

NEWS FROM THE ENHANCED RECOVERY AFTER CARDIAC SURGERY (ERACS) SUB-COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF GROUP PROJECT OR ACTIVITIES – POSTED JUNE 2025

Name of Project	Description	Status
SCA-U presentations	Presentations for SCA-U being created in collaboration with RACER SIG.	Ongoing
ERACS/ERATS survey	Survey of SCA and ASA members regarding institutional and personal ERAS practices.	Ongoing
Session Proposals	CPI committee session proposal with presentation of ERACS/ERATS survey results and discussion.	Complete

SUMMARY OF GROUP MEETINGS

Date	Action Items from Meeting
Spring 2025 (TBD)	Seek additional ideas for SCA-U presentations
	Form small group to generate new Annual Meeting session proposals (opportunities for collaboration with other committees/groups/SIGs).
	Discuss new project ideas. Potential opportunity for collaboration with ERAS Cardiac Society on a consensus document for compliance/outcomes.

COMMITTEE BENCHMARKS

2024 Committee Benchmarks Status Report

SCA-U presentations Presentations for SCA-U being created in collaboration with RACER SIG. ERACS group responsible for 2 presentations focusing on evidence for ESP and PIFP blocks in CV surgery. Both presentations have been completed as a first draft. A Gregory reviewed talks with speaker and suggested edits. The updated versions are currently being done. Anticipate being complete by June 2025

Session ProposalsWe contributed to a CPI committee session proposal with presentation of ERACS/ERATS survey results and discussion.

SUMMARY OF GROUP PROJECT OR ACTIVITIES – POSTED DECEMBER 2024

Name of Project or Activity	Description	Project Status
ERACS/ERATS SCA-ASA membership survey	Survey of SCA and ASA members regarding institutional and personal practices as they relate to enhanced recovery for cardiac and thoracic surgery.	Survey complete. Data received. Analytics and manuscript preparation under way.
ERACS/RACER-SIG SCA-U presentations	Collaborative effort to produce 4 recorded presentations for the SCA University platform.	Ongoing
JCVA Editorial	Several members of the SCA ERACS subcommittee were invited to contribute as authors on a recent JCVA editorial regarding the newly published STS/ERAS expert consensus document on perioperative care for cardiac surgery [https://doi.org/10.1053/j.jvca.2024.06.025]	Complete

SUMMARY OF GROUP MEETINGS

Date	Action Items from Meeting
November 13, 2023	Virtual meeting with members of RACER-SIG to discuss ideas for topics for recorded presentations for the SCA University.
February 27, 2024	Virtual meeting with members of ERATS to discuss final plans around the content, distribution, and eventual analysis of survey results from the ERACS/ERATS SCA–ASA membership survey.
March 15, 2024	Virtual committee meeting was cancelled due to unexpected technical issues. Email was sent to ERACS subcommittee with update on activities and plan for fall meeting (to be held in the near future). Topics to be discussed at fall meeting will be 1) review of survey results, 2) group discussion around session proposals for future SCA meetings and 3) ideas for other projects (potential for collaboration with ERAS Cardiac Society).

Summary of Group Project or Activities – Posted June 2024

Name of Project or Activity	Description	Project Status (New, Ongoing, Complete, Near Completion, Long Term, Abandoned)
SCA University recorded talks	In collaboration with RACERSIG, we are developing 4 talks for the SCA-U.	Ongoing
ERACS/ERATS Survey	Survey of SCA and ASA members regarding their personal and institutional ERAS practices.	Ongoing- survey complete and being sent out to both memberships in April.

Summary of Group Meetings – Posted June 2024

Type of Group Meeting	Date	Action Items from Meeting
Zoom call	June 28, 2023	Consider topics for SCA-U Respond to SCA Research Committee comments on survey and revise survey
Zoom call	Nov 2, 2023	Discussed collaborative plans for SCA-U talks
Zoom call	March 15, 2024	Schedule meeting before summer to review benchmarks and discuss plans

POSTED NOVEMBER 2023

Summary of Group Meeting 1 - Date: Wednesday June 28, 2023

- Welcomed new sub-committee members.
- Reviewed current status of ERACS/ERATS SCA members survey.
 - o Survey was reviewed by the SCA Research Committee. Edits were requested.
 - o ERACS sub-committee members involved in the original creation of the survey (including individuals no longer on the ERACS sub-committee) will be given first opportunity to continue participating in revisions, survey results analysis, and manuscript.
 - o Will coordinate with ERATS members for their input on revisions.
 - o There was continued interest in sending survey to ASA members as well. Paper work for formal request to be sent to the ASA.
- Reviewed recorded presentations by ERACS Sub-committee members for the SCA University. Will plan to coordinate production of 4-5 new presentations as a priority project for this year.

COLLABORATION

- SCA ERATS Sub-committee and ASA for survey mentioned above.
- SCA University for presentations as mentioned above.

FUTURE PROJECTS

- 1) Production of 4-5 new presentations for SCA University
- 2) Group discussion on potential enhanced recovery topic(s) for a group-authored review article.
- 3) Session for SCA Annual Meeting has been submitted.

POSTED JUNE 2023

Summary of Group Meeting 1 - June 14th, 2022

Majority of discussion focused on recruitment of volunteers and description for developing lecture series content for the SCA University that outlines the scope and broad introduction to the ERACS concept for the SCA membership. Plan to work toward videotaping in the coming months. Identified multiple volunteers and began to flesh out next steps in realizing the project, including timelines and deliverable(s).

Summary of Group Meeting 2 - Multiple, small group from August – December

Review of content and duration of various lectures. Approval and strategy for videotaping. Additional small group meetings re: other collaborations. Correspondence with ERATS Subcommittee re: survey.

COLLABORATION

- a. Collaboration between the Blood Conservation Subcommittee to develop/publish a practice advisory on preoperative anemia optimization for cardiac surgery (Under Review).
- b. Collaboration with Opioid Minimization Working Group to develop/publish a consensus statement regarding perioperative pain management (3 Parts, all Under Review).
- c. Collaboration ERACS and ERATS Subcommittees to develop a survey for the SCA and ASA membership to determine current practice and general understanding of key ERAS components (Survey Completed)
- d. Multiple part lecture series (5 lectures) developed as part of the SCA University; each 15-20 minutes duration (Completed, available on the website).

FUTURE PROJECTS

Additional lectures with more granularity on specific topics within the ERACS umbrella.

POSTED NOVEMBER 2022

Summary of Group Meeting 1: March 16th, 2022

- Members in Attendance: see attached minutes
- Summary of Discussion: Discussed survey, a joint collaboration with ERATS working group. Emily Teeter was in attendance, as was Wanda Popescu, to reiterate the joint work. Provided updates re: ongoing projects. Discussed educational content at length. For remainder of discussion, please see attached minutes.

Summary of Group Meeting 2: June 14th, 2022

- Members in Attendance: see attached minutes
- Summary of Discussion: Majority of discussion focused on recruitment of volunteers and description for developing lecture series content for the SCA University that outlines the scope and broad introduction to the ERACS concept for the SCA membership. Plan to work toward videotaping in the coming months. Identified multiple volunteers and began to flesh out next steps in realizing the project, including timelines and deliverable(s).

COLLABORATION

- a. Collaboration between the Blood Conservation Subcommittee to develop/publish a practice advisory on preoperative anemia optimization for cardiac surgery.
- b. Collaboration with Opioid Minimization Working Group to develop/publish a consensus statement regarding perioperative pain management (work currently under review for publication).
- c. Collaboration ERACS and ERATS Subcommittees to develop a survey for the SCA and ASA membership to determine current practice and general understanding of key ERAS components.

POSTED JUNE 2022

Summary of Group Meeting 1:

- September 29th, 2021
- Discussed opportunities for engagement in other societies as experts, particularly for presentations/lectures. We discussed ongoing projects, including scope of practice, blood utilization (collaboration with Blood Management subcommittee), survey (collaboration with ERATS subcommittee) and pain management (opioid working group) projects. We brainstormed for education outreach, including web-based platform (SCA website) and partnering with ERATS subcommittee for education specific content.

Summary of Group Meeting 2:

- March 16th, 2022
- Discussed survey, a joint collaboration with ERATS working group. Emily Teeter was in attendance, as was Wanda Popescu, to reiterate the joint work. Provided updates re: ongoing projects. Discussed educational content at length. For remainder of discussion, please see attached minutes.

COLLABORATION

- d. Collaboration between the Blood Conservation Subcommittee to develop/publish a practice advisory on preoperative anemia optimization for cardiac surgery (discussed further in Future Projects section).
- e. Collaboration ERACS and ERATS Subcommittees to develop a survey for the SCA and ASA membership to determine current practice and general understanding of key ERAS components.

POSTED OCTOBER 2021

Summary of Group Meeting 1: January 12th, 2021

- Members in Attendance: Michael Grant - Chair, Alexander Gregory – Vice Chair, Hilary Grocott, Heather Hayanga, Stephanie Ibekwe, Srdjan Jelacic, Jerrold Levy, Darian Rice, Andrew Shaw
- Action1: Identify two working group projects (SCA Survey & Scope of Practice Document; described further in the Future Projects section) and divide up, meet separately in small groups with small group leaders defined, and work over the course the coming year on deliverable.
- Action 2: Identify a subset of this working group to collaborate with the Blood Conservation Subcommittee to develop a formal set of guidelines re: preoperative anemia.

Summary of Group Meeting 2: Date: June 9th, 2021

- Members in Attendance: Michael Grant - Chair, Alexander Gregory – Vice Chair, Hilary Grocott, Stephanie Ibekwe, Srdjan Jelacic, Jerrold Levy, Darian Rice, Andrew Shaw
- Introduction of New ERACS Working Group Members – request to provide areas of personal/professional expertise to establish repository of member-specific expertise. Aides when considering invites for collaboration, presentations, etc. in future.
- Discussion of committee re-alignment in SCA, provided outline of current organizational chart
- Updates from two group projects (SCA Survey & Scope of Practice Documents), recruitment of new members to participate in these projects. Each has met separately in focused fashion to move along their efforts.
- Discussion of working with SCA newsletter to develop an ERACS corner for relevant updates/highlight literature, etc. More to come on this effort.

COLLABORATION

Collaboration between the Blood Conservation Subcommittee to develop/publish a practice advisory on preoperative anemia optimization for cardiac surgery (discussed further in Future Projects section).

FUTURE PROJECTS

Project 1: SCA Enhanced Recovery Survey

Using a prior template provided by those who have performed similar surveys in the past, we would like to design, construct and complete a survey of SCA membership to determine the current collective understanding of the definition, scope and impact of ERAS for cardiac surgery. In addition, it will provide some guidance on future education, research and collaboration as it pertains to ERAS for cardiac surgery. This is intended to be an IRB approved study with formal manuscript for publication.

Project 2: Preoperative Anemia Optimization (co-sponsored by Blood Utilization Subcommittee)

In collaboration with the Blood Utilization / Transfusion subcommittee, chaired by Jacob Raphael (also a member of the ERACS subcommittee), we hope to organize a consensus statement to provide guidance re: best practices for preoperative anemia optimization, including strategies, team building, infrastructure and more. Recognition provided to the fact that similar documents may exist or are pending from other societies/organizations, the scope of this document may be tailored slightly in scope.

Project 3: Cardiac Anesthesiologist Scope of Practice in ERACS

This is a proposed early priority for the subcommittee. The team would put together a statement regarding the expertise, skillset and scope necessary to successfully participate in an ERAS for cardiac surgical program. Relevant topics include facile understanding of multimodal analgesia, transesophageal echo, point of care ultrasound, regional technique and more. At end, although there would be primary authorship, the final document would ultimately be signed/approved by the entire subcommittee as part of a working group.

Project 4: SCA Newsletter ERACS Corner

Work to develop a subsection of the SCA newsletter dedicated to a relevant ERACS topic or highlight new literature. Plan to meet with the Newsletter Committee to introduce the idea.

Project 5: 5x5 Webinar Series

In order to enhance education for SCA and provide content for the website, outline plan to develop a 5x5 (5 slides in 5 minutes) series on relevant topics of interest to the clinician. Modelled off the 8x8 series offered by the STS – truncated series to be optimal for the everyday provider. Will plan to solicit formal ideas/sign up for presentations at subsequent meetings.

POSTED JUNE 2021

Three projects are earmarked for the coming year, itemized below with descriptions:

Project 1: SCA Enhanced Recovery Survey

Using a prior template provided by those who have performed similar surveys in the past, we would like to design, construct and complete a survey of SCA membership to determine the current collective understanding of the definition, scope and impact of ERAS for cardiac surgery. In addition, it will provide some guidance on future education, research and collaboration as it pertains to ERAS for cardiac surgery. This is intended to be an IRB approved study with formal manuscript for publication. Time course - approximately 12-18 months.

Project 2: Preoperative Anemia Optimization (co-sponsored by Blood Utilization Subcommittee)

In collaboration with the Blood Utilization / Transfusion subcommittee, chaired by Jacob Raphael (also a member of the ERACS subcommittee), we hope to organize a consensus statement to provide guidance re: best practices for preoperative anemia optimization, including strategies, team building, infrastructure and more. Recognition provided to the fact that similar documents may exist or are pending from other societies/organizations, the scope of this document may be tailored slightly in scope. Time course - approximately 18 months.

Project 3: Cardiac Anesthesiologist Scope of Practice in ERACS

This is a proposed early priority for the subcommittee. The team would put together a statement regarding the expertise, skillset and scope necessary to successfully participate in an ERAS for cardiac surgical program. Relevant topics include facile understanding of multimodal analgesia, transesophageal echo, point of care ultrasound, regional technique and more. At end, although there would be primary authorship, the final document would ultimately be signed/approved by the entire subcommittee as part of a working group. Time course - approximately 6-9 months.