Sunday, May 7

OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER: 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Speakers: Derreck Kayongo

GENERAL SESSION: 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.
Endoscope Issues, Questions and Answers
Speakers: Cori Ofstead and John Eiland – Ofstead and Associates, Inc
An epidemiologist who has conducted several studies on reprocessing effectiveness and a researcher who previously served as a Joint Commission surveyor will answer commonly asked questions about reprocessing effectiveness, routine monitoring, and quality improvement. The presenters will also share “nuts and bolts” information to help audience members ensure that their reprocessing procedures are safe and effective.

GENERAL SESSION: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Certification Legislation in a Round of Musical Chairs
Speakers: Josephine Colacci, Esq. – IAHCSMM
Let the music begin. Will our certification legislation be the last bill standing? Or will it find a seat in law? This legislative session will focus on the complexities of introducing and passing legislation in the states. Learn the passage and failure rates of legislation in states. Learn the legislative procedure and how it is different in every state. Find out the status of our current legislation. Attendees will also discover how easy it is to send letters to their elected officials regarding the certification issue and the CS profession along with what they miss out on by not responding to these emails.

CONCURRENT SESSION: 2:15 – 3:15 p.m.
Creating a Culture of Excellence
Speakers: Monique Jelks – Riley Hospital for Children-IU Health
As a member of the perioperative team, Central Service (CS) departments have almost always been the last members of the team to be recognized for great service, and the first members of the team to be contacted when a problem arises. The lack of recognition for great service and the limited understanding of CS processes and standards can often destroy the morale of a great team and, therefore, prevent excellent performance. During this session, attendees will learn how to create the following: A culture of excellence with a team-oriented focus; education for and from the Operating Room (OR); audits designed by the team; and communication within and outside of the CS department. Objectives: Discuss the importance of engaging with team members and understanding the goal; describe how to create education for the OR and request presentations from the OR; discuss the importance of audits and how to engage team members in solution planning and process changes; and describe communications “dos and don’ts” inside and outside the CS department.

CONCURRENT SESSION: 2:15 – 3:15 p.m.
Danger, Hospital: KEEP OUT!
Speakers: Ray Taurasi – Healthcare CS Solutions
There have been countless media headlines, news documentaries and publications disclosing that thousands of patients and healthcare workers are unnecessarily injured or die in healthcare facilities each year. While many of these injuries and deaths are associated with unsafe work practices, many others are the result of nosocomial infections and cross contamination caused by breaches in reprocessing techniques and equipment failures. Media attention has increased public awareness of the risks associated with hospitalization, medical treatments and surgery. Out of fear that hospitals are dangerous places that should be avoided, many patients have foregone or postponed diagnostic procedures and essential medical treatments. This presentation will identify and address these risks as they relate to surgical services and sterile processing. We will focus on Quality Assurance measures and tools lending to process improvement initiatives, in alignment with safety and reprocessing, regulations, recommendations and guidelines.
CONCURRENT SESSION: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Doing More with Less: Strategies for Optimization
Speakers: Chasity Seymour – Baylor Scott & White Hospital

Increasing case volumes and faster turnovers have really put a strain on Sterile Processing and CS departments when instrumentation is in short supply. The demand to do more with less is at an all-time high. These strategies are designed to help departments plan, coordinate and optimize their resources to avoid immediate use steam sterilization (IUSS) and case delays. The strategies have proven to increase productivity, communication, teamwork, interdepartmental collaboration, and physician, staff and patient satisfaction. Objectives: Learn how to effectively plan and utilize resources to meet the needs of the surgery schedule; discuss how to build the right relationships with Operating Room staff and physicians to facilitate collaboration and teamwork; review techniques and strategies to improve communication within CS departments to achieve faster instrumentation turnovers; and discuss how optimizing resources reduces IUSS and case delays, increases staff and patient satisfaction, and helps to create a highly functioning department.

CONCURRENT SESSION: 3:30 – 4:30pm
Beyond Pass/Fail: Using Quality Control Data to Improve Endoscope Reprocessing
Speakers: Grace Thornhill – 3M Health Care

More Quality Control? Don’t we have enough of that already? In the wake of deadly outbreaks due to improperly reprocessed flexible endoscopes the FDA has strongly recommended the implementation of a comprehensive quality control program with the goal that it should improve the efficacy of endoscope reprocessing. Quality control (QC) programs generate a lot of data that often just gets filed away and never analyzed. This presentation explores how basic QC data can be used to improve endoscope reprocessing. We will look at how the data can be used to pinpoint reprocessing steps that need improvement, identify endoscopes that might need repair as well as support technicians who might need some extra training. In the process of looking at the data question we will define what a comprehensive QC program for reprocessing endoscopes looks like as well as explore the recommendations stated in current standards and guidelines.

Monday, May 8

EARLY BIRD CONCURRENT SESSION: 7:00 – 8:00am
AAMI Roundtable
Speakers: Sue Klacik – St. Elizabeth Health Center

EARLY BIRD CONCURRENT SESSION: 7:00 – 8:00 a.m.
Leading from the Front: A Practical Guide to SPD Program and Resource Management (AKA: Game Revision)
Speakers: Erika Coburn – Baylor Surgical Hospital

Challenges occur every day in the Sterile Processing Department (SPD). How these challenges are managed while dealing with surgeons, standards and staff can make or break the department. Managing daily operations, growing a reliable team and maintaining strict quality assurances are not easy tasks. This program will address real-life stories and trials of daily operations, and provide practical applications for overcoming daily obstacles during operations critical to the SPD. Ever had a surgeon demand you sterilize a single-use device? Do you deal with “sacred cows” and attitudes that won’t change with the times, technologies or regulatory requirements? Does your OR believe you are a hindrance rather than part of the team? This is one manager’s story of a 20-year journey through SPD and its world of progress, improvements and revolutions. The participant will learn concrete and pragmatic ideas for staff and program management and development, and about “leading from the front” and not “following the crowd.” Teamwork and collaboration between SPD and the OR is critical and SPD professionals must be a part of that team, not someone who simply sends in the supplies. Dealing with today’s workforce and keeping patient safety at the forefront of all you do is just the beginning!

EARLY BIRD CONCURRENT SESSION: 7:00 – 8:00 a.m.
The Main Thing is to Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing
Speakers: James Carlock – WellSpan Surgery & Rehabilitation Hospital

Sterile Processing Departments (SPDs) exist for only one reason: to keep patients safe; however, with all the pressure SPDs face to keep production moving, minimize costs and keep staff and customers happy, that can be all too easy to forget. Through an interactive discussion, we will explore what it means to keep our patients safe, and examine those things we do that could compromise patient safety. We will look at ways we can incorporate patient safety into our decision-making process. We will learn to ask, “Does this activity support patient safety?” in order to focus our attention on what we are about and what matters most. Finally, we will discuss some concrete action steps we can take to improve patient safety at each of our facilities.
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: 8:15 – 9:15 a.m.
Speakers: Shari Harly; sponsored by STERIS

CONCURRENT SESSION: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
**AAMI Sterilization Standards Update**
Speakers: Sue Klacik – St. Elizabeth Health Center

Success in CS largely hinges on staff’s understanding of, and access to, the latest industry standards and recommended practices. Session attendees will learn about the most recent revisions to the AAMI recommended practices and other sterilization standards that affect a Central Sterile Processing Department.

**CONCURRENT SESSION: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.**
**Water and Endoscopes Don’t Sing in Harmony**
Speakers: Lynne Thomas – STERIS Instrument Management Services

Unlike the floods of Mother Nature or the devastation caused by overflowing rivers breaking levees, the navigation of fluid within an endoscope can be controlled. This session will discuss the physics behind a successful leak testing program. It will illustrate processes to increase leak testing effectiveness which, in turn, will mitigate the potential risks of cross contamination, costly fluid-causing repairs and premature aging of endoscopes. The gained insights on the cause, effect and prevention of fluid invasion is of relevance not only to the preforming technician, but to educators and managers alike. Objectives: Identify steps to enhance leak testing effects; list the consequences of unsuccessful leak testing efforts; and develop a process improvement initiative to eliminate fluid invasion.

**CONCURRENT SESSION: 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.**
**“Can We Talk?” Strategies & Communication**
Speakers: Sharon Greene-Golden – Shady Grove Medical Center; sponsored by Applied Logic

In this session, we will share how to collaborate with the whole surgical team, while striking down sacred cows and misconceptions. We also will learn ways to make facilitate effective teamwork. This program can help new managers, as well as seasoned ones, to work with their team members in the surgical suite, while maintaining their sanity. This is a real down to earth session on promoting an environment where the SPD, OR, ICP, Anes and PACU all get along. This session will also embrace some truths about what each team member is responsible for when dealing with one another. Objectives: Explain who comprises the surgical team; explain some perceptions the team members may have of the CS/SPD team; and share strategies on communication and collaboration techniques for the surgical team.

**CONCURRENT SESSION: 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.**
**CS’s Role in the Unique Device Identifier (UDI) Regulation**
Speakers: Jean Sargent – Sargent Healthcare Strategies

The Unique Device Identifier (UDI) ruling was finalized in September 2013. The UDI implementation timeline is based on the Spaulding Classification: Class III, II and I. Central Service (CS) personnel’s daily processes include use of medical devices (supplies, instruments, equipment). Associating the UDI with each patient is the goal of the UDI. The Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) and Meaningful Use Stage 3 require submission of the UDI to the patient medical record beginning January 2018. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has stated it is working toward updating billing to require the UDI for reimbursement. Physicians, patients, registries and the government want to understand the use of products for various reasons, including knowing what implant was used for a patient in case there is a need to replace the implant. This presentation will discuss the role of UDI as it relates to CS, as well as the broader spectrum of the UDI and its intent. Objectives: Understand the UDI ruling; understand the current status of the implementation of the UDI; understand how the UDI affects CS processes; and understand the role of the UDI in patient safety.
Tuesday, May 9

**EARLY BIRD CONCURRENT SESSION: 7:00 – 8:00 a.m.**

**AAMI Roundtable**  
Speakers: Sue Klocik – St. Elizabeth Health Center

**EARLY BIRD CONCURRENT SESSION: 7:00 – 8:00 a.m.**

**Care and Handling of Ophthalmic Instruments**  
Speakers: Barbara Ann Harmer – Innovative Sterilization Technologies

Attendees of this session will gain an understanding of the necessary steps in the care, handling and reprocessing of ophthalmology instrumentation. AAMI, regulatory and accreditation updates will be discussed. Objectives: List the three essential conditions that must be met for an item to be considered sterile; describe the preventative measures to utilize with microsurgical instrument cleaning and handling procedures; discuss AAMI, FDA, AORN and regulatory updates in the care, handling and reprocessing of ophthalmology instrumentation.

**EARLY BIRD CONCURRENT SESSION: 7:00 – 8:00 a.m.**

**Sterility Assurance: A Focus on the OR-SPD Relationship and Sterile Packaging**  
Speakers: Anita Buono and Jennifer Burrell – St. Luke’s University Health Network; sponsored by Instrusafe

This presentation will showcase the improvements that were achieved when aligning the Sterile Processing Department (SPD) and the Operating Room (OR). This includes identification of a process to collaboratively implement procedures to minimize errors, provide an effective education program and consolidate the SPD-OR supply. The presentation will focus on the shared responsibility to ensure sterile packaging integrity is not compromised. We will share the results of studies performed on sterile packaging techniques.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.**  
Speakers: Brad Montgomery

**CONCURRENT SESSION: 2:45 – 3:45 p.m.**

**Mentorship: Resume Building and Growing Your Own**  
Speakers: Rose Seavey – Seavey Healthcare Consulting, Inc.; Damien Berg, Mark Duro and Dave Jagrosse

This presentation will cover the importance of mentorship, building your own professional resume and opportunities for growth within your own department, facility or career. To focus on each perspective, we will use skits with audience participation to show real-life examples involving leadership and staff participation. Objectives: Share a brief overview of mentorship; describe how to build your resume for a successful future; and explain how to put it all together for personal and professional development.

**CONCURRENT SESSION: 2:45 – 3:45 p.m.**

**How to Reduce Patient Defenses**  

All open surgeries and minimally-invasive procedures become contaminated with at least a few bacteria. The patient’s own immune defense system is almost always able to kill the microbial trespassers before they can multiply to enough bacteria to overwhelm the local immune defenses and invade the tissues. Even a few bacteria can cause serious and even fatal infections if chemicals, lint or particulates interfere with, distract, hinder or damage the patient’s local defensive weapons. In this session, we will briefly describe the body’s primary and secondary defense weapons, and how even sterile residuals and foreign particles can reduce their effectiveness. We will also discuss what reprocessing professionals can do to avoid increasing the patient’s vulnerability to post-surgical infections.
CONCURRENT SESSION: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Getting to Zero Surgical Site Infections: The Role of Sterile Processing is More Than the Application of Science and Technique
Speakers: Donna Mavrelas and Dr. Dee Tinley-Strong – Alfred I. Dupont Hospital for Children; sponsored by Halyard Health

Prevention of surgical site infections (SSIs) goes beyond effective processing of instrumentation within the Sterile Processing Department (SPD). To reach and sustain zero SSIs requires daily collaboration with surgeons, nurses, surgical technicians, sterile processing leads and environmental services, and the development of shared-solutions to prevent bioburden. This presentation will focus on the challenges to overcome, and the solutions for this cross-functional team engaged in the application of science to transition post-surgical instrumentation to perfect preparation for the next surgical case. Some challenges we encountered are: Nursing resistance (“It’s not my job to clean instruments”) to partnering with the SPD; difficulty influencing the performance of contracted employees (EVS); engaging surgeons in problem solving; acceptance of reliable methods to eliminate variation; necessity for continual calibration of staff application of the science; and understanding that daily performance management and visible leadership are critical success factors.

CONCURRENT SESSION: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
The Science of Cleaning
Speakers: Dr. Christina Carlson – USGS National Wildlife Health Center

Effective cleaning and removal of biological residues prior to sterilization is essential to safe patient outcomes and the reduction of Healthcare Acquired Infections (HAIs). Despite scientifically standardized parameters for sterilization, the importance of comparable decontamination parameters has only recently been addressed. Learn how scientists from the US and UK working in parallel investigate and identify cleaning parameters and test soils crucial for reprocessing reusable medical devices. Notably, this lecture will examine difficult to remove proteins, especially the highly infectious prion proteins that cause fatal diseases such as CJD, vCJD, and chronic wasting disease (CWD). Attendees will learn what types of cleaning agents and their modalities are most effective, as well as new research in the field and how it applies to public health internationally.

Wednesday, May 10

GENERAL SESSION: 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
Lost in Translation: Best Practice According to Whom?
Speakers: Lindsay Brown – Key Surgical

Interpretation is the act of explaining, reframing, or otherwise showing your own understanding of something. But what happens when your interpretation is different than someone else’s? The undeniable differences in responsibilities and priorities in the OR and SPD can affect the interpretation and implementation of process improvements and best practices. This presentation dissects the meaning of ANSI/AAMI and AORN standards and recommended practices – both the way they are intended and the various ways in which they are interpreted – and encourages attendees to design a collaborative approach to implementing them.

GENERAL SESSION: 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.
Whatever You Do, Don’t Do This
Speakers: Natalie Lind – IAHCSMM

Each day at work we perform hundreds of tasks, interact with many people and make countless decisions. Every task, every interaction and every decision has a positive or negative impact on our jobs and the people around us.

CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Together We Win
Speakers: Vivian Watson – Consultant Services; sponsored by 3M Health Care

If you want to become a better leader, or better yet, become the positive force that helps motivate you and others to perform at your best, then this program is for you. This session will help uncover values and beliefs one may hold, but may have been apprehensive to utilize and share. Do you want to build a better, stronger team and gain a better understanding of how to bridge gaps between departments? Are you ready to start with the reflection in the mirror? If so, Vivian Watson will help you discover perhaps that one missing piece that puts it all together and allow you to firmly believe that “Together We Win.”