President’s Message

We Are Sterile Processing, We Are IAHCSMM, We Stand United

As a member of the IAHCSMM Board of Directors, I know firsthand how challenging it was when COVID-19 came to the forefront. In the mere weeks leading up to our much anticipated Conference & Expo in Chicago, we as an Association had to make a decision that would affect all attendees, the IAHCSMM team and the Chicago community – and we knew that decision had to prioritize the health, safety and wellbeing of all involved. As you’re now well aware, IAHCSMM had to cancel this year’s in-person Conference & Expo and then swiftly shift gears to ensure Sterile Processing (SP) professionals still had access to the high-quality educational offerings they’ve come to expect from IAHCSMM. It also had to be delivered in an environment that met social distancing requirements.

We certainly rose to the occasion. The IAHCSMM team and our outstanding speakers and vendor participants (coupled with a top-quality event production partner) created an impressive, immersive virtual education experience at no cost to those who are members or certified through IAHCSMM. This event began May 22 and runs through July 20, so if you’ve not yet taken advantage of all it has to offer, I encourage you to dive in while there’s still time. It’s a perfect opportunity to broaden our knowledge and skill sets to promote quality service in our departments, attain our continuing education credits needed for recertification, and see some of the latest product and service innovations aimed at enhancing our effectiveness and efficiency in the world of Sterile Processing.

I’m extremely proud how IAHCSMM’s team never wavered in its collective support of its members, certification holders and SP professionals, in general, over the course of this pandemic. Even while working remotely, the team kept IAHCSMM’s various departments running smoothly and efficiently, and any changes and updates were promptly and effectively communicated. IAHCSMM also provided (and continues to provide) valuable and regularly-updated information – on its website; in its digital publication, Insights; in webinars; and on social media and through E-blasts – about COVID-19 and pertinent Association and industry news to help keep us all safe, focused, informed and prepared during these challenging times.

At the time of this writing, many states are beginning to reopen and ease back into what we all might describe as a more ‘normal’ way of life. For us SP professionals, that will mean especially busy days ahead as our facilities put back on the schedules all the elective procedures that were postponed over the past weeks and months. At the same time, some of us may continue to assume additional support roles to meet the ongoing needs of our customers and patients during these still-uncertain times. I know we will be able to look back at this challenging period with an overwhelming sense of pride and accomplishment. We SP professionals have always played an essential role in care delivery and customer support, and these past weeks have only further highlighted our commitment to serving our healthcare teammates and patients in any way possible. We can also take comfort in knowing IAHCSMM is working hard as ever to support us in this journey and give us valuable tools, information and resources to help us every step of the way. Inside this issue of PROCESS, you’ll find several articles that shed a positive light on the many valuable contributions of dedicated, quality-and safety-focused SP professionals like you.

We should all stand proud. We are Sterile Processing, we are IAHCSMM, and we are critical to patient care, customer service and positive patient outcomes.

Sincerely,

Brian Reynolds