



Dear colleague,

Welcome to our final e-newsletter for 2023. This issue features information on the upcoming section elections (nominations now open!), recognizes the winners of the Distinguished Service Award and our inaugural Resident Award, shares updates on the PSA implementation and highlights our latest Member Spotlight.

Member Services & the Ontario Anesthesia Meeting

Section Executive Opportunities

Are you interested in representing Ontario's Anesthesiologists within the OMA, government and other players in the health system? If so, [nominate yourself](#) for one of the following two-year section executive roles:

- Chair
- Vice-Chair
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Member-at-large (four positions to be filled)

To learn more about the role of chair and why you should join the executive, watch this short [OMA-produced video](#) starring our very own section chair, Dr. Rohit Kumar.

For more details on the nomination process, [please visit the OMA elections web page](#).

- Nominations close November 30 at 5 p.m.
- Voting will run from January 8 to February 2.
- The new executive will start May 2, 2024.

2023 Ontario Anesthesia Meeting & Conference Weekend

Thank you to everyone who attended our 68th annual Ontario Anesthesia Meeting and Conference Weekend! This year's event was a big success with 100 more attendees compared to last year! The conference featured an excellent program with clinically relevant topics and content experts from each of the major academic centres in Ontario.



OA Distinguished Service Award

Congratulations to Dr. Jose C.A. Carvalho for receiving the 2023 Ontario's Anesthesiologists Distinguished Service Award. This award is the highest honour our organization can bestow and recognizes the recipient's outstanding contributions to the care of patients, their leadership, and their promotion of the profession of Anesthesiology.

Dr. Carvalho is an anesthesiologist and a professor at the University of Toronto. He is best known for his two decades as the Program Director of Obstetrical Anesthesia at Mount Sinai Hospital, where he transformed obstetrical anesthesia care and made Mount Sinai a world leader in maternal health. [Read more.](#)



OA Resident Award

Our inaugural Resident Award was also presented during the 2023 OAM. This award is an opportunity to recognize anesthesia residents in Ontario for their leadership, professionalism, collaboration and integrity. The first recipient of this award is Dr. Theunis van Zyl, who is currently a PGY5 Resident in the Department of Anesthesiology at Queen's University. [Read more.](#)

Member Highlights



Member Spotlight:
Dr. Anita Rao

- Anesthesiologist, Trillium Health Partners
- Lead for the OA's Environmental Sustainability Working Group
- Physician Lead of Environmental Sustainability at Trillium Health Partners

We're thrilled to share that this month our Spotlight series is highlighting Dr. Anita Rao, the lead of our Environmental Sustainability Working Group. [Learn more about her on our Instagram page.](#)

Do you know someone who we should feature? [Let us know.](#)



Governance

Tariff Report

1. PSA Implementation – Year 3

- The section has recently submitted proposals to the Physician Payment Committee for year 3 of the current PSA. These will be implemented April 1, 2025.
- Retroactive payments are planned for August and December 2024 (for 2023-24) and August 2025. (for 2024-25).
- The year 3 increase is based on a cost-sharing formula that depends on the actual physician services spend in 2023-24 and will not be known until next year.
- This is confusing as we will be implementing year 3 of the current PSA at the start of year 2 of the next PSA.

2. Year 3 Proposal Survey Highlights

- Approximately 13% participation rate with broad demographic representation.
- 80% support for pursuing deferred APS proposal to redefine limited pain consult.
- Strong signal for increases to the unit value.
- Many themes for undervalued services with the most common being: BMI, ASA, gynecology, general surgery, T&A, OB and pediatrics.
- The tentative proposals we submitted contain options to address elements of this but will be subject to funding and costing.

3. PSA Implementation – Burden-based HOCC

- Members are completing both renewal applications and new applications to the new burden-based HOCC system.
- Those needing more details regarding the rules, levels and FAQs can get them here:

[BBOCFAQs-Final.pdf](#)

- At this time, there is no way to estimate the value that will be assigned to each of the call levels nor can we predict the process they will use to adjudicate the requests.

4. PSA Implementation – CMPA fees

- The 10-year CMPA agreement expires this year but the last PSA extends it until a new one is negotiated as part of the next PSA
- The 2024 Ontario Anesthesiology CMPA fees are \$11,340. The physician contribution is expected to be \$7,361 per year.

5. Negotiations 2024

- Negotiations between our negotiations task force and the MOH started last month.
- The chair and tariff-chair are being kept updated via monthly meetings covered by an NDA.
- Members who are interested in the process are encouraged to visit the OMA's revamped negotiations webpage. [Negotiations at a glance.](#)

6. Unintended Consequences of Revisions to J069

- The PPC has responded to our submission regarding radiofrequency ablation services formerly provided using J069.
- They have confirmed that RF of spinal nerves is insured using N556/E396 and N534 as per the billing rules in the SOB pertaining to those services.
- They have also confirmed that there are no fee codes for any other newer RF services and recommend that we consider a submission for codes for new services supported by a technology review by the Ontario Health Technology Assessment Committee (OHTAC).
- Given that there are no billing codes and that the technology has not been approved by the Ministry, the only possible conclusion we can draw from this is that any other forms of RF not covered by those fee codes remain uninsured services. At this time, Ontario's Anesthesiologists has no plans to pursue this issue further with them.

Advocacy and Stakeholder Relations

Queen's Park Advocacy Day Update

On Monday, Oct. 16, physicians from across the province and specialties met with MPPs at Queen's Park to discuss the challenges facing our profession. Our section was well-represented by several members, including Chair Dr. Rohit Kumar and Dr. Anita Rao, both of whom can be seen in the photo collage.



MPP Meet and Greet

On Thursday, Oct. 26, we hosted an exclusive meet and greet with two MPPs. This intimate event allowed us to convey to government representatives our perspectives, challenges, and willingness to partner and offer solutions to challenges with perioperative and anesthesia care.

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

SickKids Pediatric Anesthesia Conference

December 1-3

Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning, 686 Bay St., Toronto

[Learn more & register](#)

“Hear directly from world renowned specialists in the field and to network and reconnect with friends and fellow anesthesiologists.” Session titles and workshops include: Concepts in Pediatric Perioperative Blood Management; Neonatal and Infant Airway Management Guidelines and Pediatric Point of Care Ultrasound in Diagnosis and Management.

National Advanced Skills and Training Program for Rural Physicians

Administered by the [Society of Rural Physicians of Canada](#), this unique program provides funded training opportunities to rural physicians, including specialists. Participants identify their own training needs and learning opportunities so that they can best meet the needs of their rural community. All training must be completed by March 15, 2024.

[Learn more details, including how to apply.](#)

Thank you for spending your time reading our e-newsletter. If you have any comments or questions for the section and the executive, please reach out to us at info@ontariosanesthesiologists.ca.

Sincerely,

Ontario's Anesthesiologists
A Section of the Ontario Medical Association

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Mission

To advocate for and represent the best interests of Ontario's anesthesiologists. To strengthen the leadership role of anesthesiologists within the health system.

Vision

Anesthesiologists as leading partners, delivering the highest standards of innovative, safe and sustainable patient care.

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