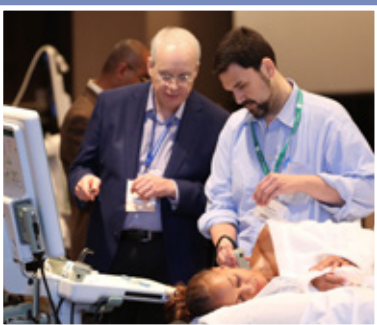




American Society of  
Regional Anesthesia  
(ASRA) Pain Medicine

# 100 YEARS

of Regional Anesthesia  
and Pain Medicine



APRIL 22, 2023 | HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

# ASRA Pain Medicine Is...



# Welcome to Our Saturday Celebration Event!

Tonight we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the first ASRA by Dr. Louis Gaston Labat and his colleagues. Our formal dinner brings together descendants of Dr. Labat, honored guests, and society members for a historic, once-in-a-lifetime gathering.

## Table of Contents

ASRA Pain Medicine Timeline .....	2-7
ASRA Pain Medicine Presidents .....	5
What Does ASRA Pain Medicine Mean to You?.....	6-9
Gaston Labat Award Recipients.....	8
Editors in Chief, <i>Regional Anesthesia &amp; Pain Medicine</i> .....	8
Thank You for Your Support .....	9





ASRA Pain  
Medicine  
Timeline



1884

Carl Koller, an ophthalmologist in Vienna, first uses cocaine for surgical (local) anesthesia. William Stewart Halsted and Richard Hall, surgeons in New York, pioneer regional (nerve block) techniques.

1889

August Bier, a German surgeon, develops neuraxial (spinal) anesthesia.

1920

Louis Gaston Labat works as an assistant to the famous Parisian surgeon Victor Pauchet and co-authors his textbook on regional anesthesia.

1922

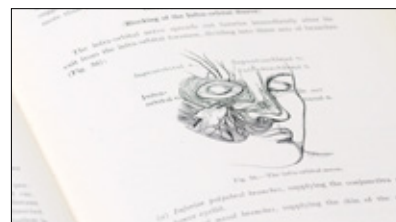
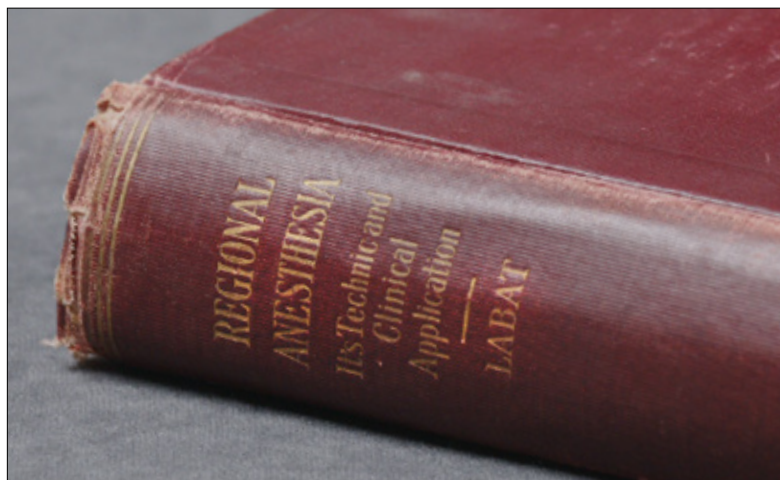
Labat publishes the first comprehensive textbook on regional anesthesia in the United States.

DR. LOUIS GASTON LABAT

1876 – 1934



FOUNDER  
of the  
ORIGINAL  
ASRA



While at Mayo Clinic, Labat wrote the landmark *Regional Anesthesia: Its Technic and Clinical Application*, published in 1922. With the medical community's interest growing in regional anesthesia, Labat co-founded the American Society of Regional Anesthesia. (Below: Labat's inscription of the book to William J. Mayo.)

Considered by many to be the “father” of regional anesthesia and pain medicine in North America,

Dr. Louis Gaston Labat was born in 1876 in Seychelles. He grew up on Mauritius and graduated with honors in 1894 from the Royal College there. Labat went on to study medicine with French surgery professor Victor Pauchet. Together, along with Paul Sourdat, they wrote the 3rd edition of *L'anesthésie régionale* (Regional Anesthesia), published in 1921.

At the time Labat was studying in Europe, Drs. Charles H. and



William J. Mayo were developing the first private multidisciplinary group practice in Rochester, MN. During a visit to Paris in 1920, Charles Mayo met Labat. Mayo was so impressed with Labat's skills that he invited him to come to Roch-

ester and teach surgeons about regional anesthesia.

While at Mayo Clinic, Labat wrote the landmark *Regional Anesthesia: Its Technic and Clinical Application*, published in 1922. With the medical community's interest growing in regional anesthesia, Labat co-founded the American Society of Regional Anesthesia (ASRA) in 1923. Labat advanced the field significantly over the next two decades, and new applications for analgesics were discovered.

Dr. Labat died in 1934, after an amazingly influential medical career of only 14 years.



# A BRIEF HISTORY of ASRA



## 1923

Louis Gaston Labat and his colleagues found the first American Society of Regional Anesthesia (ASRA).



## 1930

Philip Woodbridge delivers a presentation on therapeutic blocks for chronic pain at an ASRA meeting.

## 1930s

ASRA begins to emphasize pain management in its papers and meetings in addition to focusing on regional anesthesia.

## 1940

The first ASRA dissolves. Its members are invited to join the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

## 1960s

Regional anesthesia practitioners begin to feel that ASA does not completely fulfill their needs and begin to seek alternatives.



The modern-day American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine was founded in 1975. However, the original American Society of Regional Anesthesia (ASRA) was founded in 1923 by Dr. Louis Gaston Labat and colleagues. Membership was invited, for a cost of \$5. Dr. William J. Mayo was invited as an honorary member. ASRA annual meetings included the biggest

topics and experts from the day, as well as clinics at various New York-area hospitals.

The field grew rapidly during the 1920s and 1930s as new developments and techniques came to fore. When Dr. Labat died in 1934, ASRA remained an active organization under the leadership of Emery Rovenstine. However, toward the end of the 1930s as World War II came along, membership began

to dwindle. By 1940, ASRA disbanded. Its remaining funds were donated to the American Society of Anesthetists, later named the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA).

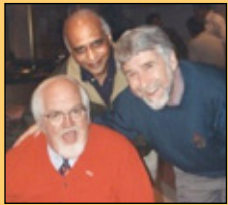
Subsequently, ASA's membership expanded significantly as physicians learned about pain and anesthesia during their military service.

*Continued*



1973

Alon P. Winnie (1932–2015), Harold Carron (1916–1991), Jordan Katz (1932–2014), and L. Donald Bridenbaugh (1923–2018) meet in a New York City hotel to discuss Winnie’s dream of a society devoted to teaching regional anesthesia.



1975

Winnie, Carron, Katz, and Bridenbaugh — along with P. Prithvi Raj (1931–2016) — found the current-day ASRA.

1976

First annual meeting of the new ASRA and inaugural publication of the society’s journal, *Regional Anesthesia*. Six months after being re-established, ASRA has more than 300 members. Winnie serves as president until 1980.



Top: Hands-on workshops have always been a key feature of ASRA Pain Medicine’s educational offerings. Bottom: The founding fathers are shown left to right: L. Donald Bridenbaugh, Harold Carron, Jordan Katz, P. Prithvi Raj, and Alon P. Winnie.

Those who returned from war and wanted to continue working in the field found many opportunities for education, research, and leadership in the ASA. Understandings of anesthesia advanced significantly. Research and scholarly activity in pain management continued to evolve as well.

Over time, regional anesthesia practitioners began to feel that ASA did not completely fulfill their needs given the exciting advancements happening in regional anesthesia. These clinicians were discovering new techniques that helped specific groups of patients, such as children and the elderly, to receive procedures that might otherwise be very challenging. The need for a new version of ASRA reemerged, leading to the



current-day American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine, founded in 1975 by Drs.

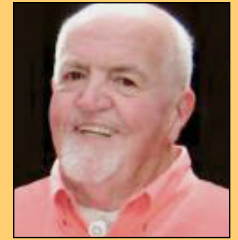
L. Donald Bridenbaugh, Harold Carron, Jordan Katz, P. Prithvi Raj, and Alon P. Winnie.

Since its “refounding,” discoveries and dissemination of techniques in regional anesthesia and pain medicine have blossomed. Many new treatments have enabled better outcomes, reduced hospital stays, and faster returns to normal function.

Today, ASRA Pain Medicine is an interdisciplinary member community, serving more than 9,000 healthcare providers, including more than 5,000 members on 6 continents. ASRA Pain Medicine provides education, research, and advocacy for all healthcare providers who care for patients throughout the entire pain continuum.

# ASRA Pain Medicine Presidents

100  
YEARS



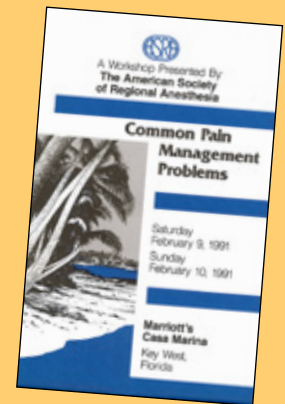
1982

Winnie urges that ASRA “must see to it that we do not again forget the heritage of the past and be forced to rediscover it repeatedly. Nor can we forget the lethal impact of allowing the society to cease in its efforts to make certain that regional anesthesia is always available to patients for whom we care.”



Top: Founding fathers and past presidents celebrate the Society’s 35th Anniversary in Toronto, Canada.  
Bottom: Past presidents include Michael Stanton-Hicks, Gale E. Thompson, David L. Brown, Terese Horlocker, and Oscar de Leon-Casasola.

1976–1980	<b>Alon P. Winnie</b>	1998–1999	<b>Brendan T. Finucane</b>
1980–1982	<b>L. Donald Bridenbaugh</b>	1999–2000	<b>David L. Brown</b>
1982–1984	<b>Harold Carron</b>	2000–2001	<b>Michael F. Mulroy</b>
1984–1986	<b>Philip R. Bromage</b>	2001–2002	<b>Lynn Broadman</b>
1986–1987	<b>P. Prithvi Raj</b>	2002–2003	<b>James C. Eisenach</b>
1987–1988	<b>Jordan Katz</b>	2003–2005	<b>Terese Horlocker</b>
1988–1989	<b>Benjamin G. Covino</b>	2005–2007	<b>Richard Rosenquist</b>
1989–1990	<b>Michael Stanton-Hicks</b>	2007–2009	<b>Michael Ferrante</b>
1990–1991	<b>Phillip O. Bridenbaugh</b>	2009–2011	<b>Vincent W. S. Chan</b>
1991–1992	<b>Gerard Ostheimer</b>	2011–2012	<b>Julie Pollock</b>
1992–1993	<b>Gale E. Thompson</b>	2012–2015	<b>Joseph M. Neal</b>
1993–1994	<b>Stephen E. Abram</b>	2015–2017	<b>Oscar de Leon-Casasola</b>
1994–1995	<b>Cosmo A. DiFazio</b>	2017–2019	<b>Asokumar Buvanendran</b>
1995–1996	<b>Manbir Batra</b>	2019–2021	<b>Eugene Viscusi</b>
1996–1997	<b>John C. Rowlingson</b>	2021–2023	<b>Samer Narouze</b>
1997–1998	<b>Denise J. Wedel</b>		



1990s

ASRA begins to emphasize pain management in its papers and meetings.



# WHAT DOES ASRA PAIN MEDICINE MEAN TO YOU?



**1997**  
Denise J. Wedel serves as ASRA's first woman president.

**1998**  
The society's journal is renamed *Regional Anesthesia & Pain Medicine*.

**1998**  
Brendan T. Finucane serves as the first Canadian president.

**2005**  
ASRA becomes the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine.



**2015**  
ASRA becomes an independently managed organization under Executive Director Angie Stengel.



**Kayser Enneking**

"It's not so much about who gets the academic credit for anything, but how we can do the next thing to make patient care better, how we can spread the word to make patient care better, how we can spread the word to improve analgesia and function. I've been to many other groups, and ASRA has always been very inclusive and welcoming. It's a lovely organization dedicated to a wonderful mission of all-around patient care."

**"We have arguments when we don't agree and laugh when the meetings are over. We have no grudges because we are here to help each other. 'Family' is the word that best defines ASRA."**

**Oscar de Leon-Casasola**



**Richard Rosenquist**

"I get to interact with people who I truly enjoy being around. In a sense, ASRA is my extended professional family. I really look forward to meeting everyone, not just

those who are my own age but also younger members developing their careers. ASRA is a great growth environment."

**"The field requires an enthusiastic individual who can work with surgeons and show them how much better a particular regional anesthetic procedure might be over general anesthesia."**

**Michael Stanton-Hicks**



**Michael F. Mulroy**

"The current ASRA continues to be productive because it enables the chronic pain people and the acute pain people to work together in the same organization, publish in the same journal, and support one another."



**John C. Rowlingson**

"Harold Carron said it's great to belong to an organization, but it's far better to belong and participate in it. We've been blessed with so many individuals who joined ASRA to help create an environment where this is a team effort, and it's been that way over the years."



“Perhaps it arises from my time in Vietnam, but if you’re in a war situation or a disaster situation, you don’t have time to find the latest nerve stimulator machine or other bit of technology. You need to provide pain relief to people ASAP. You can do a lot with just a syringe, a needle, and a bottle of local anesthetic drug.”

**Gale E. Thompson**

**Julie Pollock**

“It’s about education: for residents, fellows, and people already in practice. That is such a wonderful and proud legacy for ASRA, and I think the society answers the call, year after year.”

**Brendan T. Finucane**

“I was trained in Liverpool in one of the best training programs in Europe, but I never saw anybody do a spinal anesthetic in my four years there. ASRA came along at the perfect time. It’s family. It’s a wonderful crowd and great fun to be around, and I just love my time being with everyone. Of all the group meetings I attend, ASRA is one of the happiest.”

“The field of peripheral neuroblockade has changed dramatically. Relying on paresthesia and body landmarks requires knowledge of surface anatomy and being able to not over-sedate patients, so it’s a bit of an art and you have to be competent. It’s not as easy to do as general anesthetic.”

**Nigel Sharrock**

**Tony Wildsmith**

“I was like a small boy in a sweetie shop the first time I went to an ASRA meeting. That applied not just to the trade exhibition, but what was going on in the lecture theater as well. Because of the organization’s founding fathers, its leadership, its education programs, and its

encouragement to others, ASRA has been responsible for the major increase in the use and quality of regional anesthesia over the last 50–60 years. A society like ASRA is not an active thing; rather, it is the people that are involved in it. And there have been some wonderful people involved in ASRA.”

**2018**

ASRA hosts the 4th World Congress on Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine in New York City, breaking all previous ASRA meeting attendance records. More than 2,500 registrants attend.



**2021**

ASRA rebrands itself as ASRA Pain Medicine, with a commitment to relieving the global burden of pain through interdisciplinary pain management across the entire pain continuum.

**2023**

ASRA Pain Medicine has more than 5,000 physician and scientist members, and its online *Regional Anesthesia & Pain Medicine* journal receives more than 700,000 visitors annually.

**WHAT DOES ASRA PAIN MEDICINE MEAN TO YOU?**



**Guy L. Weinberg**

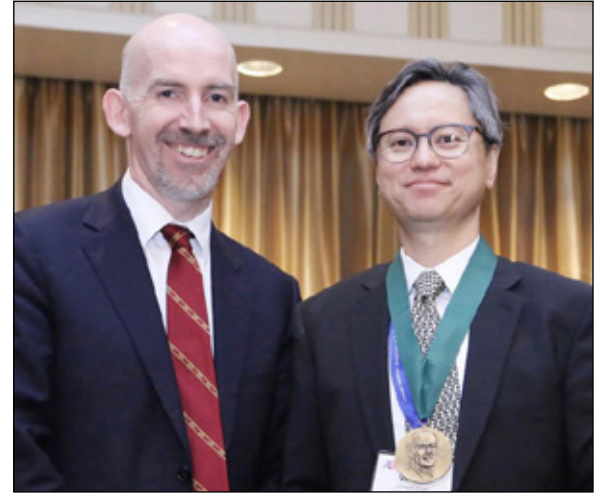
“When I first came up, acute pain service wasn’t a thing. It’s the work of important leaders like Santhanam Suresh — people with boots on the ground — who convinced surgeons that regional anesthesia was a necessary improvement.”



**Henrik Kehlet**

“ASRA has had a leading role in our understanding of the crucial importance of regional anesthesia. As I said before, most of my mentors in regional anesthesia have been from the U.S. and ASRA.”

- 1977 **John J. Bonica & Daniel C. Moore**
- 1978 **Sir Robert Macintosh**
- 1979 **Torsten Gordh**
- 1980 **John Adriani**
- 1981 **Robert Hingson**
- 1982 **Alon P. Winnie**
- 1983 **Peere C. Lund**
- 1984 **Philip R. Bromage**
- 1985 **J. Alfred Lee**
- 1986 **Benjamin G. Covino**
- 1987 **Nicholas Greene**
- 1988 **D. Bruce Scott**
- 1989 **Ronald Melzack & Patrick Wall**
- 1990 **P. Prithvi Raj**
- 1991 **Bertil Lofstrom**
- 1992 **B. Raymond Fink**
- 1993 **Sol M. Shnider**
- 1994 **Phillip O. Bridenbaugh**
- 1995 **Rudolph H. DeJong**
- 1996 **Michael J. Cousins**
- 1997 **Gale E. Thompson**
- 1998 **Stefano Ischia**
- 1999 **L. Brian Ready**
- 2000 **Gary R. Strichartz**
- 2001 **Cosmo A. DiFazio**
- 2002 **John A.W. Wildsmith**
- 2003 **Brendan T. Finucane**
- 2004 **David L. Brown**
- 2005 **Henrik Kehlet**
- 2006 **Dag E. Selander**
- 2007 **Michael F. Mulroy**



*Dr. Colin McCartney presents Dr. Vincent W. S. Chan with the Gaston Labat Award in 2016.*

- 2008 **James C. Eisenach**
- 2009 **Quinn H. Hogan**
- 2010 **Narinder Rawal**
- 2011 **Terese Toddie Horlocker**
- 2012 **Denise J. Wedel**
- 2013 **Admir Hadzic**
- 2014 **Per H. Rosenberg**
- 2015 **John C. Rowlingson**
- 2016 **Vincent W.S. Chan**
- 2017 **Nigel E. Sharrock**
- 2018 **Alain Borgeat**
- 2019 **Joseph M. Neal**
- 2020 **Guy L. Weinberg**
- 2021 **F. Kayser Enneking**
- 2022 **Brian Ilfeld**
- 2023 **Santhanam Suresh**

## Editors in Chief, *Regional Anesthesia & Pain Medicine*

- Harold Carron**  
Oct./Dec. 1976–Jan./Mar. 1982
- Benjamin G. Covino**  
Apr./June 1982–Oct./Dec. 1985
- Phillip O. Bridenbaugh**  
Jan./Mar. 1986–Oct./Dec. 1989
- Gerard Ostheimer**  
Jan./Feb. 1990–Nov./Dec. 1995

- Randall Carpenter**  
Jan./Feb. 1996–May/June 1997
- David L. Brown**  
July/Aug. 1997–May/June 2002
- Joseph M. Neal**  
July/Aug. 2002–Nov./Dec. 2012
- Marc Huntoon**  
Jan./Feb. 2013–Dec. 2019
- Brian Sites**  
Jan. 2020–current



# Thank You for Your Support

100  
YEARS

ASRA Pain Medicine recognizes the dedication, leadership, and support of all those who make tonight's celebration possible.

## Anniversary Task Force

- **Stuart Grant**, MBChB, MMCI, ASRA Pain Medicine Board of Directors, 2021–present
- **Sandra L. Kopp**, MD, ASRA Pain Medicine Board of Directors, 2019–present
- **Mary Hargett**, Director of Education and Clinical Initiatives, Department of Anesthesiology, Critical Care & Pain Management, Hospital for Special Surgery
- **Brian Harrington**, MD, ASRA Pain Medicine Member, Anesthesiologist
- **Stephen Haskins**, MD, 48th Annual Regional Anesthesiology and Acute Pain Medicine Meeting Chair
- **Joseph M. Neal**, MD, President, 2012–2015; 2019 Gaston Labat Award Recipient
- **Judith Robins**, MA, MA, Archivist, Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology
- **John C. Rowlingson**, MD, President, 1996–1997; 2015 Gaston Labat Award Recipient

## ASRA Pain Medicine Board of Directors, 2022–2023

- President — **Samer Narouze**, MD, PhD
- President-Elect — **David Provenzano**, MD
- Treasurer — **Steven P. Cohen**, MD
- Immediate Past President — **Eugene Viscusi**, MD
- Directors
  - **Nabil Elkassabany**, MD, MSCE
  - **Stuart Grant**, MBChB, MMCI
  - **Rajnish Gupta**, MD
  - **Sandra L. Kopp**, MD
  - **Carlos Pino**, MD
  - **Meg A. Rosenblatt**, MD
  - **Gina Votta-Velis**, MD, PhD
- Executive Director — **Angie Stengel**, MS, CAE

## Special Thanks

- **Ryan D'Souza**, MD, ASRA Pain Medicine Committee Member
- **Vasudha Goel**, MD, ASRA Pain Medicine Committee Member
- **Rajnish Gupta**, MD, ASRA Pain Medicine Board of Directors, 2019–present
- **Vivian Ip**, MD, ASRA Pain Medicine Committee Member
- **Gary Schwartz**, MD, ASRA Pain Medicine Committee Member
- **Harsha Shanthanna**, MD, ASRA Pain Medicine Committee Member



*Drs. John C. Rowlingson and Richard Rosenquist congratulate 2019 Gaston Labat Award recipient Dr. Joseph M. Neal.*

- **Vinita Singh**, MD, MS, ASRA Pain Medicine Committee Member
- **Mayo Clinic**
- **Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology**

## Corporate Partners

- FUJIFILM SonoSite, Inc.
- Medtronic
- Pacira BioSciences, Inc.
- Pajunk®

## 100th Anniversary Institutional Support

- Hospital for Special Surgery
- Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (Morningside, West, and Mount Sinai Campuses)
- Mayo Clinic
- Northwestern University/Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital
- Ochsner Health
- University of Illinois at Chicago, Department of Anesthesiology
- University of North Carolina
- University of Virginia, Charlottesville
- Virginia Mason Medical Center

## 100th Anniversary Sponsors

- Pacira BioSciences, Inc. (VIP Sponsor)
- Wisonic Medical

Videography by Ryan Koscielniak, Clyde Media, LLC  
Video editing by Branch Creative Group

## WHAT DOES ASRA PAIN MEDICINE MEAN TO YOU?



### Manbir Batra

“Chronic pain management received tremendous help when it was incorporated into the society. It showed regional anesthesia techniques were a bridge toward relieving pain. They weren't the ultimate answer, they weren't the ultimate cure, but they provided help with physical therapy. The way to go was through judicious use of opiates and multimodal analgesia. John Bonica, the founder of pain clinics, realized that very early on, and that regional anesthesia was only a part of pain relief. I think that's where ASRA made tremendous strides.”



# ASRA PAIN MEDICINE

American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine

**Our vision is to relieve the global burden of pain.**

**Our mission is to advance the science and practice of regional anesthesia and pain medicine to improve patient outcomes through research, education, and advocacy.**

**Our Core Values are Integrity, Innovation, Inclusiveness, Service, Compassion, and Wellness.**

**Please join us again in 2025 when we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the modern-day ASRA Pain Medicine.**

