

CAS

ANESTHESIA NEWS

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CANADIAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS' SOCIETY



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www.cas.ca

THE CANADIAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS' SOCIETY PRESIDENT AND CEO



Dr Giuseppe Fuda,
CAS President



Vanessa Foran,
CAS Chief Executive Officer

Dear colleagues,

As we step into spring of 2025, we are filled with excitement and optimism for the year ahead. We are reaching out to share key updates and express our sincere gratitude for your ongoing support and commitment to the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society.

2025 CAS Annual Meeting

Preparations are well underway for the 2025 CAS Annual Meeting, taking place from **June 20 to 22, 2025, in St. John's, Newfoundland.** This highly anticipated event will bring together anesthesiologists from across the country to exchange knowledge, foster connections, and celebrate our shared commitment to excellence in anesthesia.

Registration is now open! Be sure to take advantage of the **early bird deadline – April 16, 2025.** For more details, including an expanded Friday programming schedule, explore our **Annual Meeting preview.**

Advocacy & Professional Representation

We are steadfast in our mission to be the voice of the anesthesia profession, addressing critical issues and advancing the interests of our members. To learn more about our advocacy efforts, check out our **advocacy piece** in this newsletter.

Advancing Education & Professional Development

Our **2025 education program** continues to expand, delivering high-quality learning opportunities for our members. This year, we've launched the new **CAS-SAMBA Rounds Series** in collaboration with the Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia and are excited to continue the highly regarded **Pinnacle Rounds Series.**

And that's just the beginning—more exceptional CME opportunities **are on the way**, including an Earth Day webinar in April and a new CPD module.

Gratitude & Leadership Opportunities

Our achievements would not be possible without the dedication of our incredible volunteers. From section leaders to committee members, your contributions drive CAS' success and strengthens our community. We extend our deepest gratitude to each of you for your invaluable efforts.

If you are interested in making a greater impact, we encourage you to consider **leadership role** within CAS.

Renew Your CAS Membership

As we embark on this new year, we invite you to renew your **CAS membership today** to take full advantage of exclusive CAS member benefits including a wealth of educational opportunities available. Your membership ensures access to these and other invaluable resources that support your professional growth.

Thank you for being part of the CAS community. **Here's to a successful and inspiring 2025!**



Dr Giuseppe Fuda,
CAS President

Vanessa Foran,
CAS CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AS OF MARCH 2025

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr Giuseppe Fuda, President
Dr James Kim, Vice-President
Dr Andrew Nice, Secretary
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Ms. Vanessa Foran, CEO (Non-Voting)

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Dr Annika Vrana (British Columbia)

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Dr Mateen Raazi, ACUDA President
Dr Melissa Liu, Resident Representative

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW ONLINE](#)

ADVOCACY UPDATE



CAS Provides Input into Health Canada's Critical and Vulnerable Drug List Consultation

CAS President, Dr Giuseppe Fuda, and CAS Quality and Patient Safety Committee Co-Chair, Dr Conor Mc Donnell, provided joint input into Health Canada's consultation on the Critical and Vulnerable Drug List in February. In their submission, they highlighted several critical drugs used in anesthesia and critical care, that were absent from the list, and the need to deliver safe and consistent anesthesia care, which is continuously challenged by drug and equipment shortages.

To read the full submission [CLICK HERE](#)

CIHI Anesthesiologists HHR Forecasting Project

As a result of CAS' meeting with Health Workforce Canada last July, Dr Fuda, and CAS CEO, Vanessa Foran, met with Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) and KPMG who are working together to forecast supply and demand data for anesthesia services in Canada. CAS provided input into their modeling tool to better align patients' needs and available HCP providers. This included outlining current workforce challenges in anesthesiology, workload issues affecting

anesthesiologists, reviewing the methodology for both supply and demand projections, and identifying anesthesiologist-specific nuances to be incorporated into the model. It was an excellent discussion in which CAS provided insight into the profession, current HHR issues, and provincial supply and demand models recently used in anesthesia. The conversation also highlighted the importance of anesthesia assistants, the ACT Model, and the role of family practice anesthetists in rural settings within specific provinces. CAS will share the results of this project with members once it's available.

CAS In the News

On February 3rd, Dr Fuda was interviewed on **CTV's Your Morning**. During the segment he unpacked anesthesiologists' vital role in patient safety, common misconceptions about the profession, and the root causes behind ongoing HHR shortages in Canada. He also discussed safe, practical solutions to the shortage endorsed by CAS, such as increasing anesthesia assistants (AA) positions, accepting more anesthesiology residents from abroad, and simplifying cross-provincial practice for anesthesiologists.

What's Next

Moving forward, CAS, together with British Columbia Anesthesiologists Society (BCAS), has made a joint request to meet with new Health Minister in BC. We also plan to meet with New Brunswick's new Health Minister shortly, connect with policy makers in Ontario following the recent February election, and will continue to keep members informed about these initiatives in the coming months.

CAS ADVOCACY

NOW IN EFFECT

CAS STRATEGIC PLAN

CAS' 2025-2030 Strategic Plan officially launched on January 1, 2025. This Board-led initiative was developed to set a clear direction for delivering on our mission to serve members and advance the specialty through research, advocacy, education and leadership. The plan uses input from members, stakeholders, and staff, and introduces a new vision statement for the organization: *a unified, vibrant and influential group of anesthesia professionals, delivering the highest quality care.*

To ensure the strength of CAS now and in the future, the plan is divided into five key priority areas:

- MEMBERS
- STAKEHOLDERS
- PEOPLE
- INTERNAL SYSTEMS
- FINANCE

Our member priorities will direct the Society's commitment to staying accountable to members and keeping pace with their changing needs.

CAS will maintain high-quality offerings (Education, Journal, Guidelines, Conference), and evolve these resources as needed to ensure a unique member value proposition. We will strengthen our professional community and provide leadership and networking opportunities year-round. To amplify our members' voice and advance the specialty, we will advocate to improve patient care (safety, quality, access), have members' leadership in perioperative care decisions recognized, and raise public awareness about the profession.



The graphic features the CAS logo on the left, which includes a red maple leaf and a caduceus. The title "Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society 2025-2030 Strategic Plan" is prominently displayed in white text. Below the title, the heading "MEMBER PRIORITIES" is written in large, bold, white letters. To the left of the priorities is an illustration of three stylized figures wearing blue surgical caps and masks. The three priorities are listed in white text on the right side of the graphic.

Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society 2025-2030 Strategic Plan

MEMBER PRIORITIES

- Ensure a unique member value proposition. Maintain high-quality offerings that members value. (Education, Journal, Practice Guidelines, Conference).
- Strengthen our professional practice community. Provide leadership and networking opportunities.
- Amplify our members' voice to advocate for things that matter to them and to advance the specialty. Improved patient care (safety, quality, access); Leadership in perioperative care system decisions. Raise public awareness about the profession.

Learn more: cas.ca/about-us

Additional strategic priorities include ensuring strong governance, championing our phenomenal volunteers and staff, simplifying communication between members and our national office, and enhancing relationships with key stakeholders. We encourage you to review the [full strategic plan](#) and contact us at anesthesia@cas.ca with any questions.

On behalf of the CAS Board and staff, we look forward to having you as part of our community on this exciting new journey.

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Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society 2025-2030 Strategic Plan

OUR VALUES

OUR MISSION

Serving members and advancing the specialty through leadership, advocacy, education, and research.

OUR VISION

A unified, vibrant, and influential community of anesthesiology professionals delivering the highest quality care.



Science: We value the importance of best scientific evidence to guide our practice.



Vigilance: We value the focused and constant attention to safety in all we do.



Compassion: We recognize the importance of humanity and kindness towards our patients and our colleagues.



Collaboration: We recognize that working harmoniously within a team is essential to reaching our shared goals.



Equity: We value equitable access to health-care for our patients, and professional opportunities for our colleagues.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

MEMBERS



- Ensure a unique member value proposition. Maintain high-quality offerings that members value. (Education, Journal, Practice Guidelines, Conference, Research Grants and Honour Awards).
- Strengthen our professional practice community. Provide leadership and networking opportunities.
- Amplify our members' voice to advocate for things that matter to them and to advance the specialty. Improved patient care (safety, quality, access); Leadership in perioperative care system decisions. Raise public awareness about the profession.

STAKEHOLDERS



- Engage and strengthen our stakeholder relationships, e.g. ACUDA, CARF, CASIEF & others.
- Coordinate and increase our influence on governments and health systems. Work better together on shared education, public messaging and policy issues.

PEOPLE



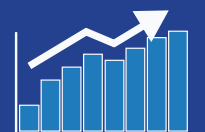
- Ensure strong, confident governance. Recruit and support our volunteers (e.g. Board & Committees).
- Empower staff to enhance our members' experience. Clarify delegation of authority and accountabilities.
- Shape a culture of inclusivity & engagement. More and different people, more involved.

INTERNAL SYSTEMS



- Modernize our governance system. Governance review, bylaw changes, clear board policies. Align Sections' roles and accountability; clarify Committees' terms of reference.
- Leverage technology to enhance the member experience. Streamline and simplify member interaction with National Office.

FINANCES



- Ensure a fair return on high value offerings. Clarify pricing on all member services.
- Develop a long-term member dues strategy. Policy to keep pace with economic conditions.
- Develop a non-dues revenue strategy. Clarify sponsorships and fees.
- Ensure adequate resources to advance strategic priorities. Develop a multi-year financial and investment plan.

CAS WINTER EDUCATION RECAP AND SPRING PREVIEW

The Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society education program kicked off the year with an impressive lineup of six winter webinars. The momentum continues this spring, leading to the highly anticipated **2025 CAS Annual Meeting**, taking place June 20-22 in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Stay informed about these and other educational opportunities by visiting www.cas.ca/upcoming-events, and keep an eye out for updates.

WINTER WEBINARS



2nd World Regional Anesthesia Day Webinar
January 25, 2025, 3 pm ET

Managing Regional Anesthesia Challenges and Looking Towards the Future

IN CELEBRATION OF

WDRAPM
WORLD DAY OF REGIONAL ANESTHESIA AND PAIN MEDICINE

CANADIAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS' SOCIETY

MODERATOR
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DR PETER ROSE

PRESENTER:
DR AHTSHAM NIAZI

PRESENTER:
DR REVA RAMLOGAN

PRESENTER:
DR VIVIAN IP

PRESENTER:
DR RYAN ENDERSBY

www.cas.ca/regional-webinar-2025

2nd World Day of Regional Anesthesia and Acute Pain Medicine Webinar

January 25, 2025

This webinar focused on managing regional anesthesia challenges and exploring future advancements, in celebration of the 2nd World Regional Anesthesia Day. Hosted by the CAS Regional Anesthesia Section, the event aligned with this year's theme, Joining Hands for a Pain-Free Future Worldwide. Participants joined a global effort to highlight the importance of effective pain management with regional anesthesia and to share this message across the world.

[View Recording](#)



CAS NEUROANESTHESIA SECTION PRESENTS:

NEUROANESTHESIA NATIONAL WEBINAR

What's New In Neuroanesthesia

Thursday, February 13, 2025
8 PM ET

Moderator:
Dr Bryan Glezerson

Presenter:
Dr Christian Lehmann

Presenter:
Dr Katija Bonin

WWW.CAS.CA/NEURO-EVENTS

Neuroanesthesia National Webinar – What's New in Neuroanesthesia

February 13, 2025

This webinar focused on advancing knowledge in neuroanesthesia, with engaging discussions on sedation versus general anesthesia for endovascular thrombectomy (EVT) and the versatile applications of propofol beyond its anesthetic properties. Hosted by the CAS Neuroanesthesia Section, it built on three years of successful rounds series to provide valuable insights for neuroanesthesia specialists and CAS members interested in the subspecialty.

[View Recording](#)

...continued on page 7

**THE POLITICAL PHYSICIAN:
A CONVERSATION WITH
THE HONOURABLE FLODELIZ (GIGI)
OSLER**

**March 19, 2025
7 pm ET**





**Moderator:
Dr Joel Loiselle**

**Presenter:
The Honourable
Flordeliz (Gigi)
Osler**

WWW.CAS.CA/POLITICAL-PHYSICIAN

The Political Physician: A Conversation with the Honourable Flordeliz (Gigi) Osler

March 19, 2025

In an ever-evolving healthcare landscape, political engagement has never been optional—it is essential. This presentation explored the critical role of physicians in shaping healthcare policy, advocating for systemic change, and navigating the intersection of medicine and politics. Attendees gained insights into how self-reflection and values-based leadership contribute to effective and meaningful advocacy.

[View Recording](#)

UPCOMING SPRING WEBINARS

- **Making TIVA-TCI Simple and Fun: One Model to Rule Them All** - April 16, 2025
- **CAS Earth Day Webinar: Our Power, Our Planet** - April 22, 2025

[LEARN MORE](#)

ONGOING SERIES




The Return of the CAS Pinnacle Rounds

Our member-exclusive education program – **CAS Pinnacle Rounds: Celebrating National Anesthesia Education** continues in 2025, featuring new anesthesia teaching rounds from the country, submitted by Canadian universities.

CAS PINNACLE ROUNDS SERIES

Anesthesiology, Social Determinants of Health, and Perioperative Health Outcomes

February 5, 2025

**Moderator:
Dr Greg Manning**

**Presenter:
Dr Kate Ross-Hopley**

www.cas.ca/pinnacle-rounds

Anesthesiology, Social Determinants of Health, and Perioperative Health Outcomes

February 5, 2025

This round focused on the impact of social determinants of health (SDH) on perioperative care and their implications for anesthesiology. Discussions highlighted how individual and systemic biases influence patient outcomes and explored strategies to address these challenges. Participants reflected on ways to improve health equity through targeted interventions, fostering better patient outcomes and contributing to systemic change in healthcare.

[View Recording](#)

UPCOMING ROUNDS

- **In-Flight Medical Emergencies: Challenges at 40,000 ft.** - April 2, 2025
- **Where the Rubber meets the Road. Stroke Ambulance, Stroke Care, and the Anesthesiologist** - Sept. 3, 2025
- **Pinnacle Round 4 TBD** - November 5, 2025

[MORE PINNACLE ROUNDS](#)

NEW! CAS Samba Ambulatory Anesthesia Collaborative Rounds Series

The Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society is pleased to announce a new education program developed in collaboration between the CAS Ambulatory Section and **The Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia (SAMBA)**. The program consists of a series of educational rounds aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of professionals in the field of ambulatory anesthesia through shared expertise and resources.

CAS SAMBA AMBULATORY ANESTHESIA COLLABORATIVE ROUNDS SERIES

SAMBA Pediatric Tonsillectomy and Adenoidectomy (T&A) guidelines

January 29, 2025 - 8 pm ET



Moderator:
Dr Kimmo Murto



Presenter:
Dr Marjorie Brennan



WWW.CAS.CA/AMBULATORY-ROUNDS

SAMBA Pediatric Tonsillectomy and Adenoidectomy (T&A) Guidelines

January 29, 2025

This round focused on the safe perioperative care of pediatric patients undergoing tonsillectomy, with or without adenoidectomy, in ambulatory surgical facilities. Key topics included the SAMBA position statement, addressing common complications like ventilatory compromise and hemorrhage, and the unique challenges of caring for these patients without fellowship-trained pediatric anesthesiologists. Participants gained valuable insights into improving outcomes for one of the most frequently performed pediatric surgeries.

[View Recording](#)

CAS SAMBA AMBULATORY ANESTHESIA COLLABORATIVE ROUNDS SERIES

Diabetic Management in Ambulatory Surgical Patients

March 12, 2025 - 8 pm ET



Moderator:
Dr Ronald Goldenberg



Moderator:
Dr David Mazer



Presenter:
Dr Elizabeth Duggan



WWW.CAS.CA/AMBULATORY-ROUNDS

Diabetic Management in Ambulatory Surgical Patients

March 12, 2025

The second round in the CAS SAMBA Ambulatory Anesthesia Collaborative Rounds Series focused on the perioperative management of adult patients with diabetes undergoing ambulatory surgery.

[View Recording](#)

UPCOMING SAMBA WEBINARS

- Preoperative Evaluation and Criteria for Ambulatory Surgery - October 1, 2025
- Sleep-Disordered Breathing and Ambulatory Surgery: A collaborative round with CAS, SAMBA, and the Society for Anesthesia and Sleep Medicine (SASM) - December 3, 2025

[MORE SAMBA ROUNDS](#)

2025 CAS ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 20-22, ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

Newfoundland 2025

CAS
2025
ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 20-22
ST. JOHN'S CONVENTION CENTRE

Mark your calendar for an unforgettable gathering of anesthesiology professionals at the **Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society (CAS) Annual Meeting**, happening **June 20–22, 2025** in the breathtaking city of St. John's, Newfoundland.

This premier event offers a unique opportunity to:

- ✓ Gain valuable professional development through innovative and engaging educational sessions, problem-based learning discussions (PBLDs), and hands-on workshops
- ✓ Connect with colleagues and friends from across Canada and beyond, with networking opportunities available in a variety of competitions and social events.
- ✓ A new expanded Friday program includes the new CAS Expert Insights series, a full-day exam prep workshop for Residents and more

Set against the vibrant backdrop of St. John's—where history meets natural beauty—the CAS Annual Meeting is your chance to advance your career, share knowledge, and strengthen the future of anesthesiology.

Early Bird
SPECIAL



April 16, 2025
REGISTER TODAY
and \$SAVE!
#CASAM2025

2025 PROGRAM

REGISTER HERE

EXPANSIVE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM



In 2025, the scientific program will be truly exceptional, thanks to this year's open call for content, which brought in a wide diversity of anesthesia streams. Each year, the conference offers an extensive lineup of workshops and sessions led by pioneering speakers and specialists, ensuring attendees stay informed on the latest innovations. The Annual Meeting remains a premier platform for advancing anesthesiology best practices, fostering hands-on learning, supporting research, and building professional networks. Don't miss the opportunity to engage with leading experts, customize your meeting experience, and immerse yourself in a weekend of enriching insights and connections.

PROGRAM

PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING DISCUSSIONS PBLDS



Back by popular demand in 2025, problem-based learning discussions (PBLDs) return to offer an immersive, case-driven learning experience. Engage in dynamic discussions, explore multiple pathways in case evolution, and apply your expertise to make informed decisions while sharpening your critical thinking skills.

PBLDS

HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS



Elevate your skills and expertise in 2025 with our premier hands-on workshops at the Annual Meeting. Designed to enhance your technique through direct engagement with expert instructors and peers, these sessions offer invaluable learning opportunities. Explore a diverse range of topics, including regional nerve blocks, abdominal truncal blocks, chest wall blocks, POCUS and more. Spaces are limited—register today to secure your spot!

WORKSHOPS

**Connect with 800+ colleagues
and explore a dynamic, diverse
scientific program.**

At the 2024 meeting, 17 Section 1 and
48 Section 3 credits were available
to be claimed by attendees.

*Ideal Professional
and Personal Trip*

EXCURSIONS

SOCIAL EVENTS



COMPETITIONS AND RESIDENT SPECIFIC PROGRAMMING



2024 SIM Olympics participants in a simulation setting, Victoria, BC

A variety of exciting competitions take place on-site at the Annual Meeting, including the Richard Knill Competition, which showcases the highest-rated abstracts submitted to the meeting. The Residents' Oral Competition also highlights the top resident abstract, fostering scientific excellence among anesthesia trainees in Canada. In 2025, we are expanding on the amount of Resident specific programming, including the second consecutive SIM Olympics. This friendly competition features resident teams from across the country competing in critical event simulations. We are also launching "Ace it!" Royal College Exam Prep course for residents.

ACE IT! A PREP COURSE FOR THE ROYAL COLLEGE EXAM

In response to overwhelming enthusiasm from resident members, the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society is excited to introduce its first-ever Royal College certification exam preparation course. This full-day workshop is designed to help residents excel in their written exams, featuring didactic lectures on 13 key subspecialty topics presented by past examiners and recently certified graduates, with interactive Q&A sessions throughout the day. To enhance the learning experience, participants will complete a 90-question MCQ practice exam in advance, allowing lecturers to tailor content based on collective results, followed by a post-workshop test to track progress. Additionally, attendees can opt into a complimentary two-hour problem-based learning discussion (PBLD) to refine their oral exam skills in small groups with expert facilitators.

REGISTRATION

RESIDENT SIM OLYMPICS

Following last year's success, this year's event offers even more opportunities to connect and compete. Residents can register in teams of 2-4 or as individuals to take on escape room-style clinical challenges.

Between rounds, enjoy networking, refreshments, trivia, and explore cutting-edge anesthesia technology. The winning team earns a cash prize and recognition on the CAS website.

SIM OLYMPICS



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING



The Annual Business Meeting allows members to stay informed on the progress and activities of the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society, including our financial status and the significance of our achievements throughout the year. Listen to updates from the *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia*, CARF, CASIEF, ACUDA, and the World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists. This year's meeting will take place on Sunday June 22.

EXHIBIT HALL

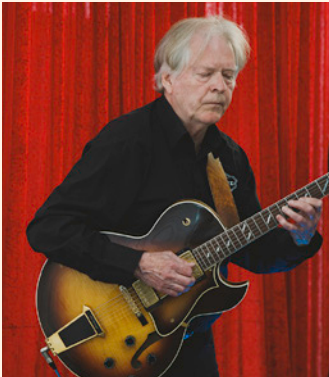


If you're seeking the latest innovations in anesthesia, the Exhibit Hall is your destination. The Annual Meeting greatly benefits from the financial support and in-person participation of these partners. We kindly request your assistance in ensuring they have ample opportunity to engage with you and your colleagues during the meeting.

CAS Annual Meeting Social Events: Experience St. John's!



CAS Soirée in 2024 CAS Annual Meeting, in Victoria, BC.



CAS SOIRÉE 2025

An Evening of Celebration, Networking and East Coast Entertainment as part of #CASAM2025

St. John's Convention Centre

Saturday June 21
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm NT
Price: \$120 per person

www.cas.ca/social-events

Sponsored by:









Unwind and celebrate at the CAS Soirée! Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, two complimentary drinks, live music, and Newfoundland traditions, including a *Screech-In Ceremony* to become an honorary Newfoundlander. The event will also feature an exciting auction supporting the **CASIEF** and **CARF** foundations, with prizes including cottage vacation stays, a 50/50 draw and more.

Reserve your spot today—space is limited!

WELCOME RECEPTION

Friday, June 20
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
(included with registration)

Kick off the conference by visiting our Exhibit Hall, where you can explore the latest products and services from our exhibitors and sponsors. Network with industry experts and colleagues while enjoying a beverage in a relaxed atmosphere.



LOCAL ADVENTURES

Beyond the conference, discover the beauty of St. John's through local adventures with fellow attendees.

From scenic hikes to cultural tours, make the most of your time in this vibrant city.

Don't miss these incredible opportunities to network, unwind, and experience the best of Newfoundland!

EXCURSIONS

Newfoundland

CAS 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Early Bird!

Register by April 16
to Save



The CAS Annual Meeting offers delegates an outstanding scientific and networking program, including:

- ★ Anesthesia focused educational sessions from a wide variety of streams
- ★ Competitions — Richard Knill Research Oral Competition, Residents' Oral Competition and Resident SIM Olympics
- ★ Problem-Based Learning Discussions (PBLDs)
- ★ Interactive workshops, including POCUS
- ★ Residents specific programming, including new 'Ace It!' Exam Prep
- ★ CAS Expert Insights
- ★ Poster presentations
- ★ CAS Soirée, an evening to network and connect with colleagues and friends
- ★ Exhibit Hall

Scan the QR code above to learn more,
or visit www.cas.ca/annual-meeting

#CASAM2025



CANADIAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS' SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES ANESTHÉSIOLOGISTES

JUNE 20-22
2025

ST. JOHN'S CONVENTION CENTRE



MEMBER NEWS

In Memoriam – Dr Ian Alexander Jeremy Sloan



Dr Ian Alexander Jeremy Sloan, FRCPC, FFA RCS (England), MD (Cape Town), passed away peacefully on January 2, 2025, at the age of 95. A distinguished anesthesiologist, Dr Sloan was a long-standing and highly respected member of the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society. He was recognized for his exceptional contributions to clinical anesthesia education, receiving the prestigious CAS Gold Medal for excellence in teaching and the Emeritus Award in 2008.

Dr Sloan's career spanned decades of leadership in pediatric anesthesia, including his tenure as Senior Anesthetist and Deputy Chief at the Hospital for Sick Children (HSC) in Toronto from 1964 to 1999. A dedicated educator, he was an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto and played a pivotal role in shaping anesthesia standards in Canada, chairing the Technical Committee on Anesthesia Equipment and contributing to national and international guidelines.

Beyond his professional achievements, Dr Sloan was deeply engaged in international medical missions and was the first medically qualified perfusionist in Canada. In his personal life, he found joy in sheep farming, folk dancing, and volunteering. His legacy in anesthesia, both in Canada and globally, remains profound and enduring.



RESEARCH REVIEW

- DR ALEXA GRUDZINSKI

The **Canadian Anesthesia Research Foundation** (CARF) plays a pivotal role in advancing the field of anesthesia by providing crucial grants and funds that support innovative research. As the research arm of the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society (CAS), CARF is dedicated to fostering the development of new knowledge and techniques that enhance patient care, improve outcomes, and contribute to the global body of anesthesia science. By investing in groundbreaking research, CARF ensures that Canadian anesthesiologists remain at the forefront of medical advancements, continually pushing the boundaries of what is possible in this critical medical specialty.

[DONATE HERE](#)

Dr Alexa Grudzinski is the winner of the Ontario's Anesthesiologists CAS Residents' Research Grants • \$10,000 award in 2021



Dr Alexa Grudzinski, MD, PhD,

Comparing the predictive accuracy of frailty instruments applied to preoperative electronic health data for adult patients undergoing non-cardiac surgery: a retrospective cohort study.

Background: Preoperative frailty is associated with an increased risk of postoperative mortality and complications among older surgical patients. Routine preoperative frailty assessment is recommended by multiple international, multi-specialty, best practice guidelines. The identification and communication of frailty status before surgery has been associated with decreased postoperative mortality. However, routine preoperative frailty assessment remains underperformed in clinical practice. Automation of preoperative frailty assessment using electronic health data could improve adherence to guideline-based care if a prognostically accurate instrument is identified.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective cohort study of adults >65 years of age undergoing elective, non-cardiac surgery (major orthopedic, vascular, oncologic) between 2012 and 2018. Four electronic frailty instruments were compared: the Frailty Index, the Hospital Frailty Risk Score, the Risk Analysis Index – Administrative, and the Adjusted Clinical Groups frailty-defining diagnosis indicator. We compared the predictive performance of each instrument when added to a baseline risk model of typically assessed preoperative risk factors (baseline model: age, sex, ASA physical status, and procedural risk) using discrimination, calibration, explained variance, net reclassification, and Brier score (binary outcomes), and using explained variance, root mean square error, and mean absolute prediction error (continuous outcomes). Our primary outcome was 30-day mortality. Secondary outcomes included 365-day mortality, length of hospital stay, non-home discharge, days alive at home, and 365-day costs.

Results: 171,576 patients met the inclusion criteria. 1,370 (0.8%) died within 30 days. Compared with the baseline risk model predicting 30-day mortality (area under the curve [AUC] 0.85; R2 0.08), addition of the Hospital Frailty Risk Score led to the greatest improvement in discrimination (AUC 0.87), explained variance (R2 0.09), and net reclassification (Net Reclassification Index 0.65). Brier and calibration scores were comparable.

Conclusions: All four frailty instruments significantly improved discrimination and risk reclassification when added to typically assessed preoperative risk factors. The HFRS provided the largest and most consistent improvement in predictive performance across all outcomes and metrics. Accurate identification of the presence or absence of preoperative frailty using electronic frailty instruments may improve perioperative risk stratification and guide surgical planning. Future research is required to determine whether clinical implementation of automated preoperative frailty assessment could be used to identify and support patient-centred optimization of patients' physical, nutritional, and cognitive reserve preoperatively.

CJA ON THE CUTTING EDGE

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY IN RESOURCE UTILIZATION IN RA STRONG CONSENSUS



1. STERILE GOWNS

Largely unnecessary unless during traditional catheter-through-needle insertion

2. PRE-MADE PACK

Should only include minimal equipment common to the group, and can be used as a sterile workspace



3. FPROBE COVER

Not needed for pre-scan over intact skin

4. O₂ AND SEDATION

Should be goal-directed therapies titrated against individual patient needs



Ip VHY, Shelton CL, McGain F...Sondekoppam R and collaborators.
Environmental responsibility in resource utilization during the practice in regional anesthesia: A Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society Delphi consensus study. CJA 2025 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12630-025-02918-2>

Infographic for the environmental responsibility in resource utilization during the practice of regional anesthesia: A Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society / Delphi consensus study

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This article was published in *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia (CJA)* in February, highlighting the environmental aspects during the clinical practice in regional anesthesia.

Background: Regional anesthesia tends to be perceived to be more environmentally sustainable than its alternatives. However, sustainable regional anesthesia depends on how resource is utilized. Many guidance on practice parameters in regional anesthesia are based on low or no robust evidence, therefore, we conducted a Delphi consensus study, reaching out to expert in high-income countries to provide guidance on aspects that lack high quality evidence in regional anesthesia practice. This study serves as guidance for balancing resource stewardship in the clinical practice in regional anesthesia while recognizing evidence-based infection prevention practice. Resource consciousness should be a dynamic approach as further robust evidence emerges. The infographic highlights the salient points of this Delphi Consensus Study.

REFERENCE

ANESTHESIA HISTORY CORNER

FROM THE CAS ARTIFACTS COLLECTION: STEPHEN-SLATER VALVE

By Dr Michael Wong

In the nascent practice of pediatric anesthesia, one significant challenge was managing hypercapnia and respiratory acidosis, which were common with open-drop ether techniques. In infants and young children, the dead space within a facemask could promote carbon dioxide accumulation in the absence of very high fresh gas flows or frequent lifting of the mask from the patient's face. The subsequent adoption of endotracheal intubation in pediatric anesthesia then presented the complicating factor of higher airway resistance during spontaneous ventilation. These perennial concerns were driving factors behind the development of non-rebreathing valves, such as the Stephen-Slater valve.

In general, a non-rebreathing valve system requires two one-way respiratory valves, one opening during inspiration and a second opening during expiration. Such an arrangement prevents rebreathing and also avoids dilution of inspired gas by entrained room air. This particular device, introduced in 1948 by Drs. Ron Stephen and Harry Slater at the Children's Memorial Hospital (now, Montreal Children's Hospital), was an adaptation of an earlier design by their colleague Dr Digby Leigh. In the Stephen-Slater valve, thin molded rubber valve discs replaced the metallic discs that were originally employed in Leigh's design. Their modification helped to minimize resistance to gas flow in the device.

These valves were seen as less wasteful than previous techniques with an Ayre's T-piece, which was open to the environment and also required high fresh gas flows to avoid rebreathing. Although carbon dioxide absorbers had been developed by this time – for instance, incorporating a circle system breathing circuit or using an in-line "to and fro" absorber – these methods were overly cumbersome with young children. Additionally, users of a Leigh or Stephen-Slater valve could conveniently provide positive pressure ventilation by holding the expiratory valve shut with their thumb or finger and squeezing a reservoir bag with their other hand.

The Stephen-Slater valve was commonly used in Canada and the United States until the end of the 1960s.

As for the inventors of these non-rebreathing circuits, Dr Digby Leigh is remembered as a founding member of the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society, and as one of the pioneers in the early development of pediatric anesthesiology. Coauthored with Dr Kaye Belton, Leigh's textbook *Pediatric Anesthesiology* (1948) was one of the first definitive reference materials in the emerging subspecialty. Dr Ron Stephen also wrote a book, *Essentials of Pediatric Anesthesia* (1954) and later helped to develop the hand-held Duke Trilene Inhaler for trichloroethylene. Dr Harry Slater too had other interesting inventions, including some aids to facilitate induction in children (e.g., inhalers resembling an astronaut's helmet or a telephone).

[CHECK OUT OUR CAS HISTORY PAGE](#)

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Announcements

- Join us for the 13th Annual History Symposium at the CAS Annual Meeting in St. John's, June 21, 2025. Dr Ken Ledez will be speaking about the history and future of anesthesia equipment standards, including some potential practice-changing developments.
- The 11th International Symposium on the History of Anesthesia (ISHA) will be held in Paris, France, September 16-18. For more information, check out [HERE](#)

CANADIAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS' SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION (CASIEF) SPRING UPDATE



CASIEF

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Many dozens of Canadian anesthesiologists have travelled to our programs in Rwanda, Ethiopia and Guyana, finding these trips exciting, rewarding and fun! Our partners need the experience of our anesthesiology educators to move their medical systems forward. Travel costs and accommodations are reimbursed, so this is also a great opportunity to see the world! Please contact us at info@casief.ca if you'd like to get involved- you will never regret it!

Please visit our [website](#), and if you haven't yet seen the fantastic [videos](#) about CASIEF's partnerships, please visit our YouTube channel [HERE](#).

Through CASIEF and its partners, Canadian anesthesiologists are known around the world for their charity and dedication to promote safe anesthesia for all. Please consider providing your expertise and [donations](#) to support our very worthy cause.



Dr Naomi Abayomi

INTRODUCING OUR NEW JUNIOR RESIDENT BOARD MEMBER – DR NAOMI ABAYOMI

My interest in identifying unique barriers that influence healthcare outcomes started early in my medical school training. As a Nigerian Canadian I have witnessed the impact unsafe medical supplies, limited resources and disparities in education can have on healthcare provision within communities close to home. I knew early on in my training that healthcare advocacy would be an important pillar in my career.

During my medical school training, my interests in social determinants of health sparked a passion to go beyond the curriculum and give back to communities that are important to me. From organizing fundraisers for refugee organizations to leading workshops for medical students to broaden their knowledge on equitable healthcare, I knew that I wanted to bring this passion

into the anesthesia community. My long-term goal is to engage in global health electives during residency and supplement my passion for healthcare advocacy with formal training. I look forward to gaining skills in policy development, health informatics and capacity building in lower resource settings.

I am motivated to explore new lenses faced by global anesthesia communities through CASIEF and expand on the much needed global health curriculum within anesthesia and perioperative care. The unique opportunity CASIEF offers to provide human resources and medical equipment to its partners ensures sustainable improvement in the communities they serve. I hope to encourage anesthesiologists and learners that they can also help promote change on a global scale through their engagement with CASIEF. I look forward to organizing fundraising events, increasing social media presence and planning innovative learning experiences to ensure that anesthesia providers across the country are aware of the impact they can make through their involvement and support of CASIEF.



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...continued on page 19

MARBURG OUTBREAK IN RWANDA DONATION UPDATE

Marburg virus continues to have a lasting and detrimental impact on our colleagues in Rwanda. CASIEF is grateful to supporters who donated funds to “Marburg Relief in Rwanda” in honour of World Anaesthesia Day and the theme of Workforce Well-being designated by the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists. CASIEF was able to send \$6650 to the Rwanda Society of Anesthesia and Critical Care (RSACC) for distribution to specific well-being and mental health initiatives for healthcare providers in Rwanda who have been affected by the Marburg outbreak. CASIEF volunteers continue to work in Rwanda to support clinical teaching and mentorship and are mindful of the hardships the faculty and trainees have faced in the last year and will continue to face in the future.

Sincerely,



Terri Skelton, MD, FRCPC, MPH
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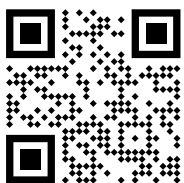


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CARF SPRING UPDATE

We at the Canadian Anesthesia Research Foundation (CARF) would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society and its members for their unwavering support. Your contributions have been invaluable in our mission to advance research in anesthesia. CARF is committed to fostering innovation and excellence.

This year, CARF will provide over \$210,000 in seed funding which we hope will be developed further by external funding. To ensure that research across all areas of anesthesiology is celebrated and recognized, we are excited to be partnering with the various CAS Sections, working together to further elevate the impact of our work.

CARF is also very proud to be able to announce two new awards for 2025, The British Columbia Anesthesiologists' Society (BCAS) Pieter Swart Perioperative Research Award and, supported by a donation from Octapharma Canada Inc., the Patient Blood Management Award. The efforts of the BCAS to develop an award to remember one of our own and to expand perioperative research is truly inspirational. Octapharma is an exceptional company that recognizes the important role of anesthesiologists in blood management. We are very grateful for the support of this innovative company.

The current CARF Board includes representation from across Canada: Drs François Martin Carrier, Giuseppe Fuda, Hilary Grocott, Roanne Preston, Angela Ridi, Stephan Schwarz, and Doreen Yee (Past Chair). As a new member, the Board is pleased to welcome Dr Summer Syed from McMaster University and Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. Dr Syed has a wealth of research experience and has been an active member of the CAS. She will bring ideas and experience to guide our efforts going forward.

Also joining the Board this year is Mr. Brian McWilliams from GE HealthCare. Brian has a deep understanding of industry perspectives and will assist in the development of a collaborative and healthy relationship with our industry partners.

Finally, environmental sustainability is rightfully on everyone's minds, but the impact of conservation efforts must be balanced with the impact on our patients. Next year, CARF will be presenting a new award in this active area of research. We will leverage the energy of the CAS' Environmental Sustainability section members and CARF to provide at least \$20,000 in direct support annually.

The future is bright, and we are already planning for 2026. Next year, we will be featuring the Career Scientist Award, an award that provides the opportunity and time for one of our promising early-stage academics to develop their own path forward. One of our previous award winners, Dr Jessica Spence, will be presenting her work at the 2025 CAS Annual Meeting in St. John's to give us an idea of what is possible.

We look forward to seeing you in St. John's, June 20-22. Remember: our mission is made possible by your generous support!

Dr Stuart McCluskey
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RESIDENTS CORNER

EXCITING EVENTS COMING THIS SUMMER

Resident Events: 2025 CAS Annual Meeting

Medical conferences dedicated to your specialty are full of new and exciting professional development opportunities. Yet, maximizing your time at a large event with a packed schedule and hundreds of attendees is often a challenge. That's why CAS is so excited to offer a weekend-long events program curated specifically for residents. Development behind these activities has been led by the CAS Resident Section—to ensure each option provides unique value for anesthesiologists in training. Here's a rundown of our most anticipated programming open to residents at no additional cost:

Ace it! A Prep Course for the Royal College Exam June 20, 2025 – St. John's, Newfoundland

You're invited to a full-day workshop to prepare you for your written exam. Past examiners and recently certified graduates will present a series of didactic lectures focused on 13 subspecialty topics—with time allotted for Q&As throughout the day. Attendees will be asked to complete a 90-multiple choice question (MCQ) practice exam to help lecturers tailor each presentation to the group's needs. You'll have the chance to complete a shorter post-workshop test that recirculates the pre-test questions participants performed the weakest on, and review what you've learned by comparing both results.

You are also invited to sign up for an optional two-hour problem-based learning discussion (PBLD) to prepare you for your oral exam. Small groups will be paired with facilitators, who will guide you through common questions and provide feedback on how to respond to them. Sign up for "Ace It!" when you [register for the conference](#).

Ace It! REGISTRATION

Resident Simulation (SIM) Olympics

The SIM Olympics are coming back for a second consecutive year, with a revised format that offers participants IT more time to connect in a fun and friendly environment. You're invited to register as teams of 2–4, or as individuals who will be assigned to a group. Together, you'll rotate through a series of escape room-style challenges that mimic various clinical scenarios. In between rounds, you'll have the chance to meet residents from programs across Canada, enjoy refreshments, play trivia games, and explore cutting-edge technology shaping the future of anesthesia care. The winning team will receive a cash prize and be [honoured on CAS' website](#).

SIM OLYMPICS REGISTRATION

Residents Panel: Oh the Places You'll Go: A Panel on Unique Fellowship Opportunities

Traditional anesthesia fellowships focus on established subspecialties, including cardiac anesthesia, obstetrics, or neuroanesthesia. Yet, a growing number of non-traditional options, aimed at advancing the specialty and addressing unmet needs in healthcare, are currently being pioneered. This year's panel will focus on emerging fellowships dedicated to areas such as helicopter medicine, trauma anesthesia, simulation training, medical education, and hyperbaric medicine. Panelists will discuss what drew them to their chosen field of interest, the impact of their fellowship training, and the benefits, challenges, and career opportunities these programs provide.

2025 Residents' Oral Competition

Each year, residents are invited to submit an abstract. Doing so affords you the opportunity to enhance your resume, share your research with the wider anesthesia community, and form valuable connections with your peers. Accepted abstracts will be eligible for a [Best Abstract Award](#), and the highest scoring abstracts by residents will be selected for the Residents' Oral Competition, which will take place during the conference. Come cheer your colleagues on, or prepare to step up to the mic!

The conference takes place from June 20–22 at the St. John's Convention Centre in beautiful St. John's Newfoundland. We encourage you to save the date and make travel plans as soon as possible, as accommodations by the conference centre are expected to book up quickly. We also [recommend contacting your school's Anesthesia Department](#) to check if you're eligible for funding to attend the conference. [Visit our website](#) to view the complete schedule of resident events for the conference and contact anesthesia@cas.ca if you have any questions. We can't wait to see you in June!





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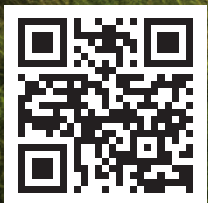
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—Dr. Giuseppe Fuda, President of CAS



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