

Dear Colleagues,

It is an honor to announce my candidacy for Vice President for Professional Affairs of the American Society of Anesthesiologists. I understand the responsibilities of this position and the expectations associated with service on the Administrative Council.

It has been a privilege to gain significant experience in ASA and the Arizona Society of Anesthesiologists (AzSA) in preparation for this office, including service as AzSA President, Arizona's Director on the ASA Board of Directors, and Chair of the ASAPAC Executive Board. Beyond our specialty, I have served as President of the Arizona Medical Association, and on the Board of Directors of the Arizona Hospital and Health Care Association. I currently chair the Mayo Clinic's system-level hospital leadership team as the Associate Dean for Hospital Practice while remaining personally engaged in a very busy clinical practice.

Any discussion of this role must include acknowledgement and appreciation for the leadership, expertise, and enormous contributions of our current Vice President for Professional Affairs, Dr. Stan Stead. His many contributions to our specialty include serving as Chair of the Committee on Economics, a long-time member of the AMA's RVS Update Committee, Founding Editor of the *Crosswalk*, and of course his tireless advocacy on our behalf with legislative and regulatory bodies. I've had the privilege of working closely with Dr. Stead and under his leadership within the Division of Professional Affairs for many years; this direct experience is an additional component of my deliberate preparation to assume this role if I have the honor of being elected by the House of Delegates.

Dedication to our patients and our specialty drives my commitment to advocacy and practice leadership. I strongly believe that we are privileged to serve as physician anesthesiologists, and with that privilege comes the responsibility to advocate continuously for patients' access to physician-led anesthesiology care of high quality and unquestioned safety. Patients depend on us to be their champions – beyond the bedside, operating room, ICU, and pain clinic – throughout the full spectrum of healthcare.

We all know this is a challenging time to practice medicine and to lead in healthcare. However, with challenges and risks comes opportunity. I am optimistic about the future in front of us. We can do more for our patients than ever before. Likewise, we have opportunities to expand the boundaries of our specialty's clinical and leadership presence. I ask for your support and the opportunity to serve as your Vice President for Professional Affairs as we work to secure the future and advance the practice of our specialty.

Sincerely,

Jeff Mueller, MD, FASA

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