

Session Title: Social Accountability: How can Anesthesiology Face the Challenge?

The World Health Organization defines the social accountability of a medical school as the obligation to direct their *education, research and service of activities* toward addressing the priority health concerns of the community, region and/or nation that they are mandated to serve. A priority health concern is access to safe and timely anesthesia care; however, even affluent countries such as the United States, Canada and Australia face serious challenges in providing anesthesia care in rural and remote communities. Departments of anesthesia, including those in academic institutions, are major stakeholders in the development of healthcare policies and the training of physician-led anesthesia care teams to support the surgical and obstetric needs of rural and remote communities.

The multidisciplinary and international symposium will (1) consider current deficits in anesthesia care in rural and remote regions of well-resourced countries; (2) develop an understanding of the barriers that lead to sustained deficits; and (3) identify strategies to improve anesthesia care for all citizens, regardless of location, culture, socioeconomic status, race, religion or gender.

The symposium's speakers are experts in rural medicine and the provision of anesthesia care in rural and indigenous communities. Dr. Ruth Wilson is a family doctor and Co-Chair of the 2016 national report on health services in Canada. Dr. Brian Spain is an anesthesiologist at the Royal Darwin Hospital in the Northern Territory, Australia and the Director of Anaesthesia in Darwin, Australia. He will offer a unique perspective on the education of physicians for service in remote regions. Dr. Alike Lafontaine is an anesthesiologist and Past President of the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada. He will discuss barriers to improving the health of First Nations and Inuit peoples. Dr. Pavithra Ranganathan is an anesthesiologist and the incoming Chair of the ASA Committee on Rural Access to Anesthesia Care. Dr. Sandy Williams is a family physician and anesthesiologist who serves as the Territorial Chief of Staff for the Department of Health, Government of Nunavut, Canada. He was the first Territorial Medical Director charged with the task of developing a physician program for the Territory that would meet the needs of a mostly Inuit population. He will discuss the training and retention of family practice anesthesiologists in remote communities. These panel members will offer insights from their own experiences and explore how to better deliver and expand anesthesia services to ensure excellence in clinical care, research and education in remote areas.

Objectives

After participating in this activity, the learner will be able to (1) discuss the delivery of anesthesia services in rural and indigenous communities in Canada and Australia; (2) identify the challenges of providing anesthesia care in rural and indigenous communities; (3) review potential solutions to improve anesthesia service delivery in these communities; and (4) compare and contrast the differences between urban practice and practice in remote and indigenous communities.

Presenters

Introduction: *Dr. Beverley Orser MD*

Moderator: *Dr. Susan O'Leary, MD*

Health Care in First Nations and Inuit Peoples - Presenter: *Dr. Alike Lafontaine, MD*

Report on Rural Health Services in Canada - Presenter: *Dr. Ruth Wilson, MD*

Improving Rural Access to Anesthesia Care in the United States - Presenter: *Dr. Pavithra Ranganathan, MD*

Anesthesia in Rural Australia - Presenter: *Dr. Brian Spain, MBBS FANZCA*

Anesthetics in Remote/Indigenous Areas: The Nunavut Experience - Presenter: *Dr. Sandy Macdonald CCFP (FPA) FCFP*