American Society of Anesthesiologists

Medical Student Newsletter

April 2010

ASA Medical Student Component Updates

ASA Medical Student Component Mentor Program

By: Caroline Bradley Gibson Hunter, Member-at-Large

"I hope all of you share my enthusiasm about this program of building relationships as we all seek to be members of the field of anesthesiology."

When I became interested in Anesthesiology, what made me identify myself as a part of this field was finding a mentor who included me in his research, advised me about steps I should take to prepare for residency, and taught me clinical skills in the OR. I feel that every students needs such a mentor, but often individuals who are especially suited to the task can be hard to find, particularly for students at medical schools who do not have Anesthesiology programs or who are doing away rotations where they are unfamiliar with the faculty.

My goal as Member-at-Large was to create a list of anesthesiologists who were interested in mentoring students. The list would be available only to medical students who are members of the ASA through a secure link on the ASA MSC website. The student delegates are in the process of choosing a mentor after being contacted by me with a letter, questionnaire, and contract to distribute to potential mentor candidates. The delegates are charged with choosing at least 1 mentor from their school or city who is interested in mentoring students in at least one of three areas: clinical education in the OR, residency/career advice, or research. The list will be maintained by the delegates from year to year, and they will have the responsibility of following up with the mentors every six months to determine continued interest and activity.

Mentors are not limited to medical students. I have heard many speeches given by anesthesiologists in which they reflect on their careers and share the importance of the mentor in their longitudinal development. I hope all of you share my enthusiasm about this program of building relationships as we all seek to be members of the field of anesthesiology.

Meet the 2009-2010 MSC Governing Council

Chair: James Philips, University of Nevada School of Medicine
Chair-Elect: Matthew Gertsch, UNC School of Medicine
Senior Advisor: Michael Pascarella, UMDNJ School of Osteopathic Medicine
Secretary: Kevin Walsh, University of Connecticut School of Medicine
Member-at-Large: Caroline Bradley Gibson Hunter, University of South Carolina School of Medicine
AMA Delegate: Jeremy Haney, University of Oklahoma College of Medicine
AMA Delegate Alternate: Michael Oleyar, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Left to Right: Jeremy Haney, AMA Delegate; Matthew C. Gertsch, Chair Elect; James E. Phillips, Chair; Kevin J. Walsh, Secretary; Caroline Bradley Gibson Hunter, Member at Large. (Not pictured: Michael R. Pascarella, Senior Advisor; Ryan Ensminger, MSC Alternate; Michael J. Oleyar, AMA Alternate Delegate).

Senior Advice Column

Thoughts on an Away Rotation…

By: Jill Cooley, 2008-2009 ASA MSC Secretary

"it's best to leave all expectations behind…and keep an open mind"

Rule #1 Abandon Expectations:

There is a good chance that the extramural you participate in will be completely different than the one at your home institution. I believe it's best to leave all expectations behind. It's nearly impossible to imagine how you will fit in, how much you will learn, what cases you will get to see, or how you will feel when the month is over. Plan to work hard-really hard. Beyond that, be flexible, look for opportunities and keep an open mind.

Rule #2 Abandon Agenda

Programs know why you are there and will likely arrange your rotation so you are able to work with several key committee members. If you think you are not getting enough face time with the appropriate people just curbside the chief resident. They will help you.
My days became much more enjoyable when I wasn't preoccupied with "running into" the right people. Not every day lends itself to prime networking opportunities. However, each day can be a new experience with abundant opportunities to learn.

Call for Senior Advice Column Writers

If you are a senior applying for a residency in Anesthesiology, we invite you to write a small blurb offering advice for other medical students not yet in the process. This only needs to be a sentence or two and can pertain to anything you found helpful in the residency application process, away rotation, or a general "I wish I had known…".

Information for Medical Students

ASA MSC Web site Page

Please take a moment to access the ASA Medical Student Component Web page at **http://www.asahq.org/msd/homepage.html**. This website serves to provide medical students interested in anesthesiology additional tools and resources as they prepare for an Anesthesiology Residency. Our goal is to continue to expand and develop our ASA online community as the MSC continues to grow. As always, we encourage your input and hope you will email any ideas to **medicalstudentcomponent@asahq.org**.

Residency Programs

Check the ASA Web site for information about the anesthesiology residency programs in the United States at **http://www.asahq.org/asarc/residency.html**. This link has additional career information useful to medical students interested in specializing in anesthesiology.

Medical Student Component E-mail Address

Please utilize the medical student component e-mail address at **medicalstudentcomponent@asahq.org** to inquire about ASA activities, delegate questions and for general assistance for medical students.

Highlight your AIG!

The MSC invites you to highlight your AIG. We want to know what your AIG is doing! Whether it's a meeting, workshop, or community service project, we would like to hear about it-and send us pictures if you can. This is a great way to bring future anesthesiologists together. Your AIG might just inspire another AIG with a great idea.

AIG and ASA MSC Membership Information

The ASA MSC Governing council has been making efforts to collect information about each school's AIG statistics. Over the past few months we have been emailing each school's program director and Delegate (if one is listed) asking for membership numbers along with ASA membership enrollment. We ask that you take just a few moments to provide this information to the MSC as we continue to seek ways to assess and improve student involvement in the ASA.

Write for the ASA MSC Newsletter

The ASA MSC invites all student members to write an article for the monthly e-Newsletter. Of course, we are always eager to hear about your AIG activities, but we also are constantly looking for ways to increase involvement among students. Write a paragraph about your decision to become an anesthesiologist, or an article for the Senior Advice Column. This is an opportunity for you to be creative, reflective, or serious. Articles may be any length, prose, poem, etc. Submit to **kjwalsh@student.uchc.edu**.