

# CSA NODE

*The Official Publication of the National Surgical Assistant Association*

## President's Message



Luis Aragon, CSA, RSA, LSA  
NSAA President

Dear Colleagues,

Summer is finally here with all of the outdoor fun and delicious food that it represents! Here in the Midwest, we are enjoying the warm and mild weather after the cold snap that we endured during our April annual conference in Chicago. We had snow on Saturday which was exciting for those that joined us from milder climates.

I am hopeful that you have not been affected by the recent weather conditions throughout the country and are safe and sound in the company of your family and loved ones.

For those that did not join us in April; it was a tremendous success, we had record attendance and the comradery that was felt during both days was heartwarming. It made me realize and confirm that we can work together as a unified team and that by finding and identifying commonalities along the way, we will be able to increase our bond and trust.

We are a unique profession that shares a love and passion for the operating room as well as a never-ending pursuit to excel in skills and knowledge, and because of these characteristics, we are positioned to stand and work united. It is an ideal that we have envisioned for decades as surgical assistants regardless of what organization we belonged to, and I am so optimistic that it is finally becoming a reality and for the nay-sayers; we ARE experiencing it in our lifetime!

There are already discussions in collaborating in many other projects and ideas that have the potential of benefiting us as surgical assistants individually and the profession. Our current efforts have been slowly producing results, and we are hopeful that they will come to fruition by the end of the year.

Our next ASA-NSAA Joint Conference would be in Orlando, Florida, next year, on April 24 and 25, 2020. Please mark your calendars and start planning so you can join us and for those that couldn't make it to Chicago this year; so you don't miss out again on all the educational and networking opportunities.

Individually as an organization, we are continuing to stay strong financially due to the conservative management of your leadership team and board of directors as well as consistently increasing membership year after year. I am certain that your confidence in your organization and what it brings to your practice shows, and that is an important reason why this membership growth trend has continued.

I wish that you enjoy your summer as much as I intend to!

Regards,

Luis Aragon, CSA, RSA, LSA  
President, NSAA

## New Product Approval

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## 2nd Annual NSAA/ASA Joint Conference



Discover the rewards of attending next year's joint conference in Orlando, FL. Book your hotel room early at the discounted room rate from [NSAA's website](#). [Contact us](#) to register for any level of participation, including exhibiting, sponsoring, or speaking. Conference Registration opens in early February.

## Continuing Education Units (CEUs)



## NSAA CEU Policy

The *Continuing Education Policy for the CSA* is provided for CSAs as participating in Continuing Educational Units (CEU).  
[Read Full Policy](#)



## Prevena Negative Pressure System FDA Approved for Superficial Surgical Site Infections

KCI, now a part of the Acelyty Company, has announced that its PREVENA negative pressure incision management system is the first to receive FDA's indication to help with reducing superficial surgical site infections in those at high risk of post-op infections. The approval comes under the FDA's de novo pathway that was designed to bring forward new technologies that may help address important medical necessities.

The PREVENA system is a disposable product that is used to cover and protect a wound, and its negative pressure force of -125mmHg helps to drain the wound of fluids. It was previously approved by the FDA to prevent seromas.



[Learn more](#)

As your representatives, NSAA's Board of Directors appreciates any comments, concerns, or questions you might have about the profession or your association.

**President**  
Luis Aragon, CSA, RSA, LSA  
Frankfort, IL  
[luisaragon@nsaa.net](mailto:luisaragon@nsaa.net)

**Vice President**  
Theresa Conyngham, CSA, RSA, F-OS  
New Kent, VA  
[theresaconyngham@nsaa.net](mailto:theresaconyngham@nsaa.net)

**Treasurer**  
Marvin Dozier, CSA, F-RMS  
Lake Worth, FL  
[marvindozier@nsaa.net](mailto:marvindozier@nsaa.net)

**Secretary**  
Jim Pressley, CSA, MBA, RSA, F-OS  
Plainfield, IL  
[jamespressley@nsaa.net](mailto:jamespressley@nsaa.net)

**Chairman of the Board**  
Dan Baird, CSA, M.Sc., MBA  
Woodstock, GA  
[danbaird@nsaa.net](mailto:danbaird@nsaa.net)

**Member at Large**  
William Barris, CSA  
Zion, IL  
[williambarris@nsaa.net](mailto:williambarris@nsaa.net)

**Member at Large**  
Brandon King, CSA  
Atlanta, GA  
[brandonking@nsaa.net](mailto:brandonking@nsaa.net)  
**Member at Large**

**Member at Large**  
Sari Murray, CSA  
Centerville, OH  
[sarimurray@nsaa.net](mailto:sarimurray@nsaa.net)

**Member at Large**  
Helga Olson, M.S., CSA  
Rochester, MN  
[helgaolson@nsaa.net](mailto:helgaolson@nsaa.net)

**Medical Director**  
Paul Friedman, MD  
Livonia, MI

**Medical Director**  
William Dickhoner, MD  
Cincinnati, OH

### News and Features

#### Legislative Report



2019



#### Election Results

As NSAA efforts to integrate Certified Surgical Assistants into the Veterans, Department of Defense and civilian's health systems continue through the Congressional Appropriations process and discussions with US federal agencies, several contests over healthcare policy in Congress, the US federal court systems and state capitols rage on.

[Dave's Full Presentation](#)

To see who won and the voting breakdown click the link below:

[2019 NSAA Board](#)



Board of Directors



#### Testing & Credentialing News

##### Welcome EVMS Grads!



EVMS Masters of Surgical Assisting Class of 2019

[Click here for larger image](#)

### News & Features

#### CONTINUING EDUCATION

This quarters' CEU article is submitted by NSAA Student Members D.D. Edwards, A. Petroski, E. Keeton, A. Givhens & S. Palozola, on behalf of the Eastern Virginia Medical School's Masters of Surgical Assisting Class of 2020. After reading the article, challenge yourself by answering the questions that follow. Print your answers and E-mail to: [info@nsaa.net](mailto:info@nsaa.net) or Fax to: 202-587-5610. Score 80% or better and receive credit for 2 CEUs.

#### Osseointegrated Prosthesis for Transfemoral Amputees

##### Abstract

A new solution exists for patients struggling with socket prosthetics. Osseointegrated prosthetic implants are gaining momentum around the world as a better alternative to soft tissue bearing prosthetics for amputees. An idea born with Swedish Bioengineer Per-Ingvar Branemark over 60 years ago involves the surgical implantation of a titanium rod into the remaining bone of a limb following amputation. The osseointegrated implants have a

#### Stay Connected





macroporous surface resembling cancellous bone which stimulates new bone growth and implant adherence. The intramedullary stem exits through the soft tissues and connects to an external prosthetic device. This bone bearing prosthetic offer greater stability and more comfort for patients using it. The osseointegrated prostheses also come equipped with a built-in fail-safe feature. The titanium rod will break under excessive torsional forces to prevent periprosthetic fracture or implant breakage. New protocols have emerged to streamline this once two-staged surgical procedure into just a single operation. Although this procedure involves many risks, the benefits observed from patients using osseointegrated prostheses are remarkable.

[Read the full article](#)

[CEU Article Questions](#)

[Print Answer Sheet](#)

**NSAA Members** - If you would like to contribute an article to the Node and receive valuable CEUs, please email your ideas to: [articles@nsaa.net](mailto:articles@nsaa.net)

## 2019 ASA/NSAA Joint Conference Recap



The 1st Annual ASA/NSAA Conference was held at the Embassy Suites Chicago/O'Hare/Rosemont this past April 26th & 27th. The conference was a huge success, due to the tremendous support from both ASA Members and NSAA Members combining to break all attendance records with over 200 attendees! Co-Conference Chairs, Fred Fisher and Jim Pressley put on a great event. Thanks to all who attended and to the generous support from the 13 Exhibitors.

Check out of the Conference Highlight Slideshow!



1st Annual ASA/NSAA Conference

Thanks to all attendees that completed the post conference survey. The results were very encouraging. Selected from those who completed the survey, the winners of a **2020 ASA/NSAA Joint Conference Registration in Orlando, FL** were **Randy Oliver from NSAA** and **Reginald Frederick from ASA**. Congratulations Randy and Reginald, see you at the Hilton Orlando Buena Vista Palace next April!

For complete information including the program and a slide presentation capturing some candid shots during the event, visit the "Past Conferences" page on the NSAA website.

## Announcements & Reminders

### Submitting CEUs

CSAs must recertify every 2 years. Part of the recertification requirement is to submit **38** continuing education units (CEUs) within those 2 years, **8** of the submitted CEUs must have been earned from "Live Events". CEUs need to be received by the NSAA 30 days prior to your certification expiration date to provide enough time for verification and processing, and for NCCSA to process your CSA recertification certificate. For questions, please refer to this link: [www.csaexam.com/becoming-a-csa/recertification-requirements/](http://www.csaexam.com/becoming-a-csa/recertification-requirements/)

NSAA will send out emails to its members 60 days prior to your expiration date as a reminder. Please check your email spam settings to ensure that you are able to receive emails from [info@nsaa.net](mailto:info@nsaa.net).

### Checking CEU Status

You can check where you stand with your CEU count in the members area section of the website. Go to [www.nsaa.net](http://www.nsaa.net) and click on 'members area' at the top and log-in. If you have trouble logging in please call the office at 855-270-6722. This is a great way to know how many CEUs you have on file at any given time. This information is updated about 72 hours after CEUs are submitted to NSAA. Once you submit CEUs, we encourage you to check your member profile to ensure your CEUs were properly received and recorded.

### National Surgical Assistant Association

1775 Eye Street, NW, Suite 1150  
Washington, DC 20006  
Toll Free: 1-855-270-NSAA (6722)  
Fax: 1-202-587-5610  
E-mail: [info@nsaa.net](mailto:info@nsaa.net)  
Website: [www.nsaa.net](http://www.nsaa.net)



