



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

‘Respectful, Trusting Relationships Are Essential for Patient Safety, Especially the Surgeon-Anesthesiologist Dyad’

Jeffrey B. Cooper, Ph.D.
Saturday, October 19, 2019

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

The 2019 ASA/APSf Ellison C. Pierce Jr., Patient Safety Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Jeffrey B. Cooper, Ph.D. Dr. Cooper has chosen the topic “Respectful, Trusting Relationships Are Essential for Patient Safety, Especially the Surgeon-Anesthesiologist Dyad” 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 ASA president (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 specialty of anesthesiology, ASA and APSf are recognized as pioneers in advocating for patient safety as APSf strives to achieve its vision that “no one shall be harmed by anesthesia care.”



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.

APSF is the largest private funding source for anesthesia patient safety research, having provided more than \$12.5 million in support of 119 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 safety scientists who can trace their early investigative careers to seed money provided by APSF. The foundation was an early supporter of research directed toward the value of simulation in anesthesia patient safety. The *APSF Newsletter*, the most widely read anesthesia publication worldwide and translated into six languages, provides rapid and international dissemination of current and evolving anesthesia patient safety information.



Dr. Cooper has a career in anesthesia patient safety that spans 45 years. His first major publication, written in 1978, reported

on his team's studies of 'critical incidents.' That and an expanded study in 1984 were the research basis for the founding ideas of the APSF. In fact, Dr. Cooper actually formulated the APSF name as well as its vision and mission statements.

Dr. Cooper's path to his unique contributions in patient safety is unusual in that he approached it as a biomedical engineering scientist and patient safety advocate. He received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Drexel Institute of Technology (now Drexel University) in 1968 and a Master's degree in Biomedical Engineering from Drexel in 1970. He continued his research at the University of Missouri and received a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering in 1972. Immediately afterward, he joined the Anesthesia Bioengineering Unit at the Massachusetts General Hospital in what is now the Department of Anesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Medicine (DACCPM). Within his first two years, he began his leadership of the team that conducted the first investigations of human error in anesthesia and also developed a prototype of one of the first microprocessor-based medical devices, the Boston Anesthesia System.

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basis for the founding ideas of the APSF. In fact, Dr. Cooper actually formulated the APSF name as well as its vision and mission statements. Teaming up with Dr. Pierce, he also formulated the idea of the APSF's research program and developed and led that program for its first 11 years. Over the years, he has been instrumental in many key APSF programs and conferences. He is also widely known as a pioneer in other patient safety realms and has expanded his academic and patient safety interests to the broader areas of perioperative care.

Dr. Cooper has been a major leader in patient safety at his hospital and its health care system. He led the MGH Department of Biomedical Engineering for almost 20 years. He continues to be deeply engaged in the quality and safety activities of the MGH DACCPM. For example, he is currently engaged in improvement of perioperative handoffs, assessing reflection of anesthesia trainees and, most recently, provoking insight into the relationship between surgeons and anesthesiologists.

Dr. Cooper has received many awards for his contributions across several professional domains, including the:

- John M. Eisenberg Award for Individual Lifetime Achievement in Patient Safety from The Joint Commission and the National Quality Forum
- Public Interest in Anesthesia Award for Contributions to Anesthesia Patient Safety from the Council for the Public Interest in Anesthesia
- Lifetime Achievement Award from the American College of Clinical Engineering
- J.S. Gravenstein Award from the Society for Technology in Anesthesia
- Designation as a Fellow of the Academy of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare
- ASA Distinguished Service Award, the only non-physician to have received that honor

Dr. Cooper and his acclaimed international contributions to advocating for anesthesia patient safety make him an outstanding selection to deliver the 2019 ASA/APSF Ellison C. Pierce Jr., Patient Safety Memorial Lecture. His topic, "Respectful, Trusting Relationships Are Essential for Patient Safety, Especially the Surgeon-Anesthesiologist Dyad," is a fitting tribute to the memory and contributions of Dr. Pierce. His lecture will explore novel ways in which all members of the perioperative community can work together to make Dr. Pierce's vision a reality.