



ASA/APSF Ellison C. Pierce, Jr., Patient Safety Memorial Lecture

# ‘Anesthesia Patient Safety: Closing the Gap Between Perception and Reality’

Robert K. Stoelting, M.D.  
Saturday, October 21, 2017

Mark A. Warner, M.D., President  
*Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation*

**The 2017 ASA/APSF Ellison C. Pierce, Jr., Patient Safety Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Robert K. Stoelting, M.D.** Dr. Stoelting has chosen the topic “Anesthesia Patient Safety: Closing the Gap Between Perception and Reality” for his lecture.

This annual honorary lecture was established by the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF) and ASA to recognize and sustain the memory of the founding president of APSF and past president of ASA (1984), Ellison C. (Jeep) Pierce, Jr., M.D. It was Dr. Pierce’s vision and unwavering commitment to anesthesia patient safety that led to the formation of APSF in 1985 as the first medical specialty foundation devoted solely to addressing patient safety. Today, the medical specialty of anesthesiology, ASA and APSF are recognized pioneers in advocating for patient safety, as APSF strives to achieve its vision that “no patient shall be harmed by anesthesia.”



*Mark A. Warner, M.D., is Professor of Anesthesiology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota. He was ASA President in 2011 and is the current APSF President.*

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APSF is the largest private funding source for anesthesia patient safety research, having provided more than \$10 million in support of 110 anesthesia patient safety research awards since the inception of the APSF award program in 1987. A byproduct of the APSF research award program is the development of a cadre of anesthesia patient safety scientists who can trace their early investigative careers to seed money provided by the APSF. The foundation was an early supporter of research directed toward the value of simulation in anesthesia patient safety. The *APSF Newsletter*, with a circulation of more than 122,000 recipients, provides rapid and international dissemination of current and evolving anesthesia patient safety information.

Dr. Stoelting is a native of Indiana and a graduate of the Indiana University School of Medicine. He completed his anesthesia residency at the University of California School of Medicine in San Francisco and subsequently served in the U.S. Public Health Service at the National Institutes of Health.

Over his illustrious career, Dr. Stoelting served in many key leadership roles, including:

- Professor and Chair, Department of Anesthesia, Indiana University School of Medicine (1977-2003)
- Director and subsequently Vice President for Scientific Affairs, ASA (1992-1997)
- Director and subsequently President, American Board of Anesthesiology (1980-1992)
- Trustee and subsequently Chair, International Anesthesia Research Society (1977-1993)
- Director, FAER (1994-1997)
- Director and subsequently President of APSF (1994-2016)
- Member and subsequently Chair, Anesthesiology Review Committee (1983-1989)

In addition, Dr. Stoelting has been one of the world's most prolific authors and lecturers in anesthesiology. His four major textbooks have been among the specialty's best-sellers for more than three decades, with all in at least their fifth editions. He has been a senior author on more than 150 peer-reviewed publications and chapters. His refresher course lectures at ASA on preoperative fasting and risks of pulmonary aspiration continued for more than a quarter century. He has nearly 100 visiting professorships and eponymous lectures.

Dr. Stoelting served as president of the APSF for 19 years, leaving a legacy and having an impact on the specialty and all our patients like few others. Under his leadership, the APSF introduced educational videos on safety topics and implemented an annual consensus conference to address important perioperative patient safety issues. In the past decade, these have included:

- Setting audible critical alarms
- CO<sub>2</sub> absorbent interactions with volatile anesthetics
- Medication safety in the O.R.
- Fire safety in the O.R.
- Essential monitoring strategies to detect clinically significant opioid-induced ventilatory impairment in the postoperative period
- Perioperative visual loss – who is at risk?
- Anesthesia professionals and the use of advanced medical technologies
- Patient safety opportunities and the perioperative surgical home
- Implementing and using emergency manuals and checklists to improve patient safety
- Distractions in the anesthesia work environment and impact on patient safety
- Production pressures and impact on patient safety.

In 2016, the APSF Board of Directors honored Dr. Stoelting by naming the annual APSF consensus conference the “Stoelting Patient Safety Conference.”

Dr. Stoelting's steadfast belief in the specialty and the importance of APSF's mission have made him one of the most highly acclaimed and respected anesthesiologists in the world. His broad impact on the clinical practice of anesthesiology and perioperative medicine, anesthesia education and research, and perioperative patient safety make him an outstanding selection to deliver the 2017 ASA/APSF Ellison C. Pierce, Jr., Patient Safety Memorial Lecture.

Dr. Stoelting's topic for this honorary lecture, “Anesthesia Patient Safety: Closing the Gap Between Perception and Reality,” is a fitting tribute to the memory and contributions of APSF's founding president and past ASA president, Dr. Ellison C. Pierce.