

# CAS

## ANESTHESIA NEWS

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CANADIAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS' SOCIETY

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[www.cas.ca](http://www.cas.ca)



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



### Dear colleagues,

As we approach the end of the 2022, it's worth pausing and reflecting on the year that it's been. The pandemic continues to have its impact on our workplaces and our lives. We face frequent equipment/medication shortages and staffing shortages from almost every member of the healthcare team. Patients are having incredible difficulty accessing medical/surgical care and we are, at the very least, witness to this and, in many circumstances, directly impacted ourselves. As a result, we face enormous productivity pressure while lacking sufficient resources. We feel frustration, exhaustion, burnout and moral injury. Our need to look out for ourselves and each other has never been greater. A strong anesthesia community is key in tackling these challenging times.

It's an honour to be at the helm of our Canadian anesthesia community and to be able to play a role in supporting my colleagues across the country. I want to acknowledge those who have committed time and effort over the past year to developing educational content for our members, both for the Annual Meeting and our Webinars/CPD Modules throughout the year. Event planning for the June 2023 Annual Meeting in Quebec City is well under way and I'm optimistic that you will find the planned content both relevant and worthwhile. We are also planning to enhance your learning opportunities throughout the year. One such example is the initiation of an Amazing Rounds series, where anesthesia departments submit their top grand rounds of the year, to be shared nationally. We will be working out the logistics over the next few months so keep an eye open for announcements in the new year. This newsletter highlights other initiatives led by our committees, sections and other volunteers, for which we are eternally grateful. I recommend that you read through the entire issue to be informed and to draw inspiration from their hard work.

Our new Chief Executive Officer, Vanessa Foran, joined us in early October and she has been spending the last 2.5 months getting to know everything about our organization and the people in it, all the while hitting the ground running! I'm excited about the wealth of experience and new ideas that she brings to the table. You can read more about Vanessa in our [September newsletter](#).

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With the guidance of our government relations firm, Global Public Affairs, Vanessa and I have started to reach out to certain provincial government health leaders to discuss viable strategies to address the anesthesia shortage and surgical backlog. While the suitability of certain initiatives may vary from province to province, one thing is universal: anesthesia *needs* to be at the table to provide valuable insight for perioperative healthcare reform. Throughout 2023, we will continue to partner with your provincial anesthesia representatives during our government advocacy efforts.

One thing that will be loud and clear in our messaging is that *major conduct anesthesia (deep sedation, general/neuraxial anesthesia) is a medical act that must be directly administered by a physician*. Anesthesia delivery models that propose having an anesthesiologist simultaneously supervise more than one O.R. for major conduct anesthesia is not in keeping with our CAS Guidelines. This type of practice sends a clear message to hospitals and governments that our direct presence is not necessary for safe/quality patient care and, as such, will not be supported nor promoted. This issue was discussed at length at our November Board meeting and your provincial representatives were in strong agreement that physician anesthesia providers should be assisted *but not replaced* by other members of the health care team. I encourage you all to uphold our Canadian quality of care standards in the face of enormous pressure to do otherwise, by those who underestimate the complexities of anesthesia care.

Our national office has been hard at work transitioning to a new membership portal to better serve you and the organization. Membership renewal notices are being sent out in phases to tweak the process. Keep an eye on your inboxes! Thank you to those who have already renewed. None of our educational events or advocacy efforts would be possible without your membership.

As always, I welcome your input in how the CAS can best serve our members. All ideas, questions and feedback are welcome. Contact myself at [president@cas.ca](mailto:president@cas.ca) and/or the CAS Chief Executive Officer, Vanessa Foran, CAE at [vforan@cas.ca](mailto:vforan@cas.ca).

Best wishes this holiday season. I look forward to working with you and for you in the new year.

**Lucie Filteau**  
**CAS President**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AS OF DECEMBER 2022

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Dr Lucie Filteau**, President  
**Dr Giuseppe Fuda**, Vice-President  
**Dr Andrew Nice**, Secretary  
**Dr Hilary Grocott**, Treasurer  
**Dr Dolores McKeen**, Past President  
**Vanessa Foran**, CEO (Non-Voting)

### DIVISIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

**Dr Angela Ridi**  
**Dr Dennis Drapeau**  
**Dr Joseph Desreux**  
**Dr Tim Maxwell**  
**Dr Nikola Joly**  
**Dr Rohit Kumar**

**Dr Jennifer Plester**  
**Dr Melanie Orvold**  
**Dr Saifee Rashid**  
**Dr Annika Vrana**

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS (Voting)

**Dr Mateen Raazi**, ACUDA President  
**Dr Joel Sardinha**, Resident Representative

### INVITED GUESTS (non-voting)

**Dr Doreen Yee**, CARF Chair  
**Dr Joel Parlow**, CASIEF Chair  
**Dr Stephan K.W. Schwarz**, CJA Editor-in-Chief  
**Dr Michael Cummings**, RCPSC Representative

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CANADIAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS' SOCIETY  
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES ANESTHÉSIOLOGISTES

# CAS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

**RENEWAL FOR 2023 IS OPEN!** Membership in CAS is an investment in your future and your personal success. It ensures that you, along with your national colleagues, remain on the cusp of the latest clinical and technical innovations, research and political developments.

Review the many benefits of membership and renew today!

[WWW.CAS.CA/MEMBERSHIP](http://www.cas.ca/membership)



# SPOTLIGHT ON CAS MEMBER BENEFITS AN OVERVIEW

For this regular newsletter feature, we were pleased to feature a handful of the many benefits CAS membership affords. In closing 2022, we wanted to provide an overview of everything CAS has on offer.

- Exclusive and discounted access to CPD and other educational offerings, including the CAS Annual Meeting, the largest anesthesiology conference nationwide.
- Other specialty-specific resources, including the *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia (CJA)*, accreditation for your CEPD programs (Section 1 and 3) and the Canadian Anesthesia Incident Reporting System (CAIRS), identifying systemic issues in anesthesia nationwide.
- Research support, from funding new research projects to accessing member-to-member surveys to support existing research.
- Information sharing through members only updates, Town Halls, and other resources to ensure members stay in the know for important issues such as the recent shortage of epidural catheters and kits, which we continue to monitor in Canada and with our national partners.



CAS also has a large part in supporting the anesthesia community-at-large through the provision of complementary membership to anesthesia residents, promoting patient health and safety with annually updated Anesthesia Guidelines, advocacy work on the national front in the complicated health and human resources landscape, and of course, through updates via *Anesthesia News*.

We are proud to support our members in the critical work they do, and are grateful to our membership for allowing CAS to do work on behalf of the specialty and those they serve. [Click here](#) for full details on what CAS offers its members and the Canadian anesthesiology community.



# MEMBER NEWS

## Dr Fiona Campbell receives the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award in Science from her alma mater, McMaster University

Dr Fiona Campbell has received the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award in Science from McMaster University. Dr Campbell graduated from McMaster in 1980 and again in 1984.

She received the award for her tremendous work in clinical practice, research, policy, advocacy, and education innovations for health professionals, children and families.

[Read more about Dr Campbell's award.](#)



## Dr Patty Livingston retires from clinical practice after 33 years

Dr Patricia Livingston, Associate Professor at Department of Anesthesia, Pain Management & Perioperative Medicine at Dalhousie University, retired from clinical practice on November 30, 2022. Dr Livingston will continue to focus on research.

Dr Livingston has been recognized for contributions to global health and anesthesia safety, and for her commitment to improving medical education in underserved communities around the world, receiving the Order of Canada earlier this year. Dr Livingston is a long-time active member of CAS, a crucial part of CASIEF and the winner of the CAS Humanitarian Award in 2020.

**We wish Dr Livingston all the best!**



Dr Patricia Livingston (left) retired from clinical practice on November 30, 2022. Photo courtesy Dalhousie Anesthesia Twitter account - [@DalAnesthesia](#)



CANADIAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS' SOCIETY  
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES ANESTHÉSIOLOGISTES

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Submission Deadline:  
**Thursday, January 26, 2023**

Share your research with colleagues and  
enhance the speciality **AND** your resume.

## CAS offers multiple ways for you to get involved in the Annual Meeting.

One way that you can ramp up your experience at the AM is to submit an abstract. Doing this allows you to share your research in a variety of ways and might also place you in friendly competition with your colleagues.

### Three reasons to submit an abstract:

- 1 Enhance your resume—accepted abstracts are published online in the *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia*
- 2 Share your research
- 3 Network with colleagues to boost your knowledge, make new connections, and strengthen existing ones

**CAS 2023**  
ANNUAL MEETING  
**Québec City**  
JUNE 9-12

## Meeting Highlights

- ✦ Annual Business Meeting
- ✦ Residents' Oral Competition
- ✦ Richard Knill Competition
- ✦ Problem-Based Learning Discussions
- ✦ Test-Enhanced Learning Session
- ✦ ePoster Video Presentations

[www.cas.ca/annual-meeting/CFA](http://www.cas.ca/annual-meeting/CFA)  
Contact us at: [abstracts@casmeeting.com](mailto:abstracts@casmeeting.com)

# CAS VOLUNTEER UPDATE – MANUAL, ORIENTATION AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society is fortunate to have a roster of wonderful volunteers, contributing in many ways to the Society. There are lots of ways that we are trying to make the volunteer experience better at CAS. See below for details.

## Volunteer Manual

To streamline and create a uniform member experience, CAS has created guidelines for volunteer operations in the attached Volunteer Manual (links to versions below).

### ONLINE VOLUNTEER MANUAL

The manual may be a review for some long-standing volunteers, but does contain some new information and a more formalized framework, especially for the sections. **The document outlines:**

- An overview of CAS and its leadership structure
- Responsibilities of volunteers
- How the National Office and volunteer groups can work together

All volunteer terms now run September 1 – August 31, but the number of years varies, depending on the position.

## Volunteer Orientation

The Volunteer Manual outlines how the Society currently operates and is structured, with only slight changes to terms and section procedures made. However, that does not mean the organization cannot evolve and change. We'd like to pivot the former Volunteer Orientation to a Town Hall for volunteers in 2023. The intention is for CAS to receive feedback from the community about what is working well, what can be improved, etc.

## Looking to Volunteer?

CAS offers members several opportunities for personal involvement, professional development and engagement.

There are different levels of involvement in these opportunities at CAS. If you are looking to lead a committee, we have several committee executive vacancies. Chairs and Vice-Chairs take the lead on all committee initiatives, including creating educational content, organizing meetings, steering position statements and more. If you are looking to be part of a group, but not necessarily the leader, consider joining as a committee member. Your input will be just as valuable and crucial to the committee. There are also vacancies for Residents as committee representatives. These positions provide an ideal perfect way to network with full-time anesthesiologists and boost a professional resume. There's something for everyone!

### Some opportunities include:

- Awards Committee (Committee Member)
- Committee on Anesthesia Care Team (Committee Member, Resident Representative)
- Ethics Committee (Chair)
- Physician Wellness Committee (Committee Chair, Committee Vice-Chair)
- Standards Committee (Committee Members)

Visit [www.cas.ca/volunteer](http://www.cas.ca/volunteer) for all postings and details on how to apply.



## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS – SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILE

As part of our ongoing gratitude to our volunteers, monthly we are acknowledging an outstanding volunteer on our social media. See below for the previous three months' acknowledgements.

If you have a suggestion for a volunteer we could profile, **contact us**.

### CAS VOLUNTEER FOCUS



**DR ADAM HSIEH**



**DR MELISSA LIU**



Dr Hsieh and Dr Liu are the Co-Chairs of the CAS Residents *Section*. The CAS Residents' *Section* creates social and academic programming for residents at the annual CAS conferences and beyond. The goals of the *section* are to facilitate a community of Canadian anesthesiology residents, connect residents with CAS, represent residents at Annual Meetings and create programming relevant to residents.



### CAS VOLUNTEER FOCUS

**DR ROHIT KUMAR**

Dr Kumar is the current Chair of Ontario's Anesthesiologists (OA), a provincial division which represents over 1,800 anesthesia members. OA advocates for the best interests of Ontario's anesthesiologists, and strengthens the leadership role of anesthesiologists within the health system.



# CAS EDUCATION – 2022 FALL RECAP

## Education – Fall Wrap-up

Throughout the year, CAS is committed to fostering high-quality learning opportunities for our members.

As a result, we were pleased to present several opportunities in the fall for continuing professional development of our members. These opportunities are a benefit of CAS membership, and are only available for members. Make sure to renew to take full advantage of these unique opportunities. Members are also able to access some of these events in the members' video section.

Stay tuned as we have plans for an exciting and engaging CAS education calendar. Registration details for these events, including the CAS Annual Meeting, will be available in the new year.

[LOGIN TO VIEW](#)

## EDUCATION WRAP-UP

### Neuroanesthesia Round

October 26, 2022  
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm ET

In this round, Dr Sérgio Pereira discussed Multimodal Analgesia in Spine Surgery, while Dr Gabriel Paquin-Lanthier provided an update on TIVA in Neurosurgery.

### Success Through Emotional Intelligence

November 23, 2022  
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm ET

Speaker Fiorella Callochia led a fast-paced webinar, examining the importance of Emotional Intelligence (EI) for making the best of every skill in a toolkit and continuously developing new ones.

### Neuroanesthesia Round

December 14, 2022 \*  
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm ET

In this Round, Dr Evan Shao examined Awake Craniotomy, while Dr Michael Dinsmore discussed Strategies for Concussion prevention and anesthetic management.

\*The Neuroanesthesia Section is planning on continuing this popular series into 2023. Stay tuned for details in January.



## Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Editor

### CANADIAN JOURNAL OF ANESTHESIA

The *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia (CJA)*, the official publication of the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society (CAS), boasts a distinguished history of editors and contributors who are among the leaders in the specialty of anesthesia. The *CJA* provides coverage of anesthesia-related subjects such as critical care, pain, and perioperative medicine.

The position is for a 3-year term and is subject to renewal. The CPD Editor is a vital role in CAS, it is charged with delivering consistent and topical education via online modules to the membership.

The CPD editor will have experience in medical education and peer review.

Their responsibilities will include:

- Ensure the successful development of quarterly (four a year) CPD modules
- Provide leadership and vision in developing the CPD modules
- Sit on the Continuing Education and Professional Development (CEPD) Committee and *CJA* Editorial Board
- Develop and ensure compliance with CPD policies and editorial content for the *CJA*
- Attend *CJA* Editorial Board meetings and CEPD Committee meetings as required

## Rédactrice/ Rédacteur en chef du Développement professionnel continu (DPC)

### JOURNAL CANADIEN D'ANESTHÉSIE

Le *Journal canadien d'anesthésie (JCA)* est la publication officielle de la Société canadienne des anesthésiologistes (SCA) et possède un historique remarquable de rédacteurs et de contributeurs parmi les chefs de file de la spécialité de l'anesthésie. Le *JCA* couvre des sujets se rapportant à l'anesthésie, par exemple les soins critiques, le contrôle de la douleur et la médecine périopératoire. Le mandat du poste est d'une durée de trois ans et peut faire l'objet d'un renouvellement. Le poste de rédactrice ou rédacteur en chef du DPC joue un rôle essentiel à la SCA. La personne titulaire du poste doit offrir une formation uniforme et thématique aux membres à l'aide de modules en ligne.

La rédactrice ou le rédacteur en chef du DPC possèdera de l'expérience en formation médicale et examen par les pairs.

Cette personne aura notamment les responsabilités suivantes :

- Assurer la préparation réussie de modules de DPC trimestriels (quatre par année);
- Faire preuve de leadership et offrir une vision pour la préparation de modules de DPC;
- Siéger au Comité de perfectionnement professionnel continu (PPC) et au Comité de rédaction du *JCA*;
- Élaborer et faire respecter des politiques en matière de DPC et du contenu rédactionnel pour le *JCA*;
- Assister aux réunions du Comité de rédaction du *JCA* et aux réunions du Comité de PPC au besoin.

We encourage interested applicants to **submit their applications to [anesthesia@cas.ca](mailto:anesthesia@cas.ca) by January 15, 2023**. Short-listed candidates will be interviewed in 2023.

Please include the following in your application:

1. A letter of intent
2. Curriculum vitae
3. The names of three referees in confidence

Nous invitons les personnes intéressées à **transmettre leur candidature à l'adresse [anesthesia@cas.ca](mailto:anesthesia@cas.ca) d'ici au 15 janvier 2023**. Nous passerons en entrevue les candidats retenus sur la liste restreinte en 2023.

Veillez inclure ce qui suit dans votre candidature :

1. Une lettre d'intention
2. Votre curriculum vitae
3. Le nom de trois références dignes de confiance

# ANESTHESIA HISTORY CORNER

## CASIEF

### CASIEF: Advancing Safe Surgery and Anesthesia Worldwide

By: Amy Liu

For three decades, the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society International Education Foundation (CASIEF) has worked to make safe anesthesia and perioperative care a reality for millions internationally. Founded in 1993, CASIEF has partnered with five nations to bring anesthesia education to regions in need, training over 500 anesthesiologists and now boasting a network of over 100 incredible volunteers.

CASIEF's predecessor, the CAS Training and Relief Fund, was created in 1964 after the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) issued a call to help make modern anesthesia advances more available internationally. This fund's objectives were to bring international medical learners to Canada for training and to aid in the establishment of local anesthesiology training in other countries.<sup>1,2</sup>

The year 1985 marked the beginning of the CAS Training and Relief Fund's support of an ongoing collaboration between the Nepalese Tribhuvan University's Institute of Medicine and the University of Calgary, to increase Nepal's anesthesiologist workforce from 7 to the World Health Organization's recommendation of 27 for its population of 16 million.<sup>3</sup> Dr Roger Maltby led the Canadian coordination of this program, providing academic support and administrative guidance. In January 1985, the Tribhuvan University one-year Diploma of Anesthesia (DA) program was started for physicians desiring or requiring anesthesia training.<sup>1</sup> Under the DA program, Nepalese anesthesia services were able to expand to ten hospitals beyond the Kathmandu valley.<sup>1</sup> In 1992, given the success of the DA program, planning began for creating a home-grown anesthesiology residency program. After feasibility studies were conducted and extensive curriculum planning was completed, the Tribhuvan University anesthesiology residency program kicked off in 1996.<sup>1</sup>

Meanwhile, the CAS Training and Relief Fund underwent a rebranding process. One of its original two missions - training international physicians within Canada - had garnered political pushback and led to dwindling support for the Fund.<sup>4</sup> In light of its recent integral contributions to the Nepal program's successes, the Fund tactically pivoted to emphasizing

its other mission of helping to establish anesthesia education internationally and accordingly renamed itself the CAS International Education Fund (CASIEF).<sup>4</sup> With the new Society name came the refocusing of CASIEF's objectives - to help establish safe, modern anesthesia practices in regions of the world with limited access to it by facilitating knowledge translation and establishing educational facilities. By 2005, CASIEF could proudly boast of having aided 21 Nepalese candidates in graduating from their own, now self-sufficient, national anesthesiology residency program,<sup>1</sup> further underlining the organization's ability to establish successful educational frameworks for teaching anesthesia. CASIEF became recognized internationally for its methodology in implementation of an excellent anesthesiology educational model. As such, Dr Angela Enright, CASIEF Chair (2004-2008), fittingly renamed the CAS International Education Fund into the CAS International Education Foundation, as it is called today.<sup>5</sup>

In 2003, the WFSA requested CAS and CASIEF's aid in establishing a Rwandan Anesthesia Program on behalf of the Rwandan Ministry of Health and the National University of Rwanda (NUR). The country was still recovering from its devastating genocide of 1994 and, at that time, had a single anesthesiologist, with assistance from six expatriate anesthesiologists working on periodic contracts.<sup>6</sup> In fact, a large proportion of anesthesia care was provided by nurses who lacked any formal specialized training, though there was at least a burgeoning and robust program of anesthesia technicians.<sup>7</sup>

Dr Angela Enright conducted a feasibility study as to whether an anesthesiology program could be established in Rwanda as had been done in Nepal, and the findings were encouraging.<sup>6</sup> By 2006, CASIEF and Rwanda had a memorandum of understanding, agreeing on how establishment of the program would proceed.<sup>5</sup> The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) was another active partner in helping establish the program in Rwanda. The first volunteer was sent within the year.

Dr Patty Livingston played a core role in developing the Rwandan program; she helped set it on a sure path to

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success by assisting CASIEF's partners in building not only the main curriculum but also the simulation center, among other special programs.<sup>7</sup> With continued support from CASIEF and ASA, the Rwandan program has become progressively closer to self-sufficiency over the years. Although retention of anesthesiology graduates is a tangible challenge, Rwanda now has about forty excellent anesthesiologists of their own.<sup>5</sup>

In similar fashion, CASIEF has continued to aid other countries, with a past program in Palestine and current ones in Ethiopia, Guyana, and Burkina Faso.<sup>8,9</sup> The development of anesthesia education in each country posed unique challenges in terms of resource availability, political support for physician-led anesthesia models, and difficulties attracting and retaining interest within the specialty.<sup>7</sup> CASIEF has sought to address each of these challenges in innovative ways. For instance, when the Palestine program came to face funding difficulties from its initial backer—the United Arab Emirates—CASIEF helped establish support from the WFSA which secured new financial backing from the International Medical Education Trust and took responsibility for the program in later years.<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, many settings lack important anesthetic equipment, such as pulse oximeters. In partnership with the Lifebox Foundation, CASIEF was able to almost completely furnish Nepal, Rwanda, and Burkina Faso with cost-effective pulse oximeters.<sup>10</sup> Opinions among policy-makers and healthcare providers throughout Sub-Saharan African are also slowly shifting positively, with more understanding of the importance of surgical and anesthetic safety. CASIEF has played a major role in this shift. Its work raises awareness that there is no safe surgery without safe anesthesia; indeed, more people die from lack of access to safe surgery and anesthesia than from malaria, AIDS and tuberculosis combined.<sup>5</sup> Advocating for and informing governments and healthcare systems on the importance of anesthesia-specific training has led to, for instance, the implementation of financial incentives and residency application policies that encourage medical students to apply for anesthesia.<sup>5,7</sup>

CASIEF has since continued to extend its anesthesia capacity-building mission to other countries requesting its services. The program has successfully supported the development of independent anesthesia programs in Nepal and Rwanda, with major steps being made currently in Ethiopia, Guyana, and Burkina Faso. CASIEF is financed by generous donations from CAS members with the funding being used to sponsor volunteers who generally spend a month's time in those countries to teach local anesthesiology residents and other interested healthcare staff. Canadian residents

are also welcome volunteers who have developed peer relationships with local trainees during in-country education activities,<sup>6</sup> supported virtual education programs, and aided with fundraising.

CASIEF, now approaching its 30-year anniversary of founding, has been, and continues to be, an exemplary model for establishing anesthesiology partnerships around the world!

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## Announcements

- Follow us on Twitter (@CAS\_History) for updates and interesting glimpses from yesteryear!
- If you have suggestions on future History Corner topics, please contact [history@cas.ca](mailto:history@cas.ca)
- You can learn more about CASIEF's important and exciting work here: [youtu.be/y5MZu3fyTAc](https://youtu.be/y5MZu3fyTAc)

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# PERIOPERATIVE SECTION – SURGICAL PROGRESSIVE CARE UNIT AT HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE IN WINNIPEG

The Surgical Progressive Care Unit at Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba has been in operation since 2009. It is an 8-bed high dependency unit for perioperative patients who would otherwise utilise ICU level services. The unit is jointly run by the unit nursing staff and 14 attending anesthesiologists with expertise in perioperative medicine. Admitting surgeons work alongside the attending anesthesiologist to provide care for the complex patients admitted to our unit.

The bulk of admitted patients has undergone procedures such as open abdominal aortic aneurysm repair, large liver resections, hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy procedure, esophagectomy, pneumonectomy, and whipple procedure. ICU patients who are no longer intubated but not yet ready for the ward are also routinely admitted for “step down”

stays. The Surgical progressive care unit provides limited critical care services such as low dose vasopressors, IV cardiac medications including amiodarone, and non-invasive positive pressure ventilation. Enhanced monitoring is provided through a 2:1 nursing model, 24 hour telemetry, and capacity for invasive blood pressure and continuous central venous pressure monitoring. Internal data collection suggests that the existence of our unit reduces ICU requirements by one full bed space based on local ICU admission practices.

Anesthesiologist involvement in this unit has greatly enhanced the practice of perioperative medicine and critical care across the entire department of anesthesia at HSC. Patients benefit from this expertise by following safer and more appropriate perioperative pathways.



# OBSTETRIC SECTION – GREETINGS AND UPDATES

Greetings from the Obstetrics Section! The Obstetric Section is one of the largest sections in the CAS and includes around 150 members annually. We are pleased to welcome Dr Anton Chau from Vancouver, BC on the Obstetrics section Executive as our new Secretary/Treasurer!



The CAS Annual Meeting in Halifax 2022 was a great success. The Obstetrics Section executive wishes to thank our presenters, moderators, and award winners for contributing to its realisation. The Best Paper in Obstetric Anesthesia for Anesthesiologists (\$1,000) “Spontaneous and oxytocin-induced contractility after exposure to intravenous anesthetic agents: an in-vitro study in human myometrium” was awarded to Dr Natalia Portela from Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, Ontario. The Best Paper in Obstetric Anesthesia for residents and medical students (\$500) “A Retrospective Cohort Study Comparing Catheter Replacement Rates with Programmed Intermittent Epidural Bolus and Continuous Epidural Infusion” was awarded to Dr Brendan Morgan from IWK Health Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

We are calling for eligible investigators to submit an application for the CAS Obstetric Anesthesia Research Grant. The Executive committee has worked with CARF to offer this grant with the intention to support research that would advance the understanding of science and clinical practice in obstetric anesthesiology. Up to \$20,000 maximum will be awarded to a research proposal that is directly related to the Obstetrics Section’s goal of promoting and disseminating evidence-based research on obstetric anesthesia. Applicants must be active CAS Obstetrics Section members at the time of application and remain a member for the duration of the award. All applications must be

received by midnight on December 22, 2022. For more information please visit the CAS website under Awards & Grants section: [www.cas.ca/en/awards-grants/research-program/award-descriptions](http://www.cas.ca/en/awards-grants/research-program/award-descriptions).

In response to the widespread shortage of epidural catheters and kits, the CAS Obstetrics Section Executives worked alongside the CAS Executives, the CAS Regional Section, and the CAIRS committees and presented a virtual Town Hall to help members navigate this challenging situation. Topics that were discussed at the virtual Town Hall included the current state and extent of the shortage, alternative analgesia strategies, ethical implications and considerations of triage, and means of reporting impact on patient care through CAIRS.



The planning is currently underway for the CAS Annual Meeting in 2023 in Quebec City. If you missed the annual CAS Obstetrics Section business meeting, do not hesitate to reach out to the executive members with suggestions for topics or presentations you would like to see. Finally, we always welcome new members to the Obstetrics Section. If you are interested in being a part of our team, please tick the appropriate box when you renew your membership or contact us directly. Follow us on Twitter for interesting articles and updates [@CAS\\_OBSection](https://twitter.com/CAS_OBSection).



# CARDIOVASCULAR AND THORACIC SECTION – NEW GRANT FOR 2023

The CVT Section Executive Committee would like to announce that for the first time we are offering a NEW research operating grant: The Dr Earl Wynands CVT Section Grant for up to \$30,000.

The requirements for application are as follows:

- The principal applicant has to be a paid section member for the application year and the year that they hold the award; A total of two years of section fees.
- The award is open to applicants regardless of experience, and new investigators have to choose between the CAS New Investigator OR this section grant to apply to, but not both.
- The subject of the grant application has to involve intraoperative management that impacts the anesthetic care of cardiac, vascular or thoracic patients.

Please visit the CAS awards website on instructions to apply: [2023 Awards Cycle | Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society \(cas.ca\)](#)

## Your CVT Section Executive



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# HOSPITAL CHIEFS OF ANESTHESIA – INITIATIVES FOR 2023 AND ONWARDS

The Hospital Chiefs of Anesthesiology Section was created in 2018 to provide a forum for Chiefs to create and build a vision and mission for leadership of clinical departments and anesthesia services in Canada. The current section executive is Dr Sylvie Aucoin (Chair), Dr Mateen Raazi (Vice-Chair) and Dr Robert Doyle (Secretary/Treasurer). The Section presented a well-attended virtual session at the CAS Annual Meeting in June 2022 on Anesthesiology Human Resources.

We are currently working on a few initiatives:

- Developing a Canadian anesthesiology leadership database
- An email listserv, which will allow anesthesiology leaders to discuss issues, share solutions, ideas and protocols and to provide support to their colleagues in leadership positions
- Leadership and human resources management training.

Our section webpage ([www.cas.ca/en/about-cas/sections/hospital-chiefs-of-anesthesia](http://www.cas.ca/en/about-cas/sections/hospital-chiefs-of-anesthesia)) has some useful resources, including a sample chief job description and terms of reference to help our members with leadership contract negotiations. We are also on Twitter ([twitter.com/CAS\\_HCA](https://twitter.com/CAS_HCA)), where we post regularly about relevant leadership topics.



**Dr Sylvie Aucoin**

Chair - Site Chief for the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine at The Ottawa Hospital, Civic Campus.



**Dr Mateen Raazi**

Vice-Chair - Provincial Head Anesthesiology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Health Authority and pediatric anesthesiologist, Jim Pattison Children's Hospital, Saskatoon.



**Dr Robert Doyle**

Secretary-Treasurer - Chief of Anesthesia for the Nova Scotia Western Zone, currently practising in Kentville, Nova Scotia.

# RESIDENTS REPORT

It's a pleasure to announce your  
CAS Residents' Executive Section  
for 2022-23!

**Chairs:** Melissa Liu, Adam Hsieh

**Vice-Chairs:** Rishi Sharma, April Liu

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**Finance:** Jessie Liu

**Board of Directors:** Joel Sardinha

As always, don't hesitate to reach out if we can support you in any way or if you have any ideas you would like to propose to us.

We can be reached at [casresidents@gmail.com](mailto:casresidents@gmail.com). We are also on social media, Twitter [@CASresidents](https://twitter.com/CASresidents) and Facebook [CAS Residents' Section](https://www.facebook.com/CASResidentsSection). Please stay tuned for our exciting initiatives and projects to be announced shortly!



**Adam Hsieh, MSc MD**  
PGY3 Anesthesia Resident  
University of Toronto  
Co-Chair, Residents' Section



**Melissa Liu, MD**  
PGY3 Anesthesia Resident  
University of Toronto  
Co-Chair, Residents' Section

## Back on Track with Volunteer Teaching!

Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and generosity of our donors, CASIEF is ramping up its in-person visits to our partner countries, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Guyana. While we continued close communication and virtual teaching sessions in all of our programs during the pandemic, it became ever more clear that there is no substitute for face-to-face teaching and support.

## CASIEF Featured at All Africa Anesthesia Congress

The 2022 All Africa Anesthesia Congress, held in September in Kigali, showcased Rwanda to delegates from all over Africa and the world. CASIEF was well represented, and numerous presentations, workshops and courses were given by CASIEF volunteers. We also had the opportunity to discuss the importance of sustainability with high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Health, to advocate for ways to improve retention of the limited number of anesthesiologists in the country. Rwanda remains a popular program for our teaching volunteers, and trips have been scheduled into 2024.

## Focus on Ethiopia

Our two partnerships in Ethiopia are growing by leaps and bounds, with almost 80 residents in the three-year Addis Ababa program and less than a dozen faculty to teach them! Similarly, our newest partnership with Haramaya University is in its second year—with eight residents being accepted per year and four teaching faculty, our help is needed more than ever. The first visit by a CASIEF volunteer to Haramaya took place in September, and reaffirmed their appreciation of our partnership. Similarly, we have kept up close support of our only non-African partnership, Guyana, and are ramping up volunteer visits over the coming year.

## Anesthesia Machine fun-raising campaign!

As many delegates at the CAS meeting in Halifax are aware, we have partnered with Dr Lucie Filteau, our CAS President, on a unique initiative that will help support CASIEF's important international work. Back in 2015, Lucie created this custom replica of an anesthesia machine, made entirely with LEGO bricks. In 2022, at our request, she agreed to further develop it into a buildable set, available for purchase online. It comes with 840 authentic LEGO® bricks, a full colour-printed instruction booklet and professionally printed, pre-cut vinyl stickers. A portion of the proceeds from each unit sold (\$50) is donated to CASIEF. (Canadian buyers will be given a tax receipt for their donation.) Not only can you enjoy the immense satisfaction of building this special set, you can also pride yourself in contributing towards safer anesthesia care!

[shop.fxbricks.com/products/anesthesia-machine-building-kit](https://shop.fxbricks.com/products/anesthesia-machine-building-kit)

\*LEGO® is a trademark of the LEGO group of companies which does not sponsor, authorize or endorse this product.

CASIEF is YOUR way to provide help to educate and support colleagues in far less fortunate circumstances around the world. As our countries get back on track after the long pandemic, your help is needed more than ever. We are grateful for all of the Canadian anesthesiologists who support colleagues in low resource settings around the world with time and financial contributions. Please consider becoming monthly or single donors, and visit our NEW website at [www.casief.ca](http://www.casief.ca), watch our [YouTube videos](#), and contact us to find out how you can help!



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# REPORT FROM THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS' MEETING – DR ADAM HSIEH

## Report from the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Annual Meeting 2022

During October 21-23, I attended this year's American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. I am grateful to have done so with the support and encouragement from the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society (CAS). The ASA Annual Meeting is highly anticipated yearly by attendees who come from all around the world to learn about new thoughts, research, and discoveries in anesthesiology. As the largest anesthesia meeting of its kind worldwide, the gathering of so many physicians and researchers passionate about their line of work was so inspiring.

The focus of the conference for me was giving several research presentations. During the past several years, I have worked diligently on a personal project with collaborators from Boston, New Orleans, Miami, and New York City revolving around patient safety of handheld point-of-care ultrasound. At ASA, I presented my findings both as a feature abstract poster and as an oral presentation. I also helped to present a couple of posters in the medically challenging cases category.

Outside of my presentations, I attended some of the residents/fellows-specific programming which included a resident reception, and panel talks. I browsed the Exhibit Hall in between talks, was hands-on with new technologies, and didn't forget to take the classic picture with the giant propofol vial!

Though I wish I could have stayed longer, I made the most of my first time visiting New Orleans. I explored the French Quarter with old friends, ate beignets and charbroiled oysters, and caught throws from the Krewe of Boo Halloween parade.

Thank you to the CAS for sponsoring my experience, and I am very grateful. I look forward to seeing everyone at next year's CAS Annual Meeting in Quebec City!



# WORLD CONGRESS OF ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS – ANNUAL REPORT AND CAS UPDATES

CAS is excited to host the 2028 World Congress of Anaesthesiologists (WCA) conference in Vancouver. Our successful bid was made possible with fantastic partnership with Destination Vancouver and a Planning Committee of volunteers who prepared an in-depth bid highlighting CAS, the proposed meeting, and the benefits of Vancouver as a host.

[VIEW OUR BID VIDEO HERE](#)

The WCA is the pre-eminent international congress for anaesthesiologists from around the world and provides an extraordinary opportunity for the promotion of science, education, training, networking, and the exchange of experience across the spectrum of anesthesiology. Annually, the WCA attracts delegates from over 130 countries.

The WCA recently released its annual report, which outlines its education, advocacy, safety & quality initiatives and more.

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Happy Holidays!

AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR



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