

May 26th, 2011

All National Societies of Anaesthesiology of the WFSA

## The Helsinki Declaration of Patient Safety in Anaesthesiology

Dear National Society of Anaesthesiology,

As many of you are aware, the Helsinki Declaration on Patient Safety in Anaesthesiology was launched in Helsinki, Finland last year. The Declaration was developed by the European Board of Anaesthesiology (the political body in European anaesthesiology) in close co-operation with the European Society of Anaesthesiology. The text and the accompanying article are attached to this letter.

The WHO, the WFSA, patients' organisations, the medical technical industry and high ranking politicians spoke at the launch symposium representing global interests.

The text in the Declaration refers to issues that are important in patient safety all over the world. Since its launch, it has attracted much attention and interest also beyond Europe. Several countries outside Europe has supported the Declaration, among those Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the 10 countries in the Confederation of ASEAN Societies of Anaesthesiologists (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam).

At the launch, it was signed by most of European Societies of Anaesthesiology, the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine and several other stakeholders. Anyone involved in healthcare is invited to sign the declaration. All that it contains may not be equally relevant in your context. But by signing it, your national society will endorse the intentions and goals of the Declaration and demonstrate that you share these goals with the rest of the global anaesthesiological family. You can state any additional comments when signing it at:

<http://www.euroanaesthesia.org/sitecore/content/publications/helsinki%20declaration/endorsehelsinkideclaration.aspx>

In Europe, we have installed a joint EBA-ESA Task Force on Patient Safety that will monitor and follow up the progress of the implementation of the Helsinki Declaration, and we are ready to share our experiences with all of you. Questions and comments are welcome to [jannicke@mellin.no](mailto:jannicke@mellin.no) I hope that we can welcome your society to the joint efforts to improve patient safety in Anaesthesiology!

Yours sincerely,



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President European Board of  
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Prof. Hugo Van Aken  
Past Chairman National  
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