SOAP NEWSLETTER

Official Newsletter of the Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology
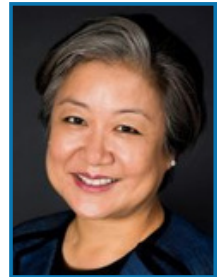
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May Pian-Smith, MD
President, Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology

Happy New Year! It is a privilege to lead our global community of over 2,000 physicians and health care professionals into 2024 as we work to advance the practice of obstetric anesthesiology. With recent sobering statistics about maternal morbidity and mortality, our work feels timely, purposeful, and meaningful. I am grateful to our dedicated members, who collectively invigorate this society towards having broader influence and greater impact.

SOAP's diverse members are the heart of our community, with many engaging in committee, subcommittee, and task force work to advance the mission of our society. In 2024, there are several platforms for new and continuing members to participate in. **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** are created and maintained every year with each group exploring areas of interest within obstetric anesthesia.

(cont'd. - President's Message)

SOAP
Society for Obstetric
Anesthesia and Perinatology

President's Message - continued

Areas of group focus include Environmental Sustainability on the Labor and Delivery Unit, Fetal Surgery, Maternal Health Inequities, Maternal Mental Health and Birth Trauma, Medical Student and Residents, Obstetric Anesthesia Physician Wellness, OB Critical Care Medicine, Placenta Accreta, Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS), Private Practice, Simulation and Recovery after Childbirth. Members have an opportunity to share their meaningful perspectives through the triannual **SOAP Newsletter** publication or network with their colleagues through **Tradewing**, the new online SOAP Community Platform that is designed for clinical discussions, resource distribution, and sharing of news-worthy events and publications.

Our society continues to grow, now with over 2,000 members; our goal is to reach and impact anesthesiologists and health care professionals caring for the pregnant patient globally, at all stages of their career. The society infrastructure supports the personal and professional development of our members with exciting new and ongoing initiatives. As a collection of enthusiastic and knowledgeable individuals, the **SOAP Speaks!** database connects interested parties with SOAP sponsored/endorsed speakers. After a successful first year of the **Mentor-Mentee Matching Program**, the **SOAP Mentoring Academy** has continued pairings in 2023/2024- matching individuals based on skills including education, grant funding, leadership, quality improvement, and more. The annual virtual **Fall Forum** also features educational content for professional and system development. We look forward to the offerings in fall 2024, brought to us by a collaboration between the Fall Forum and the SOAP Mentoring Academy.

As a pillar of our society's mission, education remains at the forefront of our activities. Now with year-round content geared towards health care professionals, patients, and our multidisciplinary teams, the **Education Committee** is steadfast and productive. Monthly educational offerings for members are available in a variety of formats.

In 2023, two new opportunities suggested by member request were debuted:
- The **Conferences in Obstetrical Point of Care Ultrasound (COPUS)** Case Series is intended to improve image interpretation and apply POCUS-findings to the clinical context of the obstetric patient.
- The **Research Journal Club** is a quarterly, interactive virtual event designed to highlight a recent clinically relevant research article. The background and details of the research is presented by the author followed by an interactive discussion.

(cont'd. - President's Message)

EDITOR'S NOTE

Kristen L. Fardelmann, MD
Editor, Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

With the new year upon us, it is more pertinent than ever to be steadfast in our society's mission to advance and advocate for the health of the pregnant patient and newborn. In this edition of the Winter Newsletter, Dr. May Pian-Smith shares exciting updates and future initiatives of our society, continuing our focus on research, education, professional development and best practices in obstetric anesthesia care. Dr. Michaela K. Farber and Dr. Klaus Kjaer highlight the SOAP State Representatives Initiative that creates a state-based network of obstetric anesthesia care teams and encourages obstetric anesthesia participation on Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs). In addition, Dr. Mark Zakowski presents an update from a productive year of ASA Committee on Obstetric Anesthesia work.

Spring is just around the corner, and as the seasons change, I always look forward to the SOAP Annual Meeting. Check out the meeting details including the conference schedule and a message from the Annual Meeting and Live Events Committee Chair, Dr. Rebecca D. Minehart, about educational content, speaker lineup, and activities to explore during your stay in Denver, Colorado. Dr. Carlos Delgado also presents the new process for selection of member submitted podium and panel presentations.

(cont'd. - Editor's Note)

President's Message - continued

We are also continuing with other ongoing educational programs:

- The **Fellows Webinar Series** is a virtual learning opportunity, produced in partnership with *OpenAnesthesia*, designed for fellows in obstetric anesthesiology programs. Lectures are available online for all, archived for long-term reference.
- The **Simulation of the Month (SIMOM)** is designed for multidisciplinary obstetric team training in your simulation lab or in-situ in your labor unit. Scenarios include supportive material for pre-briefing, debriefing and feedback.
- The **Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) E-learning Series** presents a quarterly case-based lesson on concepts ranging from basic ultrasound principles to image acquisition techniques and discussion of specific pathologies.

The **SOAP Fundamentals** program successfully debuted in spring 2023 with a virtual offering of education content configured for low-resource regions where obstetric anesthesia is limited or unavailable.

In addition to the development of educational content for members and health care teams, SOAP is committed to being the principal voice for obstetric anesthesiology and supporting our patients and their families through a **new patient facing website**. Scheduled to debut in 2024, this patient facing website will be the ultimate guide, aiming to share clinical information, answer frequently asked questions, and deter misinformation and misperceptions surrounding the practice of obstetric anesthesiology.

EDITOR'S NOTE - CONTINUED

Our SOAP Special Interest Groups (SIGs) provide an opportunity for members to engage in informal communities focused on specific topics of interest to the obstetric anesthesia care team. In this edition, Dr. Tracey M. Vogel highlights recent updates from the Maternal Mental Health/ Birth Trauma Special Interest Group. We also share a new feature from our Medical Student and Resident SIG Co-leader, Dr. Claudia M. Mort, that spotlights current and recent Obstetric Anesthesiology Fellows. Don't miss out on these fantastic gatherings to network and share knowledge! Join a SIG today or submit a proposal for a new SIG by March 5th, 2024.

I hope you enjoy this Winter Newsletter. As one of our diverse members in our global community, you are vital to our future. Publishing meaningful, relevant content remains the core purpose of the Newsletter Subcommittee. Please reach out with any requests for newsletter content. I look forward to hearing from you and connecting in Denver this May!

Thank you,
 Kristen L. Fardelmann, MD

SOAP is committed to diversity and inclusivity within our organization. All members in leadership positions (Board of Directors, Committee, and Subcommittee members) engage in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity (DEI) training modules that feature DEI for the organization, health care teams, and institutions. The **Diversity and Inclusivity Committee** with associated subcommittees are pursuing the following goals: assessing the degree of diversity and inclusivity within our organization to guide active initiatives; creating an environment where all members have an equal opportunity to succeed and be heard; supporting scholarship, research and education that address inequities in peripartum care; sharing resources for individuals and institutions to promote diversity and inclusivity; establishing partnerships and supporting policies that address racial and ethnic disparities in pregnancy-related outcomes.

The **SOAP Diversity & Inclusivity Mentored Grants** are designed to support mentor/mentee pairs that have proposed projects related to DEI research, education, or professional development. Application deadline for the SOAP Diversity and Inclusivity Mentored Grants is March 28, 2024 at 11:59pm Eastern.

(cont'd. - President's Message)

Nominees for the **SOAP Diversity and Inclusivity Award** are being accepted through March 1, 2024. This award recognizes outstanding obstetric anesthesiologists who have acted to address racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes and made significant contributions to increasing diversity and inclusivity of the anesthesiology workforce through their scholarship, mentorship and leadership.

Our vision of "safe and equitable care for women and newborns everywhere" drives our continued pursuit of obstetric anesthesia excellence. **Research** remains a core pillar of our society's efforts to improve care. SOAP is excited to offer a joint **SOAP-FAER Mentored Research Training Grant** (MRTG) that provides a $250,000 award, disbursed over two years, to support the development of obstetric anesthesiology and perinatology physician-investigators. The **SOAP Research Network Symposium** provides a forum for members to discuss interesting research ideas, develop rigorous study designs, share expertise, and recruit collaborators. We look forward to the Research Network Symposium at the 2024 SOAP Annual Meeting. Proposal submissions will be accepted through February 15, 2024 for this year's Annual Meeting symposium.

This year, SOAP embarks on its first **Endowment Fund Campaign**, aiming to support exceptional scientific investigations, to promote the value of obstetric anesthesia expertise, and to disseminate our knowledge to our multidisciplinary colleagues and patients globally through a sustainable funding source – guided by our mission to "advance and advocate for the health of pregnant women and their babies." Campaign funds will be invested, and the in-perpetuity proceeds used in three focus areas: 1) individual-led research, 2) society-led research, and 3) patient-facing education. Stay tuned for more information about this at our Annual Meeting!

Denver, Colorado is the setting of our upcoming **2024 SOAP Annual Meeting** centered on the theme, "Focusing on the Patient: Improving Individual Outcomes & Experiences." The Annual Meeting and Live Events Committee, led by Dr. Rebecca Minehart, has compiled an incredible schedule of enlightening educational content. This in-person meeting held May 1-5, at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel is the pinnacle of our year and provides an opportunity to network, share knowledge and discuss the future. For those unable to attend in-person, The Annual Meeting Virtual Highlights Event will air June 10-11, 2024, and includes a curated offering of high-quality recorded meeting content. I look forward to seeing you there!

It is an honor to lead the members of this great society into 2024. Renew your SOAP membership today! I look forward to working with you as we pursue excellence and equity in the care for pregnant patients and their newborns everywhere.

All my very best,
May

MEMBER CONTENT

The SOAP State Representative Initiative: Establishing a Network to Enhance Maternal Care

Michaela K. Farber, MD, MS
Klaus Kjaer, MD, MBA

Michaela K. Farber, MD, MS

Klaus Kjaer, MD, MBA

"Why are you doing an OB anesthesia fellowship? There's no need for that." This message is commonly directed toward residents who are considering fellowship pathways. However, there's never been a more important time to pursue fellowship training in obstetric anesthesiology. The maternal mortality rate in the United States (US) continues to increase every year; reported as deaths per 100,000 live births, the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) rose from 17.4 in 2018 to 23.8 in 2020.[1] Even more alarming, for Black women in 2020 it was 55.3 vs. 19.1 if you were white. Obstetric anesthesiologists are poised to address maternal mortality and inequity through applying a unique skillset that emphasizes risk assessment, preparedness, critical care, opioid exposure, crisis management and postpartum recovery.

We need not reinvent the wheel. What has been a pioneering success in the United Kingdom, the MBBRACE-UK, can be mimicked in the US. However, efforts must be organized on a smaller, more trackable scale. The California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC) has proven that a state-level approach to maternal mortality and morbidity reduction works. With state-wide surveillance and focus, maternal mortality rates in California have dropped in comparison to the rest of the US.[2] There are other examples of state-level efforts to lower severe maternal morbidity (SMM). A 2018 analysis of SMM in Illinois identified higher rates among non-Hispanic Black multiparous women, age 35 or older, publicly insured, with inadequate prenatal care.[3] Driving sources of SMM were hemorrhage and hypertensive disorders of pregnancy. Almost half of cases had opportunities for improved care to alter outcomes, most commonly involving both intrapartum (9%) and postpartum (10%) healthcare professional factors.

Nearly every state's Department of Public Health in the US has a maternal morbidity and mortality review committee (MMMRC). The Centers for Disease Control has established funding in 31 states to integrate a common reporting tool called the Maternal Mortality Review Information App, or MMRIA.[4] This tool allows data collection about maternal deaths to be standardized across states.

**What's the best mechanism to disseminate this critically important state-level information to all clinicians caring for obstetric patients?

**How are MMMRC committees determined, and is there at least one obstetric anesthesiologist at the table?

(cont'd. - The SOAP State Representative Initiative)

MEMBER CONTENT

The SOAP State Representative Initiative: Establishing a Network to Enhance Maternal Care - Continued

SOAP members are unified in their passion for obstetric anesthesiology. Our members catalyze research to define optimal and safe obstetric anesthesia care. They are represented in multidisciplinary initiatives such as the National Partnership for Maternal Safety, an organization that has released pivotal safety bundles that all maternity units should integrate to manage hemorrhage, hypertension, and other morbidity more safely. Many states have established Perinatal Quality Initiative Networks to disseminate such bundles and help maternity centers establish quality metrics and reporting.

How do obstetric anesthesiologists access the wealth of information on best practices that is distilled from research presented at SOAP and elsewhere? How can we best distribute the evolving tools that are created for safer maternal care? How can we find state-level, relevant outcome data to focus our efforts and improve maternal care?

These questions and the urgent state of maternal mortality and morbidity in the US catalyzed the SOAP Board of Directors to launch the SOAP State Representative Initiative in 2022. Dr. Farber and Dr. Kjaer first reached out to engaged SOAP members across the country to identify at least one SOAP member to represent every state in the US. These SOAP State Representatives were then provided a list of hospitals in their state performing > 1000 deliveries per year, based on data provided by the American Hospital Association for 2020. State Reps were asked to confirm the contact information for the OB anesthesia

representation on their state's MMMRC. By the spring of 2023, OB anesthesia service chiefs were identified at 472 (41%) of the 1,139 hospitals, building a professional network connecting clinical OB anesthesia leaders, both within and outside their states. The longer-term goal for the SOAP State Representative Initiative is for SOAP to reach more front-line providers and expand evidence-based practice.

Are you curious about hospital demographics – provider types, delivery volume, and actual needs assessment – throughout our country? How about the current status of OB Anesthesia representation on each state's MMMRC?

There is exciting progress being made! These data will be presented at SOAP 2024 in Denver, Colorado. Join us to learn more about the SOAP State Rep Initiative and how you can be actively involved. With the SOAP State Rep Initiative, the passion that SOAP members bring to OB anesthesia care and how we function as a community now has a place to call home. The task at hand, to do all we can do to lower maternal morbidity and mortality, is clearly defined.

1.Joseph KS, Boutin A, Lisonkova S, et al. Maternal mortality in the United States: Recent trends, current status, and future considerations. Obstet Gynecol 2021 May 1;137(5):763-71.
2.Main EK, Markow C, Gould J. Addressing maternal mortality and morbidity in California through public-private partnerships. Health Aff 2018 Sep;37(9):1484-93.
3.Geller SE, Garland CE, Horne AA. Statewide severe maternal morbidity review in Illinois. Obstet Gynecol 2021; 137:41-8.
4.https://reviewtoaction.org/tools/mmria. Accessed on January 7, 2024.

MEMBER CONTENT

Elevating Obstetric Anesthesia Care: the SOAP 2024 Annual Meeting in Denver

Rebecca D. Minehart, MD, MSHPEd
Chair, Annual Meeting and Live Events Committee

Rebecca D. Minehart, MD, MSHPEd

Greetings from SOAP! We are absolutely thrilled to extend an exclusive invitation to you for the upcoming SOAP Annual Meeting, set to take place from May 1st to May 5th, 2024, right in the heart of vibrant Denver, Colorado, at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel. This year's meeting theme is "Focusing on the Patient: Improving Individual Outcomes and Experiences."

Prepare to be captivated by a lineup of highly educational workshops, including POCUS, FATE, and Trauma Informed Care. Brace yourself for a groundbreaking Keynote Presentation by the remarkable Susan Burton, known for her contributions to "This American Life," "Serial Productions/New York Times," and "The Retrievals."

Our program boasts a diverse array of engaging topics that will leave you inspired. We will be showcasing lecturers and panelists from the OAA, SMFM, and ASRA, in addition to traditional favorites such as the Ostheimer Lecture (by Melissa Bauer, DO), Gertie Marx Research Competition, the Best Paper Competition, and the Fred Hehre Lecture (by Barbara Scavone, MD). We will continue our new tradition of Sol Shnider clinical talks, which will run concurrently with the Research Symposium offerings, both highlights of past meetings! In the evenings, we will have the Welcome Reception, the Fellows' and Residents' Reception, and many opportunities to formally and informally network with colleagues.

When you're not immersed in this enriching conference, take time to explore the Mile-High City! Dive into Denver's eclectic food scene, wander through vibrant neighborhoods, and soak in the rich history and culture. If you're staying downtown, you'll find yourself within walking distance of iconic attractions like the Denver Art Museum, the Clyfford Still Museum, the 16th Street Mall, and Larimer Square. Venture a bit further, and you'll discover treasures like the Denver Zoo, Botanic Gardens, the Museum of Nature & Science, and countless hiking paths, all against the stunning backdrop of the Front Range.

As someone who grew up just outside Denver, I can't wait for you to experience the city's abundant sunshine, fresh mountain air, and breathtaking views. Denver truly has something for everyone!

The SOAP Annual Meeting is not just an opportunity to reconnect with colleagues from across the globe; it's a chance to stay at the forefront of obstetric anesthesia care. Our educational content is nothing short of phenomenal, delivering cutting-edge insights that you can put into practice immediately. On behalf of the Annual Meeting and Live Events Committee, we look forward to seeing you there!
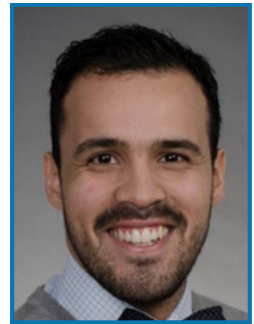
View more Reasons to Visit Denver from SOAP HQ!

MEMBER CONTENT

Member-Submitted Presentations at SOAP 2024 - A Success Story!

Carlos Delgado, MD
Membership Value Committee
SOAP Annual Meeting and Live Events – Annual Curricular Subcommittee

Carlos Delgado, MD

The next annual meeting is just around the corner and SOAP members will have an even bigger spotlight. In November of last year, an open invitation was sent to all membership to submit proposals for podium presentations and panels for the annual meeting. The initiative was spearheaded by the Annual Meeting and Live Events Committee in response to feedback from members evaluating past annual meetings. The intent was to broaden the pool of speakers and showcase the talent we have within the organization. The theme for this year's annual meeting is "Focusing on the Patient: Improving Individual Outcomes and Experiences;" and incorporating members' suggestions complements and enhances the educational content of the meeting.

Members were asked to provide a brief description and overview of their proposed topic, along with learning objectives and format, both for main podium individual presentations and panels.
We were lucky to receive 24 robust proposals that were evaluated by the Annual Curricular Subcommittee. These proposals were assessed following an objective rubric which considered interest to the general obstetric anesthesia community, clarity of the learning objectives, alignment with the theme of the annual meeting and range of diversity and experience of the faculty presenting the submission.

A total of 5 presentations were accepted for the in-person meeting and 3 were accepted for the Virtual Highlights session, to be broadcasted in June 2024. The presentations you will get to enjoy in the in-person meeting cover a wide range of topics, including the comprehensive management of PDPH; research into uterine atony; pain and PTSD after cesarean delivery; addressing disparities in maternal care; and how SOAP members can be valuable advocates and members of State Maternal Mortality Review Committees. These panels will feature both national and international speakers and promise to be engaging and constructive for all SOAP members. For the virtual highlights, a combination of presentation and panels will describe how to implement simulation into your daily practice; how to establish obstetric anesthesia consultation services; and how transformational state initiatives can decrease maternal morbidity and mortality.

We are excited for new faces delivering compelling obstetric anesthesia topics and refreshing the look of SOAP's Annual Meeting! Please see where everyone comes from in the supplemental maps.

(cont'd. - Member-Submitted Presentations at SOAP 2024 - A Success Story!)

MEMBER CONTENT

Member-Submitted Presentations at SOAP 2024 - A Success Story! - Continued

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

Maternal Mental Health/ Birth Trauma Special Interest Group (SIG) Update

Tracey M. Vogel, MD
SIG Leader

Tracey M. Vogel, MD

The Mental Health/Birth Trauma SIG continues to offer meetings approximately every other month to encourage ongoing discussions and collaboration. The role of the anesthesiologist in the prevention of trauma, how to screen for past trauma, best way to assess for a traumatic birth experience, and pain during cesarean delivery are some of the topics at the core of our discussions. We hope to continue these conversations at this year's SOAP meeting. The theme at this year's meeting focuses on the individual patient experience which provides the perfect platform for more broad conversation about birth trauma from the patient perspective and how we can improve outcomes for individuals. Several members from this SIG will be offering a pre-meeting workshop entitled "Trauma-informed Care for the Obstetric Provider." I hope many of you will join us for this immersive and interactive workshop covering the basics of trauma-informed and collaborative care in the obstetric setting.
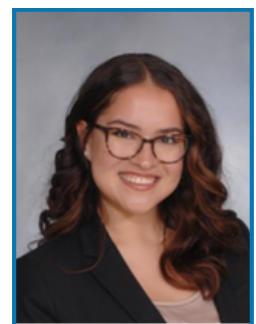
Since the last newsletter, I have participated in and listened to several fantastic podcasts exploring maternal mental health and birth trauma. Additionally, statewide perinatal collaboratives are incorporating trauma-awareness and trauma-informed care into their initiatives. I am excited to see so much interest and momentum surrounding this topic, and that so many obstetric anesthesiologists are leading the way with advocacy and research and inspiring change. I look forward to more amazing collaboration in the upcoming year!

Winter 2024 Fellow Spotlight

Claudia M. Mort, MD
Co-Leader, Medical Student and Resident SIG

Representing Less than 2% of Physicians:
Dr. Lydiesther Martínez

Claudia M. Mort, MD

Dr. Lydiesther Martínez

"When you've seen health inequities firsthand, you understand the ethical obligation of political advocacy."

Dr. Lydiesther Martinez has been a strong pillar and advocate for the Spanish-speaking community. She is a powerhouse for change in all settings, whether it is through political advocacy, Spanish-led initiatives for patients, or mentorship of underrepresented medical students and residents. She is passionate about equitable care, noting that her community has always been her motivation.

(cont'd. - Winter Fellow Spotlight)

Of distinction, she is currently co-leading a YouTube project aimed at advancing medical education in the obstetric Spanish-speaking community. One of the videos she recently published was titled "Parto por Cesárea: 13 Preguntas Frequentes," which was produced as a way to address common questions and myths surrounding cesarean delivery. When describing her work, she notes, "These topics and procedures, often misconstrued and surrounded by negative cultural myths in our communities, have the potential to be lifesaving in the critical peripartum period. Soon we will also be leading Spanish language courses, educating patients about how they have the potential to make childbirth safer."

Dr. Martinez is an active member of several professional organizations and is a recipient of a 2023 ASA mentor/mentee grant to design and lead Spanish epidural classes to Stanford's underserved population, which makes up about 30-40% of their obstetric cases. With less than 2% of physicians being Latinos, her work is incredibly important and will continue to positively impact and optimize safe care for Latinos everywhere – even beyond her own institution and state.

Outstanding Obstetric Anesthesiologist Fellow

Dr. Andrew Sprowell recently completed his obstetric anesthesiology fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, where he has demonstrated his passion through diverse contributions to the field, including research, teaching, and complex clinical care.

At the 2023 SOAP Annual Meeting, members attended his oral presentation, "Low Dose Intrathecal Morphine is Inferior for Post-Cesarean Analgesia." This work has now been written as a manuscript and submitted for publication. Currently, he is a co-investigator on the clinical research project titled, "Comparison of antiemetics in cesarean delivery." His contributions have not gone unnoticed. He was recently awarded the "Clinical Trainee Research Award" by the Department of Anesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Medicine at BIDMC for his incredible contributions to the field of obstetric anesthesiology and his department.

Dr. Andrew Sprowell

Dr. Sprowell's training has evolved through a unique and robust multidisciplinary program for treating patients with placenta accreta spectrum (PAS) disorders at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center's own New England Center for Placental Disorders. Demonstrating his commitment to the highest quality care, he has participated in numerous complex cases in the setting of consultation, labor analgesia, cesarean delivery, and non-obstetric surgeries for women of diverse backgrounds.

SOAP is also proud to feature Dr. Sprowell for his dedication to education. In his own words, "highly efficient, cooperative and coordinated teams are the cornerstones of this very successful program." In the spirit of sharing his knowledge in the field, he has delivered six high-quality, evidence-based lectures that were impressive and well-received by residents and medical students. Lastly, he attended the Cuban Congress of Anesthesiology and Resuscitation XII, and presented two lectures while in attendance. As a community, we are incredibly proud of his achievements in the field of obstetric anesthesiology!

ASA COMMITTEE ON OBSTETRIC ANESTHESIA UPDATE

Mark Zakowski MD, FASA, Chair

I am grateful to SOAP President, May Pian-Smith, for attending our in-person ASA Committee on Obstetric Anesthesia (CObA) meeting at the ASA Annual Meeting on October 16th, along with SOAP Executive Director, Melissa Wilson, and SOAP Program Manager, Christina Tenorio– thank you for sharing and supporting our common goals.

Mark Zakowski MD, FASA

On October 18th, the ASA House of Delegates approved CObA's 2023 statement proposals with very positive comments. Approved statements include the Statement on Pain During Cesarean Delivery, Statement on Neurologic Complications of Neuraxial Analgesia/Anesthesia in Obstetrics, and Statement on Neuraxial Medication Shortage and Alternatives, available for free to all on the ASA website. Please read and share these and other important ASA CObA resources with your colleagues.

An estimated 15% (or higher in some prospective studies) incidence of patients experience pain during cesarean delivery– addressing this should be the #1 goal of our obstetric anesthesia community in 2024. The ASA Statement on Pain During Cesarean Delivery covers recognition and acknowledgment of intraoperative pain, and the domains that can affect the incidence and severity including preoperative assessments, strategies to minimize risk of inadequate neuraxial anesthesia, suggested supplementation of inadequate surgical anesthesia, the conversion and conduct of general anesthesia administration, recommendations for follow-up/referral and some suggested Quality Improvement metrics.

The ASA Statement on Neurologic Complications of neuraxial techniques addresses the most feared and fortunately rare neurologic injuries, whether associated with anesthesia or obstetric-related/childbirth processes. Some helpful tables guide all health care practitioners in assessing post-partum patients and escalating care for imaging and neurologic/neurosurgical consultations when needed. The statement offers recommended best practices, including monitoring, addressing issues of informed consent and patient engagement.

Drug shortages have been ongoing for over a decade, with permanent relief unlikely in the short or intermediate time frame. The ASA Statement on Neuraxial Drug Shortages offers guidance on substitutions with equivalent medications and dose ranges, to serve as a starting frame of reference, adaptable for your local practices and institutions. Note that many commonly used medications may or may not have specific FDA approval for these indications, and administration of any medication is the sole decision of the individual practitioner.

ASA CObA is working with the Committee on Performance and Outcomes Measures to develop Obstetric Outcomes Metrics. ASA previously approved the CObA Statement on [Obstetric] Quality Metrics in October 2022 – another helpful source of information that can guide the development of quality metrics at your own institution.

(cont'd. - ASA Committee on Obstetric Anesthesia Update)

ASA COMMITTEE ON OBSTETRIC ANESTHESIA UPDATE - CONTINUED

I wish to thank the many ASA CobA members for another productive committee year. CObA is actively developing new potential statements for approval in 2024. As part of our 2024 initiatives, CObA has been gathering scientific evidence and considering an OB Difficult Airway statement (Mark Rollins lead).

The ASA 2023 Annual Meeting in San Francisco was a big success, with a large obstetric anesthesia educational component - thank you to the Educational Track Subcommittee on Obstetric Anesthesia Chair Brenda Bucklin, Vice Chair Brendan Carvalho and the entire subcommittee, speakers and presenters for a great meeting! The ASA 2024 meeting in Philadelphia has a fantastic schedule of obstetric anesthesia content being developed for you to explore. See you there!

My end of year reflections – what an honor and privilege I've had to work with and to encourage such a great community of dedicated, brilliant and hardworking colleagues! We all aim to improve the care and outcomes of pregnant people and their babies during labor, delivery and beyond the peripartum period, advancing the practice of obstetric anesthesiology everywhere.

SOAP ENDOWMENT FUND

Advancing the safety and comfort of pregnant women and their babies through:

- Research grants
- Education projects
- Support to bring best practices in obstetric anesthesia care to more patients worldwide

SOAP
Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology

DONATE

Mark your Calendars!

SOAP 2024 Annual Meeting Abstracts
Submission Deadline: January 31, 2024

SOAP Research Network Symposium
Proposal Submission Deadline: February 15, 2024

SOAP Teacher of the Year Awards
Nomination Deadline: February 15, 2024

SOAP Board of Directors 2024-2025
Call for Nominations: Apply by February 17, 2024

SOAP Diversity and Inclusivity Award
Nomination Deadline: March 1, 2024

SOAP Special Interest Group (SIG)
Proposal Submission Deadline: March 5, 2024

SOAP Diversity and Inclusivity Mentored Grants
Application Deadline: March 28, 2024 at 11:59pm Eastern

SOAP Annual Meeting Registration Early Bird Deadline
Early Bird Registration Deadline: March 31, 2024

Agenda at a Glance

Wednesday, May 1, 2024
- FATE Workshop - 8:00 PM - 5:00 PM
  - (Optional - Pre-registration Required - Additional Cost)
- POCUS Workshop - 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
  - (Optional - Pre-registration Required - Additional Cost)
- Trauma Informed Care for Optimal Outcomes Workshop - 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
  - (Optional - Pre-registration Required - Additional Cost)
- Welcome Reception - 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Thursday, May 2, 2024
- Opening Remarks - 7:50am – 8:00am
- Keynote Lecture - 8:00am – 9:00am
- President's Panel - 9:00am – 10:00am
- OAA Lecture - 10:45am – 11:30am
- Best Paper Competition - 12:45pm – 1:45pm
- Trauma Informed Care - 1:45pm – 2:30pm
- SMFM Lecture - 3:15pm – 4:15pm
- Abstract Breakout Session - 4:15pm – 6:30pm

Friday, May 3, 2024
- Special Interest Group Roundtable Discussions in Expo Hall - 7:00am – 7:30am
- Abstract Breakout Session - 7:30am – 10:45am
- Opening Remarks -11:00am – 11:10am
- SOAP/FAER Mentored Research Training Grant Update - 11:10am – 11:30am
- Gertie Marx Research Competition - 11:30am – 1:00pm
- CONCURRENT SESSIONS (45 min)
  - Oral Presentations #1 - 2:00pm – 2:45pm
  - A Network to Enhance Maternal Care: The SOAP State Representative Initiative - 2:00pm – 2:45pm
- Fred Hehre Lecture -2:45pm – 3:45pm
- CONCURRENT SESSIONS
  - Sol Shnider Track #1 - 4:30pm – 6:30pm
  - Research Track #1 - 4:30pm – 6:30pm
- FELLOWS & RESIDENT'S RECEPTION - 7:15pm – 8:15pm

(cont'd - Agenda at a Glance)

Agenda at a Glance

Saturday, May 4, 2024
- Research Network Symposium - 7:00am – 10:00am
- Opening Remarks - 7:50 am – 8:00 am
  - SOAP Speaks! Speaker Database for Curricular Development
- Sol Shnider Clinical Track #2 - 8:00am – 10:00am
- Best Case Reports - 10:45am – 11:45am
- ASA Update - 1:00pm – 1:30pm
- SOAP Endowment Fund 2025 Campaign Launch - 1:30pm – 1:50pm
- Gerard W. Ostheimer Lecture - 1:50pm -2:50pm
- Distinguished Service Award 3:15pm – 3:25pm
- SOAP Awards - 3:25pm – 4:00pm
- Abstract Breakout Sessions - 4:30pm – 6:30pm

Sunday, May 5, 2024
- Opening Remarks - 7:55am – 8:00am
- SOAP/ASRA Panel - 8:00am – 9:00am
- CONCURRENT SESSIONS
  - Sol Shnider Track #3 - 9:15am – 11:15am S
  - Oral Presentations #2 – 9:15am - 11:15am
- Case Report Abstract Breakout Sessions - 11:15 pm - 1:15 pm

View the full schedule:
[2024 SOAP Annual Meeting](#)!