



August 11, 2023

TO: ARC-AA Sponsoring Organizations: American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants

FROM: John Kimbell, CAA, Chair
Jennifer Anderson Warwick, MA, Executive Director

RE: Highlights from the ARC-AA Board Meeting – July 2023

The Accreditation Review Committee for the Anesthesiologist Assistant Board of Directors met on July 11, 2023, via web meeting. The highlights from the meetings:

1. **Programs.** Currently, there are 18 CAAHEP Accredited Anesthesiologist Assistant Programs. For the list of accredited programs, visit <https://www.caahep.org/students/find-an-accredited-program>.
2. **Elections / ASA Seat.** The ARC-AA is sponsored by two organizations, the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) and the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAAA). For the ASA seat, Dr. Guarav Patel was voted to complete a term vacated by Dr. Mary Billstrand. Dr. Patel will serve through 2025, at which time, he will be eligible to serve for two three-year terms.
3. **Request to Sponsor the ARC-AA.** The ARC-AA was approached by an organization about it sponsoring the ARC-AA. When a national professional organization believes that its membership has legitimate concerns about, and responsibilities for, the quality of personnel prepared in Anesthesiologist Assistant educational programs accredited by CAAHEP, the organization may petition the ARC-AA for approval to join them as a sponsoring organization. If the CoA determines that it wishes to recommend this organization for sponsoring membership, it will convey that recommendation to CAAHEP for a vote by the full Commission. Such votes take place at the next Annual Meeting. Any organization wishing to sponsor the ARC-AA must also be approved as a sponsoring member of CAAHEP.

A working group was formed to explore the considerations of this request, and the conversation continues. The organization will be invited to apply to sponsor the ARC-AA. If the board approves the application, then the AAAA and the ASA will be asked to support the addition of a sponsor.

4. **CAAHEP Report.** The relationship with CAAHEP continues to strengthen.
 - a. The summer CAAHEP Accreditation Workshop was the week after the board meeting. The profession was well represented with more than 10 AAs participating. The ARC-AA Executive Director, Jennifer Anderson Warwick, spoke about the commonalities and differences of the professions recognized by CAAHEP.
 - b. CAAHEP hosted Site Visitor training for the Generalist role; Ty Townsend is one of many who completed it. Generalist Site Visitors are used by CoAs who may need more site visitors or would like a site visitor from outside the profession.
 - c. CAAHEP research shows that more than 50,241 students are impacted by CAAHEP standards.
 - d. CAAHEP President Don Balasa & Executive Director Gina Scarboro did a Hill visit in May

5. **CAAHEP Standards Revision.** The CAAHEP *Standards and Guidelines for the AA Programs* were last revised in 2016. The *Standards & Guidelines* must be reviewed at least every 10 years. The ARC-AA will embark on the revision process in late 2023 or early 2024 and will invite its stakeholders to participate in the review and possible revision. Stakeholders that will be invited to participate include employers, program directors, medical directors, new graduates, AAAA, and ASA.
6. **Next Meetings.** The ARC-AA board meets in January via web meeting, April at the AAAA Annual Meeting, July via web meeting, and October at the ASA Annual Meeting.

2023

Tuesday, July 11

via web meeting

October 12

San Francisco at ASA Annual Meeting

2024

Tuesday, January 9 @6PM Eastern Time

web meeting

Saturday, April 13 @12PM Eastern Time

@AAAA, Orlando

Tuesday, July 9 @6PM Eastern Time

web meeting

Friday, October 18 @5PM Eastern Time

@ASA, Philadelphia

The Purpose of ARC-AA: Act under the auspices of CAAHEP¹ (Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs), which is the national voluntary accreditation agency for the Anesthesiologist Assistants, assessment of educational outcomes, and recommendation to CAAHEP for accreditation of AA educational programs that meet the CAAHEP *Standards*.

AAAA and ASA sponsor the ARC-AA:

- a. each organization nominates individuals to the ARC-AA and the ARC-AA elects them.
- b. fiduciary responsibility of the directors of the board are to the ARC-AA and not the ASA or AAAA

Board Members of the ARC-AA:

John Kimbell, CAA (AAAA), Chair

Lindsey Amerson, CAA (AAAA)

Matt Pinegar, MD (ASA), Vice Chair

Guarav Patel, MD (ASA)

Sam Gumbert, MD (ASA), Immediate Past Chair

John Scott, MD (ASA)

Jermaine Leclerc, CAA (AAAA), Treasurer

Ty Townsend, CAA (AAAA)

¹ CAAHEP = Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs