

Resident Component

June 2015

Update on the ASA-RC Lifebox Challenge

We are a little over halfway through the 2014–15 ASA Resident Component Lifebox Challenge so now is a good time to take a look at the current standings. The current top five programs are (updated as of May 4, 2015):

Contributions per Resident Standings				
Rank	Program	Contributions	Residents	\$\$/Resident
1	University of Connecticut	\$3,000	28	\$107.14
2	University of Mississippi	\$1,300	24	\$54.17
3	University of Rochester	\$2,319	50	\$46.38
4	Beth Israel Deaconess	\$2,503	54	\$46.35
5	Baylor	\$1,015	60	\$16.92

Remember, this year's competition ends on September 1, 2015, so get those donations in before the deadline. Learn more about the [National Lifebox Challenge](#).

Calendar of Events

A summary of the upcoming events for the remainder of the calendar year:

- June 6, 2015: FAER Anesthesiology Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program: [Patents and Commercial Assessment Workshop](#) (ASA HQ, Schaumburg, IL)
- September 12, 2015: FAER Anesthesiology Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program: [Funding Strategies & Business Plans Workshop](#) (ASA HQ, Schaumburg, IL)
- October 23–28, 2015: [ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2015](#) Annual Meeting (San Diego, CA)

Looking for Volunteers for Airway Management Workshops

The American Medical Student Association (AMSA) will be hosting two prehealth fairs in the fall, likely in New York, New York, and Chicago, Illinois, in late October or early November. The ASA Resident Component again will operate an airway management workshop as part of the event. If you live within the area and are interested in volunteering at either workshop, please contact one of the [RC Governing Council](#) members.

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New Feature for Resident Submissions to the ASA Newsletter

Mark Jensen, M.D., (mjensen08@gmail.com), and Dr. Kristina Goff, M.D., (klgoff@gmail.com), editors of the ASA Residents' Review, are instituting a new feature in the **ASA NEWSLETTER**. They would like to choose topics related to life as an anesthesiologist-in-training and query residents for their input. These features would be published in a quarterly spread along with a short bio and a photograph of the author. Responses should be short (approximately 200–250 words) and informal.

If you are interested in participating, please send both Drs. Jensen and Goff an email and they will keep in touch with you as topics develop. The first feature will focus on resident experiences with global health programs, so if your department offers something unique in this area, they want to hear about it.

We think this quarterly feature will be a great way to showcase your program and the wonderful people who are a part of it. We also believe it is an opportunity to connect residents across the country and raise awareness about the truly outstanding things people are doing.

FAER Anesthesiology Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program

Have you ever had a great idea on how to solve a problem you've encountered in the clinical arena, but weren't sure what to do with it? The Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER) is offering you the opportunity to acquire the skills to make your idea a reality with a pair of workshops titled "Patents and Commercial Assessment Workshop" and "Funding Strategies & Business Plans" over the next several months. For more information and to register, please visit <http://faer.org/events/upcoming/>.

Additionally, FAER is offering three scholarships to each of the two workshops. The scholarships include complimentary registration and up to \$500 to help cover travel expenses. For information on the scholarships and how to apply, please visit <http://faer.org/programs/resident-and-medical-student-innovation-workshop-scholarships/>. The application period for the June 6 workshop has passed but you have until July 15 to apply for the September 12 workshop.

Applications for 2015–16 ASA Resident Component Governing Council

The call for [nominations](#) to the 2015 ASA Resident Component (ASARC) Governing Council (GC) is now open. The application deadline is **September 18, 2015**.

Residents with 18 months or more left in residency or fellowship are eligible to run for office. Of note, the President-Elect, Alternate Delegate to the AMA Resident and Fellow Section, and Junior Co-Editor are two-year positions; this allows for one year of working closely with the senior officer before assuming full responsibilities. PGY-1s, CA-1s and CA-2s are eligible, as are CA-3s pursuing a fellowship. The Secretary position is a one-year position. For more information and to apply, please

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visit <http://www.asahq.org/about-asahq/component-societies/asa-resident-component/get-involved/call-for-nominations>.

For those interested in participating in the ASA Resident Component House of Delegates (HOD) meeting held during ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2015 annual meeting, your state society appoints resident delegates. Contact your [state society](#) for details. The ASARC HOD meeting is on Sunday, October 25. As a delegate, you will be able to vote on resolutions, make policy decisions and elect your representatives.

The ACGME Review Committee Requests Nominations for the 2016–2018 Term

The ACGME invites all interested ASA Resident Component members to apply for the 2016–2018 Resident Member on the Review Committee (RRC) for Anesthesiology. To learn [more](#) about this position, nomination criteria, and its responsibilities, please [review the posting](#). Remember to download the [ACGME Nomination form](#). The submission deadline for ASA resident members' applications is **June 15, 2015**.

[APSF Resident Quality Improvement Recognition Program](#)

Robert K. Stoelting, M.D., and the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF) are hosting a resident quality-improvement project competition. Each residency program across the country will select one project to represent their institution. An APSF committee will review all submissions and narrow them to the top 10. Those top 10 projects then will be reviewed by Dr. Stoelting who will select two finalists. Both finalists will earn a financial reward as well as be honored at ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2015 annual meeting. The competition will begin in April and the submission deadline is **June 30, 2015**. Learn more about this program on [APSF's website](#).

[Resident Humanitarian Service Award](#)

Beginning 2015 and going forward, the ASA Resident Component and ASA Committee on Global Humanitarian Outreach (GHO) will recognize one resident or fellow with the Resident Humanitarian Service Award. The award recognizes one resident or fellow who has done particularly useful work in the global health field that promotes several objectives, including attracting more residents to consider global health opportunities during residency and encouraging academic departments to permit residents in their programs to do such work. The deadline for application submission is **June 30, 2015**.

The ASA Resident Humanitarian Service Award winner will be recognized at the ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2015 annual meeting during the ASA Resident Component House of Delegates meeting as well as receive complimentary registration to the annual meeting to defray costs associated with attending. The award recipient will also receive a \$1,000 stipend and an award plaque. Learn more or apply for the Resident Humanitarian Service Award on ASA's [website](#).

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[Attend the ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2015 Annual Meeting](#)

Learn, share and engage with more than 15,000 attendees from around the world at the ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2015 annual meeting held October 24-28, in San Diego, CA. The official kick-off for residents begins on Friday, October 23, at the Opening Session. This year's annual meeting offers a dedicated track designed for [residents and fellows](#). You'll find this meeting to be an investment in your future. Mark your calendar and [visit goanesthesiology.org](http://visit.goanesthesiology.org) for more information.

Update on the VHA Nursing Handbook

As many of you already know, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is proposing a drastic change to health care delivery policies within the department by pushing forward the proposed [VHA Nursing Handbook](#), which would supersede current VHA anesthesia policies and require all advanced practice registered nurses, including nurse anesthetists, practice independently within VA.

If implemented, this would effectively end the physician-led anesthesia care team model within the VA system and undoubtedly would have a dramatic impact on our profession moving forward. Despite opposition from Congress, Veterans Service Organizations, and medical societies, it is still expected that VA will publish the handbook in the Federal Register, possibly as soon as the end of summer. Once posted, the public will have approximately 30 days to make their voices heard via the public comments section of the Federal Register website. Without sufficient public comment against the proposed policy changes, the handbook is likely to be implemented as currently drafted mandating solo nurse practice for nurse anesthetists.

It is therefore imperative that we, as resident physician anesthesiologists, make our voices heard via the public comments section on the Federal Register website once it is posted. We must also encourage our friends and family to post their comments. This is the most important initiative facing our profession in years, and we must be ready to respond to our government and emphasize the importance of physician anesthesiologist led care for the safety of our veteran patients in the VA health care system.

In the meantime, [ASA members are encouraged to contact their lawmakers](#) and ask them to contact VA and express their opposition to this proposed policy that would dismantle physician-led, team-based anesthesia care, diminishing the standard of care for Veterans.

[Learn more](#) about this most important issue and be on the look-out for future communications.

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2015 ASA Legislative Conference Recap

This year's ASA Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., recently concluded (May 4–6) and, once again, it was a great success. Thank you to all who participated! We have heard it had a great impact on many of you and are happy to share the following reflection from Dr. Keya Locke, CA-2, University of Florida-Jacksonville:

When I stepped off that plane in our nation's capital in attendance of my very first American Society of Anesthesiologists Legislative Conference I was ecstatic, invigorated, energized, and ready to change the world – a feeling akin to the first time I stepped into my first medical school classroom. The feelings in both instances were still very much present but quickly tempered by intimidation. It was like a family reunion and I was the third cousin, or so I felt if only for a moment. Before I could find a corner and start reading before the activities began, I walked Dr. Young, my senior fellow resident at The University of Florida-Jacksonville and – as I would soon discover – so very much more. She took me by the arm, welcomed me, and got right down to business. She introduced me to Dr. Jerome Adams, member of the ASA Professional Diversity Council, who welcomed me with a hug and offered advice on how to become more involved with the council. She then whispered “He is also the Indiana State Health Commissioner.” We then moved on to Dr. Crystal Wright, Dr. Fitch, Dr. Dombrowski, Dr. Diez, and countless others. Dr. Young is not only a phenomenal graduating anesthesiologist, but in a previous life she also practiced as a CRNA and was held in high esteem by many of the physicians we would encounter at this conference. She is also a former veteran and a former employee of the VA health system. As I took my first small steps into this political world of advocacy, to advocate for the specialty I love, to fight for the best care for our veterans, and expanding professional diversity, I was honored to have Dr. Young's example guiding me with her years of wisdom. The conference continued with enthusiastic speeches from ASA members, senators, congressman, and physician congressman.

Before I knew what was happening, I was holding up the wall and laughing with the president of the FSA while he joked about my chairman Dr. Lewis. I sat beside the ASA past president and the current ASA vice president and had breakfast. I felt in every moment the great responsibility that brought us all here together and the pride with which they looked upon me for taking up the fight and I was humbled.

By the second day, I felt like part of that family and was treated as such. We were all there for the same reason: to advocate for our specialty, to advocate for physician-led anesthesia care teams as the future of anesthesia. We were there to make our voices heard and to keep abreast of what those who would have us silenced have been busy doing in a concerted, well-funded, and organized fashion. The message hit home and hit home hard when Dr. Brady, Chair of the ASAPAC, played a video for the audience in which a congressman in support of CRNA's stood at a podium on Capitol Hill and said “CRNA's are the future of Anesthesia.” To quote ASA President Dr. Abenstein: “CRNAs are not simply calling for the right for midlevel provider independent practice, they are calling for ‘the elimination of the anesthesiologist.’ According to them, we are not needed in the operating rooms. The current proposed VHA Nursing handbook would mandate CRNAs to practice independently and is in direct conflict with the current VA Anesthesia handbook. This handbook is the single most important national issue threatening our specialty today. We stand at a precipice. Either we stand up, donate generously to the ASAPAC, as they are our soldiers on the ground, or

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pack up and go home. To do nothing would abandon not only our profession, but in a more immediate sense, we abandon our sickest patients: the honorable men and women who have served to protect our freedoms. To them we say, all you deserve is nursing care, while our NATO mandates that their Italian and British soldiers receive ONLY physician anesthesia care.”

On our last day in Washington, D.C., we took our trips to the Hill and made our case heard before our congressmen. Again I was in awe of Dr. Young and Dr. Lewis. Their conviction in the message we brought to the Hill was undeniable. As the day wrapped up and I sat on the plane reflecting, a single thought occurred to me: the physicians lobbying for the future of anesthesiology, for the most part, will be the ones least affected as they are much further along in their careers. They showed up in record numbers for us, the residents: “the future of anesthesia.” How can I sit idle and not advocate for my own future? In truth, we are busy perfecting our craft, waking up early and going to bed late, studying for the ever looming boards, preparing research projects, and keeping our attendings happy. We do this so that we can finally claim that prize at the end of the rainbow when we finally get to go off and practice in our chosen areas. But if we do not step up now, donate to the ASAPAC as the University of Florida-Jacksonville has done with 100 percent participation in 2014, stay active, spread the word and make our voices heard, we will be eliminated. In all honesty, nothing else really matters...

[ASA Career Center](#)

As part of the complete redesign of the ASA website, we have launched a new Career Center (<http://careers.asahq.org/>) where you can post your CV, which is viewable only by potential employers. You can also browse not only anesthesiologist job postings but also postings for alternative anesthesia providers.

NEW FOR 2015: FREE TO ASA RESIDENT MEMBERS – 2015 PRACTICE MANAGEMENT RESIDENT TRACK RECORDINGS & COURSE MODULES

Access the [ASA Education Center](#) to take advantage of ASA Resident Member Exclusive offerings or to learn more about each course modules’ learning objectives and overviews.

All three modules listed below and nine resident track recordings from the PRACTICE MANAGEMENT 2015 meeting are FREE to ASA Resident Members.

[PRACTICE MANAGEMENT 2015 - Resident Track Recordings](#) – *Exclusive ASA Resident Member-only content.*

[Basics of Coding and Billing - Your Name Is on the Claim](#)

[Evaluating a Practice](#)

[O.R. Management Basics: Right Case, Right Time, Right Cost](#)

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Congratulations Class of 2015!

The staff and members of the American Society of Anesthesiologists® (ASA®) would like to wish you congratulations! This is an exciting time for you, and we want you to know we are here to support you as you move forward in your career. To do that, we need to make sure we have the right contact information for you on file. Please take a moment to visit asahq.org/goforward to update your ASA member profile.

If you aren't familiar with ASA membership, we invite you to explore some information other graduates have found helpful, posted on our new ASA [Young Physicians](#) site including:

- [Membership 101](#) – Here you'll find everything you need to know about ASA membership.
- [Resources](#) – You'll find resources to help you be successful now and in the future.
- [Benefits](#) – ASA has benefits exclusive to you and supports what you need now and going forward.

ASA offers a variety of resources relevant to young physicians just starting their careers. If at any time you have questions about topics such as your membership, professional growth, practice management strategies, quality measurement and improvement, or leadership opportunities, please contact goforward@asahq.org. We'll connect you with the right people at ASA and get answers to your pressing questions. Again, congratulations on your accomplishment. Be sure to visit asahq.org/goforward and update your member profile. If you are participating in a fellowship program, please provide us with that information as well.

To All ASA Resident Component Members,

Thank you for being a member of the ASA Resident Component. As a sign of our appreciation, we are offering all current ASA resident members a complimentary three-month trial of Wolters Kluwer's LWW Health Library online resource, which includes textbooks, videos, and more. You will receive an email directly from Wolters Kluwer shortly, which will contain information on how to access your trial.

We hope that you will enjoy this resource and that you will continue to remain an active member of the ASA.

With much appreciation,

Matt Gertsch
ASA Resident Component President