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# Medical Student *Newsletter*

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June 2011

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## Getting Involved in the ASA

*By: David Garcia, Chair Elect ASA-MSC*  
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### Become Involved in the ASA-Medical Student Component through Governance and Annual Meeting Attendance

President Harry S. Truman once said, "In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better". The former President's statement resonates through every organization that looks to leadership for guidance and resolve. The ASA-MSC is no different and every year at the ASA Annual Meeting in October we conduct our Governing Council elections in order to attract those courageous, skillful leaders that want to get involved. This year the application process begins July 1, 2011 and will end on September 30, 2011. During this period of time, if you are interested in running for Chair-Elect, Secretary, Member-at-Large, Senior Advisor, Alternate, Medical Student Delegate to AMA, or Alternate Medical Student Delegate to the AMA, you must submit your completed application on or before September 30, 2011. The application consists of a downloadable form from the ASA website, a personal statement of no more than 500 words, current Curriculum Vitae, and a letter of reference from a faculty member of your medical school. If you are planning on running for the Chair-Elect position, you must include two letters of reference. As stated above, there are 8 positions available for applicants to choose from and each position has its own requirements of office that are outlined in the ASA-MSC Bylaws. A copy of the ASA-MSC Bylaws can be found at [www.asahq.org/For-Students/For-Medical-Students/ASA-Medical-Student-Component-Bylaws.aspx](http://www.asahq.org/For-Students/For-Medical-Students/ASA-Medical-Student-Component-Bylaws.aspx), and a copy of the application can be found at <http://asahq.org/For-Students/For-Medical-Students/American-Society-of-Anesthesiologists-Medical-Student-Component.aspx>.

Once you have submitted your application in a timely fashion via email to [medicalstudentcomponent@asahq.org](mailto:medicalstudentcomponent@asahq.org), make plans to attend the ASA-Medical Student Component House of Delegates meeting on October 15, 2011 in Chicago, Illinois. At this meeting each candidate will be given the opportunity to give a 2-3 minute speech before the delegates vote on who will be elected to the 2011 Governing Council. I encourage each of you interested in getting involved in the ASA-MSC to apply for one of the Governing Council positions up for election this October. Being an officer in the ASA-MSC will provide you with multiple opportunities that will only benefit your future post-graduate training aspirations.

In addition to getting involved through the governance of the ASA-MSC, I encourage all of you to attend this year's ASA Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois from Saturday, October 15 to Wednesday, October 19, 2011. The majority of events will be held at the McCormick Place Complex. The registration and housing site for the Annual Meeting is now open at [www.anesthesiology2011.org](http://www.anesthesiology2011.org). Registration for the Annual Meeting is free for all current Medical Student Members of the ASA. If you choose to attend a ticketed event with a cost, you will have to pay the fee. On **Saturday, October 15, 2011**, following the ASA-MSC Governing Council elections, the Medical Student Component will be hosting several **speakers from the Anesthesia Programs at Johns Hopkins, Harvard, and Duke University** to discuss various topics such as the difference between categorical, preliminary, and advanced residency programs, as well as pediatric and critical care subspecialties. Additionally, there will be a presentation on the newly released Charting of Outcomes data. Following this series of lectures, the ASA-MSC is hosting our annual **"Residency Program Director Meet & Greet"** with numerous residency programs from across the country where attendees get the opportunity to network with residents from anesthesia programs of interest and receive answers to their questions about residencies at specific institutions. In addition to these events, I am pleased to announce that on **Sunday, October 16, 2011**, the ASA-MSC will be hosting our Annual Anesthesia Program Showcase Workshop at Northwestern University. Northwestern University is home to The Northwestern Center for Clinical Simulation (NCCS) which is an endorsed program of the American Society of Anesthesiologists' Simulation Education Network. Northwestern's Anesthesia Program is also one of the most prestigious and historic anesthesia programs in the Chicagoland area. That being said, this year's workshop at Northwestern is sure to be a wonderful experience for all that attend. Once again, I implore all of you interested in getting involved to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the ASA-MSC at the October Annual Meeting. I am excited for this year's Annual Meeting in October and looking forward to seeing all of you in Chicago.

## 2011 ASA Legislative Conference: A Medical Student's Perspective

*By: Matthew Gertsch, Chair ASA-MSC*

As our healthcare system continues to change its mold in an ever-changing political climate, I have often thought about how these reforms will affect the future of the field I am about to enter. Having recently attended the ASA Legislative Meeting on Capitol Hill for the past two years now, I am comforted by the numerous leaders within our specialty who advocate for our field as pertinent issues arise.

Not only does this conference help prepare you to feel confident addressing key issues with your state's respective congressmen on Capitol Hill, but it energizes you for the rest of your career to be actively involved. I love the saying, "If you don't have a seat at the table, it probably means you are on the menu." Before I began attending this conference, I was interested in politics and in keeping up with the various changes in healthcare reform. However, this conference and the above quote have profoundly changed my way of thinking. I have come to realize just how valuable "a seat at the table" can be. During this conference, I was able to meet with numerous Senators and House representatives, including the Honorable Andy Harris of Maryland, an anesthesiologist from Johns Hopkins. While acknowledging I still have much to learn, I was amazed at the opportunity I had to personally discuss many of the current issues (anesthesia drug shortages, expanding access through

rural pass-through, empowering patients with truth and transparency, etc.) with each of my state's legislators. We have a unique opportunity to help shape the future of not just anesthesiology, but of healthcare reform itself.

Regardless of one's political views or feelings of inadequacy associated with talking about reform, it is imperative to get involved if we want our views to be heard. As a medical student, I am excited about the future of our specialty and I encourage everyone to start getting involved today and to consider taking advantage of this conference in years to come.

## 2010-2011 Governing Council



Pictured from left to right:

Scott Bluth - AMA Delegate

Blake Perkins - Secretary

Matt Gertsch - Chair

David Garcia - Chair-Elect

Adam Stuart - Member at Large

Amy Voet - Senior Advisor

Not Pictured - Devone Mansour, AMA Alternate Delegate

## Anesthesiology Match Results for 2011

*By: Blake Perkins, Secretary ASA-MSC*

In the 2011 Match, 1,404 positions (both PGY-1 and PGY2) were offered in Anesthesiology. Of those, 1,353 were filled. Over the past few years, there has been a trend of more positions changing from Advanced (PGY-2) to the Categorical (PGY-1) positions. For Categorical positions (PGY-1), the average program ranked 8.0 applicants per position, compared to the PGY-2 positions that ranked an average of 14.9 applicants.

During the ASA-Medical Student Component House of Delegates meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011, several program directors will talk about the latest match results and how to improve your application.

More information about the match from NRMP:

<http://www.nrmp.org/data/index.html>

## Optimize Your Match: Part 2

*By: Amy Voet, Senior Advisor ASA-MSC*

The first installment of “Optimize Your Match” went over getting organized for 4<sup>th</sup> year, putting together your CV, starting your personal statement and preparing for the ERAS application. This next installment is brief and will supply information about registering for the match and different options for osteopathic medical students.

By now you should have your CV and personal statement well on its way to finished. You should have a basic plan for your 4<sup>th</sup> year with some backup options in case you don't get your first choice of rotations.

Information about the **allopathic match** can be found on the NRMP website at <http://www.nrmp.org>. The website covers everything you need to know about the match and the algorithm, couples matching, policies and a schedule of important dates. They also have links to other important information.

Information about the **osteopathic match** can be found at <http://www.natmatch.com/aoairp/index.htm>. This website contains information about the osteopathic match and policies as well important dates (which differ from the allopathic match). Osteopaths have the option to register and participate in both the MD and DO match with one caveat. The DO match happens before the MD match. If you choose to participate in the DO match and you do indeed MATCH, you must withdraw from the allopathic match and are not permitted to participate. If you do not match in the DO match, you are then eligible to continue on for the MD match. If you are a DO student, you should always register for the osteopathic match, even if you have no intention of participating in it. This enables you to scramble into a DO program in the unfortunate event you don't match allopathic.

Through June you should continue to work on your CV, put the final touches on your personal statement and send reminders for letters of recommendation you are still waiting for. Keep in mind if you want to use your step 2 board scores on your application you must take boards sooner than later. The ERAS application typically opens July 1st and the applications are typically sent out to programs to which you have applied to starting September 1st. Remember the programs begin to download the

applications on the first day they are released, and will begin inviting candidates for interviews, thus it behooves you to have your application complete at that time.  
Look for the next installment of “Optimizing Your Match” in the fall when I will go over tips for interviewing and “audition rotations”.

Good luck on boards!!

Amy Voet

*Have a question?*

Ask Amy

amy.voet@azwebmail.midwestern.edu

[Want to write an article or showcase your Anesthesiology Interest Group?](#)

Contact ASA-MSC Secretary:

Blake Perkins

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