lethal injection)

Student-Mentor Activities

Special events with students and mentors promote relationship building. A list of proposed activities is listed below:

1. Post Boards Party
2. Tennis Tournament
3. Outing to local restaurant
4. Anesthesia Residents meet and greet
5. Children's Playgroup
6. Annual Departmental Christmas Party

Community Service Activities

Community service activities are a great way to give back to the community and promote the specialty of anesthesiology. A list of suggested community service activities is listed below:

1. Preop Counseling for adults (literature) and pediatric cases (props)
2. Pain Management at rest homes
3. Trips to foreign countries for volunteer anesthesiology

Links to be Included on Student Webpages

AIG webpages are important for communicating with group members and providing helpful materials to students. A list of helpful links that may be included on AIG websites is listed below:

1. American Society of Anesthesiologists- Medical Student Component
    a. Join as Student Member
    b. Governing Council
    c. Residency Information by States
    d. Q&A Applying to Anesthesia
    e. Meetings & Events
    f. Leadership Opportunities
    g. Rural Access to Anesthesia Scholarship
    h. Foundation in Anesthesia and Education and Research(FAER) Scholarship
    i. Fellowship Options

2. American Medical Association (AMA):
    a. Frieda (residency program search)
    b. AMA- Medical Student Section

3. General Anesthesiology Resources:
    a. American Society of Anesthesiologists
    b. American Board of Anesthesiology
4. Anesthesia & Analgesia

5. Education:
    a. ICU Scoring Systems:
    b. Society for Education in Anesthesia
    c. Tulane Acid-Base Tutorials
    d. U Penn Critical Care Tutorials
    e. Yale: Cardiothoracic Anatomy and Echocardiography
    f. U Florida Virtual Anesthesia Machine
    g. U of Florida Airway Videos
    h. Airway Camera
    i. Virtual Anesthesia Textbook
    j. Anesthesia Clerkship Guide
    k. Anesthesia Drug Flashcards

6. Specialty Societies
    a. Ambulatory: Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia
    b. Cardiac: Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologist
    c. Critical Care: Society of Critical Care Medicine
    d. Neuro: Society of Neurosurgical Anesthesia & Critical Care
    e. Obstetrics:Society for Obstetric Anesthesia & Perinatology
    f. Pediatric: Society for Pediatric Anesthesia
    g. Regional: American Society of Regional Anesthesia & Pain Medicine
    h. International Anesthesia Research Society

Examples of Student Interest Group Websites

1. **University of Washington**
2. **University of California- Irvine**
3. **University of Kansas**
4. **University of Southern California**

Conclusion

Anesthesiology Interest Groups are independent groups of students at each medical school led by Executive Officers and Advisors. AIGs are autonomous with structure and leadership determined by each respective medical school, although all groups share a similar purpose – to promote anesthesiology. Student involvement is essential for attracting the best and brightest to the specialty of anesthesiology, and the ASA MSC recognizes the importance of increasing student involvement through Anesthesiology Interest Groups and attracting students to act as ASA Delegates.

This guide is meant to be a guide for students of anesthesiology interest groups, to offer suggestions for starting new AIGs and tips for strengthening existing AIGs. If ASA MSC members have questions pertaining to AIGs, the Governing Council of the ASA MSC and staff members of the ASA are available for help. Questions may be directed to medicalstudentcomponent@asahq.org.