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*Fiscal Years 2015-2017
Student Representative
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Foundation Update for Students

After attending my second face-to-face meeting with the AANA Foundation Board of Trustees, I would like to share a number of important topics with you.

The goal of the foundation is to advance the science of anesthesia through education and research. As the philanthropic arm of the AANA, the foundation raises funds and invests in projects that directly support the nurse anesthesia profession. The foundation funds scholarships, fellowships, and research grants dedicated to improving

nurse anesthesia. Specific dates for these funding opportunities are available on the foundation homepage at www.aanafoundation.com. To further service this goal, the homepage also contains a plethora of information on research and research opportunities.

One of the most impressive things I learned at the meeting was how the board supports students. If you are faced with a devastating event while you are at school, the Emergency Assistance Fund can provide financial help to get through the difficult time and retain your dream of becoming an anesthetist. It is very apparent; the AANA Foundation wants to ensure that students feel supported as they

advance through their educational program.

In an effort to bring new faces with fresh ideas to the organization, the foundation now offers an additional opportunity for recent graduates to get involved. At the meeting, the board voted to establish a dedicated seat for a CRNA who has been practicing for less than five years.

Finally, I would like to tell you about a new foundation research initiative that is very important to all of us. The foundation campaign to RISE Above (Research In Safety & Effectiveness) will fund health services research that substantiates the impact CRNAs have in the healthcare system. Publishing this research will help support a solid future for us in anesthesia. Over the next three years, the goal of the campaign to RISE Above is to raise \$1 million. I encourage all of us to keep informed about this fundraising campaign, financially support this goal, and talk with CRNAs and our faculty about the importance of this research, and encourage them to support the campaign. This is the future of our career and our job to protect it.

I am incredibly grateful to have this opportunity to serve as the student voice on the foundation's board. I encourage all current and past students to get involved with this dynamic organization.

If you have any questions, concerns, or topics to discuss with the board, please feel free to contact me at any time at aana.foundation.student.rep@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you. ■

Discoveries of Distinction

All research studies presented in this column have been funded by the AANA Foundation. For more information, visit www.aanafoundation.com.



A Comparison of Epidural Strategies for Labor Analgesia

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Epidural analgesia provides safe and effective analgesia with a reduced side effect profile along with increased maternal participation in labor. While the number of women utilizing epidural analgesia for labor continues to grow, there is still a lack of evidence to support which infusion strategy is the most effective. The purpose of this study is to compare the effectiveness of three epidural infusion strategies for labor analgesia to test the hypothesis that a lower basal rate with a higher patient controlled bolus will result in lower drug consumption than the other two comparison

regimens. Analysis of the data showed no difference in maternal satisfaction scores, requests for supplemental analgesia and epidural pump delivery/demand data between the three compared regimens. Significant difference was shown between the hourly analgesic volume. The results of the study support the hypothesis that a lower basal rate with a higher patient controlled bolus is more effective at reducing the amount of motor blockade and drug consumption while providing comparable analgesia. ■

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