

SOAP: The First Years

[From The Society for Obstetrical Anesthesia and Perinatology Newsletter, Vol 14, Number 4, 1983, p 1 –5 Edited by Michael H. Plumer, M.D. from historical materials from Bradley E. Smith, M.D. and Richard B. Clark, M.D.]

Ours is a distinctly unstuffy society. Its Articles of Organization declare that "This society is dedicated to informality ...” For fourteen years the society has organized informally, met informally, sent its *Newsletter* informally and kept its records informally. Though casual record keeping does indeed foster informality, it does so at some cost in historical accuracy. Since neither of the two recent *Newsletter* editors were "there" at SOAP's beginnings, Gerry Ostheimer having joined the society at its third meeting and I at its sixth, small bits of historical imprecision may have escaped editorial weeding and survived to establish firm roots.

Recognizing this, Brad Smith and Richard Clark recently spent several months examining old correspondence and notes and compiling personal recollections from some who were involved in SOAP's first years. They prepared a 12-page narrative history, which was examined for accuracy by all collaborators, then forwarded to the Secretary-Editor along with a 2-inch thick sheaf of supporting documents. These materials, now a part of the SOAP Archives, form the basis for the account which follows.

THE IDEA

Probably everyone who has ever practiced or taught obstetric anesthesia has wished at times for the company of kindred spirits, perhaps even envisioned a society of obstetric anesthesiologists. By the mid-1960's, thoughts of forming such a society in North America were being openly expressed.

The survey of obstetric anesthesia teaching programs which Sol Shnider (Sol M. Shnider, Department of Anesthesiology, University of California, San Francisco) reported in 1965 had included a question designed to elicit interest in an obstetric anesthesia organization. Sol received fifteen positive replies, enough for Otto Phillips (Otto C. Phillips, Director, Division of Anesthesia, Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Pittsburgh) to mention this interest in an "Association of Obstetrical Anesthesiologists" in his 1964-65 annual report of the ASA's Committee on Maternal Welfare (a name which ASA President John J. Bonica changed in 1966 to Committee on Obstetrical Anesthesia.)

Correspondence files from 1964 and 1965 indicate that Brad Smith (Bradley E. Smith, Department of Anesthesiology, University of Miami School of Medicine) was interested in forming a small, informal group of obstetric anesthesiologists and had made his interest known. By 1967, Jim Elam (James O. Elam, Department of Anesthesiology, University of Chicago) and Bob Bauer (Robert O. Bauer, Department of Anesthesiology, UCLA) were corresponding extensively about organizing a Society of OB Anesthesiologists (SOBA). In December 1967, Elam wrote that a pharmaceutical company had agreed to pay for a meeting place in Chicago and suggested that "our next step should be a round robin communication to the key people in OB anesthesia for suggestions regarding nomination of our charter group."

Some time earlier in 1967, Jim Evans (James A. Evans, Department of Anesthesiology, Emory University School of Medicine) has spoken on behalf of Bauer and Elam to Otto Phillips, outgoing chairman of the ASA's Committee on Obstetrical Anesthesia (OACom). In January 1968, Elam formally proposed the idea of a society of OB Anesthesia to Phillips. He thought the purposes of such a society might include "education of physicians and nurses on the safe practice of obstetric anesthesia.... (education of) the public on their right to receive the best possible care ... (stimulation of) the intellectual development of OB anesthesia (and fostering) proper ... fee schedules for obstetrical and neonatal care." Phillips, though offered the chairmanship of the proposed society, seems to have shown little interest either in person or as an ASA chairman, though the first organizational meeting was arranged with his concurrence. [Editor: Actually, Otto was overwhelmed with his own professional duties at the time, but continued to give enthusiastic support to the others.]

Buoyed by the success of this first meeting, Richard Clark, Jim Evens, and Brad Smith were delegated to begin work on a charter for the merging OB anesthesia group. Already, though, the members of the O'Hare group had begun to differ in their opinion about how such a group should be constituted. While Brad Smith still hoped to merge activities into the ASA, Clark sensed that resistance within the ASA would make that route impractical. He felt that establishing an OB anesthesia section within ACOG would be quite feasible, however, and would provide the group with the backing of a recognized organization, which he felt was essential.

Two months of exposure to the internal pressures of both the ASA and ACOG changed Smith's position completely. In a letter to Jim Evans in January 1969, he noted with amusement that both had changed their positions since the O'Hare meeting. Evans now favored affiliation, while Smith had come to agree with Evans' original position that the new group should be free of direct control by any major organization. Smith observed that "the ASA has no provision for associating in any way with such a section ... On the other hand, association with the ACOG puts us in a potentially subservient position ... with suspect loyalties in the eyes of many of our ... colleagues." An independent organization, he felt could quickly establish its own charge and goals, later seeking those associations that still seemed desirable.

On April 27, 1969, some of the people interested in OB anesthesia met again at the ACOG meeting in Miami. From this meeting came plans for the first independent nationwide invitational meeting of those interested in obstetric anesthesia. Bob Husted had just five months to prepare for this role as host of what was to be the first SOAP meeting in Kansas City.

THE KANSAS CITY MEETING

In due time, a letter went out from the University of Kansas Medical Center inviting all past and present members of the ACOG Anesthesia Committee, the ASA Committee on Obstetrical Anesthesia, and anybody else who was interested in the work of these committees to a workshop "planned to fulfill the need expressed by a number of obstetricians and anesthesiologists who are interested in providing better care for the obstetrical patients to meet one another, to exchange

ideas about maternal and neonatal care problems, to discuss individual, local, regional and national attitudes toward anesthesia resuscitation in the delivery room to share teaching and learning techniques, and to evaluate the need and mechanism for future meetings with persons with our mutual interest ... The workshop will be open to any physician who has an axe to grind about obstetrical anesthesia or infant resuscitation, a contribution to make toward better cooperation and understanding of mutual problems in the delivery rooms, or wishes to learn or teach these principles." Costs for the workshop were low. Hotel rates were \$15 for a single, \$20 for a double. Luncheon was \$4.50, dinner was \$6.50 and breakfast was \$3.50.

The first meeting of the society, which would become SOAP, was held in response to this invitation in Kansas City on September 20-21, 1969. Bob Hustead had put together in remarkably short time a meeting, which drew 57 people. After carrying out the full two day agenda the groups resolved about noon on Sunday, September 21, that a new organization had been born, that it should tentatively be called the Society for Obstetrical Anesthesia and Perinatology, and that its next meeting should be held in Nashville with Brad Smith as host.

THE NASHVILLE MEETING

Brad Smith held the Nashville meeting a full year later, on September 26 and 27, 1970. Though considered the second annual meeting, this was the society's first meeting as a constituted body with a name (which had changed slightly to Society of Obstetrical Anesthesia and Perinatology). As yet, the society had neither charter nor constitution. The program for the two day meeting included special guest lectures by William Windle and Heinz W. Berendes on topics

related to infant resuscitation, a forum on the parental care team, a workshop directed at revision of the ACOG technical bulletin on obstetric anesthesia, 90 minutes devoted to free papers (10 minutes each, 10 minutes discussion) and a business meeting.

The society's first formal business meeting was convened at 10:30 AM on Sunday, September 2, with Hustead presiding as Chairman of the Board. At this meeting, the membership voted to levy dues, continue to meet on the weekend, remain independent of other major national meetings, have the next year's host to be Secretary for the year, and retain the name Society of Obstetrical Anesthesia and Perinatology (SOAP) as the official name of the organization. In addition, Brad Smith as incoming Chairman of the Board (a title later changed to President by action of the society) was instructed to appoint a committee to formalize the bylaws and functions of the organization. Jim Evans was selected as host of the 1971 meeting in Atlanta.

THE ATLANTA MEETING

The Atlanta meeting, sponsored jointly by the Emory University Departments of Anesthesiology, OB-GYN, and Pediatrics, became SOAP's first spring meeting (April 23-25, 1971). The program opened with a long Friday evening session on the economics of OB anesthesia, featuring Drs. Weiss (Jess B. Weiss, Harvard University) Hehre (Frederick W. Hehre, Jr., Yale University), and Kretchmer (Henry E. Kretchmer, Case Western Reserve University). The Saturday session included formal presentations by John Steinhaus and Gertie Marx, discussions of the use of television for education about obstetric anesthesia and infant resuscitation, and presentation of six ten minute papers with (lively) discussion. At a long Saturday evening session

after dinner, society members discussed and approved piece by piece of the Articles of Organization and Bylaws of the Society. Recognizing that it had grown, the society voted to begin giving hosts two years to prepare for the meeting. Alice Basford was chosen to bring the meeting to Denver in 1972, and Preston Dilts was responsible for the 1973 meeting in Lexington, Kentucky. Other features of the Atlanta meeting included a Sunday session on the biochemical parameters of asphyxia, and a presentation in which Sol Shnider and Paul Poppers reviewed recent advances in OB anesthesia. Total expenses of this meeting were \$2118.21, of which \$253 came from the Department of Anesthesiology at Emory to make up a shortfall.

After the Atlanta meeting, Evans submitted to the Board of Directors an updated mailing list that contained the names of 185 persons who had either attended meetings or indicated a strong desire for membership. Even though more than 60 of those people had never attended a meeting, the Board of Directors decided to declare them members since the Articles of Organization had just come in to existence. Therefore, this mailing list was accepted as the official membership of the society as of April 26, 1971.

THE DENVER MEETING

Alice Basford was responsible for SOAP's 1972 meeting, which convened in Denver from Friday through Sunday, March 24-26. Saturday's session included 16 original papers and a movie by Jack Scanlon on examination of the newborn for neurobehavioral responses. Frank Greiss moderated the presentation of obstetric papers, Edward Crawford moderated the regional anesthesia presentations, Jim Evans was in charge of the session on depressant

drugs, and David Abramson was responsible for the neonatal papers. On Saturday evening after dinners, members assembled for group discussion in the homes of their Colorado hosts - Barton, Bowes, Crawford, McFee, and White. Topics of these group discussions included economics, record keeping, training, infant resuscitation, and manpower. The Sunday session was devoted to review of important advances in the last year in obstetrics, anesthesia, and pediatrics, and to the annual business meeting chaired by President Evans.

Business at that meeting included extensive discussion and acceptance of amended new articles of organization, as well as the election of Preston Dilts as Secretary and Sol Shnider as Vice President for 1972-73. President Basford reported after the meeting that there had been 72 enrolled at the meeting and that the current active SOAP membership on March 27, 1972, now numbered 78 persons who met the requirements of the bylaws.

THE LEXINGTON MEETING

Preston V. Dilts was host to SOAPs fifth annual meeting in Lexington, Kentucky, from March 30 through April 1, 1972. Sol Shnider passed the editorship of the Newsletter to Gerry Ostheimer (then a brand new member) at this meeting, and Ostheimer's first Newsletter tells us that 134 registrants attended the meeting.

Presentations included 18 original papers and reports on three membership surveys covering questions about fetal monitoring complications, epidural blood patch, and the timing

of postpartum tubal ligation. Shnider, Abramson, and Dilts gave presentations on recent advances in their fields of expertise. The entire group was treated to a showing of the new movie "Obstetrical Anesthesia" produced by Pfizer Laboratories and starring Moya, Apgar, James, Flowers, and Shnider.

{Editor: I have chosen to end the notes on the genesis of SOAP here. Beginning with the Lexington meeting the society, in my judgement, "came of age." Many changes necessitated by the increasing numbers of members and the continuing maturation and sophistication of the members began to be made at this time. SOAP has, by wise choice -- abandoned some of the informality and spontaneity of the early years, but the rewards have included ever increasing value of both the scientific and social events of SOAP meetings.

Those of use who were "there at the start" uniformly are proud that our spark of an idea has grown into an organization with international stature in relation to the clinical practice, research, and teaching of obstetric anesthesia!

As a postscript I wish to point out that in 1974 a brief history of obstetric anesthesia organizations in the United States appeared in Anesthesiology (Anesthesiology 41:308-310, 1974), 1) This welcome note inadvertently did not recognize the contributions of some of the key organizers of SOAP. In 1976, a letter in Anesthesiology (Anesthesiology 44:271, 1976) attempted to draw attention to the credit due to these gentlemen. A manuscript prepared in 1969 by Phillips concerning his personal knowledge and history of the OACom (and also its predecessor the Committee on Maternal Welfare of the ASA) is in our files, but, to our knowledge, was not published before his death.

Founders of The Society for Obstetrical Anesthesia and Perinatology

Robert O. Bauer, M.D. *

Richard B. Clark, M.D.

James O. Elam, M.D. *

James A. Evans, M.D. *

Robert F. Hustead, M.D.

Bradley E. Smith, M.D.

***deceased**

S.O.A.P. CHARTER MEMBERS

**Bashir Ahmad
Henry Aldis
M. Dennis Barton
M. Derick Boldt
Elwyn S. Brown
Marion A. Carnes
George Cassady
Messick
Donald Caton
Richard B. Clark
Thomas M. Conley
Bruce Darrow
Preston V. Dilts, Jr.
Sankawa
James A. Evans
Mieczyslaw Finster
Sherline
Donald W. Freeman
Alice F. Gambill
Adolph H. Giesecke
James E. Gildea
Bill A. Gillen
Donald A. Goss**

**Frank C. Greiss
William Gottschalk
Brett B. Gutsche
James O. Hanson
Edward C. Hanisch
M.P. Hast
Frederick W. Hehre

Robert Hodgson
Ernest L. Hopkins
Robert F. Hustead
Miles D. Hyman
George B. Jackson

Francis M. James
Max J. Kartchner

David Katz
Jacob Kay
H.F. Khater
Geoffrey Logan
Henry S. Linn
Richard O. Lundborg**

**John H. McClure
Donald E. McIntosh
Marjorie L. Malenofski
Antonio Marasigan
Gertie F. Marx
Carlo Mendez-Bauer
Joseph

Donald H. Morison
Frank Ostapowicz
Otto C. Phillips
Alfred N. Poindexter
Hiroshi

Paul W. Searles
Donald M.

Bradley E. Smith
Sol M. Shnider
A.O. Tetzlaff
Edwin G. Waldrop
Augusta Webster**

***Present at first S.O.A.P. meeting September 21, 1969**

S.O.A.P. CHRONOLOGY*

- Chicago.** May 25, 1968. Obstetric Anesthesia Society organizational meeting at O'Hare Airport – Organized by JAMES O. ELAM ... 6 attendees.
- Wash., D.C.** October 20, 1968. Informal meeting of those interested in obstetric anesthesia at the Annual ASA Meeting – Organized by BRADLEY E. SMITH ... 24 attendees.
- Miami.** April 27, 1969. Informal meeting of those interested in obstetric anesthesia at the ACOG meeting – Organized by BRADLEY E. SMITH ... 18 attendees.
- Kan. City.** September 19-21, 1969. First national invitational meeting of those interested in obstetric anesthesia.
Host: ROBERT F. HUSTEAD ... 60 attendees.
- Nashville.** September 26-27, 1970. Second national meeting with SOAP title, but no charter or constitution.
Host: BRADLEY E. SMITH ... 64 attendees.
- Atlanta.** April 23-25, 1971. Third annual meeting. Adopted Articles of Organization.
Host: JAMES A. EVANS ... 74 attendees.
- Denver.** March 24-26, 1972. Fourth annual meeting.
Host: ALICE A. BASFORD ... 72 attendees.
- Lex., KY.** March 20-April 1, 1973. Fifth annual meeting.
Host: PRESTON V. DILTS ... 134 attendees.

*SOAP Newsletter Vol. 14, #4, 1983, p.5

1969 WORKSHOP

"An Evaluation of the Current Potential of Obstetricians and Anesthesiologists to Provide Relief of Obstetrical Pain While Diminishing Maternal and Perinatal Morbidity and Mortality"

**University of Kansas, Kansas City, Missouri
September 19-21, 1969**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 Registration.

An informal evening for those who arrive early enough to enjoy "Monoject" cocktails before or after "dutch" dinner.

8:00 - 9:00 A.M.

Registration

9:00 - 9:10 A.M.

**Greetings - Bob Husted
Self-introduction of participants**

9:10 - 9:20 A.M.

**Past and current activities of the ASA Obstetrical Anesthesia Committee
Dr. Bradley Smith, Chairman**

9:20 - 9:30 A.M.

**Past and current activities of the ACOG Anesthesia and Analgesia Committee
Dr. Frank Greiss, Chairman**

9:30 - 9:45 A.M.

Discussion

9:45 - 10:00 A.M.

Coffee

10:00 - 12:00

OPEN FORUM - Dr. John H. McClure, presiding: What do the texts, pros, and doers say are reasonable and sensible

1969 WORKSHOP

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guidelines in 1969 for safer
management of :

1. Normal vaginal delivery
2. Medical complications at delivery
3. Obstetrical complications at delivery
4. The unexpected apneic and flaccid newborn
5. The apneic and flaccid newborn from a pregnancy at risk

12:30 - 2:00 P.M. LUNCHEON - DISCUSSION TABLES

(Choose a different subject and discussion group for each meal)

Table 1: Maternal Resuscitation

Table 2: Neonatal Resuscitation

Table 3: Local, Pudendal and

Table 4. Epidural and Spinal Para-Cervical
Anesthesia

Table 5: Inhalation Analgesia

Table 6: General Anesthesia

Table 7: Organization of, and Remuneration for
Obstetrical Anesthesia Coverage

2:00 - 3:45 P.M. ROUND TABLE

Dr. James O. Elam Presiding

Current Practice and Research - Participants

will be asked to present briefly:

1. Anesthesia practices in your hospital and surrounding community.
2. Current investigations in your hospital and bearing on management of delivery or obstetrical pain relief.

**1969 Workshop
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3:45 - 4:00 P.M.

**DEBATE: Dr. John Adriani, Referee
Resolved: It is reasonable and proper
in 1969 for a woman who wishes to be
free of pain in labor and delivery to be
so.**

**OB Affirmative - Dr. Ernest Hopkins
Anes. Affirmative - Dr. James Evans
OB Negative - Dr. E.C. Hanisch
Anes. Negative - Dr. Richard Clark**

5:30 P.M.

Cocktails - "Puritan Maid"

6:30 - 8:00 P.M.

**DINNER -DISCUSSION TABLES: Same
table topics**

8:00 - ?

**Cracker Barrel - for those who wish to
continue to extract information.**

**Beer Barrel - for those who would like
to see Kansas City's spiritual side on
Saturday night.**

**Fun Barrel - for those wishing a gay or
frivolous evening.**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1969

8:00 - 9:00 A.M.

**BREAKFAST - DISCUSSION TABLES:
Same table topics**

9:00 - 10:30 A.M.

**OPEN FORUM - Dr. Shnider What
facilities do you have available for
training in OB anesthesia and
resuscitation?**

10:30 - 10:45

**Coffee - Compliments of Puritan
Bennett**

1969 WORKSHOP

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10:45 - 12 Noon

**ROUND TABLE - Dr. Otto Phillips
Resolved: There is need for a society to sponsor future meetings of obstetricians and anesthesiologists to help solve the vexing problems which anesthesia brings to the parturient and which the parturient brings to the anesthesiologist. What should be the format for such a society? (ED Note: This is the point at which Adolph H. ("Buddy") Giesecke proposed the name "Society for Obstetrical Anesthesia and Perinatology". It was accepted and "S.O.A.P. " was born!)**

**PROGRAM
SOCIETY FOR OBSTETRICAL ANESTHESIA AND
PERINATOLOGY**

**Vanderbilt Holiday Inn
Nashville, Tennessee
September 26-27, 1970**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

**9:00-9:45 A.M. Seminar: Neurologic, Cardiorespiratory, and
Developmental Implications of Current
Therapy in Resuscitation of Asphyxiated**

and

Depressed Newborn Infants

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER - WILLIAM F.
WINDLE**

**Research Professor of Rehabilitation
Medicine, Institute of Rehabilitation
Medicine, New York University Medical
Center. Dr. Windle will briefly outline the
current status of knowledge in this area
and
will show a short motion picture.**

**9:45-10:30 A.M. HEINZ W. BERENDES, M.D., Chief of the
Perinatal Research Branch, National
Institute of Neurological Diseases, Stroke
and Blindness, will speak on
"Resuscitation-Contributions of the
National Collaborative Study"**

10:30-10:45 A.M. Coffee Break

10:45-12:30 P.M. Open forum discussion of the topic

12:30-2:00 P.M. Luncheon

**2:00-3:00 P.M. Forum: "The Team: The Obstetrician, The
Anesthesiologist, and The Pediatrician"
Questions: Are there internal conflicts?
(1) How can they be resolved?**

S.O.A.P. MEETING

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

3:00-5:00 P.M. **Workshop - Revision of the ACOG
Technical Bulletin on "Anesthesia in
Obstetrics"**
**Leader: FRANK GEISS, M.D., Chairman
of the Committee on Obstetrical
Anesthesia, A.C.O.G.**

6:30 - 7:30 P.M. **Cocktails**

7:30 P.M. **Dinner**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

8:00 A.M. **Breakfast**

8:45 - 10:15 A.M. **Presentation of free papers limited to
10-minutes each followed by general
discussion, limited to 10-minutes.**

"FETAL EFFECTS OF NITROUS OXIDE-HALOTHANE ANESTHESIA"
Shnider, S.M., deLorimer, A., Hyman, M., and Steffenson, J.
Presented by M. Hyman

"CONTINUOUS SPINAL ANESTHESIA IN LABOR"
James O. Elam, M.D.
Presented by Luis A. Cibils, M.D.

"BUPIVACAINE IN OBSTETRIC ANESTHESIA"
James A. Evans, M.D.

"EEG OF LABOR"
by James A. Evans, M.D.
Presented by Ronnie Clark

"PLACENTAL TRANSFER OF MEPERIDINE"
P. V. Dilts, Jr., M.D.

FIRST *S.O.A.P. NEWSLETTER
October 1, 1969

***Society for Obstetrical Anesthesia and Perinatology**
(Tentative title - thank you Buddy Giesecke)

Hello:

The first newsletter will include information regarding the American Society of Anesthesiology Meeting in San Francisco October 25-29, 1969. The following sessions will be of special interest to SOAP. (I am not enthusiastic about the name either but can you think of another? - all suggestions are welcome)

(ED; In these early SOAP Newsletters, "I" is Sol Shnider, the first Newsletter editor.

Refresher Courses:

Pharmacology and Physiology of Local Anesthetics ... Dr. Rudy deJong	October 25 9:00-10:00 a.m.
Scientific Writing ... Dr. Leroy Vandam	October 26 11:30-12:30 p.m.
Ventilatory Support of Infants and Children Dr. Penelope Smith	October 26 3:05-4:05 p.m.

Scientific Session:

**Obstetrical and Neonatal Anesthesia
Monday, October 27, 1969**

**Metaraminol (Aramine) in Obstetrics: Fetal Effects ... Shnider,
Steffenson and deLorimer**

**An Evaluation of Vasopressor Therapy for Maternal
Hypertension During Spinal Anesthesia ... James, Greiss, and
Kemp**

**Distribution of Lidocaine in Maternal and Fetal Tissues ...
Finster, Mirishima, Boyes, and Covino**

Effects of Epinephrine on the Concentration of Lidocaine in Mother and Baby During Continuous Lumbar Epidural Anesthesia ... Weiss, and Lurie

Placental Transmission of Nitrous Oxide ... Marx, Joshi, and Orkin

Tuesday, October 28, 1969

Inhibition of Succinylcholine - Induced Increased Intra-gastric Pressure by Non-Depolarizing Muscle Relaxants ... Miller

Wednesday, October 29, 1969

Post Lumbar Puncture Headache Treated by Epidural Injection of Autologous Blood ... DiGiovanni and Dunbar

SCIENTIFIC EXHIBITS

**Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday
October 27-28-29, 1969**

Chemical Resuscitation of the Newborn ... Clark, Cooper, Brown (deceased), and Greifenstein

Complications and Fatalities from Obstetric Anesthesia: Causes and Preventions ... Adriani, Eckert, Zepernick, and Graulau

Chemical Meningitis ... DiGiovanni and Lathrop

Teaching Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation ... Burnap

MOTION PICTURE PROGRAM

Tuesday, October 28, 1969

1:00 P.M. Current Developments in Obstetrical Anesthesia - Phillips, Hehre, Shnider, Giesecke, Finster, Bowe and Smith

**MEETING: OBSTETRICAL ANESTHESIA COMMITTEE
Monday, October 27, 1969 - 7:00 a.m. - Tamalpais Room
[S.O.A.P. Newsletter #2, September, 1969, continued]**

To improve communications I [S.M.S.] will enclose bibliographies of our members. Articles that have an asterisk (*) are available, in limited supply for reprint requests. (ED.- deleted here for space)

Please send me your completed bibliographies, i.e. all articles which might be of interest to SOAP and I will include it in a future newsletter. Frank Greiss and I will start the ball rolling by enclosing our pertinent bibliographies.

By the way, this newsletter will be supported this year by an anonymous donor - a major pharmaceutical house which would prefer to remain nameless.

Please send me all items which you would like included in future letters.

Hope to see you all in San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Sol M. Shnider, MD

**S.O.A.P. NEWSLETTER - Number 2
December 1, 1969**

Seasons Greetings!!

This letter will give some of the details of the 23rd Postgraduate Assembly in Anesthesiology in New York City December 15-17, 1969.

There will be a panel on "Obstetrical Anesthesia: The Fetus in Distress" -December 15, 2:00 p.m. (Grand Ballroom). Fred Hehre is panel Chairman and the other members are: George Jackson, Richard Paul, Mex Campbell and Sol Shnider; the host is Ed Bachrach. Topics will include Fetal Scalp Blood Sampling, Fetal Electrocardiography, and Resuscitation of the Newborn.

Several seminar luncheons will be devoted to obstetrical anesthesia and perinatology.

December 15, 1969

Infant Resuscitation	Alex G.M. Campbell, MD Peter A.M. Auld, MD
Regional Anesthesia for Obstetrics: Pro and Con MD	Richard H. Paul, MD Benjamin E. Marbury,
The Best Obstetrical General Anesthetic	Peter H. Byles, MD George B. Jackson, MD
Obstetrical Emergencies	Sol M. Shnider, MD Milton Alper, MD

December 17, 1969

Pediatric Mechanical Ventilation	John B. Stetson, MD Barbara Lipton, MD
Adverse Reactions to Obstetrical Anesthesia	Gertie F. Marx, MD Stephen N. Steen, MD

Residents' Program on December 16, 1969 Includes:

- 9:30 a.m. Placental Transmission of Nitrous Oxide
C.W. Josh, M.B.B.S.
- 10:45 a.m. Effect of Anesthesia and Ventilation on Blood Loss During Elective Therapeutic Abortion Bruce F. Cullen, MD
- 11:15 a.m. Effect of Maternal Hypercarbia on the Newborn Infant Anthony D. Ivankovic, MD

Hospital Clinics Program on December 16, 1969 will include Obstetrical Anesthesia at the:

- Bronx Municipal Hospital Center G. Marx, MD
- Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center- M. Finster, MD
- Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn H.H. Baruch, MD

Scientific Exhibits Include:

Chemical Resuscitation of the Newborn
University of Arkansas
Medical Center
Little Rock, Ark.
Richard B. Clark, MD

I would like to get some feedback on the idea of J.O.A.P., that is a Journal of Obstetrical Anesthesia and Perinatology. I feel that there is a great need for such a publication, partly in view of the excessive delay in getting material published in the Amer. J. Obstet. & Gynec., but mostly because having a central source for material, usually found in anesthesia, obstetric and pediatric journals, makes good sense.

Bibliographies will be enclosed in subsequent letters.

Again, have a Happy Holiday!

Sincerely yours,
Sol M. Shnider, MD

**S.O.A.P. NEWSLETTER - No. 3
January 1970**

I would like to wish all of you a very happy, healthy 1970. After a perfect sunny Christmas-New Years season, the rains have finally come to Northern California, but I understand that it is snowing in a large part of the country so I won't complain.

There are several interesting meetings in March and April which you ought to know about. First, of course, is the International Anesthesia Research Society, 44th Congress, March 15-19, 1970 at "Cesareans" Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada. There are at least six papers which will be of interest to the obstetric anesthesiologist and neonatologist, including aspects of anesthesia for premature infants and food administration for the neonate, as well as papers on anesthetic management of abruptio placenta or coagulation disorders of the parturient. I noticed that Gertie Marks, Bob Hustead, and Otto Phillips will be discussing some of the obstetrical papers.

A few days later, in Williamsburg, Virginia, the Southern Society of Anesthesiologists will hold its annual meeting and I see that Craft, Coakley, and Epstein will present a paper entitled, "The Role of Epinephrine in Peridural Anesthesia for Obstetrics". Also there will be another paper by the Bob Hustead group on Clinical and Mechanical Evaluation of the A. E. Gas Machine for Obstetrical Analgesia and Anesthesia. Dr. Jenkins and friends will have a paper on Fluid and Electrolyte Studies in Neonatal Anesthesia and Surgery.

What looks like an outstanding symposium on "Physiological Biochemistry of the Fetus", will be held at the Crittenton Memorial, Detroit, Michigan, April 20-21, 1970. The faculty includes: R. Beard, R. Caldeyro-Barcia, Geoffrey Dawes, E. Saling, and Carl Wood. The final program has not been published, but write to A. Alberto Hodari, MD at the Crittenton Hospital, 1554 Tuxedo Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48206 for more information.

Jim Elam, of the University of Chicago, writes he seeks opportunity to visit obstetrical centers in the United States where he can observe obstetrical anesthesia practices and training programs which emphasize maternal and fetal monitoring. He contemplates a few months sabbatical and would appreciate suggestions. His address is Chicago Lying In Hospital, 950 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637. Jim also asks a question of S.O.A.P. as to how many use nitrous oxide for pain relief during labor. What is the failure rate? What disadvantages attend the use of self-administered 50% or 60% mixtures during labor? He would appreciate hearing from enthusiastic proponents or damners.

George Jackson, Department of Anesthesia, University of Alabama, Birmingham 35233, is interested in collecting current obstetrical anesthesia records which are being used by S.O.A.P. members. He would also appreciate receiving suggestions for any changes and also wants to examine the methods used in collecting data such as code sheets for computerization and monthly and weekly reports of anesthesia. Please help George!

There has been some feedback on the idea of a Journal of Obstetrical Anesthesia and Perinatology - some pro and some con, but I would like to hear the opinion of many more people. Please let me know whether you think a monthly journal including original articles or a survey type journal, such as a Survey of Obstetrics or the Survey of Anesthesia or a Year Book of Obstetrical Anesthesia and Perinatology would be of interest. Finally, I would like to get some feedback on how well these letters are being received and would like each of you who would like to continue receiving the newsletter to fill out the following questionnaire.

(Editor: deleted)

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S.O.A.P. NEWSLETTER - No. 4
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GREETINGS! The S.O.A.P. meeting in Nashville, Tennessee on September 25-27 was a great success thanks to the superb organizational abilities of Brad Smith. The general consensus I felt, was that the format of formal presentations followed by vigorous open ended discussion was very stimulating. Four free papers were presented before the meeting broke up. These papers included "Placental Transfer of Meperidine" by Dilts; "Bupivacaine in Obstetric Anesthesia" by Evans; "Continuous Spinal Anesthesia in Labor" by Elam and "Fetal Effects of Nitrous Oxide Halothane Anesthesia" by Hyman, Shnider, de Lorimier and Steffenson. These papers elicited much discussion, but it was regrettable that they were presented so late in the meeting. I believe that next year, free papers will be given during the early part of the meeting.

Some of the highlights of the business meeting were "(1) the society will levy dues at the end of each year. These will be set by the host of that year's meeting, will be determined by the expenses for the year and will be paid at the registration for the annual meeting; (2) the name Society for Obstetrical Anesthesia and Perinatology (S.O.A.P.) will be retained as the official name of the organization; (3) it was also decided that the yearly S.O.A.P. meeting will not be held in conjunction with another national meeting, so as not to dilute the impact of either meeting. However, it was decided that a S.O.A.P. meeting could be combined with a "minor" national post-graduate or major regional meeting.

Incidentally, mark your calendars - the next S.O.A.P. meeting will be held in Atlanta; host Jim Evans, April 24-25. There are various ideas for topics to be considered and if you have any, please contact Jim. At the present time, it is planned that there will be a session devoted to current research, and papers are solicited, a formal session possibly on drug abuse, and a likely session on the economics of obstetrical anesthesia.

A roster now exists of anesthesiologists (40 or so) in the United States who are devoting their time solely to obstetrical anesthesia and/or perinatology. Any member of S.O.A.P. who desire copies of this list can receive them by writing to me. Membership in S.O.A.P. obviously includes people doing part-time obstetrical anesthesia and also includes pediatricians, obstetricians and anesthesiologists interested in obstetrical anesthesia and perinatology.

The 1970 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Anesthesiology in New York had a good representation of obstetrical anesthesia, particularly in the Refresher Course lectures. One full day which included six one-hour talks on obstetrical anesthesia were given by Caton, Marx,

Moya, Hehre, Shnider and Brad Smith. These lectures were well attended and the comments by the audience were favorable. There was also a vigorous panel discussion which Frank Moya moderated entitled, "Common Problems in Obstetrical Anesthesia". This panel had a 'standing room only' audience which certainly indicates an increasing interest in this subject by anesthesiologists in practice.

Speaking of Frank Moya, I understand that the 1972 Post Graduate Seminar in Florida will have as its theme, 'Obstetrical Anesthesia and Perinatology', so, keep the first week in January 1972 free. Getting back to the A.S.A. meeting, Gertie Marx also hosted a TV program with Bonica, Vasicka and Graber discussing the clinical application of recent research findings in obstetrical anesthesia. This audiovisual presentation was very well received.

The Committee on Obstetrical Anesthesia of the American Society of Anesthesiology is compiling a list of "approved" movies in obstetrical anesthesia. The final selection will be given to the Wood Library Museum for use in audiovisual education.

Something that members of S.O.A.P. can do is to send a copy of their Obstetrical Anesthesia record to Dr. Bill Gottschalk, Northwestern University 103 E. Superior St., Chicago, Illinois 60611. He, Dr. Elam and Dr. David Katz are studying these records and perhaps will recommend a new record that can be sponsored by the A.S.A.

**S.O.A.P. NEWSLETTER
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THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS

**A Personal Perspective and Predictions for
the Next Decade**

Before the formation of SOAP, a very, very few people interested in obstetric anesthesia struggled to bring the subject to the attention of anesthesiologists, obstetricians, physicians in general, and the public at large. Among the names which should be mentioned, Otto Phillips, perennial chairman of the Obstetric Anesthesia Committee, was certainly preeminent. His contributions were important because they were the first of their nature, and continue to have impact today.

SOAP provided a format for disseminating clinical and scientific information, and almost immediately established itself and its officers as legitimate resources for other societies and agencies in their efforts to upgrade obstetric anesthesia. Although unforeseen by the founders, this was very gratifying. The comradeship, mutual support, and encouragement among members had been anticipated, but surpassed all expectations.

Certainly, some false starts and frank mistakes occurred during the years. With pride, however, I point out that none of these problems ever threatened to disrupt SOAP's activities, or to cause ill will among its members. I assert that this is largely because of the very real mutual respect SOAP's members have for one another. Ours is a group in which we can be proud to share membership.

I have personally been amazed by the sophistication and expertise increasingly evident in the papers shared at our meetings. This trend will improve the quality of information we share, and will hasten the establishment of obstetric anesthesia as a scientific discipline within anesthesiology.

In the future, I believe our association with the American Society of Anesthesiologists (almost ironic, after our original overtures to them were rejected twenty years ago.) will not only complete the universal recognition of SOAP, but will also provide

valuable dialogue. I believe that a journal devoted to obstetric anesthesia is inevitable and will be a useful forum to communicate our interests.

I predict that our remaining pediatric and obstetric friends will eventually drop out of the society, one-by-one. This is regrettable since they strengthen us with different views on the reports and subjects we discuss. In addition, they serve as important conduits for our ideas to their specialty groups, advancing medical care. I hope that SOAP will make every effort in the coming years to prevent this prediction from coming true.

At the end of its first twenty years, SOAP is entering real maturity and deserves the place it has carved out for itself in the medical and scientific communities. Let's hope that by our thirtieth anniversary, SOAP will retain its youthful exuberance, but will have, in addition, solidified its mature dignity as the authoritative body in all matters relating to obstetric anesthesia.

Bradley E. Smith, M.D.

**NASHVILLE, TN
February 17, 1989**