

# About USA History

The Utah Society of Anesthesiologists (USA) was organized in 1947. It is a Professional Society of [Consulting Physicians \(MD or DO\) who Specialize in Anesthesiology, Critical Care and Pain Management](#).

The USA was recognized as a state component of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) in 1948. Its purpose was “the advancement of the science and art of anesthesiology.” At the time it was organized, membership numbered twelve physicians, increasing to 20 in 1949. Scott M. Smith, MD, is acknowledged as the first anesthesiologist who practiced in Utah. He joined the faculty of the newly established four year medical school program at the University of Utah in 1943. Dr. Smith will forever be remembered in the annals of anesthesiology history when he subjected himself to an induced paralysis experiment with d-tubocurare. This caused him to be completely paralyzed yet fully awake mentally. The results of this experiment were published as “The Lack of Cerebral Effects of D-Tubocurare” in a 1947 article in Anesthesiology.

## Who We Are

The Utah Society of Anesthesiologists organized to raise the standards of the medical practice of anesthesiology, to act as a professional voice on behalf of patient's requiring anesthesia and to promote continuing education and excellence in the care of patients. Today, the Utah Society of Anesthesiologists consists of more than 400 practicing anesthesiologists, resident anesthesiologists in training, retired anesthesiologists and affiliate members. With their extensive medical training and dedication to the well-being of their patients, anesthesiologists truly do provide the lifeline to modern medicine.

To see a list of current USA members, [click here](#) .