

# GREEN ANESTHESIA NEWSLETTER

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## AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS

We are excited to congratulate Dr. Praveen Kalra and his team on becoming the inaugural recipient of the Sustainability Ambassador Award, which was announced at the Sustainability Office's End of Year Celebration for his work on "*Green Is the New Black – Sustainability in Anesthesiology*".

Dr. Kalra will be presenting his work at two upcoming Grand Rounds Sessions.

Dr. Rachel Otterson was selected as a planning committee member and served as a session moderator at ASRA's International Symposium 'Environmental Sustainability and Your Practice'.

Dr. Otterson currently has two sustainability-related publication submissions that have been accepted into orthopedic journals.

## REDUCING YELLOW FOAM WASTE



SHC main campus purchases over 80,000 yellow egg crates each year, which would fill the equivalent of 91 waste carts! We are working on an initiative to replace yellow foam use with reusable alternatives (e.g. gel pads) where possible, which will be piloted in 300P and Cath lab. We are currently determining what additional reusable items would need to be purchased. If you've seen other successful examples of reusable padding or positioners at other institutions, please let us know.

## REUSABLE GEL SHEA PILLOWS!



**They can be requested in 500P, 300P, and LSC. The Green Anesthesia team will be reaching out for feedback in the upcoming weeks, with plans to request additional pillows soon.**

## NEXT MEETING

**MAY 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 6:00 PM**

Green Anesthesia meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month via Zoom.

All faculty, residents, and fellows are welcome and encouraged to attend.

New project ideas are always welcome!

### RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT: GREEN ANESTHESIA ROTATION



Generating over four billion pounds of waste each year, the healthcare system in the United States is the second largest contributor of trash, with one-third being produced by operating rooms.

Our goal is to work as a multidisciplinary team to educate and implement simple changes within the department that are both cost-saving and waste-reducing.

Our faculty, residents, and fellows are encouraged to learn and practice sustainable techniques within our OR systems at Stanford and the resident elective will focus on sustainability education.

This academic year will be the first to accept residents into a two-week Green Anesthesia Elective. During their time they will be paired with Green Faculty members to observe common sustainability practices in the OR including but not limited to waste-reduction strategies, low-flow anesthesia, climate change, ongoing projects and involvement opportunities at Stanford, etc.

Residents will be provided with up-to-date literature publications for review and discussion with their green faculty mentors.

### PROPOFOL WASTE REDUCTION TOOL

Laminated QR stickers can now be found in OR locations on/near the anesthesia machine or the Codonix machine. The QR will link to a quick and simple tool that can be used for cases utilizing a propofol infusion.

Please try out the calculator to estimate the amount of drug volume that will be required as an infusion for the anticipated case duration.

Use of this tool aims to reduce the amount of waste propofol that is opened unnecessarily, therefore reducing cost as well as physical waste (glass, plastic, and drug) generated by the operating room.



### SUSTAINABILITY IN THE LITERATURE

Herr M, Outterson R, Aggarwal S. *Lost in the Ether: The Environmental Impact of Anesthesia. Operative Techniques in Orthopaedics.*

White S, Shelton C, Gelb A, et al. *Principles of environmentally-sustainable anesthesia: a global consensus statement from the World Federation Societies of Anesthesia.* 2021. Anesthesia.

### STERILE ARTERIAL LINES

#### A TIP FOR REDUCING PLASTIC WASTE:

Next time you place a sterile arterial line, use this small sterile drape instead of opening an Arterial Catheterization Kit.

The kits contain an excessive amount of plastic packaging along with extra pieces of equipment that are often thrown away unused.

The 1020 Aperture drape is perfectly sized for arterial lines, and readily available in the core. JUST ASK YOUR CIRCULATOR TO GRAB IT!



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