California Legislature Recognizes Importance of Physician Anesthesiologists

Annual Physician Anesthesiologists Week Celebrated Today by Legislative Resolution Recognizing Importance of Physician Anesthesiologists in Saving Patient Lives and Managing Care Before, During, and After Surgery

Today, the California Assembly unanimously passed Assembly Concurrent Resolution 144, introduced by Assembly Member Evan Low (D-Campbell) highlighting the importance of physician-led anesthesia care in protecting patient safety. The resolution designated the week of January 26 to February 1, 2020 as "Physician Anesthesiologists Week."

This morning, he presented the resolution to CSA President Christine Doyle, MD, FASA. She was joined by Dr. Christian Bohringer, Director, CSA District 1 (Nor Cal), Dr. Sharon Ashley, Director, CSA Academic Practice Forum and two UC Davis residents, Drs. Danielle LeFlores and Duc Le.

Assembly Member Low stated, “The California Society of Anesthesiologists has taken proactive steps to promote patient safety, and increase education about pain management, safe opioid use, and non-opioid alternatives to pain management.”

To proactively promote safe opioid use, the California Society of Anesthesiologists (CSA) has taken the lead as one of the first medical societies to produce patient education materials. The CSA’s video, “How to Manage Your Pain After Surgery,” available in both English and Spanish, expands knowledge about non-opioid medications and alternative pain management techniques as well as helps patients understand all of the risks and benefits associated with opioids. CSA has been actively promoting use of the video by hospitals, clinics, and ambulatory surgery centers across the state. We encourage all CSA members to share the video resource with your colleagues and promote its use with patients at the facilities where you practice.

“The administration of anesthesia is a complex and technically demanding medical procedure that requires physician leadership and involvement,” said Dr. Christine Doyle. “Physician anesthesiologists are essential care-team leaders ensuring patient safety – before, during and after surgeries - and we are on the front lines of fighting the opioid epidemic every day in communities throughout our state. We are the leading research experts and practitioners at utilizing non-opioid pain medicine options including interventional procedures and we work with our patients to develop tailored pain management plans to ensure optimal recovery.”