



Perhaps the most exciting and rewarding area of our specialty, obstetric anesthesiology also presents difficult challenges and risks. This *NEWSLETTER* explores what the leaders in this subspecialty are doing to make the field desirable for physicians and, most importantly, safer for patients.

#### EDITORIAL BOARD

##### Editor

Douglas R. Bacon, M.D.

##### Associate Editors

Theodore A. Alston, M.D.  
Michael S. Axley, M.D.  
Lawrence S. Berman, M.D.  
Doris K. Cope, M.D.  
Michael H. Entrup, M.D.  
N. Martin Giesecke, M.D.  
Girish P. Joshi, M.D.  
Angela Kendrick, M.D.  
Robert E. Kettler, M.D.  
Paul J. Schaner, M.D.  
John E. Tetzlaff, M.D.  
Anagh A. Vora, M.D.

##### Editorial Staff

Gina A. Steiner  
David A. Love  
Roy A. Winkler  
Karen L. Yetsky

The *ASA NEWSLETTER* (USPS 033-200) is published monthly for ASA members by the American Society of Anesthesiologists, 520 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068-2573. E-mail: mail@ASAhq.org  
Editor: Newsletter\_Editor@ASAhq.org  
Web site: <http://www.ASAhq.org>  
Periodical postage paid at Park Ridge, IL, and additional mailing offices.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to the *ASA NEWSLETTER*, 520 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068-2573; (847) 825-5586.

Copyright © 2007 American Society of Anesthesiologists. All rights reserved. Contents may not be reproduced without prior written permission of the publisher. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent or reflect the views, policies or actions of the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

## FEATURES

### Obstetric Anesthesiology: Risks, Challenges and Rewards

- |  |           |  |           |
|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| <b>Neuraxial Blockade in Obstetrics and Complications Related to Infection: Can We Lower the Risk?</b> | <b>7</b>  | <b>Does Inhaled Ambient Fentanyl Enhance the Susceptibility of Anesthesiologists to Addiction?</b> | <b>18</b> |
| <i>Samuel C. Hughes, M.D.</i>  |           | <i>Susan L. Polk, M.D., M.S.Ed.</i>  |           |
| <b>Ultrasound Imaging for Obstetric Anesthesia: Where Are We Today?</b>                                | <b>9</b>  | <i>Jonatban D. Katz, M.D.</i>  |           |
| <i>Andrew T. Gray, M.D., Ph.D.</i>   |           | <i>Arnold J. Berry, M.D., M.P.H.</i>   |           |
| <b>Revised Practice Guidelines for Obstetric Anesthesia</b>  | <b>11</b> | <i>Diana G. McGregor, M.B.B.S., F.R.C.A.</i>   |           |
| <i>Joy L. Hawkins, M.D.</i>  |           | <i>William P. Arnold III, M.D.</i>   |           |
| <b>Patient Safety in Labor and Delivery: A Team Approach to High Reliability</b>                       | <b>13</b> | <b>Doctors Day 2007: A 'Brand' New Look Coming Soon</b>  | <b>20</b> |
| <i>Paul G. Preston, M.D.</i>   |           | <i>Michael H. Entrup, M.D.</i>   |           |
| <b>SOAP's Important Role in ASA and Anesthesiology</b>   | <b>16</b> | <b>CME: Maintaining the Foundation and Developing New Paradigms</b>                                | <b>22</b> |
| <i>David J. Wlody, M.D.</i>  |           | <i>Daniel J. Cole, M.D.</i>  |           |

## ARTICLES

- |   |           |   |           |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| <b>2007 Officers' Profiles: The Leaders of Our Society</b>                  | <b>24</b> | <b>2007 Participating Physician Medicare Conversion Factors</b> | <b>35</b> |
| <b>ASA Member Selected for Leadership Position on AMA Board of Trustees</b> | <b>31</b> | <b>Anesthesiology in the News</b>                               | <b>45</b> |
| <i>John B. Neeld, Jr., M.D.</i>   |           |   |           |

## DEPARTMENTS

- |  |           |   |           |
|--|-----------|---|-----------|
| <b>From the Crow's Nest</b>  | <b>1</b>  | <b>Subspecialty News</b>  | <b>40</b> |
| <i>Shadow Warriors</i>   |           | <i>ASCCA</i>  |           |
| <b>Administrative Update</b>   | <b>4</b>  | <b>Residents' Review</b>  | <b>42</b> |
| <i>Jeffrey L. Apfelbaum, M.D.</i>                                      |           | <i>ASRA: Helping Residents</i>                                    |           |
| <b>Washington Report</b>   | <b>6</b>  | <b>Residents' Review</b>  | <b>43</b> |
| <i>Turning Anger Into Action</i>                                       |           | <i>SAMBA: Resident Opportunities Abound</i>                       |           |
| <b>Practice Management</b>   | <b>32</b> | <b>ASA News</b>   | <b>44</b> |
| <i>Anesthesia Carts: New Federal Regulation Aligns With ASA Policy</i> |           | <b>In Memoriam</b>  | <b>44</b> |
| <b>State Beat</b>  | <b>36</b> | <b>Letters to the Editor</b>                                      | <b>46</b> |
| <i>Louisiana Court of Appeal Invalidates Nursing Board 'Opinion'</i>   |           | <b>FAER Report</b>  | <b>48</b> |
| <b>What's New In ...</b>   | <b>38</b> | <i>Cerebral Function Monitoring Study - Request for Proposals</i> |           |
| <i>'Medical Tourism Industry'</i>                                      |           |   |           |

#### SUBSTANCE ABUSE HOTLINE:

Contact the ASA Executive Office at (847) 825-5586 to obtain the addresses and telephone numbers for state medical society programs and services that assist impaired physicians.