

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The CAS Standards Committee is responsible for advising the CAS Board of Directors on matters related to the standards of anesthetic practice in Canada. This includes a focus on anesthesia safety, and existing and developing technologies to improve safety and environmental issues. Most CAS members are familiar with the Guidelines to the Practice of Anesthesia and the associated appendices and position statements.

These documents are reviewed annually and revised and updated as required by the Committee based on rigorous review of the available medical evidence relating to anesthesia practice internationally. The Committee then generates proposals for changes and additions to the Guidelines and its appendices and presents them to the CAS Board of Directors for its approval. This is the primary function of the Standards Committee. For example, over the past two years we have been working hard on revising and updating the appendix on Procedural Sedation which will be published soon.

The CAS *Guidelines* have a wide circulation through publication in the *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia (CJA)* and the CAS website from which they are frequently downloaded and widely used both nationally and internationally to help promote and guide safe anesthesia practice. The first edition of the *Guidelines* was published in 1977 thanks to the vision and hard work of many people in CAS, notably the late Dr John Feindel, who was the first chair of the Standards Committee.

The Standards Committee also receives a significant number of inquiries and questions from anesthesiologists and other health professionals related to the interpretation of the *Guidelines*. The questions and feedback help the Committee to better understand what topics and areas of anesthesia practice require more attention in our existing *Guidelines* and also provide us with ideas for new Sections as anesthesia practice and technology rapidly change.

Our committee works in close cooperation with other CAS committees, in particular Patient Safety and the Committee on the Anesthesia Care Team (COACT).

Standards Committee members serve a three-year term with the option for a one-year extension. We seek to have members reflect the bilingual nature of Canada representing the four major regions (Western, Ontario, Quebec, and Atlantic) and with different subspecialty or technical interests. It is very rewarding and valuable work. The Committee meets in person at the CAS Annual Meeting and we have two or three teleconferences over the year. Overall, the time and work commitment for

committee members is not onerous. As the current Chair, I strongly encourage any CAS members to put their name forward if this work interests them. No previous experience or background in this type of work is required. Members may approach me directly or through the CAS office if they have an interest in the Standards Committee or have any questions.

“ My personal interest in the Committee relates in part to my non-clinical professional activities within my own department at Dalhousie University in Halifax and an interest in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety from very early in my career. I wanted to become more involved at a national level to promote the highest quality anesthesia care delivery in Canada. I have found the work to be immensely rewarding and have thoroughly enjoyed working with so many talented and committed people within CAS. Before I became involved, perhaps like some others, I wondered “what can CAS do for me?” I now have a much better appreciation for the valuable work that is done (much of it behind the scenes and on a volunteer basis) and how incredibly passionate everyone involved with CAS is as we work to strengthen our specialty and its profile and improve patient safety.”



Dr Gregory R Dobson
Chair
Standards Committee