

NEWS FROM THE THORACIC ANESTHESIA SYMPOSIUM (TAS) PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF GROUP PROJECT OR ACTIVITIES – POSTED JUNE 2025

Name of Project or Activity	Description	Status
TAS 2025 Planning	Ongoing meetings for planning the educational program and logistics for the TAS 2025 meeting	Ongoing

SUMMARY OF GROUP MEETINGS

Date	Action Items from Meeting
10/9/2024	Monthly planning committee meeting – Discussed TAS 2025 educational program and faculty candidates, status of workshop equipment procurement, status of potential industry sponsorship, opening call for abstracts in December
11/21/2024	Monthly planning committee meeting – Discussed ongoing efforts to finalize TAS 2025 educational program and faculty including difficulties with EACTA liaison, status of industry sponsorship, timeline for abstract review
12/13/2024	Monthly planning committee meeting – Discussed TAS 2025 program, industry sponsorship, replacement speakers for those who declined initial invitation
1/16/2025	Monthly planning committee meeting – Discussed TAS 2025 program, lack of industry sponsorship despite approaching multiple companies, moderator criteria, workshop equipment finalization, TAS 2025 promotional materials
2/4/2025	Monthly planning committee meeting – Discussed TAS 2025 program, re-engaging DocMatter as a platform to promote TAS, call for proposals for 2026, potential changes to SCA-AM and TAS meeting dates starting in 2026

COMMITTEE BENCHMARKS

1. Develop a program for TAS 2025 that is responsive to participant (2024 meeting) feedback and that aims to a) present topics of interest to practitioners of thoracic anesthesia, including innovations in the field, and b) is presented by experts in the field.

The TAS Program planning committee has been diligently working to create an education program for the 2025 meeting. Based on feedback from participants in 2024, we have reduced the number of available workshop options from 4 to 3 (still have 3 workshop time slots in the program) and revamped the Lung Ultrasound workshop to a POCUS for Thoracic workshop, to include not only lung ultrasound but also cardiac POCUS, gastric ultrasound, and more. We have incorporated new and emerging topics in the field to our educational program while also maintaining bread and butter topics of interest to the general thoracic practitioner. Finally, we have incorporated a global perspectives session (based on keen interest in a similar talk from the 2024 program) and two EACTA faculty speakers.

2. Expand TAS size and practitioner engagement via social media, e.g., DocMatter Thoracic Channel (DLT Exchange), Twitter, LinkedIn, etc

While engagement was high on the DocMatter Thoracic channel last year, our liaison at DocMatter left his position over the summer and his replacement was completely unreachable until just recently. As such, our DocMatter channel has not been active to promote the meeting. We continue to engage our committee members to promote the meeting on personal social media, are working with Veritas on social media announcements, and have plans to reengage regularly and with hopefully more bilateral engagement with the DocMatter Thoracic Channel following the 2025 meeting.

3. Within the constraints of the 2025 meeting venue and SCA budget, continue to update Workshop and PBLD offerings to best reflect clinical interests and needs of attendees and technologic and scientific developments in the field

See above response to benchmark #1 in terms of our modifications to the 2025 program in response to attendee feedback and to best reflect clinical interest and scientific development in the field.

SUMMARY OF GROUP PROJECT OR ACTIVITIES – POSTED DECEMBER 2024

Name of Project or Activity	Description	Project Status
TAS 2025 Planning	Debriefing TAS 2024 meeting and planning program/speakers/faculty/industry sponsorship for TAS 2025 meeting	Ongoing

SUMMARY OF GROUP MEETINGS

Date	Action Items from Meeting
4/27/2024	On-site TAS full planning committee meeting – preliminary debrief of TAS 2024 and preliminary planning for program of TAS 2025
5/29/2024	Meeting between TAS executive committee members and Veritas staff to debrief TAS 2024 meeting – need for tighter communication, earlier planning of program/speakers to address speaker disclosures
6/29/2024	Monthly TAS 2025 program planning committee meeting – debriefing TAS 2024 workshops with plan to revamp/consolidate workshops based on feedback
7/30/2024	Monthly TAS 2025 program planning committee meeting – ongoing planning for TAS 2025 program and speaker/faculty list
8/15/2024	Monthly TAS 2025 program planning committee meeting – ongoing planning for TAS 2025 program and speaker/faculty list with deadline of early-mid September for final speaker list so Veritas can send invites/disclosure forms
9/12/2024	Monthly TAS 2025 program planning committee meeting – ongoing planning for TAS 2025 program and speaker/faculty list, delay due to waiting for EACTA to submit speaker suggestions; program to be finalized within 1 week; abstract submission solicitation sent by Veritas with updated deadline of 12/2/2024 to match SCA; finalization of industry prospectus and lead provided by committee member – Veritas to begin soliciting industry sponsorship

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)
Activity 1	TAS 2024 planning	Near completion
Activity 2	TAS participation in EACTA 2024	Submitted proposal; planning contribution; ongoing
Activity 3	SCA University	Contributing sessions; ongoing
Activity 4	DocMatter channel	Planned/executed structured monthly posts which engage membership, stimulate discussion and encourage attendance; ongoing

Summary of Group Meetings – Posted June 2024

Type of Group Meeting (examples below)	Date	Action Items from Meeting
Zoom call	Monthly May 2023 – February 2024	Numerous – related to organization of TAS 2024, evaluation of TAS 2023, Program drafting and speaker selection. Also coordination with AATS for AATS faculty participation, updating of workshops and PBLDs.

POSTED NOVEMBER 2023

Requests for Board of Directors Approval

- Action / Request 1: We request approval for the cost of reconditioning and modifying previously purchased phantom models from colleagues at University of Toronto. These models were purchased with Board approval for TAS 2023 and were of significant educational value in the workshops. Models will likely need to be reconditioned after each Symposium (as previously anticipated), though additional modifications (which are based on our experience with

the models this year and designed to improve the educational experience, e.g. additional muscle layers) are not likely to be required after 2024.

- Action / Request 2: We request Board input regarding a potential collaboration with the AATS for TAS 2024. Given the proximity of both meetings in time and space, we feel a collaboration would be beneficial for both parties. Initial conversations have confirmed an interest on the part of AATS for mutual contributions – potentially including lectures, and involvement in workshops and/or as session moderators.

Summary of Group Meeting 1: July 18, 2023

- Discussion focused on early organizational issues relating to TAS 2024 including an enhanced approach to soliciting corporate support, workshop and PBLD logistics, formulating a novel and exciting program, possible collaboration with the AATS.

Summary of Group Meeting 2: August 18, 2023

- Ongoing discussion of topics from July meeting including an emphasis on corporate support with Tara Luczak (Veritas), finalizing TAS 2024 program draft, and space and logistic considerations for the Workshops and PBLDs.

POSTED JUNE 2023

To maintain the line of succession in the TAS leadership, I would like to nominate Dr. Archer Martin to join the TAS leadership as the new Coordinator for PBLDs and Workshops. If approved, Dr. Martin would join the leadership track in May 2024.

We have re-designed the workshops to improve the educational experience for attendees and to provide novel approaches to a number of these techniques and procedures.

With Board approval and funding, we are purchasing additional workshop equipment. These will enhance the workshop experience by incorporating common anatomic abnormalities encountered by anesthesiologists which may complicate these procedures.

We have implemented the SCA AM process of open invitation and selection by committee for the TAS PBLDs in order to optimize quality of these discussions, create novelty, and to provide equitable access to qualified SCA member applicants.

For the 2023 TAS, 4 commercial entities have committed to sponsorship at various levels. Mr. Van Wie is working with a number of other companies to solicit additional support.

We organized a TAS session at the EACTAIC meeting in Naples, Italy in December, 2022. This session included a TAS moderator and 4 TAS speakers.

We have begun planning for both TAS 2024 and TAS for SCA 2024 sessions.

COLLABORATION

* We continue to maintain a collaborative relationship between the TAS and the EACTAIC, a collaboration which includes ongoing mutual roles in TAS and EACTAIC meetings, including the recent past EACTAIC meeting in December and the upcoming 2023 TAS.

* TAS leadership has collaborated with the ERATS Working Group to provide educational lecture materials to SCA members. Ongoing collaborative efforts include contributions to the combined ERACS/ERATS Survey which is currently under review and planning for additional research efforts.

* TAS faculty has contributed to the SCA University and is currently working on the 2023 material.

POSTED NOVEMBER 2022

The TAS Planning Committee has focused on meeting the following goals:

- 1) Planning the education program for TAS 2023: The program has been designed, invitations for moderators, speakers and workshop instructors have been sent. Most positions for this program have been successfully filled; we have transitioned individual workshop coordinators to their successors, who will be mentored.
- 2) To improve the workshop experience for attendees as well as to decrease costs and uncertainties associated with procuring workshop equipment: We are currently planning an alternative approach to workshop equipment utilizing 3D printed models which will be reusable and we believe, more economical, than commercially available models. Potential models include those for airway and lung isolation, critical procedures and regional anesthesia workshops; cost estimates for production and shipping of these models are included in the attachment.
- 3) To revise and update selected workshop stations in an effort to continue to improve and advance those educational venues and to maintain novelty for attendees.
- 4) To revise the PBLD selection process to optimize quality as well as access to qualified SCA members: we have invited PBLD submissions from the SCA membership and have reviewed these proposals. Additionally, we have reviewed evaluations from TAS 2022 PBLDs and will choose 6 PBLDs based on reviews.
- 5) To identify candidate commercial sponsors. We are working with Veritas staff to gain committed sponsorship for TAS 2023. Plans include working with Mr. Van Wie to coordinate corporate sponsorship as well as other corporate functions including exhibits and equipment loans.
- 6) To promote broader institutional diversity in the 2023 program. We have incorporated junior members of the Planning Committee into junior moderating positions and focused on institutional diversity in all aspects of the program.
- 7) We have organized a TAS session at the EACTAIC meeting in Naples, Italy scheduled for December 2022. This session will be represented by a TAS moderator and 4 TAS lecturers.

COLLABORATION

- 1) EACTAIC: We have maintained a collaborative relationship between TAS and the EACTAIC which was established previously. This unofficial collaboration includes ongoing mutual roles in TAS and EACTAIC meetings.
- 2) STS Database: We have maintained an ongoing collaboration (including Wanda Popescu and Alessia Pedoto) with the STS Thoracic Database organization in an effort to incorporate salient anesthesia related questions into that database/dataset.
- 3) We have, in collaboration with Emily Teeter (Chair, ERATS Working Group) provided educational lecture materials to be provided to SCA members.

FUTURE PROJECTS

- 1) We are currently evaluating the feasibility of working with an additional corporate sponsor to utilize proprietary technology to enhance the Regional Anesthesia workshop. Briefly, 3D holographic images available to the workshop

attendee via a wearable device may be used to enhance spatial perception and successful needle placement in a model representing abnormal anatomic features such as scoliosis.

POSTED JUNE 2022

Summary of Group Meeting 1: Monthly meetings since the 2021 virtual symposium

- Action1: After discussion and approval of the scientific program for 2022 TAS by the planning committee members, all the speakers were chosen, invited and confirmed.
- Action 2: Three speakers withdrew. Two were replaced with the appropriate substitutes.
- Action 2: Abstracts, PBLDs and workshops were finalized. All the equipment is being collected.
- Action 3: Update on the On-line learning and Twitter handle discussed.
- Action 4: Budget and compensation were discussed during the initial meeting.

Summary of Group Meeting 2:

- Date: Monthly ongoing meetings with TAS chairs and Veritas staff
- Weekly/monthly updates with TAS chairs.
- Monthly updates with SCA chairs and other education committees (TAS, DEI, Online education, Social media)
- Updates and communication between the PBLD and workshop coordinator and workshop / PBLD faculty as needed.

DESCRIPTION & GOALS

TAS has focused on meeting the goals set at the end of the 2021 meeting. Specifically:

1. Use of the same timeline for SCA annual meeting planning.
2. Increase the presence and contribution of junior faculty as speakers after a “trial” of their skills and performance during the PBLDs and workshop session.
3. Increase in workshops number to accommodate participant’s feedback.
4. Increase in the workshop faculty numbers to be able to deliver a more effective hands-on experience.
5. Transition of the individual workshop coordinators to their successors, to be mentored during the 2022 meeting.
6. Partnership with SCA on Saturday for the ECMO/VAD/device workshop for TAS participants and TAS PBLDs for the SCA attendees.
7. Vendor support evaluated by Veritas. Updated list of interested parties has been provided to Veritas.
8. Marketing material reviewed and finalized by Veritas.
9. Sponsored lunch secured by Veritas
10. Participation with SCA AM mentorship program for the interested TAS attendees

COLLABORATION

1. SCA CME
2. Online Education Committee and Twitter.
3. European Society of Cardiothoracic Anesthesia and Intensive Care (EACTAIC).
4. Regional Anesthesia for Cardiothoracic Enhanced Recovery
5. STS database

FUTURE PROJECTS

TAS has several projects for the future, some of which started in 2020:

1. TAS has paired with SCA in pursuing the presence and educational footprint of the TAS in the social media arena, via **Twitter** and **on-line education** on the SCA website. Drs. Rebecca Klinger and Emily Teeter have volunteered to lead this ongoing project.
 - a. **Twitter** is being used to advertise the 2022 hybrid TAS. New and old alumni have been encouraged to share posts and advertise for the meeting.

- b. The ERATS committee for the SCA, chaired by Dr. Teeter, organized an **on-line educational session** dedicated to thoracic anesthesia, with a special focus on TAS. All the talks were recorded, and Veritas is doing the final editing prior to go live.
 - c. Some of the material recorded during the virtual 2021 TAS has been edited and made available for members education.
- 2. TAS is planning to build **mentorship** to junior thoracic anesthesiologists, anesthesia residents interested in thoracic anesthesia and cardiac fellows. This project will take place in different formats
 - a. At the annual meeting, TAS will be an active participant of the **SCA annual meeting mentor-mentee session**. TAS attendees will be offered the option to participate in the session, in addition to the original number of SCA attendees. This was discussed with Drs. Brakke, Neelankavil, and Shillcutt and was unanimously approved.
 - b. Junior TAS faculty were involved in the **online education** session planned by the ERATS committee, with the mentorship of senior members.
- 3. **Targeted advertising** to both the academic and private practice anesthesiologists has been a yearly challenge. TAS is still exploring with Veritas the best venues to accomplish this goal, with a specific focus on private practice providers. The use of social media has been proposed to achieve this goal.
 - a. The increase use of Twitter and Linked in has increased TAS visibility. We are planning to continue its use. The social media tool site on the SCA web page has been a very useful source.
 - b. The ERATS committee is planning to keep the TAS webpage up to date and add educational material.
- 4. TAS and **EACTAIC** have formalized their relationship in 2020, with formal speakers appointed by the 2 groups for their specific meetings. TAS speakers were selected to be included in the thoracic sessions of the 2021 virtual EACTAIC conference. EACTAIC speaker have been incorporated in the 2022 program.
- 5. To improve its research potential, TAS has started a collaboration with the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) to expand the **STS Thoracic Surgery Database** to include several anesthetic and perioperative variables. This would be comparable to the SCA contribution in the adult STS Cardiac Surgery Database. This project has been discussed at the last April Board of Directors meeting and approved.
 - a. After several meetings and a draft of the questions, the planning committee members have contributed to expand/revise the material. The final questionnaire is being assembled to be returned to Dr Kertai.

POSTED OCTOBER 2021

Board Request Action / Request 1: Guidelines for online education collaboration between TAS and the EACTAIC thoracic subcommittee. In support of the SCA mission to increase its international presence, TAS and the thoracic subcommittee of the EACTAIC started planning an online webinar for December 2021. Currently, we are waiting for advice from the Board of Directors with regards to CME accreditation, industry presence and costs. Dr. Mittnach (as the chair of the international committee) and Dr. Hargrove (chair of the online education committee) have been contacted and are aware of this project.

Board Request Action / Request 2: Dr Emily Teeter's appointment to the position of workshop – PBLD coordinator, beginning in 2022, replacing Dr. Rebecca Klinger. We hope the Board of Directors accepts our recommendation.

Board Request Action / Request 3: Guidelines for the use of some of the recorded material from 2021 TAS for online education. The online component of TAS is focusing on updating the SCA webpage dedicated to TAS. Specifically, TAS is asking for advice from the Board of Directors with regards to use the ultrasound regional and lung workshops and some of the lectures.

Summary of Group Meeting

Action1: The scientific program for 2022 TAS was discussed and voted at the end of the virtual annual meeting (June 2021) in the presence of all the planning committee members; Action 2: Abstracts, PBLDs and workshops voted and finalized; Action 3: Update on the On-line learning and Twitter handle discussed; Action 4: Budget and compensation to be discussed at next meeting; Action 5: Microsoft Teams for communication among members was created.

DESCRIPTION & GOALS

TAS has focused on meeting the goals set at the end of the 2020 meeting. Specifically:

Use of the same timeline for SCA annual meeting planning.

11. The invitations to speakers, moderators and workshop coordinators have been sent. We are currently awaiting final responses and planning replacements for those who have declined.
12. Increase the presence and contribution of junior faculty as speakers after a “trial” of their skills and performance during the PBLDs and workshop session.
13. The abstract site will open on September 7th and will close on November 4th according to the suggested timeline.
14. Workshop number increased to accommodate participants feedbacks.
15. Increase in the workshop faculty numbers to be able to deliver a more effective hands-on experience.
16. Transition of the individual workshop coordinators to their successors, to be mentored during the 2022 meeting.
17. Partnership with SCA on Saturday for the ECMO/VAD/device workshop for TAS participants and TAS PBLDs for SCA members.
18. Vendor support evaluated by Veritas. Updated list of interested parties has been provided to Veritas.
19. Marketing material reviewed.
20. Sponsored lunch and dinner are being investigated by Veritas

COLLABORATION

6. SCA CME; Online Education Committee and Twitter; European Society of Cardiothoracic Anesthesia and Intensive Care (EACTAIC); Regional Anesthesia for Cardiothoracic Enhanced Recovery ; STS database

FUTURE PROJECTS

TAS has several projects for the future, some of which started in 2020:

6. TAS has paired with SCA in pursuing the presence and educational footprint of the TAS in the social media arena, via Twitter and on-line education on the SCA website. Drs. Rebecca Klinger and Emily Teeter have volunteered to lead this project
 - a. Twitter was used to advertise the 2020 virtual TAS with good success. New and old alumni were encouraged to share posts and advertise for the meeting. We are planning to continue using this tool to promote TAS and the 2022 conference.
 - b. The ERATS committee for the SCA, chaired by Dr. Teeter, is currently organizing an on-line educational session dedicated to thoracic anesthesia, with a special focus on TAS. In the last August meeting, a list of topics was discussed and finalized. The details on format, date, duration and speakers were sent out, with the instructions for the recordings. The possibility of using some of the material recorded during the virtual 2021 TAS has been suggested and awaiting feedbacks from the board (via Veritas). Specifically, the use of the recorded regional and lung US workshops is deemed of interest.
7. TAS is planning to build mentorship to junior thoracic anesthesiologists, anesthesia residents interested in thoracic anesthesia and cardiac fellows. This project will take place in different formats
 - a. At the annual meeting, TAS will be an active participant at the SCA annual meeting mentor-mentee session. TAS attendees will be offered the option to participate in the session, expanding the numbers of attendees. This was discussed with Drs. Brakke, Neelankavil, and Shillcutt and was approved.
 - b. Junior TAS faculty are being involved in the online education session planned by the ERATS committee, with the mentorship of senior members. The ultimate goal is to expand the participation of junior faculty in the annual meeting and potentially in the international webinars.

8. Targeted advertising to both the academic and private practice anesthesiologists has been a yearly challenge. TAS is still exploring with Veritas the best venues to accomplish this goal, with a specific focus on private practice providers. The use of social media has been proposed to achieve this goal.
 - a. The increased use of Twitter and Linked in has increased TAS visibility. We are planning to continue its use. The social media site on the SCA web page has been a very useful guide.
 - b. The ERATS committee is planning to keep the TAS webpage up to date and add educational material.
9. TAS and EACTAIC have formalized their relationship in 2020, with formal speakers appointed by the 2 groups for their specific meetings. TAS speakers were selected to be included in the thoracic sessions of the 2021 virtual EACTAIC conference. Currently, TAS and EACTAIC are working on the first webinar.
10. To improve its research potential, TAS has started a collaboration with the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) to expand the STS Thoracic Surgery Database to include several anesthetic and perioperative variables. This would be comparable to the SCA contribution in the adult STS Cardiac Surgery Database. This project has been discussed at the last April Board of Directors meeting and approved.
 - a. After several meetings and a draft of the questions, the planning committee members have contributed to expand/revise the material. The final questionnaire is being assembled to be returned to Dr Kertai.

POSTED JUNE 2021

The TAS Program Planning Committee has several future projects and goals under consideration.

- Promoting the meeting on social media, lead by Drs. Rebecca Klinger and Emily Teeter.
- Increase participation from both academic and private practice physicians.
- To improve its research potential, TAS is investigating the possibility of collaborating with the SCA and the STS to expand the STS Cardiac Surgery Database.
- Continue to broaden TAS' international presence, with the goal of a formalized collaboration with EACTIAC.
- Explore the possibility of adding a mentor/mentee at TAS.