

THE **AAC** NESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT

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Case Western Reserve University
Master of Science in Anesthesia (MSA) Program

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TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE EDUCATIONALLY INNOVATIVE ALWAYS THE BEST

MSA Highlights

Thank You to our Applicants: We would like to thank this year's applicants for their interest in the MSA Program in Cleveland, Houston and Washington, D.C.

We are happy that you recognize the quality of our program and the exciting opportunities available at Case Western Reserve University. Our admissions committee feels privileged to have read your applications and learned about your achievements, talents and goals. Thank you also to our students, staff, and instructors for assisting us during the applicant interview process.

Student Body Attending AAAA Conference: From April 21st through the 24th, our entire student body from both Cleveland and Houston, 75 students in all, will be in San Antonio, Texas, attending the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants 36th Annual Conference.

Our program continues to subsidize student participation at this conference, which offers excellent opportunities for professional growth outside the classroom.



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Celebrating First Graduating Class of MSA Houston: Case Western Reserve University will celebrate the first graduating class of its anesthesiologist assistant program in Houston on May 20, 2012.

Our student pioneers came from California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Commencement will mark the end of the students' two year journey as budding AAs, and the beginning of their careers as skillful, reflective practitioners and lifelong learners.

MSA D.C. Opens: Our Washington, D.C. program is now fully accredited, and we look forward to welcoming its inaugural class on May 29, 2012. The D.C. program is located at 820 First Street, NE, and is housed within the CNN Building in the NoMa district.



SPOTLIGHT ON MODERATE SEDATION

Ronald Cechner, PhD

What is sedation and what are the “levels”?

The basic goal of sedation is to relieve anxiety and pain, producing a comfortable, cooperative patient.

The hierarchy of sedation is represented as a continuum of stages as follows:

1. **Minimal Sedation (Anxiolysis):** a drug-induced state during which patients respond normally to verbal commands. Although cognitive function and coordination may be impaired, ventilatory and cardiovascular functions are unaffected.

2. **Moderate Sedation/Analgesia (Conscious Sedation):** a drug-induced depression of consciousness during which patients respond purposefully to verbal commands, either alone or after light tactile stimulation. No interventions are required to maintain a patent airway, and spontaneous ventilation is adequate. Cardiovascular function is maintained.

3. **Deep Sedation/Analgesia:** a drug-induced depression of consciousness during which patients respond purposefully, following repeated or painful stimulation. The ability to independently maintain ventilatory function may be impaired. Patients may require assistance in maintaining a patent airway, and spontaneous ventilation may be inadequate. Cardiovascular function is usually maintained.

4. **General Anesthesia:** A drug-induced loss of consciousness during which patients are not arousable, even by painful stimulation. The ability to independently maintain ventilatory function is often impaired. Patients often require assistance in maintaining a patent airway, and positive pressure ventilation may be required because of depressed spontaneous ventilation or drug-induced depression of neuromuscular function. Cardiovascular function might be impaired.

Moderate Sedation: What are its goals?

The goal of moderate sedation is to administer sedative medications in order to relieve anxiety and pain, producing a comfortable, cooperative patient. During moderate sedation the patient is sedated but is able to respond to verbal stimuli. With this depth of sedation, protective reflexes including airway and respiration are usually preserved.

Moderate sedation can provide many of the advantages of general anesthesia—amnesia, analgesia and absence of movement. (Continued on next page)

The Experts

Moderate Sedation in Anesthesiology:

Ronald Cechner, PhD

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Dr. Cechner is Technical Director of the Department of Anesthesiology's anesthesia simulation laboratory, and provides moderate sedation training to University Hospitals physicians. In addition to attending physicians, he occasionally provides this training for Fellows practicing in various departments, and PACU and ICU nurses.

His goal is to train personnel in safe, effective sedation and to keep them updated on current issues related to the sedation of adult patients.



Moderate Sedation in Dentistry:

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Dr. Montagnese has been on the faculty of Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine since 1997, where he is an Assistant Professor in the Graduate Endodontic Program. Dr. Montagnese received his training in intravenous sedation from Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton Ohio in 1997 and is one of the few endodontists in the United States who is trained and permitted to provide intravenous sedation.

Montagnese, Thomas A. "Why intravenous moderate sedation should be taught in graduate endodontic programs." *Journal of Dental Education* 76.3 (2012): 288-290.

