

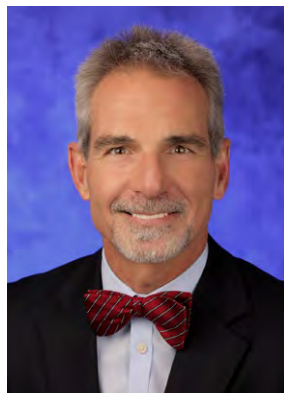
## Update on your WFSA

Berend Mets, M.B., Ph.D., FRCA, Chair  
Committee on Global Humanitarian Outreach  
Director of Partnerships and Board Member, WFSA

Sixty-one years ago, representatives from 42 anesthesiology societies gathered in Scheveningen, in the Netherlands, for the first World Congress of Anaesthesiologists (WCA). The World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) was incorporated at that time, planning to hold four yearly Congresses at venues around the world. Today, the WFSA is proud to count more than 135 societies as members, covering some 140 countries across the globe.

ASA is the single largest member national society represented in the WFSA. Consistent with this leadership position, many ASA members serve the WFSA in varying capacities on its board as well as through its committees.

There are currently 14 ASA members assigned to committees, with Douglas Bacon, M.D., M.A., chairing the Publications Committee, while two ASA members serve as officers of the WFSA. Dr. Adrian Gelb as Secretary and Dr. Berend Mets as Director of Partnerships. All hold a four-year term until the next WCA to be held in Prague, Czech Republic, in 2020. At the last General Assembly of the WFSA, held at the WCA in Hong Kong, ASA fielded 35 delegates. The number of delegates for each member society is determined by the number of active anesthesiologists who are ASA members. The General Assembly governs and votes on proposals brought by the officers and Council of the WFSA and member societies. However, the work of the WFSA goes far beyond this; more specifically as an international advocate for anesthesiologist-physician-led education and provision of safe anesthetic care worldwide.



Berend Mets, M.B., Ph.D., FRCA, is Chair, ASA Committee on Global Humanitarian Outreach, Chair, Committee on Representation to the WFSA, Director of Partnerships and Board Member of the WFSA, and Professor and Chair, Pennsylvania State University, Department of Anesthesiology, Hershey, Pennsylvania.

**WFSA**  
WORLD FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES OF  
ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS

**60**  
YEARS  
1955 - 2015

### VENUES FOR WCA

- Scheveningen, Netherlands ..... 1955
- Toronto, Canada ..... 1960
- Sao Paulo, Brazil..... 1964
- London, England..... 1968
- Kyoto, Japan ..... 1972
- Mexico City, Mexico ..... 1976
- Hamburg, Germany ..... 1980
- Manila, Philippines..... 1984
- Washington, D.C. .... 1988
- Den Haag, Netherlands ..... 1992
- Sydney, Australia ..... 1996
- Montreal, Canada ..... 2000
- Paris, France ..... 2004
- Cape Town, South Africa ..... 2008
- Buenos Aires, Argentina ..... 2012
- Hong Kong, China ..... 2016
- Prague, Czech Republic ..... 2020

 [facebook.com/WFSA.org](https://www.facebook.com/WFSA.org)

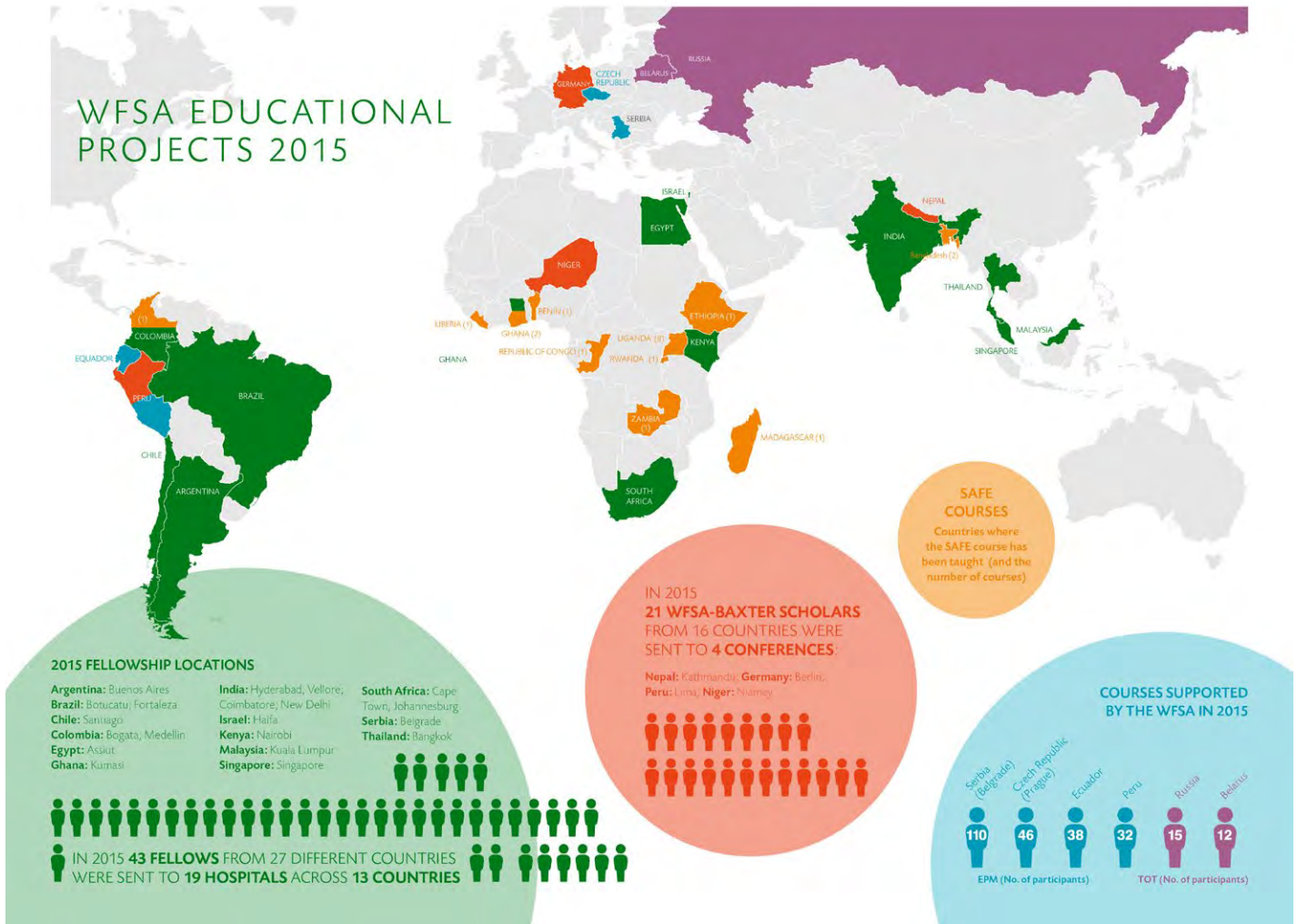
 [@wfsaorg](https://twitter.com/wfsaorg)

[www.wfsa.org](http://www.wfsa.org)

Summary points of importance to understand about ASA and WFSA collaborative efforts include:

- WFSA unanimously passed a resolution at the 2012 WCA that anesthesiology is a medical specialty and advocates for that stance at international organizational meetings.
- WFSA has the ability to use its influence at the highest possible levels of international medical organizations, such as the World Health Organization and United Nations, to reiterate this powerful advocacy message.
- WFSA reinforces the message of this resolution at every meeting in every country around the world that representatives attend.

## WFSA EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS 2015



### Member Benefits

For societies:

- The right to send voting delegates to the General Assembly.
- Access to the support of WFSA leadership.
- Access to support on advocacy issues that concern anesthesiologists.
- Receipt of the WFSA quarterly newsletter and opportunity to submit articles to the newsletter.
- Receipt of the WFSA annual report (which is also online together with the annual accounts).
- Immediate membership to the SAFE-T Network.

For individuals:

- The right for delegates and ASA members to stand for elected office in the WFSA.
- The right for members to serve on WFSA committees.
- The right to apply for WFSA fellowships, scholarships and research grants.

- The right to nominate candidates and be considered for the WFSA Innovation and Service Awards.
- Access to WFSA's online educational materials, such as "Tutorial of the Week" and the "Update in Anaesthesia." Individuals should also consider submitting work for publication: [www.wfsahq.org/resources/anaesthesia-tutorial-of-the-week](http://www.wfsahq.org/resources/anaesthesia-tutorial-of-the-week).

### Highlights Over the Last Year

#### WFSA Educational Projects Around the World in 2015

WFSA fellowships are training opportunities provided around the world, coordinated and supported by the WFSA Education Committee. In 2015, 43 fellows from 27 different countries were sent to 19 hospitals across 13 countries, including Argentina, Colombia, Malaysia, Serbia, Israel and Thailand.

Twenty-one WFSA-Baxter fellows from 16 countries were sent to four conferences held in Kathmandu, (Nepal), Berlin (Germany), Lima (Peru) and Niamey (Niger).

*Continued on page 54*

SAFE (Safer Anaesthesia from Education) Courses, a joint project developed by the WFSA with the Association of Great Britain and Ireland, provide three-day training in either pediatric or obstetric anaesthesia. Seventeen such courses were held in seven sub-Saharan African countries and Madagascar this past year.

The Essential Pain Management Program, run in four countries (Serbia, the Czech Republic, Ecuador and Peru), involved 226 participants working with local health care workers to improve pain knowledge, implement a simple framework for managing pain and address pain management barriers. The program encourages early handover to local instructors so that local solutions can be found to local problems.

In this vein, "Train the Trainer" programs have also been established in Russia and Belarus this past year involving 27 participants.

### **SAFE-T Campaign Launch**

The Safe Anesthesia for Everybody-Today (SAFE-T) campaign was launched at the WCA in Hong Kong. The SAFE-T Consortium and SAFE-T Network were formed in recognition that to support the International Standards for a Safe Practice of Anaesthesia approved by the General Assembly, a collaborative effort across governments, national societies, industry and other patient safety-oriented organizations is required.

The SAFE-T Consortium brings together national societies, industry and patient-focused organizations, connecting them with the WFSA's global network to develop programs to enhance safer anesthesiology practice worldwide. The SAFE-T Network allows individual anesthesiologists to join in this effort, and all member societies are automatically enrolled in the network and asked to identify a societal representative to the network. Consortium members will also be asked to identify a named representative and be publicly acknowledged, confirming their support of the International Standards for a Safe Practice of Anaesthesia, approved by a majority vote at the General Assembly in Hong Kong. Individual network members will be asked to support the same standards as well as to sign up to the network via email and support the international standards through their practice. In turn, they will receive updates on the SAFE-T campaign, a printable SAFE-T Network certificate and compilations of data from across the network. Consortium and Network representatives will be asked to participate in the Annual SAFE-T Summit that will be held to address approaches to deliver safe anesthesia care worldwide.

### **Ongoing Lifebox® Partnership**

WFSA is a founder and ongoing supporter of Lifebox, established in 2011. This year an almost-incredible milestone was surpassed: more than 10,000 Lifebox donations in over 100 countries. The WFSA continued to provide financial and logistic as well as educational support to enhance patient safety in areas of the world that most need this.

*“WFSA fellowships are training opportunities provided around the world, coordinated and supported by the WFSA Education Committee. In 2015, 43 fellows from 27 different countries were sent to 19 hospitals across 13 countries, including Argentina, Colombia, Malaysia, Serbia, Israel and Thailand.”*

### **Innovation and Research**

Through the support of industry, the WFSA encourages innovative solutions to pervasive problems in austere environments where anesthesia is practiced. Six innovation awards were conferred at the WCA. Dr. John Hyndman received the award for the design of a simple but robust anesthesia machine, while Dr. Neha Singh created a low-cost head rest for use in prone patients.

In addition, to encourage researchers from less-affluent environments to develop their research capacity, the WFSA provided three \$8,000 starter grants, which will help doctors from Ghana, China and Nepal learn research techniques. Typically, this research is conducted outside their home country so that these young researchers can bring expertise back home to develop local research interests in the future.

### **Publications**

*Update in Anaesthesia*, the official CME publication of the WFSA, published a special edition on "Pediatric Anesthesia and Critical Care" in July 2015. In addition, the WFSA's Web tutorial, "Anaesthesia Tutorial of the Week" (ATOTW), aims to support anesthesia education across the world. In 2015, 20 tutorials were published, covering speciality areas including obstetrics, pediatrics, neuroanesthesia, and pain/regional anesthesia as well as basic science and other topics.

Readily accessible from the WFSA website at [www.wfsahq.org](http://www.wfsahq.org), ATOTW reaches thousands of anesthesiologists each week across a full spectrum of countries, and many were also translated into different language editions.

Through a partnership between WFSA and the International Anesthesia Research Society, the Global Health section of *Anesthesia & Analgesia* was formed with a joint appointed editor serving this important section. Apart from a new focus on publishing peer-reviewed articles from around the world on subject matter pertinent to less sophisticated clinical environments, the October 2015 issue featured the WFSA's 60th anniversary prominently on its cover with the WFSA logo printed at the top of this article.

### WFSA Service Awards

At this year's WCA, the WFSA Presidential and Distinguished Service Awards were conferred for the first time. The WFSA Distinguished Service Awards were conferred in recognition of individuals who had previously served the WFSA as an officer or council or committee member with

distinction. We were pleased that Dr. John Moyers (U.S.A.), Dr. Anis Baraka (Lebanon), Dr. Roger Eltringham (U.K.) and Dr. Haydn Perndt (New Zealand) received this award. The WFSA Presidential Awards for Service to Anaesthesiology were conferred on individuals who have made a special contribution to the art and science of anesthesiology or have helped to promote or establish anesthesiology initiatives anywhere in the world, or served the WFSA quietly but with particular dedication and might not fulfil the criteria for the distinguished service award. We were pleased that Dr. Archie Brain (U.K.), Dr. Humberto Sainz Cabrera (Cuba), Professor Thara Tritrakarn (Thailand) and Dr. Tiberiu Ezri (Israel) were the recipients. Further details about these awardees are available on the WFSA website.

ASA is a prominent and proud member of the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists, and the WFSA is all the better for ASA member involvement.

WFSA annual reports are available at [www.wfsahq.org/about-us/reports](http://www.wfsahq.org/about-us/reports).

*Register now!*

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