

Wisconsin State Assembly of the Association of Surgical
Technologists
Summer 2019 Newsletter

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- Information on the coming changes to certification
- Information about the WIAST Fall Conference and more

President's Note

Susan McNeely, WIAST President

Hello to all,

I just returned from the 50th AST convention and want to thank all our Wisconsin members for giving me the opportunity to represent Wisconsin as your President and as a delegate. It was nice to reconnect with members from Wisconsin and other states. Over the years I have come to treasure seeing fellow CST's that have become my friends. At the State Leadership meeting the responsibilities of each State and the challenges are discussed. I had the opportunity to speak with Presidents who have struggling attendance at their State meetings and Boards that don't work well together. We were given a poster that had the sites of the 50 AST meeting and I was impressed that our Vice President, Linda Beine, had attended 28 AST conventions. That demonstrates her active involvement in her profession that started when she was a student and continues today. I hope our students can follow her example.

On our last evening I joined five others from Wisconsin and took an evening trolley tour of DC. The ride itself did not comply to our Wisconsin seat belt and speed limit laws however we all returned safely to our hotel. Our final ride to the airport was proof that you can have a driver who barely looks forward with lively conversation get you to your destination.

Life is about memories and this meeting added to mine. I am not sure if summer weather will ever arrive, but my wish is for everyone to continue to make your memories.

See you in October.

Certification Renewal Changes

Danielle Cook, CST, WIAST Board Secretary

Hello! I recently returned from the 50th AST Conference in Washington D.C. with a head full of knowledge and excitement. From the highly motivational and hilarious opening speaker, Dr. Adolph Brown, to the educational sessions, networking, and bonding with other members of our state, it was amazing. I recommend everyone go to Conference at least once and experience all the wonderful things that it offers!

The National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) has announced that effective 01/01/20, CST and CSFA certification renewal will change from a 4-year cycle to a 2-year cycle. The decision was made to match the trends of other allied health professional credentialing practices, passed legislative requirements in various states, as well as to encourage and foster on-going continuing education. The current renewal cycle is every four years with CSTs' completing 60 continuing education credits (CEC) and CSFAs' completing 75 CECs and a \$50 renewal fee. Beginning 01/01/20, the renewal cycle will be every two years with CSTs' completing 30 CECs and CSFAs' completing 38 CECs and a \$25 renewal fee. The continuing education requirements will include a required number of advanced level/live CECs; more information regarding the live credits will be available soon.

Anyone that renews their certification **prior** to 01/01/20 will be renewing on the four-year cycle; at the end of that cycle, they

will be renewed under the new 2-year cycle. The important thing to remember regarding the new certification cycle is that it is half the time, half the cost, and half the credits beginning **January 1, 2020**.

I will be available to best answer any questions you may have at the Fall meeting. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

BECOME INVOLVED

Think of your profession and step up in Fall to be more proactive as a Surgical Technologist. At our October 5th meeting we will be nominating a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and two Board of Directors. To run for President, Vice President or Treasurer you must have served on the Wisconsin board within the last five years, have CST or CSFA credentials, be an active AST member, and attend WIAST meetings. To run for the Board of directors you must have CST or CSFA credentials, be an active AST member, and attend WIAST meetings. You can also run to be a delegate to the National Conference. Need more information on the responsibilities of any position? For any questions contact Linda Beine bobalin@charter.net or Susan McNeely mcneelys@yahoo.com

Ready to have your name on the ballot?

Send your CV and consent to serve form to wisconsinast@gmail.com before September 4th.

News From a First-time National Conference Attendee!

Bridget Hanson, CST, WIAST Board of Directors

After having been a Certified Surgical Technologist for the past 14 years, I FINALLY had the opportunity to attend my FIRST

ever AST National Convention. The Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center which overlooks the Potomac River in National Harbor/Washington DC, was the perfect home for the 50th Anniversary of Association of Surgical Technologist National Convention. It was held this past May 30th - June 2nd and was a jam packed week full of wonderful speakers, education on the latest and up and coming technologies, amazing peer camaraderie, awesome leadership recognition and awards, and all ended with delegate voting for members of our next Association of Surgical Technologist Board members.

There are a couple reasons why I haven't attended a national conference before...getting the time off of work, the financial setback of attending a conference and to be completely honest with you I was just unsure of what it even was or how it would help me in my job.

Boy oh boy, was I in for an awesome eye-opening week. Thursday morning as everyone filed into their seats in the Potomac Ballroom, there was a general hum of excitement. Minutes later there was a full on dance party as we began the Opening Ceremonies. That definitely set the stage for a pretty amazing conference.

In the days that followed, I had the opportunity to listen to several different speakers talk to various different topics surrounding our profession. A few of my favorites were 'The Effects of Different Headgear on Airborne Contamination in a Dynamic Operating Room Environment' and 'Are you Still Smoking in the OR? It's Time for Clean Air for Safer Care'. They were all very knowledgeable in their field and I enjoyed learning more about these topics. There were so many different topics, it made it hard to choose just one per session.

But my biggest takeaway from this week was the importance of gaining our strength in numbers, not only for our profession but

ultimately for our patients. It is so important that we use the opportunities provided to us to attend both state level conferences as well as the national level conferences. Furthermore it might be even more important to then take that knowledge gained back to own operating rooms and OR departments to help educate others on the importance of all aspects of our profession. Please, please, please have a voice, be heard, get involved, take the time to learn and listen to others and mentor the students in your rooms. In doing so, only then will we gain the recognition, the strength and momentum we need as a PROFESSIONAL group. Maybe then we will be given the legislative support for things such as nationwide mandatory national certifications and fair competitive wages. No one is going to do that for us...WE need to!!

I'll tell you...there is nothing like being in a huge ballroom surrounded by thousands of other Certified Surgical Technologists just like you, to make your heart full and to leave you feeling energized, motivated and more confident than ever that your passion has lead you to make the right career choice. Hope to see you all at the 51st AST National Convention at the Westin Peachtree Plaza, in Atlanta, Georgia May 28th-30th 2020!

Star of Lucy Recipients - Spring 2019

I attended the WIAST state assembly meeting March 9th and wanted to express my gratitude for the Star of Lucy award I received. As of May 17, 2019 I am a graduate of the Madison Area Technical College Surgical Technologist program. I chose surgical technology to start a challenging, interesting new career and contribute to the well-being of surgical patients. I have accepted a

position at St. Mary's hospital in Madison and am excited to start my new career there soon. I look forward to being a part of the Wisconsin State Assembly and to continue growing as a surgical technologist. Thank you, and thank you to all the members of WIAST for your generous gift.

Mike McDonnell

I wanted to say a big thank you for receiving the Star of Lucy scholarship. I am currently in the surgical technologist program at Madison Area Technical College. This scholarship will help me finish paying for school. I will be graduating in May of 2019 and am currently looking for jobs in the Madison area. I look forward to continuing to be a part of the Wisconsin State Assembly and continuing to attend your conferences. Thank you again to all WIAST members for this amazing gift.

Carrie Aide

Upcoming WIAST Conference Info

Ilea Cornelius, CST, WIAST Board of Directors

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer. We had a great turnout for our Spring meeting this past March at Wausau Asprius Hospital. It was nice to see so many of our WI CSTs in attendance. Our Fall WI State Assembly meeting will be held Saturday October 5, 2019 at Aurora Summit. The Spring meeting will be held March 14, 2020 at Aurora BayCare Medical Center in Green Bay. Madison has shown interest in hosting a meeting. The date is to be determined. We are always looking for new locations to have our meetings. Please contact me (ilea.cornelius@aurora.org) if you are interested in hosting a meeting.

WIAST Board Member Runs for National Board

Nicole Drott, CST

Hello Fellow AST members. My name is Nicole Drott and I am currently on the WIAST Board of Directors. This year at our 50th National AST conference I had the honor to be a candidate for the National AST Board of Directors. I sadly did not make it this year but did not miss it by much.

It was an amazing experience. I got to meet many new people in our organization, and many of our past National Presidents. Everyone was so welcoming and offered so many words of encouragement and different ways to help. It makes me so proud to be part of such amazing profession. It definitely was something I will never forget standing in front of 1,000+ members, teachers, students and past presidents speaking about my experiences and what I want to do and bring forth.

I also had to pull a random question out of a box and answer it in one minute. Let me tell you that will give you nerves and get your heart pumping. I also sat at a table and members from different states came up and personally ask me questions on various topics. Then the elected delegates from each state assembly voted on who they wanted to represent them. There were 8 of us running for 3 spots.

This was an amazing opportunity and one I will never forget. I will be back running in 2020 again. Like Babe Ruth said "Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game."

The Dawn of Vesicovaginal Fistula Treatment

Daniel Dickover, CST, WIAST Board of Directors

Vesicovaginal fistula (VVF) is a condition not seen as frequently in the developed world as it was in the past and still is in the developing world. VVF normally occurs with labor dystocia when the pressure of the baby's head in the birth canal restricts the blood flow to the tissue between the birth canal and the bladder. The lack of blood flow causes the tissue to die and an opening is created between the bladder and vagina. If untreated this causes infections, urinary leakage and irritation to the affected areas. In addition the social symptoms of VVF can be devastating and include constant wetness and odor, leaving the patient an outcast from normal social interaction.

In modern times, conservative approaches are available such as spontaneous closure with urinary catheterization or use of fibrin sealant with catheterization. However, these approaches frequently fail. Modern surgical approaches can be vaginal or abdominal, each having its own risks and benefits. Flaps can also be used to close dead space and reinforce a weakened vaginal wall.¹ Luckily, since labor dystocia is largely avoided in modern medical systems, VVF is infrequently seen in operating rooms in the U.S.

The story of how VVF was finally cured takes us to an interesting era in the history of surgery and the United States. J. Marion Sims (1813-1883)², a surgeon living in Alabama, is widely accepted as the first to cure the condition. Sims found himself in the middle of many changes in modern medicine including the first successful anesthetic in 1842³ and the advent of antisepsis in the 1860s with publication of Joseph Lister's world-changing papers in 1867.¹

Sims was also practicing medicine during the final throes of slavery in the American South. For this reason most of his experimental surgeries were performed on enslaved African

American women who acted as his surgical assistants and who he states were desperate for a cure. Historians have written articles condemning his actions³ as well as explaining them as acceptable for the time and place². The ethical questions of this case and its relation to informed consent continue to be discussed over 150 years after it occurred. Feel free to talk with me more at the fall conference about this case or any other bioethics issue that interests you.

¹Stamatakos M, et al. Vesicovaginal Fistula: Diagnosis and Treatment. *Indian journal of surgery* 2014; 76(2) : 131-136.

²Wall LL. The medical ethics of Dr J Marion Sims: a fresh look at the historical record. *Journal of medical ethics* 2006; 32(6): 346-350

³Ojanuga D. The medical ethics of the 'Father of Gynaecology', Dr J Marion Sims. *Journal of medical ethics* 1993; 19:28-31

Related Articles

Pitt D, Aubin J M. Joseph Lister: father of modern surgery. *Canadian journal of surgery* 2012; 55(5): E8-E9.

Kaiser I H. Reappraisals of J Marion Sims. *American journal of obstetrics and gynecology* 1978; 15:878-882.

WIAST Fall Conference - October 5th

Aurora Medical Center - Summit

Early bird registration will still be just \$50 for members.
Registration opening soon.
Tentative topics include
combat surgery, urology,
instrument processing on
medical missions and getting
your specimen to lab the right

way. Email Dan Dickover with questions.

danattippe@gmail.com