



The NJSSA Pulse

January 30, 2026

Happy Physician Anesthesiologists Week 2026!

This week, NJSSA honored Physician Anesthesiologist Week! Anesthesiologists have been powering innovation in patient care for generations. From groundbreaking pain management to revolutionary patient safety protocols, anesthesiologists continue pushing medicine forward with every case. This week we honor a medical specialty built on innovation, precision and an unwavering commitment to patient safety. Thank you to all who recognized and honored these distinguished professionals this week. Let's continue to advance and foster innovation within the field of anesthesiology.

Thank You to Drs. Flashburg and Bermann for Their Years of Service to NJSSA

NJSSA extends its sincere gratitude to Dr. Michael Flashburg and Dr. Mordechai Bermann for their many years of dedicated service and unwavering support as

members of the NJSSA community.

Collectively bringing more than 80 years of experience in the field of anesthesiology, Drs. Flashburg and Bermann have displayed excellence as clinicians, mentors, leaders and advocates for the profession. Their steadfast commitment to advancing anesthesiology and supporting their colleagues has had a lasting impact on both NJSSA and the broader medical community.

As they enter retirement, NJSSA honors their significant contributions and the legacy they leave behind. Their leadership and dedication will continue to inspire future generations of anesthesiologists.

Thank you, Dr. Flashburg and Dr. Bermann, for your outstanding service. NJSSA wishes you the very best in your retirement.

Secure Your Spot Today at the NJSSA Annual Meeting!

Registration is now open for NJSSA's 66th Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 21 at the Hyatt Regency New Brunswick.

The overall purpose of this activity is to educate our attendees about equity and diversity in healthcare delivery, and the leadership role anesthesiologists can play to ensure the delivery of equitable care in their communities and health care setting.

Take this opportunity to connect with fellow members, expand your knowledge, and stay at the forefront of the anesthesiology field.

Learn more about the conference [here](#) and register for the conference [here](#).

View sponsor and exhibitor opportunities [here](#).

Calling All New Jersey Anesthesia Residents!

Showcase your research at the 66th NJSSA Annual Meeting!

Present your research or a medically challenging case for a chance to win \$250 and gain recognition among industry leaders.

Winners of the e-poster competition will be announced at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.

Submit your abstract by March 6!

Learn more about the poster competition and submit your abstracts [here](#).

INDUSTRY NEWS

[Presynaptic Neurotransmission: A Bottleneck to Recovery From General Anesthesia?](#)

Anesthesia & Analgesia

General anesthesia is widely used and considered safe, yet cognitive recovery after general anesthesia remains unpredictable, especially in patients with comorbidities or preexisting impairments. This perspective discusses how emergence from anesthesia does not equate to full cognitive recovery, and current measures like bispectral index or recovery scores show inconsistencies in tracking this process. [Read More](#)

[Trends in Use of Medications For Opioid Use Disorder Among Commercially Insured US Surgical Patients](#)

Anesthesiology

Optimal perioperative pain management for patients receiving medications for opioid use disorder remains unclear. This cohort study of adults 18 to 64 years old who were undergoing one of 1,083 major surgical procedures from 2016 to 2022 examines trends in medications for opioid use disorder and identifies procedures with the highest prevalence. Researchers use data from a large commercial claims

database to assess changes over time and variation across procedure categories. [Read More](#)

Impact of Implementing a Thromboelastometry-Guided Transfusion Strategy in Women With Postpartum Hemorrhage

Journal of Clinical Anesthesia

Coagulopathy remains a critical factor in maternal outcomes during postpartum hemorrhage. This retrospective study of 3,899 adult women with postpartum hemorrhage at a gestational age of 22 weeks or more evaluates the effect of a thromboelastometry-guided management protocol on fibrinogen concentrate utilization and transfusion practices at a tertiary care obstetric unit at a university hospital in France. [Read More](#)

The Effect of BMI on Short-Term Outcomes in Nonagenarians and Centenarians With Critical Illness

Anaesthesia Critical Care & Pain Medicine

The relationship between body mass index and outcomes in nonagenarian and centenarian patients with acute critical illness remains unclear. This bi-national, retrospective, entropy-weighted cohort study analyzes intensive care unit admissions of 12,510 nonagenarians and centenarians over 15 years, classifying patients by BMI categories from underweight to obese. [Read More](#)

Perioperative Care of the Geriatric Patient

European Journal of Anaesthesiology

With an increasing number of older patients undergoing surgery, there are opportunities for improvements in symptom relief and increasing longevity. However, frailty and age-related changes heighten perioperative risk. Physiological alterations across organ systems significantly influence surgical stress response and recovery.

This narrative review analyzes important considerations for perioperative care in older surgical patients. [Read More](#)

The Power of Teamwork, Collaboration and a Shared Vision in Advancing Patient Safety

Anesthesia & Analgesia

This perspective aims to establish a worldwide forum for the exchange of perioperative safety initiatives and innovations. The authors outline the scope of topics addressed, beginning with an overview of the Japanese Society of Anesthesiologists and the American Society of Anesthesiologists, followed by summaries of major themes covered at the conference such as safety culture, teamwork, perioperative brain health, opioid-related harm, clinician safety and global anesthesia delivery. [Read More](#)

Contemporary Pain Neuroscience Knowledge and Attitudes Among Students

Pain Management Nursing

Health care education programs often provide limited training in contemporary pain neuroscience, leaving future professionals ill-prepared to address the pervasive and biopsychosocial problem of chronic pain. Exploration of the level of understanding of contemporary pain neuroscience and the attitudes toward people in pain among university students may help educators identify appropriate roles for students in pain-related interprofessional education. [Read More](#)

Ritlecitinib in Adults With Hidradenitis Suppurativa

ClinicalTrials.gov

The purpose of this study is to learn about the safety and effects of the study medicine (called Ritlecitinib) for the possible treatment of hidradenitis suppurativa. *Hidradenitis suppurativa* is a disease causing long lasting painful red skin lumps. [Read More](#)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Legislature concluded what is referred to as its "Lame Duck" session on Jan. 12 with a flurry of bills passed in both houses and sent to the Governor's desk for his action. Following this, he has ten days to sign any of them into law. The new legislative session began on Jan. 13 with its reorganization meeting and the swearing in of new Assemblymembers. This legislative session is two years and will continue through January 2028. We anticipate that the Legislature will meet regularly over the next few months as it approaches its budget season.

Following the elections this past November, the Democrats maintained their majority in all three houses going into the new session. Governor-elect Mikie Sherrill won the election in a landslide and also flipped several Assembly seats from Republican to Democrat, giving the Assembly Democrats their largest majority in decades.

Below is a list of the new, incoming Assemblymembers that were sworn in on Jan. 13, 2026 for their first term:

Legislative District 2: Marueen Rowan
Legislative District 8: Anthony Angelozzi
Legislative District 25: Marisa Sweeney
Legislative District 20: Eduardo Rodriguez
Legislative District 21: Andrew Macurdy and Vincent Kearney
Legislative District 28: Chigozie Onyema
Legislative District 31: Jerry Walker
Legislative District 32: Katie Brennen and Ravi Bhalla
Legislative District 33: Larry Wainstein
Legislative District 35: Kenyatta Stewart

DUES & RENEWALS

As the driving force behind safe, quality patient care, you demonstrate extraordinary skill, compassion, and dedication every day. And you're even stronger when backed by your powerful anesthesiology community.

It's your time to shine as a specialty or practice leader, individual mentor, powerful advocate, or whatever you decide. The possible career trajectories are nearly endless, and ASA and NJSSA are ready to support them all.

Further your own — and the specialty's — mission

- Every voice makes a difference — join in as we continue to fight against attacks on the physician-led care model by private insurers
- Protect your financial sustainability by standing up to ongoing payment challenges such as proposed time limits, removing payments for complex patients, and other policies that prioritize insurer profits over safe patient care

Step into new opportunities

- Fine-tune your ability to lead, motivate, and influence through programs created jointly by ASA and recognized leadership experts
- Become a Fellow of the American Society of Anesthesiologists® (FASA®) — adopt one of our highest designations to communicate your commitment to your patients, practice, and the specialty

Embrace lifelong learning

- Stay current with free MOCA® Minute and Anesthesiology® journal CME, as well as deep discounts on every ASA title
- Streamline your practice and promote the value you provide with quality initiatives and practical resources such as guidance for RFP responses

Renew today and remain engaged and active in ASA and NJSSA.

→ **Stay connected with ASA right from your phone — sign up for text updates.**

NJSSA Pulse

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