

Educational Mission Statement

(Approved by ASA House of Delegates on October 17, 2001,
and amended on October 25, 2005)

The American Society of Anesthesiologists is dedicated to elevating the standards of the specialty by fostering and encouraging education, research and scientific progress in anesthesiology. The Division of Scientific Affairs has been designated the major continuing educational component of the Society and the Committee on Professional Education Oversight has overall responsibility for programs. The mission is to ensure that the educational offerings of the Society provide continuing medical education for anesthesiologists, pertinent to the practice of anesthesiology in all of its diverse aspects, including, but not limited to:

- (1) the assessment and preparation of patients for anesthesia;
- (2) the management of procedures for rendering a patient insensible to pain and emotional stress during surgical, obstetrical, therapeutic and diagnostic procedures;
- (3) the support of life functions during the perioperative period;
- (4) the management of critically ill patients;
- (5) the management of problems in acute, chronic and cancer-related pain;
- (6) the management of cardiac and pulmonary resuscitation;
- (7) the evaluation of respiratory function and application of specific methods in respiratory care;
- (8) the conduct of clinical, translational and basic science research;
- (9) the supervision, teaching and evaluation of performance of personnel involved in perioperative care;
- (10) the administration of health care facilities and organizations.

The content of these educational programs shall include that body of basic medical knowledge essential to the full understanding of the modern scientific practice of anesthesia based on the most current knowledge available in the biologic and natural sciences. The offerings will provide a comprehensive, integrated program that assists members in their lifelong learning and continual self-assessment in order to meet the requirements for Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology of the American Board of Anesthesiology.

To fulfill this mission, the Committee on Professional Education Oversight shall collect and integrate appropriate information to establish an ongoing plan to be utilized by the Division of Scientific Affairs in guiding the activities of the Sections of the Division. The Annual Meeting, regional meetings and workshops, the scientific journal, *Anesthesiology*, the Refresher Courses in Anesthesiology publication and other enduring materials and emerging electronic media will be used primarily to accomplish this educational mission. The Self-Education and Evaluation (SEE) and the Anesthesiology Continuing Education (ACE) Programs will provide examinations as an additional educational medium. The programs will be designed using the best available and most current information with an expected outcome of improved professional ability among ASA members that enhances anesthetic care and maximizes patient safety.

The Division of Scientific Affairs, when requested, may also act as an educational resource to other anesthesia organizations or groups in order to stimulate and encourage the education of all members of the anesthesia care team. Programs of subspecialty societies for whom ASA serves as the Secretariat may be sponsored jointly by ASA, if desired by the subspecialty society. The program chair of each of these societies will serve as a liaison for this sponsorship.