

## **Safe anaesthesia for everybody – today’s initiative: the anaesthesia patient safety perspective**

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Anaesthesia patient safety must be a universal mission. The Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF) applauds the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) for its efforts to improve patient safety through initiatives such as SAFE-T (Safe Anaesthesia For Everybody – Today). The APSF will work closely with the WFSA and its national anaesthesia organisations to provide support through education, research and advocacy.

The APSF’s vision statement is clear: ‘That no patient shall be harmed by anaesthesia’. Its primary mission remains to continually improve the safety of patients during anaesthetic care by encouraging and conducting:

- safety research and education;
- patient safety programmes and campaigns;
- national and international exchanges of information and ideas.

The APSF has primarily been US focused for the past several decades. This focus is changing to meet our founding mission to increase the international exchange of patient safety ideas. For its 32 years of publication, the *APSF Newsletter* has played an important role in providing educational material on anaesthesia patient safety and for sparking discussions through pro/con debates and letters to the editor. It currently is the most widely distributed anaesthesia publication in the world, reaching 125,000 anaesthesia professionals in print and another 50,000 electronically. That’s good – but it also is insufficient.

During 2018 and into the future, the *APSF Newsletter* will be published in an increasing number of languages. These newsletter translations and also translated APSF safety videos will appear on the APSF website (<https://apsf.org>) as they become available during 2018. These will support the exchange of perioperative patient

safety ideas between an increasing proportion of the estimated 350,000 anaesthesia professionals worldwide. The APSF will also use social media opportunities such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and unique blogs, especially those already well established, to reach international anaesthesia professionals, to lead or participate in discussions of perioperative patient safety issues. These, too, will be provided in multiple languages to support communication between the diverse anaesthesia professionals globally.

The APSF has been a significant source of funding for perioperative patient safety research. More than US\$12 million have been provided to support research on unique clinical safety issues, to develop novel technologies and educational programmes and to support the early career development of future anaesthesia patient safety scientists. Much of that support has been directed at North American-based anaesthesia professionals. We are now seeking opportunities to expand support to aspiring anaesthesia patient safety scientists and clinicians outside North America. This expansion will require significant financial support of the APSF and we are currently working to attain it.

The APSF’s mission has not changed. When applying the mission to today’s expectations of anaesthesia professionals internationally, the APSF needs to ensure that its activities span the extended range of perioperative care and involve collaboration with the full spectrum of colleagues in all fields and industries that impact our patients’ care. As we all move forward, the APSF will increase its focus on the full spectrum of perioperative safety issues and increase its advocacy for patient safety. There are important questions to be answered and issues to be addressed.

It’s the right thing to do for our patients . . . and for our profession.

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