

ASA's New Global Scholars Program

Alexander A. Hannenberg, M.D.
 President, ASA Charitable Foundation
 ASA Committee on Global Humanitarian Outreach

In low-resource settings, it's not uncommon for there to be one anesthesiologist for a million people.

Professional isolation is felt in access to knowledge and education as well as the professional network of peers that we take for granted. We have the opportunity to discuss a case with a colleague, email a former teacher, and connect through specialty societies and online discussion platforms. None of this is readily available to our peers in vast regions of the world.

These are some of the issues that ASA's new Global Scholars Program was designed to address. For the first time, ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2015 hosted three young anesthesiologists at the annual meeting in San Diego and for "observerships" in nearby teaching centers. They were guests of ASA subspecialty societies at the conferences held in San Diego by the Society for Neurosurgical Anesthesia and Critical Care, the Society for Education in Anesthesia or the Society for Pediatric Anesthesia, who generously provided complimentary registration. These groups, the ASA Committee on Annual Meeting Oversight and the ASA Charitable Foundation collaborated to introduce this new global health initiative.



From left: 2015 Global Scholars Dr. Natsagdorj Batgombo (Mongolia), Dr. Claudia Alvarez (Honduras) and Dr. Christopher Chanda (Zambia) with Dr. Alexander Hannenberg, President, ASA Charitable Foundation, and member of the Committee on Global Humanitarian Outreach.

While new for ASA, this is a model with demonstrated impact that's already been in place in U.S. component societies and other national anesthesiology associations and medical specialties. The international participants go home with new knowledge from the educational program and with contacts in the global anesthesia community who can help them build the medical specialty of anesthesiology in countries where it is embryonic. Furthermore, each of the participants contributes to the annual meeting program through a formal poster presentation – but just as important, they have ready access to informal discussions with ASA members who have intense interest in global anesthesia practice.

In 2015, ASA hosted emerging leaders in anesthesiology from Honduras, Mongolia and Zambia:

- Dr. Claudia Alvarez, Chief of the Anesthesiology Department at the Hospital Center of the El Progreso area, Yoro, Honduras. Dr. Alvarez was hosted at Mayo Clinic Arizona for an observership prior to ANESTHESIOLOGY 2015.
- Dr. Natsagdorj Batgombo, Anesthesiologist-Intensivist at the Intermed Hospital, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Dr. Batgombo visited the University of California, Irvine, for his observership.



Alexander A. Hannenberg, M.D., is Associate Chair, Department of Anesthesiology, Newton Wellesley Hospital, Newton, Massachusetts. He was ASA President in 2010

- Dr. Christopher Chanda, Anesthesiologist at the University Teaching Hospital, Lusaka, Zambia. Dr. Chanda was also sponsored by the Society for Pediatric Anesthesia for observerships at the Boston Children's Hospital and at Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Alvarez' commentary is illustrative of the global scholars' experience:

"The presentation of the clinical case was a milestone in my professional career. Being able to present a case in front of accomplished professionals in my field has made a great impression in my life. It has also made me feel more accomplished as a physician.

The visit to the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, Arizona, opened my eyes to the long way that our own facilities in Honduras have yet to travel. It reminded me of the great sacrifices that our patients have to make in order to receive treatment. It showed me as well the high hurdles that doctors have to overtake to provide effective treatment to patients. I take this not as an impossible goal, but as motivation to take back with me. If anything I have come back to my country with renewed hope and strength to keep working, to keep fighting for our facilities to be better."

The ASA Global Scholars program is funded by the ASA Charitable Foundation (www.asacharity.org) with contributions from individual members, from the host departments and with the proceeds of the charitable networking event held in San Diego last year.

Selection of the 2016 ASA Global Scholars is under way through a workgroup of the ASA Committee on Global Humanitarian Outreach, including K.A. Kelly McQueen, M.D., Benjamin Lee, M.D., and Alexander Hannenberg, M.D. The University of Chicago and Rush University have committed to hosting the scholars in their departments, and the partnership with the subspecialty societies is renewed. We look forward to the next class of global scholars at ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2016 and hope that you will find an opportunity to meet them.



American Society of
Anesthesiologists®

ASA® Charitable Foundation

Save the date

ANESTHESIA QUALITY MEETING™ 2016

NOVEMBER 19-20 | SCHAUMBURG, IL

Define how value is measured and integrate quality improvement processes in your practice by attending the Anesthesia Quality Meeting (AQM™).

Bring your whole care team and jointly discover the importance of creating and measuring quality in anesthesiology.



Learn more
asahq.org/anesthesiaquality

American Society of
Anesthesiologists®

14-614