

# President's Message



## Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This is my first communication in the SPA Newsletter as President. First, I would like to thank all of you for your help during the past years and would like to emphasize my increased dependency on your efforts and input as my job description changes. I am also particularly grateful to my predecessors and mentors in this role (as well as many other roles), including Peter Davis, Bill Greeley, Steve Hall, Aubrey Maze, Myron Yaster, Mark Rockoff, and Anne Lynn. I can only hope to approach their wisdom and achievements.

Because of the contributions and skills of the members and its past leadership, I take the helm of a Society that is quite strong in terms of membership, finances, and the quality of its educational offerings. Going forward, we aggressively seek to identify and implement new programs and activities that will serve your interests and needs. Our major goal is to increase the meaning and value to your belonging to this organization. Based largely upon your suggestions, derived from recent membership surveys and more informal conversations and emails, we have chosen to focus on several initiatives. Strategically, we want this organization and its members to become the recognized voice for the perioperative care of children in this country, and an important contributor to efforts elsewhere in the world. The reason for doing this is to improve our ability to advocate effectively on behalf of issues that are important to children and our members. We intend to increase the scope and relevance of the Society's educational efforts, including new products and media to help members meet their CME and lifelong-learning needs. Fi-

nally, we want to optimize the management of the Society's resources to facilitate meeting these and future goals. You will be hearing more about these efforts in substantially greater detail in the coming months.

I cannot emphasize strongly enough the desire and necessity for members to contribute to the work of the Society. We need your suggestions, criticisms, ideas, and labor. We particularly need new people to get actively involved. This is sincere. One of the strengths of this society is that "term limits", turnover, and infusion of new blood into committee and leadership roles are mandated, both by philosophy and bylaw. Active and meaningful involvement is possible in many different ways, including committee participation, writing for the Newsletter, offering your services as a PBLD or workshop lecturer in an area of expertise, defining (and then working on) new areas of activity, etc. This is essentially a meritocracy—if you do the work, you get more to do. It is likely to require some degree of effort and persistence on your part, but I guarantee that these will be rewarded. I encourage you to contact me ([francis.mcgowan@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:francis.mcgowan@childrens.harvard.edu) or 617-355-6225) or any of the other members of the Board of Directors (see back of this Newsletter or the SPA website at [www.pedsanesthesia.org](http://www.pedsanesthesia.org)) with ideas, suggestions, and offers to participate. I also particularly want to know about it if we could be doing something better or if you feel that your concerns have gone unaddressed.

I firmly believe that the mission of this Society—improving the perioperative care of children through education and research—and what you do every day to carry this out—are important and noble tasks. We are unique, in part, because of this commitment to a shared and greater purpose. I have learned a tremendous amount participating SPA activities; I have also made some of my best and most enduring friendships. I encourage you to take similar advantage of the Society. Serving you and this organization in several capacities and now as your President is the greatest professional honor I can envision. Most of all, I am extremely proud to have all of you as colleagues, and look forward to being able to count more of you as friends.

Frank McGowan, MD  
*President*

