

Uncertainty and Certainty: Comment

To the Editor:

I read Dr. Kharasch's timely review of recent activities of the journal *ANESTHESIOLOGY* with great interest.¹ The prestige of the journal and the rapid, emergent dissemination of useful pandemic-related clinical information is laudable.

Unfortunately, the congratulatory tone to anesthesiologists and certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) neglected to include the vital third arm of our anesthesiology care team, certified anesthesiologist assistants. Although anesthesiologists have been dedicated to frontline clinical care and expansion of expertise outside of the traditional perioperative environment, our certified anesthesiologist assistants and CRNA colleagues have been at our sides. At our institution, certified anesthesiologist assistants are and were integral members of the airway management team, willingly staff coronavirus disease (COVID)-positive patients in the dedicated COVID operating rooms, and care for the increasing proportion of trauma victims at a level 1 trauma center whose COVID-positive determination becomes evident after the emergency case has started.

Those states who currently have certified anesthesiologist assistants working in the anesthesia care team appreciate their service and commitment, especially in this challenging time, and recognition will assist their desire for competitive practice opportunities across all states.

Competing Interests

The author declares no competing interests.

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DOI: 10.1097/ALN.0000000000003564

Reference

1. Kharasch ED: Uncertainty and certainty. *ANESTHESIOLOGY* 2020; 133:1–4

(Accepted for publication August 26, 2020. Published online first on September 14, 2020.)

Uncertainty and Certainty: Reply

In Reply:

Dr. Pivalizza states in his letter¹ that certified anesthesiologist assistants were not specifically mentioned in my editorial.² The statement regarding anesthesiologists and certified registered nurse anesthetists was simply illustrative. It was neither an exclusive, inclusive, nor neglectful list of the myriad individuals, and their job titles, who deliver high-quality care in challenging times and deserve our appreciation and that of patients.

Competing Interests

Dr. Kharasch is the Editor-in-Chief of *ANESTHESIOLOGY*, and his institution receives salary support from the American Society of Anesthesiologists (Schaumburg, Illinois) for this position.

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DOI: 10.1097/ALN.0000000000003563

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2. Kharasch ED: Uncertainty and certainty. *ANESTHESIOLOGY* 2020; 133:1–4

(Accepted for publication August 26, 2020. Published online first on September 14, 2020.)