

Welcome to our September e-newsletter!

This issue features information on the upcoming Ontario Anesthesia Meeting and Conference Weekend, highlights how the Executive has been advocating for solutions to the anesthesia human resources shortage, shares an update from the Relativity Advisory Committee, invites you to this year's Queen's Park Advocacy Day and asks you to submit any anesthesia myths you've heard for use in an upcoming blog post.

## Member Services & the Ontario Anesthesia Meeting

Registration for the Ontario Anesthesia Meeting and Conference Now Open!



Register Today!

# Ontario Anesthesia Meeting & Conference Weekend

**OCTOBER 27-29, 2023**

**MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN AT CF TORONTO EATON CENTRE**

The 68<sup>th</sup> annual OAM will feature topics relevant to both academic and community centres; explore [this year's program](#).

- Sessions include: Environmental Sustainability Practice for Anesthesiologists with Dr. Anita Rao; Management and Techniques for Lung Isolation with Dr. Peter Slinger and Anesthesia Care Team: An Odyssey by Homer with Dr. Homer Yang.

- Workshops include: Advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) certification presented by Dr. Mark Mensour and an airway simulation with a 3D model to teach front-of-neck access, presented by Dr. Laura Duggan.

We have secured a block of hotel rooms for attendees at the discounted rate of **\$305 plus taxes a night**. Booking details can be found in your OAM confirmation email.

Our annual Leadership Development Day, planned with the support of our Leadership Development Working Group, returns on Thursday, Oct. 26.

If you would like to see some changes within your department, hospital or the wider health system, this day is for you! Enhance your understanding of Ontario's health-care system governance and funding and learn how you can navigate our health-care system's stakeholders to enact change. Sessions include a presentation on the political landscape around the health human resource challenges anesthesiology is facing and how we can position ourselves to address them. Join your colleagues for a day of advocacy and anesthesia in action!

Also returning is the Saturday evening social event, taking place this year at Marriott's [PAR BAR powered by Topgolf Swing Suite](#) where you can mingle and snack while you play hockey, soccer, golf and more at the bar's two large simulator bays.

If you're a paid section member, you receive 20% off your registration fee. You can still pay your voluntary section dues via [your OMA account](#).

### **Inaugural Resident Award: Nomination Deadline Extended!**

Also presented during the OAM, our first-ever Resident Award recognizes anesthesia residents in Ontario for their outstanding contributions to education, leadership, and advocacy within the field of anesthesiology and beyond.

You are encouraged to nominate any remarkable residents you work with by submitting [the form](#). **Nominations are due Friday, Sept. 15.**

### **Member Highlights**

Our Spotlight series continues over on Instagram. Our [latest Spotlight](#) features Dr. Carla Henderson from Peterborough Regional Health Centre, who helped to launch PRHC's first outpatient nerve block catheter program.



Ontario's  
Anesthesiologists  
A SECTION OF THE ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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Member Spotlight:  
**Dr. Carla  
Henderson**

- Staff Anesthesiologist,  
Peterborough Regional  
Health Centre (PRHC)
- Founder & lead on  
PRHC's first outpatient  
nerve block catheter  
program

Have a suggestion for who we should profile? [Let us know](#).

## WHAT OUR MEMBERS HAVE BEEN UP TO



**Keyvan Karkouti**  
@KeyvanKarkouti

Congratulations to our DAPM members for winning these prestigious awards: Drs. Slinger (Gold Medal), Chin (Research Recognition), Venkatraghavan (Clinical Practitioner), Heggie (Humanitarian), Nabecker (Richard Knill), and Chan (Emeritus; not pictured).

— UHN Spurr Department of Surgery @UHN\_Surgery · Jul 20  
Congratulations to the recipients of the CAS National Award. Anesthesiologists play a vital role in the success of our patient outcomes. Their compassion, precision & collaboration with the surgical team contribute to Spurr's exceptional standards of excellence. Well done, team!



Ontario's Anesthesi... @ON\_Ane... · Jul 14  
New research from several of our members  
@mcisaac\_d @GrudzinskiAlexa @McGinnRyan  
@aims\_periop @OttAnesthesia

Anesthesiolo... @\_AnesthesioL... · Jul 11  
For patients with preoperative frailty having elective surgery, researchers estimate that attributable costs are increased 1.5-fold in the year after major, elective noncardiac surgery. Learn more: [ow.ly/CNra50P8YLA](https://ow.ly/CNra50P8YLA)



**MedCouncilCan**  
@MedCouncilCan

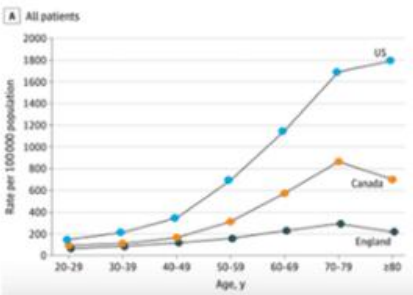
We're pleased to announce that starting January 1, 2024, Dr. @vernaik will succeed Dr. Maureen Topps as the new CEO. Please join us in thanking Dr. Topps for her contribution and congratulating Dr. Naik.  
Read the news release: [ow.ly/xaRu50PzSRG](https://ow.ly/xaRu50PzSRG).  
#MedEd



**Naheed Jivraj** @naheedjivraj · Jun 26  
Our study on rates of Mechanical Ventilation in Canada, US and England published today in @JAMAInternalMed.

We demonstrate a large variability in the use of invasive mechanical ventilation across the US, Canada and England. 1/6

Figure 1. Age-Specific Rates of Invasive Mechanical Ventilation in Hospitals



Department of Anesthesi... @Uo... · Aug 14  
🎉🎉 Congratulations to Dr. Alison Macarthur, who is the new Deputy Head, Department of Anesthesia and Pain Management at Mount Sinai Hospital!

Read more: [bit.ly/3QD4bTe](https://bit.ly/3QD4bTe)



Ontario's Anesthesi... @ON\_Ane... · Jul 20  
New research from one of our members, Dr. Miriam Mottiar (with the @OttAnesthesia)

CJA - Canadian Journal... @CJ... · Jul 17  
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in anesthesiology: a primer - Canadian Journal of Anesthesia  
#EDI #Equity #Inclusion #Diversity #CJA2023 #Anesthesia #Anesthesiology  
[buff.ly/43ZUaUb](https://buff.ly/43ZUaUb)



### Avoid posting personal information to Medavie Blue Cross website

The Medavie Blue Cross Interim Federal Health Program - which provides temporary coverage of health-care benefits for specific groups of people in Canada - offers an online provider search to help patients find local physicians. Physicians have reported to the OMA that they have seen their personal information on this publicly available directory. The OMA recommends members only provide contact information for their place of practice - not a Medicine Professional Corporation - when adding a business address. The OMA has alerted Medavie Blue Cross to the issue. Physicians whose personal information appears on the directory can contact Medavie Blue Cross for assistance. Physicians can also edit their provider profile online at any time.

[Contact Medavie Blue Cross](#)  
[Update provider profile online](#)

## Governance

### Tariff Report

#### 1. PSA Implementation

- The physician payment committee will be accepting year 3 proposals this fall and will have 1 year to complete the work.
- The formula for year 3 increases is complicated and based on utilization and the total PSB spend so estimates of the increase will not be calculated before next spring.

- Thank you to all members who responded to our survey that will inform the executive as we consider possible proposals that we might submit to the process.

## **2. Negotiations 2024**

- The section made a written submission to the Negotiations Task Force (NTF) and met with them to discuss it.
- The NTF and the board are now working on their mandate ahead of negotiations which are expected to start in October.

## **3. Relativity**

- The Relativity Advisory Committee has informed sections that it has decided against recommending the use of the controversial BEST (Benchmark Estimation of Service Time) methodology that involved conversion of one benchmark assessment or consult code per section to a time-based code.
- They are currently considering alternative approaches for estimating the hourly rate in the FAIR (Fee-Adjusted Income Relativity) model.

## **4. Unintended Consequences of Revisions to J069**

- The PPC received our letter of concern and requested more information from us about the radiofrequency ablation services formerly provided using J069 and for evidence and practice guidelines supporting those services.
- Information was provided in July and we are awaiting a further response from the PPC regarding our members' concerns.

## **Advocacy and Stakeholder Relations**

### **Queen's Park Advocacy Day Returns October 16**

On Monday, Oct. 16, join physicians from across the province and across specialties at Queen's Park for quality facetime with MPPs.

Organized by the OMA, this event features meetings with politicians and key government staff; a luncheon and, space permitting, attendance at question period.

The OMA will be offering advocacy training sessions in advance:

- Virtually, Wednesday, Oct. 11 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- In-person, Sunday, Oct. 15 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 108 Chestnut Street, Toronto.

More [details and registration information](#) are available.



Dr. Rohit Kumar and several colleagues at last year's Queen's Park Advocacy Day.



## **Ontario Anesthesiologists in the Media**

Over the summer, OA Chair Dr. Rohit Kumar and past chair Dr. Monica Olsen spoke with the media about the looming shortage of anesthesiologists and highlighted potential solutions to this challenge, ideas that are summarized in [our recent position statement](#) on anesthesia human resources. A few of their appearances include:

- [CBC's The Morning Edition K-W with Craig Norris radio show](#)
- [Toronto Star article](#) (subscribers only)
- [CTV Your Morning TV](#)
- [Globe and Mail article](#) (subscribers only)

Dr. Dave Ohrling from the Environmental Sustainability Working Group has also been actively promoting that group's activities, including [its two position statements](#). His appearances include:

- Participating [in a group discussion](#) hosted by the OMA about climate change and health care.
- Speaking [with Simcoe.com](#) about how Simcoe Region hospitals are reducing their carbon footprint.
- Explaining [to Sudbury.com](#) why health care needs to take a role in fighting climate change.

## **Patient Care**

### **Future Blog Post: Anesthesia Myths**

Later this fall we'll be publishing a blog post that aims to dispel some of the more common myths that patients have about anesthesia.

Do you have any myths that we should include? Let us know with a quick email to [info@ontariosanesthesiologists.ca](mailto:info@ontariosanesthesiologists.ca).

## **Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities**

### **Surgical Sustainability Conference**

**September 15 & 16**

**Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, 209 Victoria Street, Toronto**

- Organized by Unity Health Toronto, this event, "will gather healthcare professionals and sustainability experts to discuss the impact of healthcare on the environment and how we can work towards a more sustainable future."
- We're proud to share that Environmental Sustainability Working Group member, Dr. Ali Abbass, and past member Ed Rubinstein, will be among the speakers!

### **Regional Anesthesia Symposium**

**September 22 & 23,**

**Victoria Hospital, London Health Sciences Center, London**

- The Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine at Western University hosts this in-person event that will feature discussion sessions and hands-on workshops focused on regional anesthesia and point-of-care ultrasound.

## **Toronto Perioperative Echo Symposium**

**September 23 & 24**

### **Virtual Event**

- "Our international multi-disciplinary faculty will illustrate the application of POCUS & TEE to address critical decisions in patient management across a wide range of acute care settings."
- This event is also "an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification program of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and approved by the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society. You may claim a maximum of 1.5 hours (credits are automatically calculated)."

Thank you for spending your time with 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](mailto:info@ontariosanesthesiologists.ca).

Sincerely,

Ontario's Anesthesiologists  
A Section of the Ontario Medical Association

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [YouTube](#)  
[Join Our Private Facebook Group](#)

### **Contact Us By Email**

#### **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.