



# RCoA: President's News

December 2015

THE ROYAL COLLEGE  
OF ANAESTHETISTS



## Give Peace a Chance

John Lennon, 1969

As 2015 draws to a close we say goodbye to the old and welcome the new. I reflect on the sad passing of Dr Peter Thompson, a Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Anaesthetists from 1986 to 1988, and two of the architects of the Royal College, founding President and Council member, Professor Alastair Spence CBE and Sir Geoffrey de Deney, the first Chief Executive of the College. Conversely, it is heartening to welcome five new consultant members and one new SAS member to Council, from March 2016, following the highest ever number of votes cast in a College election.

As we move toward a new year, it is a time to be both reflective and hopeful. Contract negotiations continue between the BMA and NHS Employers. The focus for all must remain on securing fair, safe and sustainable solutions for the benefit of patients and all members of the profession. This is well illustrated in a newly published study in the [British Journal of Anaesthesia](#), which was designed to address questions around the relationship between staffing levels, other resources (e.g. critical care beds), weekend working and the mortality of emergency general surgical patients. The paper demonstrates the necessity for robust and effective multifactorial modelling of skills and services to deliver safe care and to address disparities in mortality associated with modified structures and processes.

Some of you will be fortunate enough to be able to share the upcoming festivities with family and friends, but many of you will be working for some or most of the Christmas and New Year break, caring for those most at need in the best tradition of our specialty. Wherever you are for the holidays, on behalf of Council and myself, we wish you a safe and happy Christmas and our best wishes for 2016.

# RCoA: President's News

December 2015

THE ROYAL COLLEGE  
OF ANAESTHETISTS



## Bring in the new

As we face numerous issues in the health sector and for our specialty, it is pleasing to see the highest level of participation in our Council elections for more than a decade. This is a positive sign that our fellowship and membership are actively engaged and I am sure that together we can face the challenges ahead with a strong, united professional voice.

As in previous years the ballot process was independent and managed by Electoral Reform Services (ERS). The full results can be [viewed here](#). Terms of office commence in March 2016 for six years.

## Consultant vacancies

[GROCOTT, Michael](#)

[BOGOD, David](#)

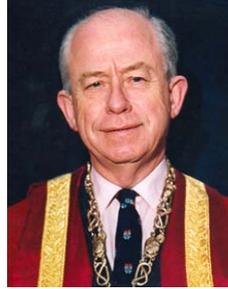
[RAMACHANDRAN, Krishna](#)

[DONALD, Fiona](#)

[O'SULLIVAN, Ellen](#)

## SAS vacancy

[WILLIAMS, Lucy](#)



*Professor Alastair Spence*

## A piece of history

We mourn the passing of all fellow anaesthetists, but there are three recent deaths from a momentous period in this College's history which I particularly wish to highlight. Firstly, I am saddened to report the death of our former President and Council member, Professor Alastair Spence CBE. Alastair's Presidency, from 1991–1993, spanned a crucial period in the history of the newly formed College as we negotiated the separation from our colleagues at the Royal College of Surgeons and subsequent move to the new premises in Russell Square. Alastair played an integral role in the formation of the College as an independent body and then Royal College; consequently the whole of our specialty owes him a huge debt of gratitude.



*Sir Geoffrey de Deney*

We are very sorry to have said goodbye to Sir Geoffrey de Deney, the first Chief Executive of the College, appointed under Alastair Spence's presidency. As the former Clerk of the Privy Council from 1984–1992, Sir Geoffrey was a key figure as the College received its Royal Charter and was instrumental in ensuring that protocols were observed for the opening ceremony at our



new premises, an event attended by HM The Queen. Sir Geoffrey ensured that the transition to becoming a Royal College occurred smoothly and without incident.

This was a defining period in our history and the fact that our Articles and Ordinances have remained virtually unchanged for more than 20 years is a tribute to the important work undertaken by both Alastair and Sir Geoffrey during their terms in post. As we celebrate the silver jubilee of the award of our Royal Charter in 2017, we will remember with fondness and gratitude the enormous contribution made by Alastair and Sir Geoffrey to the development of our specialty.



*Dr Peter Thompson (seen here with the Final FFA examiners in 1983, back row, third from the right)*

It is also with regret that I report the death of Dr Peter Thompson, a Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Anaesthetists from 1986 to 1988. Peter delivered The Clover Lecture in 1982 and received the Gold Medal in 1992. His distinguished career included work on national and international standards in anaesthesia and work as an examiner for the Final FFA. He also lectured on the history of anaesthesia for College courses and was well known for his bowler hat and bow tie!

Our deepest condolences go to Alastair's, Sir Geoffrey's and Peter's families.



*Dr Kate Grady, Dean of the Faculty of Pain Medicine*

### FPM Raises Parliamentary Profile

A parliamentary session, organised by the Chronic Pain Policy Coalition, set out to increase understanding of the planning and delivery of equitable pain management services across the UK. At the reception in Westminster, FPM launched [Core Standards for Pain Management Services \(CSPMS\)](#) in the UK. CSPMS is a collaborative multidisciplinary publication offering a robust reference source designed to provide a framework for standard setting in the provision of Pain Management Services for healthcare professionals, commissioners and other stakeholders, to optimise the care of our patients.

To see more about this, visit a [Storify of the event](#) and this [Flickr album](#).

### Right Patient Right Professionals Right Time

The Right Patient Right Professionals Right Time initiative was also launched at this event. Developed to accompany CSPMS, the FPM has developed two documents to contextualise the Core Standards, emphasise their importance for patient care and highlight some other interlinking work streams:

- » [Helping People with Chronic Pain:](#)  
A rallying call for patients, relatives and carers.
- » [The Future for People with Chronic Pain:](#)  
A briefing document for commissioners, politicians and national stakeholders.

These documents have been cascaded widely across the four home nations, including to key stakeholders as diverse as Pain UK, Scotland's



National Co-ordinator for Chronic Pain, members of the Northern Ireland Assembly Health Committee, Public Health Wales, HEE, the BMA and members of both Houses of Parliament.



## Advisory Board Elections

Following on from the success of the College Council elections, nominations are open for both the Scottish and Northern Irish Advisory Boards. I hope that we can see the high turnout replicated in these elections to ensure that issues of specific relevance to Scotland and Northern Ireland can be adequately represented and addressed at national and UK level.

### Scotland 2016

[Nominations are now open](#) for election to the RCoA Advisory Board for Scotland, an important body that meets regularly to serve the needs of the local population and to help support services in anaesthesia, critical care and pain medicine. More information about the Board's work and objectives [can be found here](#), and prospective candidates for the vacancy are invited to complete [a nomination form](#) before the closing date of 13 January 2016.

### Northern Ireland 2016

[Nominations are also invited](#) for election to the RCoA Advisory Board for Northern Ireland. The group endeavours to serve the needs of the population in Northern Ireland, and advises RCoA Council on matters including training, education, the practice of anaesthesia and any other issues of direct relevance to Northern Ireland. Further information on the Board [can be found here](#), and two vacancies are available. Fellows who wish to stand [are invited to self-nominate](#) and submit a completed form before the closing date of 13 January 2016.



Dr Kevin Fong  
© Anthony Cullen 2011

## Well known anaesthetist delivers lectures on human survival in space

This year, the prestigious Royal Institution Christmas Lectures will be delivered in a three-part series by [Consultant Anaesthetist, Dr Kevin Fong](#). Kevin, who holds degrees in astrophysics as well as medicine, has a special interest in space medicine having completed training rotations at Johnson Space Centre, Houston and Kennedy Space Centre, Cape Canaveral. He will take viewers on an exhilarating journey from Earth into Earth orbit and beyond, examining how science, medicine and engineering ensure an astronaut survives in the ultimate austere environment. A practicing doctor, Kevin is based at University College London Hospital and is also a pre-hospital specialist working with the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Trust. The series promises to be fascinating viewing for healthcare professionals and the general public alike, and will be broadcast on BBC Four at 8.00 pm on 28, 29 and 30 December.



## The Lay Committee

The College's lay representatives make a significant contribution to the work of the College. [This advert](#), inviting new volunteers to contribute to the work of the Lay Committee, will appear in national and regional media. Recruitment to the Lay Committee will also be promoted through patient groups. Fellows and members of the College may know of individuals who would offer excellent non-clinical input to the various College committees, as well as contributing directly to research, training, education and quality improvement.

Please pass the advert to anyone you think could offer constructive lay opinions to the College and encourage them to consider engaging in this very rewarding role.

## And finally... it's a time for giving



### The Royal Medical Benevolent Fund (RMBF)

I am delighted to support the latest appeal of The Royal Medical Benevolent Fund (RMBF). As you may know, the RMBF does excellent work to support doctors and their families through times of adversity and great hardship, but it is reliant on support from the medical profession and others for its funding.

The RMBF has been at the heart of the medical profession for over 175 years, providing help to hundreds of doctors, medical students and their dependants. Offering invaluable support, from financial assistance in the form of grants and loans to a telephone befriending scheme, the RMBF relies on voluntary donations. Your financial contributions can make a real difference to the lives of colleagues and their families in need. If you would like to make a donation [please visit the RMBF website](#).



### Support the NHS for the Christmas No.1

The race to top the UK Singles Chart this Christmas is well underway and this year features an uplifting charity single produced by NHS staff including doctors, nurses and physiotherapists. The song, '[A Bridge over You](#)', is an emotional and heartfelt celebration of the millions of hard working NHS staff across the country.

The single can be downloaded from the [campaign website](#) with all proceeds going to Mind and Carers UK.

# RCoA: President's News

December 2015

THE ROYAL COLLEGE  
OF ANAESTHETISTS



*Dr Richard Marks, Dr Liam Brennan and Dr Jeremy Langton*

## Text Santa

The President and Vice-Presidents are doing their bit in a Christmas knit for ITV's Text Santa and Christmas Jumper Day 2015, supporting the work of [Macmillan Cancer Support](#), [Make-A-Wish UK](#) and [Save the Children](#). Text Santa gives hope to families in the UK and overseas. For further information and to donate, [please click here](#).

PS All I want for Christmas is a Lego anaesthetic machine set!



© Barts Simulation (@Bartssim)

Best wishes, Liam

**Liam Brennan, President**