

## **Watchful Care: A Conversation with Author and Medical Historian Paul Warden**

*Watchful Care: A History of America's Nurse Anesthetists, Vol. 2*, was published in 2023 and explores the continued history and evolution of nurse anesthesia in the United States from the 1980s to the present. Paul Warden delivers his perspective on nurse anesthesia's history and healthcare contributions that shaped the profession and advanced the art and science of anesthesiology.

### **After the interview, conference attendees should consider the following salient points:**

1. **Historical Context:** Nurse anesthesiologists were the first anesthesia and airway management experts. From the early 20th century onwards, the profession has made significant contributions to healthcare and positioned itself as a pioneer for advanced practice nursing.
2. **Professional Evolution:** Nurse anesthesiology has evolved as a leader in patient safety and access to high-quality anesthesia care. The growth has led to role expansion, greater autonomy, and professional recognition as a leader in healthcare innovation.
3. **Educational Progression:** Nurse anesthesia education has advanced significantly since the 1980s. Doctoral curricula have transformed the profession, improved practice and standards of care, and promoted patient safety and professional competence across the perioperative continuum.
4. **Legislative and Regulatory Successes:** Significant legislative and regulatory accomplishments have transformed nurse anesthesiology practice, including obtaining direct billing rights, full practice authority, and Medicare Part A opt-out.
5. **Future Endeavors:** While the future continues to be bright, nurse anesthesiologists must remain informed about our predecessors' historical challenges. Revisiting the profession's 165-year history can guide future policy development and professional advancement.