



June 30, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

The June edition of the SAM Gazette is dedicated in loving memory to Andranik (Andy) Ovassapian M.D., Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care at the University of Chicago.

Andy passed away on June 17th, 2010 following a major stroke while attending the European Society of Anesthesiology meeting in Helsinki, Finland.

Andy was one of the 'Founding Fathers' of modern airway management as evidenced by his dedication to international teaching, scholarly writing and patient safety. His vision of an international multi-specialty society dedicated to training, education and research in the field of airway management was pivotal to the formation of the Society of Airway Management in 1995.

Amongst his many professional accomplishments, Andy served as the first president of SAM from 1995-97, as executive director from 1998-2008 and gave the Society's first Ovassapian Lecture in 2000. Andy received the SAM Patriarch award in 2006. Andy's humor, expertise, humility and penchant for hard work is well known to a myriad of colleagues around the globe.

Fittingly, the 2010 annual meeting will be held in Andy's hometown of Chicago Illinois. This edition of the SAM Gazette as well as the upcoming Annual Meeting (September 24-26, 2010) are dedicated to Andy's remarkable life and contributions. The SAM community is fortunate to have known, worked and learned from Andy. It is the mission of SAM to continue the quality, compassion and excellence of his life's work.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Andy's extended family during this time. Andy- your loss is palpable to many of us. But our lives are richer for having known you as friend and colleague.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Cordes Behringer M.D.
President, SAM

Carin A. Hagberg, M.D.
Executive Director, SAM