

Greetings From the Committee on Professional Liability!

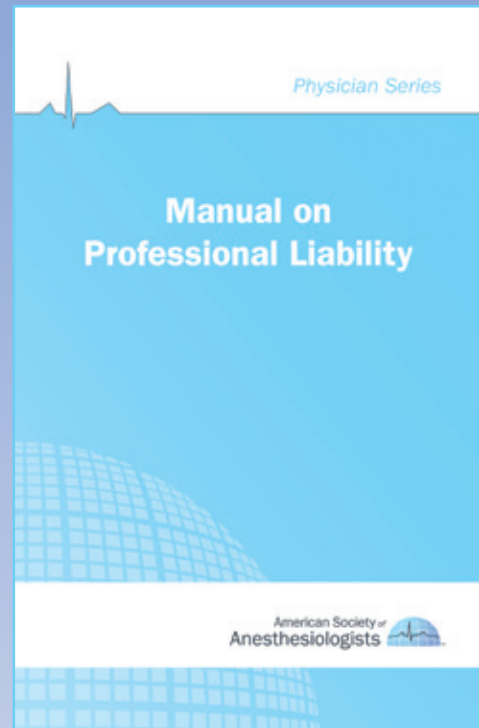
Karen B. Domino, M.D., M.P.H., Chair
Committee on Professional Liability

This issue of the *ASA NEWSLETTER* is devoted to articles by members of the Committee on Professional Liability. The articles range from a primer of medical liability insurance in the U.S., to medical malpractice insurance for overseas medical missions, to the potential hazards of e-mail communications with patients. Patient safety is highlighted in an article describing four tools for the perioperative period: the prep huddle, intraoperative briefing, intraoperative debriefing, and learning from defects. Recent results from the ASA Closed Claims Project are also presented in this *NEWSLETTER*: new trends in respiratory system claims, and ischemic optic neuropathy after prostate surgery in the Trendelenburg position. We hope that you find our contributions to this month's *ASA NEWSLETTER* to be interesting and informative!

Our committee directs the Closed Claims Project and associated registries, including the Postoperative Visual Loss (POVL) Registry and the Anesthesia Awareness Registry. In addition, we conduct a yearly survey of trends in liability insurance premiums for anesthesiologists, published in the *ASA NEWSLETTER* in the autumn. This past summer, we updated an educational "Manual on Professional Liability," which deals with important issues regarding medical malpractice.



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This manual is available on the ASA website <https://ecommerce.asahq.org/p-136-professional-liability-and-the-anesthesiologist.aspx>. Our committee also helps ASA members by performing customized data searches of the Closed Claims database for educational and risk management purposes. Data request forms are available on the closed claims website at <http://depts.washington.edu/asaccp/ASA/datarequests.pdf> or by contacting me directly at kdomino@u.washington.edu. Please let us know what else we can do to better serve you, the ASA membership.