

# CAS

## ANESTHESIA NEWS

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CANADIAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS' SOCIETY

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

## JOINT MESSAGE FROM



### THE CANADIAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS' SOCIETY PRESIDENT AND CEO



**Dr Giuseppe Fuda,**  
CAS President



**Vanessa Foran,**  
CAS Chief Executive Officer

#### Dear colleagues,

The 2025 Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society (CAS) Annual Meeting is just around the corner, and we're delighted to be welcoming colleagues from across the country in the beautiful city of St. John's, Newfoundland, from June 20–22. There's still time to join us—either in person or through one of our excellent virtual options. This issue offers a **sneak peek** of the many exciting activities and presentations planned.

At the Annual Meeting, we will proudly celebrate the recipients of the **2025 CAS Honour Awards and Research Program grants**. These prestigious awards recognize the outstanding contributions and ongoing dedication of our members, whose efforts in research, education, and leadership significantly advance the specialty of anesthesiology.

Advocacy remains a cornerstone of the CAS's mission. As your national voice, we consistently ensure that policymakers recognize and support the critical role anesthesiologists play in healthcare delivery. We actively collaborate with national partners, government agencies, and healthcare organizations to tackle pressing health human resources (HHR) challenges that affect both patient care and the future of our profession. This Spring has been particularly active for our advocacy work, with significant progress made at both the federal and provincial level. Key advocacy initiatives include expanding support for Anesthesia Assistants (AAs), promoting environmental sustainability in the OR, and driving anesthesiologist recruitment and retention nationwide. For further details, please read our comprehensive **advocacy update**.

Education is another vital commitment of CAS. Following a successful Spring season, and with the **Annual Meeting** just ahead, we are already preparing a comprehensive Fall program to continue delivering high-value learning opportunities. Additionally, we are excited to launch our latest **CPD module**, *Perioperative Anaphylaxis: An Update on Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, and Management*, which CAS members can access at no charge—just one of the valuable benefits of **membership**.

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We extend our deepest gratitude to all our members and volunteers who have contributed to making this a productive and impactful year.

We warmly encourage those interested to [explore leadership roles](#) within CAS, as your involvement directly sustains and strengthens our community. We look forward to seeing many of you in June in St. John's.

This year also brings changes to the CAS Board of Directors. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Dr Andrew Nice, who has provided exemplary service as CAS Secretary since 2019. His leadership and contributions have been invaluable. We also sincerely thank our outgoing Division Representatives—Dr Dennis Drapeau (Nova Scotia), Dr Jennifer Plester (Manitoba), and Dr Jennifer Landry (New Brunswick)—for their significant service and commitment. Stay tuned for the announcement of our new Board members in the Fall issue of *Anesthesia News*.

If you have any questions about the Annual Meeting or other CAS initiatives, please don't hesitate to reach out at [anesthesia@cas.ca](mailto:anesthesia@cas.ca).

We look forward to seeing you in St. John's!



**Dr Giuseppe Fuda,**  
CAS President

**Vanessa Foran,**  
CAS CEO

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AS OF JUNE 2025

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

### DIVISIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

**Dr Matthew Banasch** (Alberta)  
**Dr Joseph Desreux** (Prince Edward Island)  
**Dr Dennis Drapeau** (Nova Scotia)  
**Dr Jadon Harding** (Newfoundland & Labrador)  
**Dr Nikola Joly** (Quebec)  
**Dr Jennifer Landry** (New Brunswick)  
**Dr Melanie Orvold** (Saskatchewan)  
**Dr Jennifer Plester** (Manitoba)  
**Dr Soniya Sharma** (Ontario)  
**Dr Annika Vrana** (British Columbia)

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

**Dr Mateen Raazi**, ACUDA President  
**Dr Melissa Liu**, Resident Representative

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW ONLINE](#)

# ADVOCACY UPDATE



## CAS In the News

In response to CBC's January podcast episode of White Coat Black Art and the accompanying CBC digital article exploring the introduction of CRNAs as a potential solution to anesthesia human health resources (HHR) challenges in Canada, many CAS members actively voiced their concerns regarding biased coverage and contacted CBC.

Members emphasized the effectiveness of the existing Canadian solution: Anesthesia Assistants (AAs) and the Anesthesia Care Team Model (ACT). CBC subsequently published a follow-up article highlighting the integral role of AAs and the ACT model in addressing surgical wait times and maintaining patient safety in Canada:

**Read CBC's follow-up here:**

**CBC White Coat Black Art Article**

## Elevating Member Issues With Policy Makers

### Federal Engagement:

In March, CAS President, Dr Giuseppe Fuda, and CAS CEO Vanessa Foran, met with representatives from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). This included Dany Drouin (Director General of the Plastics and Waste Management Directorate) and Tracey Spack (Director, Plastics Regulatory Affairs Division).

The meeting was highly productive, focusing on anesthesiologists' critical role in healthcare delivery and CAS' proactive stance on environmental sustainability.

The discussion also highlighted CAS's new environmental position statement and the strong support from members for greening the OR. CAS continues to call on governments to introduce federal regulations for phasing out desflurane, reducing nitrous oxide use, and encouraging the development of more environmentally sustainable products for operating rooms. ECCC acknowledged the alignment of CAS's recommendations with governmental environmental priorities and encouraged ongoing dialogue with Health Canada post-election.

## Provincial Engagement

### New Brunswick:

In April, Dr Fuda and Ms. Foran, along with Dr Timothy Maxwell, former Board member and current CAS' Public Affairs Committee member, met with New Brunswick's Minister of Health, Dr John Dornan and senior officials Eric Levesque (ADM, Francophone Affairs, Public Health and Medicare & Physician Services), Mathieu Chalifoux (ADM, Health System Collaboration), and Rachel Brown (Executive Director, Talent Recruitment).

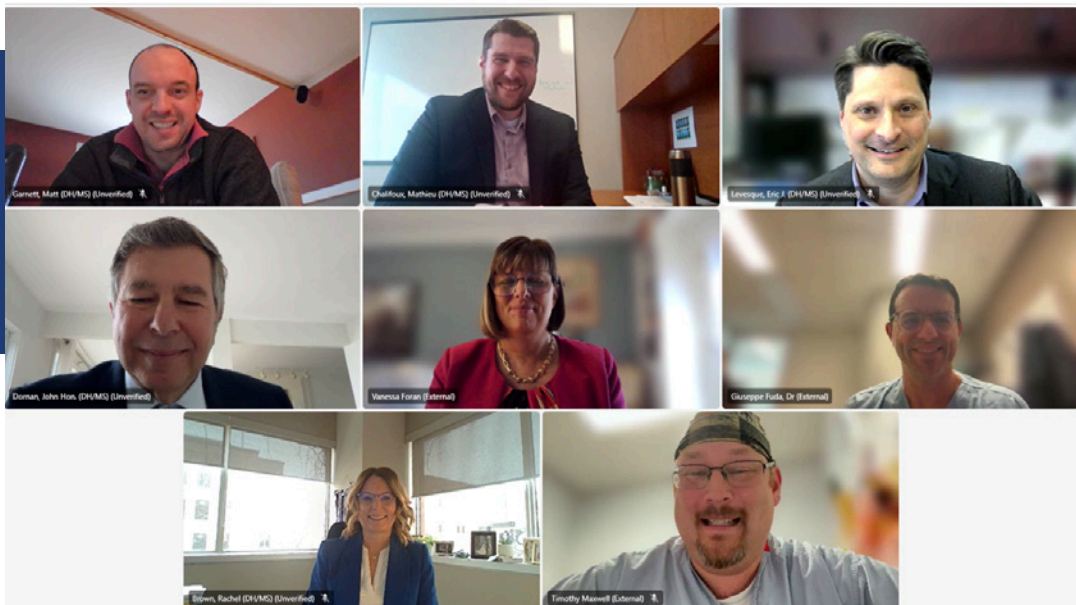
### Meeting highlights included:

- A discussion about expedited credentialing processes for internationally trained anesthesiology professionals, a measure already underway in collaboration with the College of Physicians and Surgeons.
- CAS emphasized the underutilization of Anesthesia Assistants in the province, highlighting their significant contributions and the efficiencies gained through their integration as they are trained and trusted by anesthesiologists
- CAS also advised that nurse anesthetists are not a model that New Brunswick anesthesiologists are familiar with and emphasized that they would unlikely represent a savings to the system, and that more support for Anesthesia Assistants and the Canadian ACT model is needed.
- The Minister positively received CAS's recommendations regarding environmental sustainability, specifically the reduction of desflurane and nitrous oxide, aligning well with current hospital infrastructure projects in Saint John.



**CANADIAN  
ANESTHESIOLOGISTS'  
SOCIETY**





### Saskatchewan:

In late April, Saskatchewan's Health Minister, the Honourable Jeremy Cockrill, and Kim Statler, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Medical Services Branch, met with Dr Fuda, Ms. Foran, and Saskatchewan CAS Board Member Dr Melanie Orvold.

#### Highlights of the meeting included:

- CAS' recommendations on improving working conditions, recruitment, and retention of anesthesiologists were discussed extensively, with Minister Cockrill expressing openness to continued collaboration.
- Minister Cockrill recognized the essential role anesthesiologists play within the healthcare system, underscoring Health Human Resources (HHR) as a central governmental priority.
- Although environmental health policies were not prioritized at this time, discussions were constructive, laying the foundation for future collaborations.

### British Columbia:

In late May, Dr Fuda and Ms. Foran, met with British Columbia's Health Minister, the Honourable Josie Osborne and BCAS members and staff, including CAS Board member and BCAS President, Dr Annika Vrana.

#### Highlights of the meeting included:

- A discussion about reinstating a locum program, highlighting past work and the need for access to anesthesia care in rural BC.
- The importance of the Anesthesia Care Team model and the need for Anesthesia Assistant regulations.
- Identifying strategies to improve OR efficiency, highlighting some of the ongoing issues associated with PACU holds, and recommending a tracking system to help identify issues and find solutions.

### Nova Scotia:

In early May, Dr Fuda, Ms. Foran, and Nova Scotia CAS Board Member, Dr Dennis Drapeau, met with Stacy Burgess and Angela Purcell, senior officials from Nova Scotia Health and Wellness.

#### Highlights of the meeting included:

- Congratulating the Ministry for streamlining the process for IMGs to practice in Nova Scotia, which has greatly contributed to reducing the anesthesiologists' shortage in the province, which now enjoys almost full coverage.
- Raising concerns to the Ministry about potential disruptions from upcoming system changes and requesting that anesthesiologists be included in discussions and plans to ensure a smooth transition. Also noted was the ongoing pressure to deliver more with the same level of resources.
- A fulsome discussion about CAS' Environmental Sustainability position statement took place during which Ministry representatives said that Desflurane is minimally used, and they will review the formulary.

### What's Next

Throughout the summer and fall, CAS will continue its proactive government relations approach, focusing on both federal and provincial engagements to address and represent the critical needs and priorities of Canadian anesthesiologists.

# SIX-MONTH UPDATE: CAS STRATEGIC PLAN

On January 1st, 2025, we launched CAS' new five-year strategic plan. Developed by our Board last year, this plan is our roadmap for delivering on our new vision statement: *A unified, vibrant, and influential community of anesthesiology professionals delivering the highest quality care.*

To set a clear direction for the organization and to ensure ongoing accountability to our community, the plan is divided into five strategic priorities: **members, stakeholders, people, internal systems, and finances**. As we close the first half of 2025, we're pleased to report significant strides in several activities that fall under the plan's strategic priorities. Here are a few of the highlights:

<b>MEMBER PRIORITIES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure a unique member value proposition. Maintain high-quality offerings that members value. (Education, Journal, Practice Guidelines, Conference).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivered 12 <b>new education</b> offerings for 2025 in Q1 &amp; Q2, including new SAMBA ambulatory anesthesia collaborative rounds series and returning Pinnacle Rounds</li> <li>• Expanded Friday <b>Annual Meeting</b> schedule, featuring new clinically focused <i>CAS Expert Insights</i> program offering Section 3 credits</li> <li>• Created first all-weekend Annual Meeting <b>resident events</b> program headlined by intensive two-day Royal College exam prep course</li> <li>• Presenting <b>11 research awards</b>, including two first-time New Investigator Operating Grants</li> <li>• Partnered with Perkopolis and will launch a new Member Rewards Program later this year</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen our Professional Practice Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing volunteer leader spotlight campaign to celebrate these outstanding individuals year-round</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amplify our members' voice to advocate for things that matter to them and to advance the specialty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced <b>key advocacy initiatives</b>, at both the national and provincial levels, including expanding support for Anesthesia Assistants (AAs), promoting environmental sustainability in the OR, and driving anesthesiologist recruitment and retention nationwide</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise public awareness about the profession</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a new public-facing web section of the CAS website (to be published shortly) with information that will inform our public awareness campaign</li> </ul>
<b>STAKEHOLDER PRIORITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage and strengthen stakeholder relationships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting our foundations by hosting a joint fundraising event at the <b>Annual Meeting Soirée</b></li> <li>• Launched a monthly social media campaign to strengthen CARF and CASIEF, driving awareness of their vital work</li> </ul>
<b>PEOPLE PRIORITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure strong, confident governance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Held the inaugural Governance Committee meeting to begin a full review of CAS' governance practices and policies</li> <li>• Established a new Membership Committee, to advise on retention and recruitment strategies. If you are interested in joining this committee, details <b>can be found here</b> on how to apply.</li> </ul>
<b>FINANCE PRIORITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure adequate resources to advance strategic priorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked with CAS' new auditor and received a clean audit for 2024—full results to be published in our 2024 Annual Report next month.</li> </ul>

We encourage you to look over the full strategic plan (following page). For more information, don't miss the CAS Annual Business Update—happening in-person only on Sunday June 22 at 11:30 am (NT) during the 2025 Annual Meeting. The Executive Committee will review the year's major accomplishments, the association's financial condition, and new program initiatives for the coming year.

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# Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society 2025-2030 Strategic Plan

## OUR VALUES

### OUR MISSION

Serving members and advancing the specialty through leadership, advocacy, education, and research.

### OUR VISION

A unified, vibrant, and influential community of anesthesiology professionals delivering the highest quality care.



**Science:** We value the importance of best scientific evidence to guide our practice.



**Vigilance:** We value the focused and constant attention to safety in all we do.



**Compassion:** We recognize the importance of humanity and kindness towards our patients and our colleagues.



**Collaboration:** We recognize that working harmoniously within a team is essential to reaching our shared goals.



**Equity:** We value equitable access to health-care for our patients, and professional opportunities for our colleagues.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

### MEMBERS



- Ensure a unique member value proposition. Maintain high-quality offerings that members value. (Education, Journal, Practice Guidelines, Conference, Research Grants and Honour Awards).
- Strengthen our professional practice community. Provide leadership and networking opportunities.
- Amplify our members' voice to advocate for things that matter to them and to advance the specialty. Improved patient care (safety, quality, access); Leadership in perioperative care system decisions. Raise public awareness about the profession.

### STAKEHOLDERS



- Engage and strengthen our stakeholder relationships, e.g. ACUDA, CARF, CASIEF & others.
- Coordinate and increase our influence on governments and health systems. Work better together on shared education, public messaging and policy issues.

### PEOPLE



- Ensure strong, confident governance. Recruit and support our volunteers (e.g. Board & Committees).
- Empower staff to enhance our members' experience. Clarify delegation of authority and accountabilities.
- Shape a culture of inclusivity & engagement. More and different people, more involved.

### INTERNAL SYSTEMS



- Modernize our governance system. Governance review, bylaw changes, clear board policies. Align Sections' roles and accountability; clarify Committees' terms of reference.
- Leverage technology to enhance the member experience. Streamline and simplify member interaction with National Office.

### FINANCES



- Ensure a fair return on high value offerings. Clarify pricing on all member services.
- Develop a long-term member dues strategy. Policy to keep pace with economic conditions.
- Develop a non-dues revenue strategy. Clarify sponsorships and fees.
- Ensure adequate resources to advance strategic priorities. Develop a multi-year financial and investment plan.

# CAS SPRING EDUCATION RECAP

We're proud to share that the CAS' Spring education programming was a big success—thank you to everyone who participated and our fantastic volunteer leaders who helped make it happen!

The biggest event on our calendar, the CAS Annual Meeting, is happening June 20–22, and we encourage you to take advantage of the exceptional education opportunities the [conference offers](#).

Below is a summary of recent highlights and a look at what's coming up.

For the latest updates, visit [www.cas.ca/upcoming-events](http://www.cas.ca/upcoming-events).

Upcoming Events

## SPRING WEBINARS



CAS NEUROANESTHESIA SECTION PRESENTS:

### NEUROANESTHESIA NATIONAL WEBINAR

**Making TIVA-TCI Simple and Fun: One Model to Rule Them All**

Wednesday, April 16, 2025  
8 PM ET

Moderator: Dr Melinda Davis  
Presenter: Dr Philippe Picard

[WWW.CAS.CA/TIVA-TCI](http://WWW.CAS.CA/TIVA-TCI)

### Neuroanesthesia National Webinar

#### Making TIVA-TCI Simple and Fun: One Model to Rule Them All

April 16, 2025

This session provided an overview of the basics of target-controlled infusion (TCI) technology, including how pharmacokinetic (pK) models were developed and implemented, and their described use. The second part of the session focused on the new Eleveld general purpose model for propofol, exploring its benefits for total intravenous anesthesia (TIVA).

View Recording



**Earth Day Webinar 2025**

April 22, 2025  
8 pm ET

Our Planet, Our Power: A webinar on anesthesiologists' role in reducing healthcare emissions

Dr Stephan Williams, Moderator  
Dr Vivian Ip, Presenter  
Dr Matt Walker, Presenter  
Dr Timur Ozelsel, Presenter  
Dr Christopher Prabhakar, Presenter  
Dr Joanna Fifen, Presenter  
Dr Carole Lin, Presenter

[www.cas.ca/earthday2025](http://www.cas.ca/earthday2025)

### Earth Day Webinar

April 22, 2025

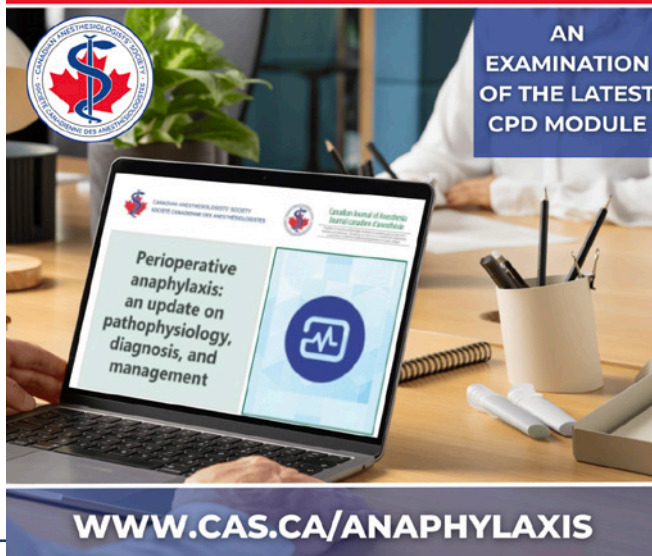
The CAS Earth Day webinar, *Our Power, Our Planet*, highlighted the ongoing impact of global warming and explored practical strategies and tools anesthesiologists can use to reduce carbon emissions in health care.

View Recording

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## WEBINAR: PERIOPERATIVE ANAPHYLAXIS IS THIS REALLY HAPPENING?



### Webinar: Perioperative Anaphylaxis – Is This Really Happening?

May 14, 2025

This special session offered a unique chance to hear directly from Dr Martin Ma, co-author of our latest CPD Module, *Perioperative Anaphylaxis: An Update on Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, and Management*. Dr Kathryn Sparrow, CPD Editor of the *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia*, moderated the discussion as Dr Ma walked through the content, shared key insights, and answered questions.

[View Recording](#)

## ONGOING SERIES

### CAS Pinnacle Rounds

Our member-exclusive education program **CAS Pinnacle Rounds: Celebrating National Anesthesia Education** continues in 2025, with new anesthesia teaching rounds submitted by universities across Canada.

### CAS PINNACLE ROUNDS SERIES

#### In-Flight Medical Emergencies: Challenges at 40,000 ft.

April 2, 2025  
8 pm ET



**Moderator:**  
Dr Amélie Pelland



**Presenter:**  
Dr David Jones



[www.cas.ca/pinnacle-rounds](http://www.cas.ca/pinnacle-rounds)

#### In-Flight Medical Emergencies: Challenges at 40,000 ft

April 2, 2025

In-flight medical emergencies (IMEs)—events that go beyond what flight crews can manage—occur approximately every 600 flights and are expected to increase. In these situations, physicians are called upon to help, but often have limited knowledge of the cabin environment and available resources. The session highlighted how anesthesiologists, who are experts in physiology, critical care, and crisis response, are uniquely equipped to handle these high-pressure situations.

## UPCOMING

- Where the Rubber meets the Road. Stroke Ambulance, Stroke Care, and the Anesthesiologist - Sept. 3, 2025
- Perioperative Management of the Patient with Liver Disease - November 5, 2025

[PINNACLE ROUNDS PAGE](#)

## NEW in 2025! CAS Samba Ambulatory Anesthesia Collaborative Rounds Series

CAS continues our new education program developed in collaboration between the CAS Ambulatory Section and **The Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia (SAMBA)**. These rounds share expertise and resources to help ambulatory anesthesia care providers build their knowledge and skills.

### UPCOMING SAMBA WEBINARS

- **Preoperative Evaluation and Criteria for Ambulatory Surgery** - October 1, 2025
- **Sleep-Disordered Breathing and Ambulatory Surgery: A collaborative round with CAS, SAMBA, and the Society for Anesthesia and Sleep Medicine (SASM)** - December 3, 2025

[CHECK OUT THE FULL SAMBA ROUNDS PAGE](#)

## 2025 CAS ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 20-22, ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND



Mark your calendar for an unforgettable gathering of anesthesiology professionals at the **Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society (CAS) Annual Meeting**, happening **June 20–22, 2025** in the breathtaking city of St. John's, Newfoundland.

### Take advantage of unique opportunities to:

- ✓ **Earn valuable CME credits** through innovative and engaging educational sessions, problem-based learning discussions (PBLDs), CAS Expert Insights sessions, and hands-on workshops.
- ✓ **Connect with colleagues and experts** from across Canada and beyond through dedicated networking events, including the annual CAS Soirée.
- ✓ Come out and support your peers as they present groundbreaking research in dynamic competitions, including the Richard Knill Research Competition and the Residents' Oral Competition.

Set against the vibrant backdrop of St. John's—where Canadian history and natural beauty intersect—the CAS Annual Meeting is your chance to engage in meaningful professional development, share knowledge, and strengthen the future of anesthesiology.

[2025 PROGRAM](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)



## EXPANSIVE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

This year's meeting offers a truly exceptional scientific program, shaped in part by our first open call for content. This approach drew a diversity of submissions across the spectrum of anesthesia streams—resulting in one of our most innovative and comprehensive conference programs to date.

The meeting will kick off with Friday's new expanded lineup of programming to enable attendees to make the most out of the weekend. A full day of hands-on POCUS workshops and the new CAS Expert Insights are scheduled—as well as the first edition of Ace it! A Prep Course for the Royal College Exam.

All weekend, pioneering speakers and thought leaders will deliver talks and interactive events that address the most pressing topics in anesthesia and benefit your practice. Several symposia led by our committees and foundations will also take place.

### PROGRAM

## OPENING KEYNOTE – BRAD GUSHUE OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL WINNER



**Brad Gushue** is a Canadian curling icon from St. John's, Newfoundland. A six-time Tim Hortons Brier Champion skip and Olympic medalist, he led Team Canada to historic gold in 2006 and won bronze at the 2022 Winter Olympics. Off the ice, he holds an MBA from Queen's University and owns multiple fitness centers. Honored with the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador and an honorary doctorate, Brad is a sought-after keynote speaker, sharing insights on leadership, teamwork, and performing under pressure.

Brad Gushue will deliver **"The Roadmap to Success"**, a powerful presentation on building high-performing teams by identifying the right talent, fostering leadership, embracing vulnerability, and creating a culture of growth, empathy, and resilience in both sports and business.

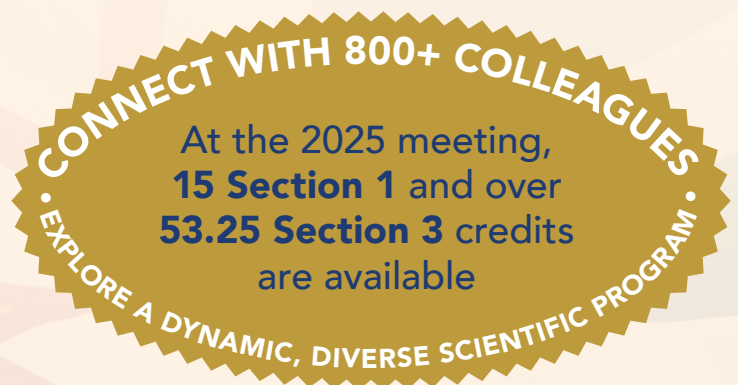
### PROGRAM

## INTRODUCING CAS EXPERT INSIGHTS: A NEW ERA OF PRACTICAL LEARNING



Debuting at the 2025 Annual Meeting, CAS Expert Insights builds on the success of our Test-Enhanced Learning (TEL) sessions with a bold new format that focuses on real-world impact. These 45-minute sessions combine pre- and post-session testing with proven retrieval-based strategies to boost long-term knowledge retention and clinical confidence. CAS Expert Insights was developed in response to members' growing demand for more Section 3 Maintenance of Certification (MoC) opportunities and practical, clinically focused education. Tailored to community anesthesiologists in particular, these sessions focus on real-life scenarios and the complex challenges practitioners face in everyday cases. As part of the expanded Friday program, CAS Expert Insights offers you a head start on high-value, case-based learning—setting the tone for a weekend of deep engagement, skill-building, and innovation.

### PROGRAM



CONNECT WITH 800+ COLLEAGUES

At the 2025 meeting,  
**15 Section 1** and over  
**53.25 Section 3** credits  
are available

EXPLORE A DYNAMIC, DIVERSE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM



## HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS, INCLUDING POCUS



Boost your skills and confidence in 2025 with our top-tier hands-on workshops at the Annual Meeting. Led by expert instructors and designed for direct, practical learning, these sessions offer an exceptional opportunity to refine your technique alongside peers. Dive into a wide range of topics, from regional nerve blocks and abdominal truncal blocks to chest wall blocks, POCUS (at both the advanced and basic levels), and more.

### WORKSHOPS

## ANNUAL COMPETITIONS AND AN ALL-WEEKEND RESIDENT EVENTS SCHEDULE

Competitions taking place on-site include the Richard Knill Competition, featuring the highest scoring abstracts submitted by physicians to the meeting, and the Residents Oral Competition, which highlights the top submissions from residents—fostering scientific excellence among anesthesia trainees in Canada.

In 2025, we are offering a full weekend of events dedicated specifically to resident attendees. Developed with the support of our Resident Section Executive, this program provides residents from across the country with opportunities to navigate and succeed in their professional journeys, strengthen clinical skills, and build valuable connections within Canada's anesthesia community.

## NEW IN 2025: ACE IT! A PREP COURSE FOR THE ROYAL COLLEGE EXAM

For the first time, the Annual Meeting is providing two live preparation courses dedicated to the written and oral Royal College exams. Led by past examiners and recent graduates, these sessions are designed to build your confidence before the big days by providing first-hand insights into mock questions and subspecialty topics, as well as how to study effectively for both assessments. **Registration for the Written Exam Course closes on Thursday, June 19.**

### ACE IT

## PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING DISCUSSIONS



Returning by popular demand, PBLDs offer a highly interactive, case-based learning experience where you'll engage in thoughtful dialogue, explore evolving scenarios, and sharpen your clinical judgment. These small-group sessions challenge you to think critically, compare approaches, and apply new insights to your practice. Delegates will explore a wide range of engaging PBLD topics in 2025, including perioperative serious illness conversations, OR efficiency, managing anxious pediatric patients, procedural sedation pitfalls, green practices in cardiac surgery, resuscitation in pregnancy, and strategies for OUD, GLP-1 agonists, and failed spinal anesthesia.

### PBLDs

## 5th ANNUAL CAS RESIDENT SIMULATION (SIM) OLYMPICS



Winners of the 2024 SIM Olympics Dr Zijian James Zhou (McMaster University), Dr Prab Boni (University of Manitoba), Dr Hui Yu Betty Zhang (University of Manitoba)

We're excited to host the 5th Annual CAS Resident SIM Olympics, presented by the CAS Residents' Section! This much-anticipated event brings teams of anesthesia residents from programs across Canada together for a friendly competition—with the winners taking home a \$1,000 grand prize.

Held at the Clinical Learning and Simulation Center (CLSC) at Memorial University of Newfoundland, our 2025 event features fun and immersive escape-room-style simulation challenges. Resident teams will rotate through a series of clinical scenario stations, where facilitators will track their accuracy and speed. Scores will be tallied at the end to crown this year's winning team—who will be honoured during the Closing Sessions.

### SIM Olympics



## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting brings members up to date on the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society's progress, activities, and financial status, while reflecting on our key achievements. Hear updates from the *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia* (CJA), the **Canadian Anesthesia Research Foundation (CARF)**, the **Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society International Education Foundation (CASIEF)**, Association of Canadian University Departments of Anesthesiology (ACUDA), and the World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists (WFSA). This year's meeting will take place on Sunday, June 22.

## EXHIBIT HALL



Explore cutting-edge advancements in anesthesia available in the Exhibit Hall throughout the weekend. This dynamic space offers unique opportunities to meet with industry leaders and learn about or see demonstrations of groundbreaking technologies impacting the future of the specialty. CAS is deeply grateful to our dedicated partners whose financial support and active in-person participation at the Annual Meeting elevate the quality of the event each year.

## WELCOME RECEPTION AND CLOSING CEREMONY

### Welcome Reception

Friday, June 20  
5:30pm - 7:00pm

### Closing Remarks and Closing Symposium

Sunday, June 22  
3:30pm - 5:00pm

### Closing Social Hour

5:00pm - 6:00pm

Kick off the conference by visiting our Exhibit Hall, where you can explore the latest products and services from our exhibitors and sponsors. The final day of the CAS Annual Meeting concludes with an insightful Closing Symposium, "Task Shifting and Task Sharing in Evolving Canadian Anesthesiology Care Models." Following this, delegates will come together for the Closing Social Hour, where they will raise a glass of sparkling and enjoy a selection of hors d'oeuvres to toast the end of #CASAM2025.

## CAS SOIRÉE SATURDAY JUNE 21

## CAS SOIRÉE 2025



Sponsored by:



Scotiabank  
Healthcare+



Each year, the CAS Soirée is an Annual Meeting highlight—offering countless opportunities to form valuable connections in a relaxed and vibrant setting. Take in St. John's magnificent beauty, while enjoying delicious hors d'oeuvres, two complimentary drinks, live music, and Newfoundland traditions—including a Screech-In Ceremony to make you an honorary Newfoundlander. The event will also feature a live auction to support CASIEF and CARF, with prizes including Canadian vacation home stays, a 50/50 draw, and more.

**REGISTER FOR SOCIAL EVENTS**

## LOCAL ADVENTURES



Beyond the conference, discover the beauty of St. John's through local adventures with fellow attendees. From scenic hikes to cultural tours, make the most of your time in this vibrant city. Don't miss these incredible opportunities to network, unwind, and experience the best of Newfoundland!

**EXCURSIONS**



# CASIEF-CARF UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

## SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER!

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[CLICK HERE TO VIEW AUCTION ITEMS](#)





# MEMBER NEWS



## CAS Member Dr Tania Di Renna Featured in CBC Article on Women's Health

Dr Tania Di Renna, a member of the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society (CAS), was recently featured in a CBC News article discussing the challenges Canadian women face in accessing second medical opinions. The piece highlights how many women feel dismissed by the healthcare system, especially when dealing with chronic or reproductive health concerns. Dr Di Renna emphasizes the importance of patient advocacy and the need for systemic improvements to ensure timely, accurate diagnoses and care.

As the Medical Director of the Toronto Academic Pain Medicine Institute (TAPMI) and the Chronic Pain Clinic at Women's College Hospital, Dr Di Renna has been at the forefront of developing patient-centered approaches to chronic pain management. Her work underscores the significance of empowering patients to actively participate in their healthcare decisions.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

**70th ONTARIO ANESTHESIA MEETING**

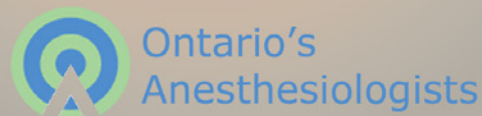
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### **New CPD Module Now Available: Perioperative Anaphylaxis - An Update on Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, and Management**

The *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia* (CJA) is pleased to introduce a new Continuing Professional Development (CPD) module:

**Perioperative Anaphylaxis: An Update on Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, and Management.**

This evidence-informed module offers a practical framework for the prompt recognition and management of perioperative anaphylaxis, including guidance on follow-up testing and referral. Diagnosing and managing anaphylaxis in the perioperative period is still one of the most urgent and complex challenges in anesthetic practice. A rapid and coordinated response is essential—requiring provider vigilance, a high index of suspicion, and prompt treatment to ensure successful resuscitation and patient safety.

After completing this module, participants will be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate an understanding of the nomenclature and pathophysiology of anaphylaxis
- 2 Recognize the clinical features of anaphylaxis to facilitate a timely diagnosis
- 3 Implement a prioritized treatment plan for effective management
- 4 Initiate appropriate testing, counselling, and referral to an allergy specialist

**[ACCESS THE FULL MODULE HERE](#)**

**Missed the May 14 session with Dr Martin Ma and Dr Kathryn Sparrow?**



**[WWW.CAS.CA/CPD](http://WWW.CAS.CA/CPD)**

**[VIEW THE RECORDING IN THE CAS MEMBER AREA](#)**





# ANESTHESIA HISTORY CORNER

DR DOROTHEA M. WARDROP (1916-1993):  
The first female physician and anesthesiologist  
at the Montreal Neurological Hospital.

By Dr Daniel Chartrand

In 1934, when Dr Wilder Penfield created the Montreal Neurological Hospital (MNH), he had brought with him his own nurse anesthetist from the USA. Later, he was even trying to convince young nursing graduates to become nurse anesthetists. However, Dr Wesley Bourne was able to convince him that only physicians should be giving anesthesia. So, in 1939, Dr Dorothea Wardrop became the first female physician and anesthesiologist at the MNH and possibly the first female anesthesiologist in Québec. We must remember that, at that time, Dr Enid Johnson was just starting her training with Dr Harold Griffith and very few female physicians were providing anesthesia in Canada.

Unfortunately, Dr Wardrop's career at the MNH was brief. In the 1941 MNH annual report, Dr Penfield wrote: *"It is regrettable that during the past year our anaesthetist, Dr Dorothea Wardrop, has resigned to take up duties elsewhere. Dr F.A.H. Wilkinson has provided for anaesthesia with the help of various members of his department in the Royal Victoria Hospital. The shortage, however, of anesthetists is a very acute problem which at times has interfered greatly with our operating schedules, and, in many cases, local anesthesia has been resorted to, so as to decrease the demand upon the time of the Department of Anaesthesia"*. We should also remember that, in these years, Dr Penfield had performed many awake craniotomies with only local anesthesia, and, in doing so, had been able to establish the motor and sensory homunculus by observing his patients and talking to them.

After her departure from the MNH, it seems that Dr Wardrop had moved to Winnipeg. In the Winnipeg Tribune of May 29, 1941, we can read: *"Dorothea M. Wardrop of the Royal Victoria Hospital Montreal will arrive Friday to spend June with her parents..."*. Our Winnipeg colleagues could possibly help us to better understand her clinical career in Manitoba, but it seems that she remained in Winnipeg and was academically active. In 1948, she published a comparative study of continuous spinal and cyclopropane with curare (1).

In 1940 at the MNH, Dr Wardrop was using different combinations of drugs with "Avertin", nitrous oxide, ether, and others, as we can see in her annual report:

DEPARTMENT OF ANAESTHESIA	
DR. DOROTHEA M. WARDROP, Anaesthetist	
DR. F. A. H. WILKINSON, Consulting Anaesthetist	
Summary of anaesthetics administered in 1940	
Avertin .....	82
Avertin and local .....	53
Avertin and ether .....	253
Avertin, ether and local .....	22
Nitrous oxide and oxygen .....	8
Nitrous oxide and ether .....	14
Ether .....	5
Miscellaneous .....	4
Local .....	57
Total .....	498
Total in 1939 .....	363
Increase in 1940 .....	135

The rectal instillation of tribromoethanol (Avertin) was relatively common in these years. In fact, in the 1930s, Dr Wesley Bourne published on the use of Avertin in surgical anesthesia (2, 3). Today, Avertin is still used for short duration surgical procedures in rodents although other anesthetic drugs are usually recommended even for animals.

Despite the clinical challenges, several major scientific discoveries were made in the MNH operating room in these days. At the same time, the operating room team was also able to keep a high level of humour as shown in this caricature drawn by Mary Filer in 1946:



## References

- Bourne W. Avertin anaesthesia for crippled children. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. 1936; 35:278-281.
- Gurd FB, Bourne W. Avertin in surgical anaesthesia. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. 1931; 25:587-589.
- Wardrop DM. A comparative study of continuous spinal and cyclopropane with curare. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. 1948; 58:343-348.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Join us for the 13th Annual History Symposium at the CAS Annual Meeting in St. John's on June 22, 2025. Dr Ken Ledez will be speaking about the history and future of anesthesia equipment standards, including some potential practice-changing developments.
- The 11th International Symposium on the History of Anesthesia (ISHA) will be held in Paris, France from September 16-18. For more information, check out [HERE](#)

# CANADIAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS' SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION (CASIEF) SUMMER UPDATE



## CASIEF

### VOLUNTEER TEACHERS NEEDED FOR OUR OVERSEAS PROGRAMS!

Many dozens of Canadian anesthesiologists have travelled to our programs in Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Guyana, and found these trips exciting, rewarding, and fun! Today, our partners need the experience of our anesthesiology educators to move their medical systems forward. Travel costs and accommodations are reimbursed, so this is also a great opportunity to see the world! Please contact us at [info@casief.ca](mailto:info@casief.ca) if you'd like to get involved with this life-changing opportunity!

Through CASIEF and its partners, Canadian anesthesiologists are known around the world for their generosity and dedication to promoting safe anesthesia for all. Please consider providing your expertise and [donations](#) to support this very important cause.

You can learn more by visiting our [website](#), or by watching our fantastic [video series](#) about CASIEF's partnerships on our [YouTube Channel](#).

### CAS ANNUAL MEETING – CASIEF SYMPOSIUM – SUBSPECIALTY ANESTHESIA TRAINING IN RESOURCE-LIMITED SETTINGS

This year's CASIEF Symposium will be moderated by **Dr Alan Chu**, a regional anesthesiologist at the University of Calgary, and the program lead for both the CASIEF Guyana program and a co-founder of the Fellowship in Regional Anesthesia and Acute Pain Medicine in Guyana. The discussion will investigate the benefits and challenges of fostering subspecialty training in anesthesia in addition to supporting anesthesia residency programs in countries without enough anesthesiologists to meet the population's needs. CASIEF is eager to learn from three speakers with expertise on subspecialty anesthesia training in resource-limited settings.

**Dr Faye Evans** from Boston Children's Hospital, and the current Director of Programmes at the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA), will speak on the WFSA Fellowship Programme as well as her experience co-leading the Paediatric Anaesthesia Training in Africa (PATA) initiative. **Dr Youlanda Hendricks** is the Program Director of the anesthesia residency program in the Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care at the University of Guyana. Dr Hendricks will discuss residency training and the successes and challenges of the Fellowship in Regional Anesthesia and Acute Pain Medicine in Guyana. **Dr Pauline Wake** is joining the CAS from Papua New Guinea and will share her experience as a WFSA Fellowship Programme graduate in pediatric anesthesia and insights from her editorial on The World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists' Fellowship



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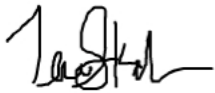
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## CASIEF-LIFEBOX PEER TO PEER FUNDRAISER CANADIAN RESIDENT CHALLENGE

This year, CASIEF is launching a new initiative at the CAS Annual Meeting: The CASIEF-Lifebox Resident Challenge. This program invites residents from across Canada to work within their program to fundraise through peer activities, such as bake sales, cook offs, and other creative ideas. The primary goal is to raise funds to purchase Smile Train-Lifebox Capnographs that will be distributed in ORs in resource-limited settings across the globe. It's also an opportunity to represent your program as a top fundraiser, while promoting the great work that CASIEF and Lifebox do, and raising awareness of the critical need for lifesaving devices such as pulse oximetry and capnography that we take for granted in our ORs every day. More information will be announced in St. John's—we hope to see you there!

Sincerely,



**Terri Skelton, MD, FRCPC, MPH**  
Chair, CASIEF  
[terriskelton@casief.ca](mailto:terriskelton@casief.ca)

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# CASIEF Donors

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## CARF Update: Welcoming New Board Members and Growing Our Research Impact

CARF is delighted to welcome two new members to our Board of Directors: Dr Summer Syed and Mr Brian McWilliams.



Brian McWilliams



Dr Summer Syed

Dr Summer Syed, from McMaster University and Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, brings a wealth of experience in research and leadership across several CAS Sections. She has a strong appreciation for the role of seed funding in launching major research projects and is committed to advancing our fundraising initiatives.

Mr Brian McWilliams, General Manager of GE HealthCare Canada, will provide valuable insight into strengthening industry partnerships. One opportunity under consideration is adopting a model similar to the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation in the United States. Mr McWilliams believes that industry and the CAS should work together to drive innovations in patient care.

In 2025, with support from CAS Sections and Octapharma, CARF was able to award **\$230,000** in research funding. This achievement is only possible through the continued generosity of CAS members. Looking ahead, our 2026 focus will be limited Section support with a renewed emphasis on the **Career Scientist Award**, CARF's largest funding opportunity. This award provides **\$60,000 over two years** to support early-career researchers as they establish their programs. We hope to offer this award annually—but to do so, we must grow the support fund.

We are also proud to announce the launch of the **Environmental Sustainability Award** in 2026, made possible by the generosity of Dr Vincent Chan from the University of Toronto/Toronto Western Hospital, the Environmental Sustainability Section, and CARF. In its inaugural year, this award will provide **\$20,000** to support research that reduces the environmental impact of anesthesia practice while maintaining patient safety. Our goal is to expand this award through further collaboration with the Environmental Sustainability Section and by seeking support from industry, the public, and our members. This initiative reflects our profession's responsibility to be leaders in environmental stewardship.

The **British Columbia Anesthesiologists' Society** deserves special recognition for its efforts to establish the **BCAS Pieter Swart Award in Perioperative Research**. Together, we have made meaningful progress in preserving Dr Swart's legacy, and his family is deeply appreciative. Our shared goal is to make this a self-sustaining memorial award—but additional contributions are still needed.

We rely on the support of anesthesiologists across Canada to grow our impact. Our **CanadaHelps** site now allows donors to direct their contributions to:

- 1 Career Scientist Fund
- 2 BCAS Pieter Swart Perioperative Research Fund
- 3 Environmental Sustainability Fund
- 4 CARF General Fund

The CARF General Fund supports the **Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society's New Investigator Awards, The Earl Wynands CVT Section Award, The James Beckstead Award, The RA Gordon Award, and Section Grants.**

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the dedication of our entire Board:

**Doreen Yee** (Past Chair, Ontario),  
**Scott Beattie** (PACT Chair, Ontario),  
**François Carrier Fortier** (Trustee, Quebec),  
**Giuseppe Fuda** (CAS President),  
**Ron George** (Ontario),  
**Hilary Grocott** (CAS Treasurer, British Columbia),  
**Brian McWilliams** (GE Healthcare, Ontario),  
**Roanne Preston** (Trustee, British Columbia),  
**Summer Syed** (Trustee, Ontario),  
**Angela Ridi** (Newfoundland),  
**Stephan Schwarz** (CJA Editor-in-Chief, British Columbia),  
**Diem Tram** (Research Advisory Committee Chair, Ontario)

If you are interested in getting involved with CARF, please don't **hesitate to reach out**. Together, we can continue advancing anesthesia research in Canada.

Dr Stuart McCluskey,  
CARF Chair

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# RESIDENTS CORNER

## COUNTING DOWN TO THE ANNUAL MEETING!

Delivering high-value, innovative resident programming at the Annual Meeting is one of our top priorities for 2025, and we are truly thrilled by the response to this year's [all-weekend resident events schedule](#). By the end of April, over 75 residents had registered for the conference—roughly double the number that had signed up at the same time last year. We can't wait to connect with everyone coming to the meeting and encourage you to familiarize yourself with the schedule for each day.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2025

#CASAM2025 kicks off with the highly anticipated **Ace It! A Prep Course for the Royal College Exam (Written Exam)**. Past examiners and recently certified graduates will present on 13 subspecialty topics you can expect to see on your written assessment and share first-hand guidance on preparing for the big day more effectively. Registrants will have had the opportunity to complete a timed workshop pre-test simulating the real exam in May, and everyone will have the chance to take a shorter post-workshop test to help solidify what you've learned. After the workshop, join us for the Welcome Reception in the Exhibit Hall to meet fellow conference-goers and check out technology transforming anesthesia care best practices.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2025

In the morning, Part Two of **Ace It!** offers 90-minute problem-based learning discussions (PBLDs) dedicated to your oral exam. You'll be assigned to a small group, given a mock oral exam question, and receive constructive feedback from a facilitator. Next, the **Simulation (SIM) Olympics** will bring residents from across Canada together for a fun and friendly escape-room-style simulation competition—with the winners taking home a \$1,000 grand prize and big bragging rights! The day finishes with gourmet cuisine, signature beverages, live music, and vibrant East Coast traditions at the CAS Soirée. This is a unique opportunity to connect with community-oriented anesthesiologists eager to offer insight into job seeking, fellowship programs, a day-in-the-life at their hospitals, and more. unmet needs in healthcare, are currently being pioneered. This year's panel will focus on emerging fellowships dedicated to areas such as helicopter medicine, trauma anesthesia, simulation training, medical education, and hyperbaric medicine. Panelists will discuss what drew them to their chosen field of interest, the impact of their fellowship training, and the benefits, challenges, and career opportunities these programs provide.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2025

The *Residents' Oral Competition* will feature engaging presentations from the residents who've submitted the top-scoring abstracts to the Annual Meeting—come cheer on your peers as they vie for the title. Then, be sure to catch *Oh The Places You'll Go: A Panel on Unique Fellowship Opportunities*. This session will unpack non-traditional anesthesia fellowships that address unmet needs in healthcare, such as helicopter medicine, simulation training, medical education, palliative medicine, and hyperbaric medicine. Panelists will discuss what drew them to their field, challenges and benefits of their fellowship training, and career opportunities their programs have led to. Finally, join us at the Closing Session where we'll honour our *Residents' Oral Competition* and *SIM Olympics* winners before sharing a farewell toast.

In the following weeks, please keep an eye out for a short survey on which parts of the meeting benefitted you and where we can improve for next year. If you have questions, please visit our [website](#) or contact us at [anesthesia@cas.ca](mailto:anesthesia@cas.ca). We look forward to sharing an unforgettable conference with you!







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# CAS 2025

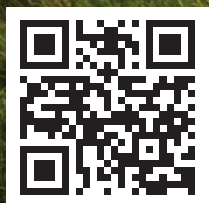
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*We're thrilled to announce this year's CAS Annual Meeting in the stunning and historic city of St. John's, Newfoundland! Our dedicated planning team has curated an outstanding lineup of speakers and engaging, interactive sessions. Join us for enjoyable social events to reconnect with old friends and build new connections. We can't wait to welcome you in June 2025!*

**—Dr. Giuseppe Fuda, President of CAS**





**CANADIAN  
ANESTHESIOLOGISTS'  
SOCIETY**

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