

## Society of Neurosurgical Anesthesia and Critical Care Newsletter

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we enjoy the beauties of springtime in the Northern Hemisphere, I would like to make SNACC members aware of several items. Autumn seems far away, but Christian Werner, M.D., has been very busy planning our next annual meeting in Dallas, Texas on October 8, 1999. Details of the program are included in this newsletter. Please plan to submit your research, bring your enthusiasm, and join the camaraderie at the conference.

The October meeting will have items of interest to both neuroanesthesiologists and critical care physicians. For some time critical care anesthesiologists have expressed concern about the decreasing numbers of anesthesiologists entering this subspecialty area. While membership in the American Society of Critical Care Anesthesiologists (ASCCA) and SNACC have remained stable, increasingly, members of other specialties such as pulmonary medicine and trauma surgery play leadership roles in the intensive care setting. Notably few critical care anesthesiologists were invited to the first Pulmonary Artery Consensus Conference organized by the NIH and FDA in 1997. Recently, the Board of Directors of the ASCCA has contacted SNACC and other critical care organizations about a proposed meeting to develop a common ground and goals, and to strengthen the presence of critical care physicians within national organizations such as the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). It is their hope that reimbursement issues and other concerns will be forcefully addressed. I would urge any members of SNACC who have a particular interest in critical care to contact the members of the Board of Directors of SNACC.

Members often express an interest in becoming more involved in the affairs of SNACC. Currently, the Board of Directors has several initiatives where volunteers would be most welcome. For instance, many of you will recall the address presented by Maurice S. Albin, M.D., from San Antonio on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of SNACC. Dr. Albin has maintained records and historical information about SNACC for some time and he has expressed a desire to see his unofficial role as "SNACC historian" carried forward. Any members of the organization interested in preserving our records and heritage are asked to contact me.

Another area where volunteer help is needed would be the maintenance of an updated neuroanesthesia fellowship list. An informational survey was most recently undertaken by Armin Schubert, M.D., approximately four years ago and updated by Jeffrey Kirsch, M.D., for placement on the SNACC webpage. We are now in need of someone to monitor, publicize, and update the list of fellowship opportunities annually, as members frequently contact the central office for this information. If you have an interest in surveying the membership to complete this resource, please contact any of the SNACC officers.

Finally, the Board of Directors has for some time, with the aid of Ira Rampil, M.D., attempted to promote communication within the SNACC membership through the use of the SNACC Bulletin Board and webpage. To register for the Bulletin Board, contact Ira Rampil at <ira\_rampil@vaxine.ucsf.edu>. To access the SNACC webpage, and to utilize member information, use the following address: <<http://anesthesia.ucsf.edu/snaccweb>>. Contact our headquarters for the member user code and password.

In closing, let me acknowledge the initiative of Jeffrey Kirsch, M.D., SNACC President-Elect. Soon each member will receive a certificate of membership that lists the initial year of society affiliation. This certificate will serve as notice to all of your dedication to the disciplines of neuroanesthesia and critical care. Please consider offering your assistance to your fellow members in some of the areas outlined above so that SNACC remains a vital and responsive organization.

Patricia H. Petrozza, M.D.  
*President, SNACC*

### ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

The 27th Annual Meeting of the Society of Neurosurgical Anesthesia and Critical Care will be held in Dallas, Texas on Friday, October 8, 1999. We have planned an exciting scientific program and I urge all of you to attend (see program listed below). We will continue and expand the walk-around poster discussion this year. All abstracts that are accepted will, therefore, be discussed as an oral abstract or walk-around poster.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me