

CANADIAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS' SOCIETY



COMMITTEE & SECTION REPORTS 2023

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING PLANNING

Chair: Dr Jason Chui

Initiatives/Projects:

The CAS Annual Meeting Scientific Program Committee (AMSPC) was established this year with the responsibility of planning and executing the Annual Meeting's scientific program. As the AMSPC is a completely new committee, we started everything from scratch.

Committee responsibilities include:

- Identifying the educational needs of the CAS meeting audience
- Developing the Annual Meeting learning objectives and selecting appropriate educational methods
- Preparing the Annual Meeting Call for Content
- Establishing the review criteria and process for the scientific program proposals
- Reviewing content submissions and selecting sessions, speakers, moderators, and facilitators
- Establishing the final scientific program
- Reviewing and managing any potential conflicts of interest with appropriate mitigation strategies
- Supporting the development and delivery of content and logistics
- Ensuring the Annual Meeting is accredited under the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada's Maintenance of Certification Program.
- Ensuring the evaluation of Annual Meeting's outcomes with the aim of continuous improvement

Events:

Timeline of our important events (from the inception of AMSPC to present):

- Sep-23: 1st AMSPC meeting
- Sep-23: Liaise with Continuing Education and Professional Development Committee to set up the Needs Assessment for the 2024 Annual Meeting
- Oct-23: Send out Call for Content online to CAS sections and committees
- Oct-23: Review the abstract submission process with Abstracts Subcommittee
- Nov-23: Establish a new meeting proposal review matrix and review process
- Dec-23: AMSPC review period
- Jan-24: Abstract submission deadline & start of abstract review
- Jan-24: AMSPC meeting for adjudication of submissions
- Jan-24: Send acceptance/rejection of proposals
- Feb-24: First draft of program due

- Mar-24: First draft of the program online
- Apr-24: Adjudication by Abstracts Subcommittee meeting
- Apr-24: Obtain accreditation for the CAS meeting
- Apr-24: Set up goals for the 2025 Annual Meeting
- Apr 24 to present: Continue to troubleshoot various issues

Additionally, we held regular committee meetings and Abstract Subcommittee meetings to share update on progress and discuss various issues. We troubleshooted numerous events throughout the course of organizing the event; these included, but were not limited to, addressing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) issues, coordinating the logistics of the workshops and speakers, managing conflicts of interests, and others. To achieve these tasks, the committee has been working closely with the CAS National Office and the Bayley Group.

Top 3 Achievements:

1. Assemble the new ASMP. We successfully transitioned from a single-person organizational approach to a structured committee-based model with shared decision-making. We set up a mission, vision, and values for the committee. The roles and responsibilities of each member are clearly delineated, and a clear working timetable has been established. A clear organization and structure were established, which are extremely important for future meetings.
2. Set up a standardized review matrix and process. We established a new structured proposal review matrix and process for all meeting proposals.
3. The program is live now and the CAS meeting 2024 is now open for registration. The registrations are strong at 430 people as of early April 2024, which is over 100 more registrants than the 2023 Annual Meeting had at this time last year.

Goals for 2024:

- Enrich the scientific content of the program by opening the call for content. The committee recommending plans to open the "Call for Content" to the CAS membership at large in the 2025 Annual Meeting. Currently, only internal volunteer groups (committees, sections, and affiliates) are allowed to submit proposals to the Annual Meeting. The aim of this initiative is to make the program more attractive with new voices and ideas.
- Boost attendance in 2025. We aim to enhance resident and community anesthesiologist engagement by enriching the pre-conference Friday program. One proposal is to conduct a resident exam preparation course on Friday. Another proposal is to provide free Problem-Based Learning Discussions (PBLDs) as an incentive for members to come early and stay for the entire conference.
- Continue working on the organizational aspect of AMSPC to lay out a systematic approach for the future meetings.

ARCHIVES & ARTIFACTS

Chair: Dr Michael Wong

Vice Chair: Dr Wesley Rajaleelan

Initiatives/Projects:

- Canadian Medical Hall of Fame (CMHF)
 - A nomination package has been prepared for CAS Past President Dr Angela Enright. If successful, the esteemed Dr Enright will be the first anesthesiologist to become a CMHF Laureate.
- Presidential Interviews Project
 - Members of the committee conducted interviews with the living CAS Past Presidents who are able and willing to share their stories and experiences. This oral history initiative is intended to help preserve the memory of some of the leading anesthesiologists in Canada, contextualize the major shifts in anesthesia practice in Canada during the preceding decades, and also provide biographical vignettes of these fascinating individuals.
 - The transcripts from these interviews were made available on the [CAS website](#) in the Fall of 2023.
 - Interviews of all Past Presidents have concluded. The last few interview transcripts are being finalized and will be uploaded in the Spring.
 - The plan is to continue interviewing future CAS Past Presidents sometime after their terms have been completed.
- Anesthesia News History Corner
 - We have been maintaining a column in the quarterly *Anesthesia News*, highlighting aspects of Canadian anesthesia history, written both by committee members and trainees.
 - Our newest committee member Dr Kush Patel had written a History Corner article prior to becoming an Archives & Artifacts (A&A) Committee member.
- CAS A&A Social Media Presence
 - A Twitter (X) account (@CAS_History) was started in Spring 2022, to improve historical awareness and provide updates from our committee as well as information from CAS, its other committees/sections, and the Canadian Journal of Anesthesia (CJA). There is a nominal Instagram (cas_history) and Mastodon (@CAS_History@med-mastodon.com) presence.
 - The social media accounts have been fairly quiet during the past year.

Events:

- 11th CAS Annual Scientific Meeting History Symposium
 - This was an engaging session, with talks by Dr Colin McCartney (“The Development of Regional Anesthesia in Canada”) and A&A committee member Dr Daniel

Chartrand (“Early Days of Anesthesia in Québec City”). The session was chaired by committee member Dr Sonya Soh.

- Inaugural World Anesthesia Day Webinar
 - A&A Committee Chair Dr Mike Wong presented an overview of the history of CAS for the 80th anniversary of the society’s founding (“The Canadian Anesthesiologists’ Society: Looking Back on 80 Years”)
 - This event will continue on an annual basis. A tentative speaker has been contacted for the 2024 iteration.
- World Congress of Anaesthesiologists 2024
 - A&A Committee Member and newly appointed Committee Vice Chair Dr Wesley Rajaleelan are collaborating with international partners on a session titled: “Outlines of the History of Regional Anaesthesia.”

Top 3 Achievements:

1. Inaugural World Anesthesia Day Webinar
2. Completion of Presidential Interviews Project
3. 11th Annual History Symposium

Goals for 2024:

- Organize the 12th History Symposium at the Annual Scientific Meeting in Victoria
- Continue collecting oral histories from key members of CAS as well as Canadian anesthesiologists at large
- Organize the 2nd Annual World Anesthesia Day Webinar
- Plans are underway to jointly author an academic manuscript about the Canadian Society of Anaesthesiologists (1920-1928), a predecessor of the CAS, with contributions from A&A Committee members. This will be based in part on archival materials from Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa as well as the Wood Library-Museum in Chicago
- Jointly author an academic manuscript, tentatively titled “A Bibliography of Canadian Anesthesia,” highlighting key anesthesia publications from the past 40 years—either authored by Canadians or based on work performed in Canada

History Corner articles: <https://www.cas.ca/en/practice-resources/anesthesia-news>

AWARDS

Chair: Dr Juan-Francisco Asenjo

Initiatives/ Projects:

- Incorporation of new members
- The Committee adjudicated the 2023 Honour Awards Program, reviewing 37 nominations and making winner recommendations for 9 awards.

Top 3 Achievements:

The committee successfully attracted new members: Dr Ronald George, Dr Hilary MacCormick, Dr Stacy Ridi, and Dr Javier Webar. In addition, the committee managed to engage a resident representative, Dr Malek Dhane.

The committee members went through the process of educating themselves in matters of equality and diversity to decrease the possibility of bias in the adjudication process, by taking an online module on bias in the peer review process. It was clear among the members the importance of considering these factors, as the awards are and should be given to the top candidates regardless of any other factor.

Goals for 2024:

- To continue to stimulate the submission of more applications across the country.
- To improve the processes related to evaluation and scoring of the candidates.
- To ascertain that the candidates fulfil all the criteria to be eligible for the respective awards they were nominated for.
- To choose a new Chair around the time of the CAS Annual Meeting to fill the place of Dr Asenjo who will be stepping down in the summer after many years serving this committee.

CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Chair: Dr Gregory Dobson

Vice Chair: Dr Anton Chau

Initiatives/Projects:

The major project annually for our committee is the work involved with preparing the revisions/updates to the *CAS Guidelines to the Practice of Anesthesia*. For the *2024 Revised Edition* (submitted in 2023), we created a working group of obstetrics (OB) anesthesia enthusiasts from our committee, and in addition, some guest experts. An evidence-based and referenced revision was created for the *2024 Revised Edition* as part of a multi-year project to upgrade the OB content.

Other areas of focus for new content in the 2024 edition included medication safety, the use of Suggamadex, and neuromuscular monitoring.

We created a new position for committee leadership, a Vice Chair, and Dr Anton Chau agreed to accept the position. It proved invaluable for sharing the committee's work, and for the first time, the editorial that accompanies publication of the annual *Revised Edition* was co-authored by Dr Dobson and Dr Chau.

Top 3 Achievements:

1. An annual *CAS Guidelines Revised Edition* using a more evidence-based, validated process as we move forward for future years. The historical process for *Guidelines* revisions was in need of change, as compared to other international anesthesia guidelines. This was a proud first step.
2. The creation of the Vice Chair position and then also taking full advantage of the energy, exuberance, and academic strength demonstrated by Dr Chau in that new role.
3. We receive many inquiries and questions from CAS members, readers, and health administrators related to the interpretation of the *Guidelines* in a variety of situations and we always welcome them. The year 2023 was no exception and we received quite a few.

Goals for 2024:

- Prepare our proposals for new and revised content for the *CAS Guidelines 2025 Revised Edition* within the historical timelines to achieve CAS board approval, or at least approval in principle subject to minor changes, at the annual meeting in Victoria (June 2024).
- Collect and collate the feedback received from a letter sent to all pertinent CAS section leads and committee chairs. The letter requested some specific ideas and suggestions for the Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) Committee to focus on, as they would relate to the section or committee areas of focus.

- A survey to members from the CPG Committee is under development and will be sent out in 2024. The idea is to ask general and perhaps some more specific questions related to content ideas for future editions of the *Guidelines*. To take the pulse of members in 2024 if you will. We are looking for areas that members/readers may feel are currently under-represented or in need of more specific recommendations. Some potential areas to be explored include total intravenous anesthesia, environmental sustainability, availability of video laryngoscopy, full monitoring during emergence/extubation and patient transport, updated guidelines for anesthesia in remote locations, and the anesthesia care team models in times of human resource challenges.
- We will find a suitable replacement for our outgoing resident member of the committee and continue to actively look for new members from provinces that are currently not represented. We are excited that a new member will be joining us in 2024 from New Brunswick and we are hoping also for one from Manitoba.
- We would like to create an educational webinar for members under the CPG Committee banner and so we will continue to work with the CAS staff to try and make that happen in 2024.

QUALITY AND PATIENT SAFETY

Chair: Dr Conor Mc Donnell

Initiatives/Projects:

The Quality and Patient Safety (QPSC) Bulletin published one infographic in *Anesthesia News* (March 2023, ***Equity – The Forgotten QI Element***, Dr Esther Kang). This represents less productivity than 2022 and is explained in part by QPSC's commitment to medication safety in 2023. There will be more bulletins in 2024. (The Bulletin represents an opportunity for members to add continuous professional development (CPD) contributions to academic portfolios and C.V.s).

The Launch of QI-Project webspace encouraging submissions of small local projects for display. This was described in full in the December 2023 edition of *Anesthesia News*, pp 13-15.

Events:

In February 2023, QPSC collaborated with Health Canada, ISMP Canada, HealthPRO, and Alberta Health Pharmacy Services to collaboratively deliver a national Medication Safety Webinar. This represented six months of planning and organization and was extremely well attended with overwhelmingly positive feedback. This webinar paved the way for multiple opportunities to deliver increased Medication Safety awareness to members, namely:

- *QPSC Chair and CAS President invited to attend Health-Canada-chaired national meetings of Tier Assignment Committee addressing medication shortages and backorders. At these meetings, Drs. Filteau and Mc Donnell represent the society and its members and provide vital anesthesia-facing perspectives on the implications of such shortages for safe delivery of anesthesia in Canada*
- *Such meetings have also resulted in Bulletins to CAS members on impending shortages of both Ketamine and Succinylcholine (available on CAS website)*

Contributions to 2023 CAS Annual Meeting:

The John Wade Safety Symposium ('How PREHAB & ERaS transformed B.C.': delivered by Drs. Kelly Mayson & Janius Tsang) was well attended and the feedback, both via assessment forms and informal, was excellent. Official feedback and scores from Annual Meeting organizers are available on request.

The Workshop, QI in Times of Limited Resources, a group-effort by Drs. Kelly Mayson, Lisa Isaac, Geoff Schierbeck, and Janius Tsang, was also well attended. The workshop suffered from local audiovisual issues which delayed presentations and prevented the organizers from breaking into smaller participation groups. This affected the overall enjoyment for those in attendance.

Top 3 Achievements:

1. Medication Safety Webinar and subsequent increased national engagement regarding

Medication Safety in Canadian Anesthesia.

2. QPSC was central in identifying and escalating significant concerns around the risk of aspiration for patients taking GLP1 agonists. This was one of the most discussed issues in clinical anesthesia this year, and resulted in case reports & editorials in CJA, as well as discussion around medication safety and supply shortages in the closing session at the Annual Meeting in Quebec (presented by Drs. Filteau, Mc Donnell, and CMPA's Safety Officer).
3. The growth and success of our resident member, Dr Esther Kang, who has been responsible for all Safety Bulletins to date. Dr Kang has grown to become an engaged and openly contributing member of our group. It is a joy to watch her develop and evolve to the point where she will be a co-presenter at 2024 John Wade Symposium, workshop organizer for 2025 Annual Meeting, and, Dr Kang has just been accepted for a Masters' Program in Cambridge, England, where she will continue her studies on the intersection of ethics and patient safety. Esther is a future national and international leader, and it has been an honour and joy to see her blossom and grow. I think this is a real endorsement of why we engage with residents as committee members, but her successes are all down to her.

Goals for 2024:

- The committee's overarching goal for 2024 is to champion smaller, local, unit-based quality assessment/quality improvement (QA/QI) projects by offering platforms for discussion, recognition, and dissemination. Such a platform was shared with membership at large through *CAS Anesthesia News* in December 2023. QPSC web-space has been made available for content. To date, one project has been submitted and uploaded. The John Wade Symposium for 2024 has been organized with this very project goal in mind and will be delivered by five committee members representing three different provinces. We really want to push hard on this objective to make QI a truly national conversation.
- Continuing engagement on medication safety with Health Canada Tier Assignment Committee, and, to develop other opportunities to be part of the national discussion on medication supply and safety.
- Further collaboration with National Office on development of QPSC web-presence on CAS website. Collaboration to date has been fruitful, collegial, and highly productive; in 2024 we hope to truly update the site to reflect the work of current committee members

Link to the Quality and Patient Safety Committee's webpage: <https://www.cas.ca/en/about-cas/committees/quality-and-patient-safety>



RESEARCH ADVISORY

Chair: Dr Philip Jones

Vice Chair: Dr Diem Tran

We would like to thank Cristina Mita from the Society for her tireless and expert administrative support of the Committee. Dr Tran will become Chair in July 2024, as Dr Jones' two terms have finished.

We report on the following:

1) Grant Awards - 2023

The Research Advisory Committee's (RAC) Grant Standing Subcommittee met on March 25, 2023, regarding awards. After approval from the Board, the CAS-CARF annual research awards were awarded in June 2023 to the following investigators:

- **Ontario's Anesthesiologists – CAS Residents' Research Grant - \$10,000**
CAS-2023-023 – Dr Calvin Diep, University of Toronto – Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, Toronto, ON
The impact of major postoperative complications on patient employment and earnings after elective surgery: a retrospective, population-based cohort study

New Investigator Operating Grants

- **Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society Research Award - \$30,000**
CAS-2023-024 – Dr Catherine Duclos, Hôpital du Sacré-Coeur de Montréal – Centre Intégré de Traumatologie, Montréal, QC
Characterizing the effect of nociception on whole-brain functional connectivity markers of consciousness during general anesthesia
- **Dr James Beckstead Award - \$20,000**
CAS-2023-010 – Dr Tim Ting Han Jen, Providence Health Care – Anesthesiology, Vancouver, BC
The Efficacy of Superficial Parasternal Intercostal Plane Catheter for Sternal Pain Reduction in Patients Undergoing Cardiac Surgery With Complete Median Sternotomy: A Quadruple-Blinded, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial

Open Operating Grants

- **Dr R A Gordon Research Award - \$30,000**
CAS-2023-020 – Dr Katherine Taylor, Hospital for Sick Children – Anesthesia and Pain Medicine, Toronto, ON
Artificial Intelligence-Based Automated Cardiac Function Prediction for Anesthesiologists
- **Dr Earl Wynands CVT Section Grant - \$30,000**
CAS-2023-012 – Dr Homer Yang, Western University – Anesthesia, London, ON

Artificial Intelligence in Real-Time Perioperative ECG Monitoring

- **Obstetric Anesthesia Section Research Grant - \$20,000**
CAS-2023-009 – Dr Lorraine Chow, University of Calgary Cumming School of Medicine – Anesthesiology Perioperative and Pain Medicine, Calgary, AB
Platelet activation mechanisms in pre-eclampsia.
- **Section for Education and Simulation in Anesthesia Research Grant - \$10,000**
CAS-2023-008 – Dr Ahtsham Niazi, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre – Anesthesia, Toronto, ON
Remote Immersive Virtual Reality (RIVR) Teaching: Use in Ultrasound Guided Regional Anesthesia Procedural Skills Acquisition.
- **CAS Career Scientist Award in Anesthesia - \$60,000**
CAS-2023-019 – Dr Karim Ladha, University of Toronto - Department of Anesthesia, Toronto, ON
No Laughing Matter: The Use of Anesthetics to Treat Depression

2) Grant Standing Subcommittee (GSS)

The annual adjudication and awarding of research grants is held in April or May of each year. Both the main Research Advisory Committee and the Adjudication Subcommittee have excellent linguistic and geographical diversity as well as a roughly even gender balance. The following CAS members comprised the GSS for the grant adjudication meeting:

Philip Jones (London, FR/EN)
Diem Tran (Ottawa, EN)
Véronique Brulotte (Montréal, FR/EN)
Étienne De Médicis (Sherbrooke, FR/EN)
Derek Dillane (Edmonton, EN)
Laura Duggan (Ottawa, EN)
Donald Griesdale (Vancouver, EN, regrets)
Gregory Hare (Toronto, EN)
Melissa Shears (Resident, Edmonton, EN)
Kathryn Sparrow (St John's, EN, regrets)

3) Changes to Research Award Adjudication

This was the first year of the new points schema that the members of the RAC voted for at the 2022 Annual Meeting. The overarching theme behind the changes was to not disadvantage researchers who took an interest in research at a mid- to late-career stage. These individuals often do not have as substantial a publication or presentation 'presence' as researchers who have been active for many years. However, our previous adjudication process placed significant weight (25%) on the numbers of publications and presentations rather than simply the feasibility of the research being successfully conducted (itself predicated on a complex interplay

between proper research training, a minimum amount of experience necessary to accomplish the proposed study, and a research environment conducive to success).

After much discussion, the RAC members voted to alter our assessment process. Starting with the 2023 awards cycle, the following schema was used.

A 0-4.9 rating, weighted at 25% of the overall score, was given based on a holistic impression of the applicant, the collaborating research team, and the research environment. The applicant described these in a one-page summary describing why this project will be successful – including descriptions of the applicant, co-applicants, and the research environment. The remaining 75% of the overall score was a 0-4.9 rating of the proposal.

Due to confusion in years past about whether reviewers were scoring the applicant or their mentors/supervisors, the RAC decided to remove the applicant score altogether for the resident grant competition. Therefore, the only numerical score for a resident application was for the project itself. Narrative comments about the research environment and the research team were still encouraged and were reviewed by RAC members when assessing each proposal.

SECTION REPORTS

CARDIOVASCULAR THORACIC

Chair: Dr Diem Tran

Vice Chair: Dr Tarit Saha

Initiatives/ Projects:

- Dr Earl Wynands CVT Section Grant (\$30 000) was award for the first time to Dr Homer Yang, Western University – Anesthesia, London, ON
Artificial Intelligence in Real-Time Perioperative ECG Monitoring
- To continue our work on establishing standards of training (2), this year in collaboration with the Canadian Cardiovascular Society (CCS) and Canadian Society of Echocardiography (CSE), a new section on perioperative transesophageal echocardiography training was included in the 2023 Standards for Physician Training and Maintenance of Competence (1).
- Collaboration with Regional Anesthesia Section of CAS to organize a joint session and workshop for the Annual Meeting in 2024.

Events:

2023 CAS Annual Meeting in Quebec City: CVT Sessions:

- Basic POCUS Course – Facilitator: Yannis Amador Godoy Instructors: James Osorio, Edwin Turton, Christophe Salois, Marcus Salvatori, Diem Tran, Laura Giron Arango, and Surita Sidhu
- Advanced POCUS Course – Facilitator: Elmari Neethling Instructors: Milene Azzam, Marelise Kruger, Pablo Perez d’Empaire, and Jacobo Moreno
- PBLDs x 2 – Heart Failure With Preserved Ejection Fraction, the Dark Side of the Moon – Edwin Turton
- Frontiers in CVT: Valve Replacements Without the Sternotomy – What All Anesthesiologists Should Know About TAVIs and Clips – Kendra Derry. Moderator Alain Deschamps
- TEL: Navigating the Mine Field of Coronary Stents in Your Patient ith Severe CAD – Anthony Poulin, Scott BBeattie, and Holly Mewhort. Moderator Summer Syed
- Section Event: Echo Jeopardy and Section Annual Meeting – Donna Nicholson and Rob Chen. Moderator Diem Tran

- CVT Raymond Martineau – Best Poster in CVT Category. Judges – Camila Machado de Souza and Rob Chen.

Goals for 2024:

- Host our first online CME on April 11: Connecting Edges in Percutaneous Mitral Valve Repairs – The Future is Here – Dr Drdyen and Dr Derry
- Continue offering the Dr Earl Wynands CVT Section Grant

Links:

- Nair, P., Chen-Tournoux, A., Almufleh, A. S., Blissett, S., Ducas, R., Fine, N. M., Johri, A. M., Kushneriuk, D., Ramer, S., Sanfilippo, A., Thibodeau-Jarry, N., Yu, E., Bewick, D., Burwash, I. G., Chow, C.-M., Cooley, H., De, S., Doufl , G., Fagan, S. M., ... Tran, D.T.T., Tsang, T. S. M. (2023). 2023 CCS/CSE Standards for Physician Training and Maintenance of Competence in Adult Echocardiography: Executive Summary. *The Canadian Journal of Cardiology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cjca.2023.06.418>
- Meineri, M., Arellano, R., Bryson, G., Arzola C., Chen, R., Collins, P., Denault, A., Desjardins, G., Fayad, A., Funk, D., Hegazy, A., Kim, H., Kruger, M., Kruisselbrink, R., Perlas, A., Prabhakar, C., Syed, S., Sidhu, S., Tanzola, R., Van Rensburg, A., Talab, H., Vegas, An. and Bainbridge, D. Canadian recommendations for training and performance in basic perioperative point-of-care ultrasound: recommendations from a consensus of Canadian anesthesiology academic centres. *Can J Anesth/J Can Anesth* 68, 376–386 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12630-020-01867-2>

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Chair: Dr Vivian Ip

Vice Chair: Dr Timur Özelsel

Initiatives/ Projects:

Our main focus in 2023 has been the CAS Environmental Sustainability Section-Led, International Delphi survey on environmental sustainability practice in regional anesthesia and neuraxial blockade. We are well on schedule and planning to submit the manuscript for publication in the year 2024.

The [Earth Day 2024 Webinar](#) is planned for April 22, 2024, as well as the infographic to be tweeted out on Earth Day as part of the celebration and raising awareness event.

Events:

For the CAS Annual Meeting in June 2023, we had a panel discussion on the bottoms up- and top-down approach for implementing environmentally sustainable strategies both locally and at the federal level. The lectures were well attended. There were also two PBLD to discuss environmentally sustainable practice in anesthesia, discussing the effective strategies and potential push back, and solutions for them. For the 2024 Annual Meeting in Victoria, we have a fantastic panel discussion on leadership in environmental sustainability, disposable and reusables, as well as a TED-talk style talk on life-cycle analysis – the discussion for the latter to extend into the PBLD session.

Before the CAS Annual Meeting, there is the not-to-be-missed Earth Day celebration with our Earth Day webinar planned to be held on April 22, 2024.

Top 3 Achievements:

1. We have successfully completed all the rounds of voting for the International Delphi project and are well ahead of planned progress. We have offered to collaborate with CARF to support research, particularly in the area of environmentally sustainable practice in anesthesia.
2. The position statement on desflurane volatile agent, low-flow anesthesia, and reusable equipment has also been submitted to the CAS Board.
3. Regarding the increase in industry participation of sustainable practices, we try to broadcast the message by having dialogues between CAS staff and the sponsors regarding environmentally sustainable strategies on working on environmentally sustainable swag bags options. CAS Environmental Sustainability Section is also part of the Sustainability Committee at the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists.

Goals for 2024:

Our goals for 2024 are to publish the position statement on desflurane, low flow anesthesia and reusable equipment, as well as International Delphi project, as a CAS-led project.

We are hoping to strengthen collaboration internationally to broaden, especially the under-resourced countries. Another goal is to have fundraising strategies for CARF and continue to grow our funds within our section, especially being one of the newest sections. Of course, engagement with our members through our educational events will be continued.

Links:

["Greening" the Operating Room and Your Budget by Reducing Desflurane Use \(asra.com\)](https://asra.com/clinical-practice/greening-the-operating-room-and-your-budget-by-reducing-desflurane-use)

[ASRA News: Global Warming and Ozone Depletion: The Real Cons of Nitrous Oxide Use on Apple Podcasts](#)

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/rch-desflurane-ban-1.6475542>

HOSPITAL CHIEFS OF ANESTHESIA

Chair: Dr Sylvie Aucoin

Vice Chair: Dr Mateen Raazi

The Hospital Chiefs of Anesthesiology (HCA) Section was formed in 2018, with the goal of creating a national anesthesia leadership forum to facilitate communication and to share ideas and solutions to common issues that arise in anesthesia departments across the country.

Initiatives/ Projects:

Development of a communication platform for anesthesia chiefs from across the country to discuss relevant issues, ask questions and share solutions (in process).

Events:

Strategies for Managing Unprofessional Behavior in the Perioperative Environment

Dr Michelle Chiu, Dr Sylvie Aucoin, and Dr Mateen Raazi presented a very well-attended and well-received session at the CAS Annual Meeting. They discussed the impact of unprofessional behavior on provider wellbeing and patient outcomes, and presented approaches and tools to manage unprofessional behavior in the perioperative environment.

ORNAC Webinar

Dr Aucoin presented to the Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada (ORNAC) on the topic of Unprofessional Behavior in the Perioperative Environment in February 2024.

Top 3 Achievements:

1. We promoted the discussion of an issue that affects all members of our perioperative team (unprofessional behavior), including liaising with our OR nursing colleagues.
2. We restarted a Twitter (X) account (@CAS_HCA) to promote the HCA Section of social media.
3. We developed a plan for a communication platform for easy and direct communication about issues relevant to anesthesia chiefs.

Goals for 2024:

- Present “Innovations in Anesthesia Care Provider and Support Models” at the Closing Session at the CAS Annual Meeting in Victoria.
- Continue our work on addressing unprofessional behavior in the perioperative environment with an HCA Section workshop at the CAS Annual Meeting.
- Hold an Annual Section Meeting: the three-year terms for the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer will be ending, and the section will need to elect a new section executive in 2024.
- Finalize group communication strategy for anesthesia chiefs from across the country to discuss relevant issues, ask questions and share solutions (possibly a WhatsApp group).

OBSTETRICS

Chair: Dr Wesley Edwards

Vice Chair: Dr Lorraine Chow

The executive of the CAS Obstetrics (OB) Section would like to start this report by thanking all of our members for their ongoing support for our OB anesthesia section and community. Again, our membership has remained stable and solid. This year, the OB section has remained unchanged with regards to the executive positions. A special thank you to Dr Valerie Zaphiratos who continues to be an invaluable guide and resource, serving her second year as the Past Chair.

This year, we welcomed back everyone to a predominantly in-person Annual Meeting in Quebec City. The interest in our program was again fantastic. We opened our program with Dr Allana Munro and Dr Vishal Uppal speaking on reducing the harm of pain during a cesarean section. We were extremely fortunate to be joined virtually by Susanna Stanford from the United Kingdom, who spoke on her personal experience of pain during a cesarean section and her ongoing role in patient advocacy.

In keeping with our history of inviting speakers from other specialties, we were fortunate to have Dr Karine Doyon, a hematologist, to join Dr Lorraine Chow in speaking on post-partum hemorrhage from a hematological perspective. Our session on maternal experiences/the experiences of those who give birth and outcomes allowed Dr Christina Lamontagne to speak on the emerging benefits of dexmedetomidine in obstetrics, Dr Rohan D'Souza to speak on reducing the near misses of maternal morbidity in Canada, and Dr Wesley Edwards to speak on the role of the anesthetist in reducing maternal mortality. Our section event allowed Dr Roanne Preston to debate Dr Ronald George on fasting during labour. This was tremendously entertaining and informative. We were also able to provide a PBLD with Dr David MacLean, on converting labour epidural analgesia to surgical anesthesia for a cesarean section.

The conference also allowed an opportunity to highlight the ongoing research in obstetric anesthesia across the country. The award for Best Abstract in Obstetric Anesthesia (residents/medical students) went to Dr John Bartolacci, Department of Anesthesia & Perioperative Medicine, Western University for his study titled: *Spinal Hydromorphone Versus Morphine for Post-Cesarian Delivery Analgesia: A Non-Inferiority Trial*.

The OB Section continues to encourage and support ongoing research in our field, offering financial awards to both resident and anesthesiologist abstract winners at our Annual Meeting. The OB Section has also paired with CARF to offer a section Research Grant of up to \$20,000. The winner of this grant was Dr Lorraine Chow, University of Calgary Cumming School of Medicine, Anesthesiology Perioperative and Pain Medicine, for her study into *Platelet activation mechanisms in pre-eclampsia*.

The section continues to support and utilize online platforms to share knowledge and best practice advice across the country. The OB Section WhatsApp group currently has 33 members from across the country, predominantly the clinical leads in obstetric anesthesia in teaching hospitals. The group has evolved from the initial purpose of knowledge sharing specifically for COVID-19 to a general OB leadership group, asking questions, sharing expert advice, and local guidelines to improve and standardize care to best practice across Canada.

The OB Section continues to work closely with the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada. We have ongoing membership on the obstetric content review committee, providing anesthesia-input into the updating of the ALARM manual annually, as well as reviewing the relevant new SOGC guidelines to ensure the most up-to-date evidence on obstetric anesthesia practice is included.

In 2024, we are excited to provide another outstanding obstetric anesthesia program at our annual conference in Victoria. As always, we are happy to receive suggestions and feedback on how to best serve the academic needs of our members. Thank you again for your ongoing support of this section.

PERIOPERATIVE MEDICINE

Chair: Dr Amélie Pelland

Section Executive Membership:

Dr Angela Jerath (Toronto, ON) served as Chair for the Executive and is maintaining an executive role as Past Chair, while Dr Amélie Pelland (North Vancouver, BC) served as Associate Chair. Dr Daniel McIsaac (Ottawa, ON) began his term as secretary/treasurer. Dr Thomas Mutter (Winnipeg, MB) completed his term on the Executive in the role of Past Chair. We thank Dr Mutter for his dedication and contributions over the past 8 years.

Section Membership:

Overall section membership decreased in 2023 to 87 members country-wide, from 153 members in 2022. Section finances are, however, stable.

Initiatives/ Projects:

The Section held its first educational webinar on Oct 24, 2023.

Presenter: Dr Pablo Perez d'Empaire (Toronto, ON)

Moderator: Dr Angela Jerath

Title: The Role of Resuscitative Transesophageal Echocardiography

Events:

The Section hosted four events for the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Plenary sessions, both offered in-person:

- Physician Sociocultural Identity and Patient Outcome
Moderator: Dr Angela Jerath
Speakers: Dr Christopher Wallis (Toronto, ON), Dr Miriam Mottiar (Ottawa, ON), Dr Saleem Razack (Vancouver, BC)
- Does Your Anesthesiologist Matter: Specialty Teams – What's the Evidence?
Moderator: Dr François Carrier (Montréal, QC)
Speakers: Dr Julie Hallet (Toronto, ON), Dr Colin McCartney (Toronto, ON), Dr Rob Johnson (CMPA)
- PBLDs:
 - Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors – Implications in Perioperative Patient Care
Facilitator: Dr Raegan Cleven (Winnipeg, MB)
- Everyone's Nightmare: The Dreaded Out-of-OR Emergency Difficult Airway
Facilitator: Dr Martin Ma (Toronto, ON)

Goals for 2024:

- Continue to increase the section's educational offerings in addition to those of the Annual Meeting with the goal of hosting another webinar in 2024.
- Provide Section support for local and national research and clinical care projects that seek to advance Canadian contribution to Perioperative Medicine.
- Contribute to the CAS' Pinnacle Rounds project by providing moderation for perioperative-related sessions.

REGIONAL AND ACUTE PAIN

Chair: Dr Vishal Uppal

Vice Chair: Dr Vivian Ip

Initiatives/ Projects:

- CPD article on ambulatory total hip and knee arthroplasty published in the CJA and a CPD module published on the CAS website for Section 3 credits.
- Collaboration with CARF and the Research Advisory Committee to offer the Su Ganapathy Regional Anesthesia Research Award in 2024.
- Collaboration with the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine by having a representative from the CAS Regional Anesthesia Section, to sit on their Newsletter committee.

Events:

- Ten engaging sessions presented as part of the 2023 CAS Annual Meeting.
- First World Day of Regional Anesthesia & Pain Medicine webinar in 2024 in collaboration with the European Society of Regional Anesthesia—attended by more than 230 delegates, making it one of the most successful webinars for the Society.

Top 3 Achievements:

1. First World Day of Regional Anesthesia & Pain Medicine webinar in 2024
2. CPD article on ambulatory total hip and knee arthroplasty
3. The Su Ganapathy Regional Anesthesia Research Award

Goals for 2024:

We are excited to offer ten sessions at the 2024 CAS Annual meeting in Victoria, BC and continue with our ongoing initiatives.

Links:

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12630-024-02699-0>

<http://cms.cas.ca/en/education/continuing-professional-development/cas-online-cpd-opportunities>

<https://www.cas.ca/en/awards-grants/research-program/award-descriptions>

<https://www.asra.com/news-publications/asra-newsletter/november-2023/newsletter-article/asra-news/2024/02/08/asra-pain-medicine-collaboration-expanding-up-north-working-together-with-the-canadian-anesthesiologists-society-regional-and-acute-pain-section>

RESIDENTS

Chair: Dr April Liu

Vice Chair: Dr Jessie Liu

Initiatives/Projects:

Simulation Olympics, Zoom Speaker Series

Events:

Simulation Olympics, President's Party, Resident Panel Session

Top 3 Achievements:

1. **Resident Engagement** – One of our main goals this year was to achieve more resident engagement from programs across Canada. In our prior year, the CAS Resident Section Executive members were all from Toronto and Hamilton. We have increased geographical representation and currently we have members from Toronto, Hamilton, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Halifax. Our ongoing goal is to achieve representatives from even more programs.
2. **Resident Programming at AM** – The past year, we organized a resident-specific panel session at CAS titled "Life beyond residency: an exploration of career paths and lifestyles" featuring current fellows and staff anesthesiologists working in both academic and community settings. We hope to bring more resident specific programming to CAS this year.
3. **CAS Conference Resident Event** – Last year, we had 35 residents attend our President's Party and we were able to cover the cost of their tickets, providing residents with a valuable opportunity to meet and network with other residents and staff anesthesiologists. Due to the pandemic, the opportunity for in-person networking has been limited over the last couple of years and the importance of this experience cannot be understated early on in a resident's career.

Goals for 2024:

- **Simulation Olympics** – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the hybrid nature of the 2022 CAS AM, and lack of facility in 2023, SIM Olympics has been on hold for the last four years. This year we are working with the simulation center in Victoria as well as potential sponsors to revive this exciting event at the CAS AM.
- **Resident-Specific Zoom Speaker Series** – This year, we plan on offering resident specific seminars over Zoom throughout the year. Our goal for this initiative is to provide residents with CAS content throughout the academic year that is available to residents across the country.

AFFILIATES & FOUNDATIONS REPORTS

CANADIAN ANESTHESIA RESEARCH FOUNDATION (CARF)



Chair: Dr Stuart McCluskey

While CARF continues to increase support of anesthesia research in Canada (\$240,000 in 2024), the support CARF is receiving from anesthesiologists is at an all-time low. Thanks to a reasonable return on our investments, we are managing, but not growing.

We will be presenting at the Ontario Anesthesiologist Meeting in Fall 2024 on the achievements of CARF-sponsored programs. The objective here is threefold.

- 1) To thank the Ontario Anesthesiologists for their long-standing support.
- 2) Describe the current state of giving in Canada.
- 3) To garner support from individual members.

We hope that other members of CARF can do similar presentations at regional meetings e.g. LUCAS, Whistler, Congr s AAQ, BC Whistler Meeting etc. CARF is also working to recruit industry support.

Current Initiatives/Projects:

- We will be sending out an information package to previous winners of CARF awards to ask them to acknowledge the support of CARF in their presentations.
- We have hired Elyse Floyd to help manage our fundraising, and we have moved away from professional support with fundraising. This means we will have to do more ourselves.
- I would like to expand representation CAS Members to the CARF Board of Trustees to promote CAS members to take pride in the research accomplishments of our colleagues. This will be discussed at our CARF Meeting in June.
- We have merged some of our activities with CASIEF. As the two foundations of the CAS, this just makes sense. I am convinced we can do more together than separately e.g. Foundation Evening at the CAS.

- Last year, the CARF website and CARF content on the CAS site were updated. We will be discussing how we can manage this better in the future. There are new testimonials, but the future of our website will be discussed at our June meeting.
- We sent out a Season's Greeting email last December and we will be doing this again this year. We will be looking to see if this had any impact on donation, but we are looking for ways to increase donations all year long.
- We have developed a job description for a member for public to act as an advisor for PACT and CARF. CAS will be helping to advertise this position once we have finalized the post.

Events (upcoming or recent)

Foundation Evening: Friday June 7, 2024 at Victoria Public Market. Planning for 200-250 people (Possible 350) and will be having a silent auction. The silent auction already has found several lakefront and maybe mountain front homes to auction for a week or a weekend.

Special thanks to Ashleigh Farrell and James Kim.

<https://victoriapublicmarket.com/venue/>

Goals for the Year

- Update and expand the CARF Board. Need general public and industry representation
- Would like to add the position of Vice Chair to allow for succession planning
- Increase the revenue

Type	Award	Award amount	CARF contribution	other contribution
Career Scientist Award	CAS Career Scientist Award in Anesthesia	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	n/a
New Investigator Operating Grants	Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society Research Award	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	n/a
New Investigator Operating Grants	Dr James Beckstead Award	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	n/a
Open Operating Grants	Dr R A Gordon Research Award	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	n/a
Open Operating Section Grants	Ambulatory Section Research Grant	\$10,000.00	\$5,000	\$5,000
Open Operating Section Grants	Section for Education and Simulation in Anesthesia Research Grant	\$10,000.00	\$5,000	\$5,000
Open Operating Section Grants	Environmental Sustainability Section Research Grant	\$10,000.00	\$5,000	\$5,000
Open Operating Section Grants	Obstetric Anesthesia Section Research Grant	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Open Operating Section Grants	The Su Ganapathy Regional Anesthesia Research Award	\$10,000.00	\$5,000	\$5,000
Open Operating Section Grants	Dr Earl Wynands CVT Section Grant	\$30,000.00	\$15,000	\$15,000
Residents' Research Grant	Ontario's Anesthesiologists – CAS Residents' Research Grant	\$10,000.00	n/a	\$10,000.00
		\$240,000.00	\$185,000.00	\$55,000.00

CANADIAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS' SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION (CASIEF)



CASIEF

Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society
International Education Foundation
Fondation d'éducation internationale de la
Société canadienne des anesthésiologistes

Chair: Dr Joel Parlow

The Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society International Education Foundation (CASIEF) supports partners in low- and middle-income countries in expanding their anesthesiology workforce to improve perioperative and obstetric care, critical care, and pain management. The lack of trained personnel and equipment in our partner countries creates massive barriers to care. The graduates of CASIEF-supported residency programs are doing exceptional work but are understaffed by orders of magnitude compared to the physician shortage Canada is facing. Imagine under 50 anesthesiologists for a country of 13 million (Rwanda) or 200 anesthesiologists for a country of over 120 million (Ethiopia)! CASIEF is working hard to take some of the burden from our overworked colleagues from Rwanda, Ethiopia, Guyana, and Burkina Faso by helping to train the next generation of physician anesthesiologists. We feel immense gratitude for all of the regular donors who allow us to do this difficult but incredibly rewarding work.

The Ethiopian government has realized the desperate need to increase the number of anesthesiologists in this vast country. The residency program at Black Lion in Addis Ababa is admitting 30 new PGY1 residents each year, with less than 20 faculty, and the program at Haramaya University in Harar added 8 new residents, with only 4 faculty members to teach! Similarly, Rwanda has made it a mandate to increase their physician workforce by 4 times over the next 4 years!

We have continued important activities in our CASIEF programs over the past year. In 2023, Canadian volunteer anesthesiologists and Global Health Fellows provided regular on-site education in our programs. These fellows' prolonged stays (3-6 months) provide great continuity for the overseas residents, and the ability to work on special projects such as simulation courses and regional anesthesia training. Meanwhile, the program leads of our two partnerships in Ethiopia, and those in Rwanda and Guyana, have been meeting regularly with their overseas colleagues to maintain and plan ongoing educational initiatives. In addition, regular teaching sessions have been provided virtually by CASIEF volunteers. A new regional anesthesia fellowship has begun in Guyana, and a knowledge translation fellowship program assists faculty in Rwanda to establish new clinical programs in their country.

Back home, at CAS Annual Meeting 2023 in Quebec City, CASIEF hosted a very well attended symposium on the global impact of healthcare systems on the environment. Our fundraising pub night was also successful, with great food, drinks, Quebecois music, and talks from CASIEF volunteers and Rwandan partners.

With the rapid expansion of our partner programs, our goals for 2024 are to increase regular volunteer and global health fellow educational trips, provide simulation and safe obstetric and pediatric courses, as well as ramping up regional anesthesia training. Internally, we are updating the bylaws and terms of reference of the Board of Trustees, continuing our fundraising efforts, and planning for our events at CAS Annual Meeting 2024 in Victoria in June.

Many generous anesthesiologists have joined our Monthly Donor program, and legacy donations and gifts of securities are being encouraged. CASIEF is grateful for all of the Canadian anesthesiologists who support colleagues in low-resource settings around the world with their time, dedication to teaching, and financial contributions. We encourage all those interested to visit our [website](#), follow our social media, watch our [YouTube videos](#), and contact us at info@casief.ca to find out how to be a part of our important work!

CANADIAN JOURNAL OF ANESTHESIA (CJA)

Editor in Chief: Dr Stephan Schwarz

We have published the Canadian Journal of Anesthesia (CJA) since 1954. It is published monthly; article types consist of invited Editorials, Reports of Original Investigation (clinical and basic sciences articles), Systematic Reviews, Narrative Reviews, accredited Continuing Professional Development (CPD) modules, Reflections, Case Reports/Case Series, Letters to the Editor, and Special Articles. Regarding the latter, the *Journal* proudly publishes the annually revised *CAS Guidelines to the Practice of Anesthesia*.

The *Journal* is a collaboration between both staff and volunteer committee efforts. Led by Editor-in-Chief Dr Stephan Schwarz from The University of British Columbia, the editorial team includes 12 editors and 22 Editorial Board members. The Editorial Office is staffed by Editorial Assistant Fatima Khan who is based in Ottawa.

2023 was a particularly active year for the *Journal* with the fruitful completion of numerous editorial priority projects, including the appearance of Special/Focus issues on Green Anesthesia (March; <https://link.springer.com/journal/12630/volumes-and-issues/70-3>), Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Anesthesiology and Critical Care (June; <https://link.springer.com/journal/12630/volumes-and-issues/70-6>), and Gastric Ultrasound (August; <https://link.springer.com/journal/12630/volumes-and-issues/70-8>). In addition, and easily the most ambitious project in the *Journal's* long publishing history, we published a “special” Special Issue in April that was the result of a dedicated partnership between the Canadian Critical Care Society, Canadian Blood Services, and the Canadian Medical Association, with funding from Health Canada. At this Special Issue's centre is a new Canadian Clinical Practice Guideline on a brain-based definition of death and criteria for its determination after arrest of circulation or neurologic function. Widely endorsed by Canadian medical and scholarly societies and bodies, this Guideline appeared alongside over 25 accompanying articles that reflect a wide and inclusive spectrum of authors, different manuscript types, and associated topics (<https://link.springer.com/journal/12630/volumes-and-issues/70-4>).

Overall, the *Journal* received 871 submissions in 2023 and published 260 articles in the January–December print issues. Regarding usage, there were 1,722,962 full-text article downloads in 2023; unbeknownst to many, approximately 90% of the readership is from outside Canada, illustrating the *Journal's* global stature. Finally, in terms of impact, we ended 2022 with a SCOPUS CiteScore of 8.2, the highest in the *Journal's* history. This is an improvement from the 2021 score of 7.6 and placed the *Journal* on the 93rd percentile in its category. Following global changes in the approach to calculation by Clarivate for 2022 and moving forward, the 2022 Journal Impact Factor was a solid 4.2. We are pleased with the *Journal's* dedication to continuous improvement and look forward to its future!