



# RCoA: President's News

January 2016

THE ROYAL COLLEGE  
OF ANAESTHETISTS



## Changes

David Bowie, 1972

In this, the first members' e-newsletter of 2016, I congratulate the members of our specialty and the wider medical community recognised in the Queen's New Year's Honours list. This New Year also heralds strengthened partnerships, and I am pleased to announce the memorandum of understanding, signed by the RCoA and Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland (AAGBI), to mutually recognise events for CPD purposes.

However, it is very disappointing that the turn of the year has not yet seen a breakthrough in the dispute between the government and the BMA regarding the junior doctor contract. The fact that the first doctor's strike in 40 years occurred despite the input of the independent arbitration service ACAS, demonstrates the seriousness of the current impasse. I was struck by the heartfelt message included in [a recent social media posting](#) which sums up the unprecedented levels of low morale among trainees in our specialty. We all hope that recent developments will spur both parties to redouble their efforts in renewed negotiations for the benefit of all parties, but particularly the patients who we serve. We remain resolute in our view that the contribution made by anaesthesia, pain management and intensive care medicine to the safe and effective care of hospital in-patients should be appropriately recognised and supported in any new contract which is finally agreed.

I know how stressful the last few months have been for all our trainees and the wider profession. This College remains committed to supporting our trainees during this particularly difficult and challenging period and will continue to do all that we can to support you.



## New Year's Honours

On behalf of College Council and staff at the RCoA, I would like to offer our sincere congratulations to all fellows, members and senior health professionals recognised in the Queen's New Year's Honours list for 2016. Professor the Lord Darzi of Denham has been awarded an Order of Merit for services to medicine and Professor Keith Willett has been awarded a CBE for services to the NHS. I am also delighted to see OBEs awarded to Mr Martin Bromiley for contributions to patient safety, Dr Daniel Martin for services to the prevention of infectious diseases and Professor Stephen Smye for his services to healthcare research. Congratulations also to Dr Ron Daniels, awarded a BEM for improving services for sepsis sufferers.



## National ACCEA award results

The results of the 2015 national ACCEA process for England and Wales were recently announced. Congratulations to all colleagues who have been recognised for their 'over and above' commitment. In a highly competitive process, anaesthesia received 25 new awards, which is a significant increase from recent years but still does not adequately reflect the size and contribution of our specialty to excellence in all aspects of healthcare.

The 2016 awards round is anticipated to open in early Spring and we will continue to make the case for anaesthetists to be better recognised for their pivotal role in delivering high quality and innovative healthcare.



## A silver 2017

Although we are still in the first month of this New Year, I am already looking forward to 2017, when our College will celebrate 25 years since gaining its Royal Charter. A milestone for any organisation, our Silver Jubilee is made all the more significant given our growth in stature in those years and the influence that anaesthesia, as the largest, single secondary care specialty, has on patient experience and outcome.

I would like everyone to be part of these celebrations and I would particularly like to hear your ideas on how we could mark the milestone. We hope to run a series of events from regional meetings, lectures and workshops to publications, awards, public engagement and education initiatives, across the United Kingdom. If you have ideas or existing plans that you may want to link with a jubilee theme, please complete [the attached pro-forma](#).

This is a celebration for all of us in the anaesthetic community; despite the challenges facing healthcare we are entering an exciting period in our history and I look forward to updating you on our upcoming activities in future e-newsletters.

## Reciprocal recognition

Readers will appreciate the importance of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to life-long learning. Vital to doctors across all specialties, CPD continues outside formal training and enables individual doctors to maintain and improve their standards of practice. I am pleased to announce that, following discussions in 2015 between the AAGBI and the RCoA, a memorandum of understanding has been agreed that will see the bodies mutually recognise events for CPD. Members and fellows should now see events recognised for CPD by the RCoA appearing in the [AAGBI online events calendar](#), and events recognised for CPD by the AAGBI appearing in the RCoA [CPD Online Diary](#), the [website](#) and on the [CPD web app](#).

We hope that all fellows and members will benefit from this initiative, which is intended to make the process of recording CPD for the purposes of appraisal easier and more efficient.



*Dr Brendan McGrath, Consultant in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine*

## QI: tracheostomy care

I am delighted to announce that the RCoA and University Hospital South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust (UHSM) have been awarded a £400,000 grant by the Health Foundation, as part of a national QI initiative to improve care for tracheostomy patients. The College will oversee the project led by UHSM and Dr Brendan McGrath, Consultant in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine and NHS England Tracheostomy Lead. This is part of our commitment to improving care for this group of vulnerable patients.

With around 15,000 patients in England and Wales undergoing tracheostomy each year, it is vital that high-quality care is provided as airway problems can rapidly develop, especially in the critically ill. The new project team, brought together to improve care for patients, will involve UK and international leaders in the field from medical and wider health backgrounds and will also include patients, their families and carers. Dr McGrath is chief investigator for the project and will lead the team, who will work with 20 UK secondary and tertiary care sites managing tracheostomy patients, and will help them to rapidly implement quality improvement resources and international best practices identified by the Global Tracheostomy Collaborative.

A presentation on improvements in NHS tracheostomy care will be given by the UHSM team at events at Johns Hopkins University, Harvard University and Boston Children's Hospital in spring 2016. Further details of the project are available from [the Health Foundation](#).



*From left to right: Dr Bernie Liban, Consultant Anaesthetist, St George's Hospital; Dr J-P van Besouw, past-President RCoA and Council Member RCoA; and Dr William Harrop-Griffiths, Immediate past-President AAGBI, Council Member RCoA.*

## AAGBI Winter Scientific Meeting

Congratulations go to the AAGBI for another highly successful Winter Scientific Meeting, which was recently held at the QEII Centre, Westminster. One of the highlights of the meeting was the presentation of awards to distinguished anaesthetists including Dr J-P van Besouw, immediate RCoA past-President (pictured), who received honorary membership of the AAGBI and the AAGBI Award in recognition of his contributions to the speciality of anaesthesia.

Dr J-P van Besouw received his award at home due to recent ill health.



## Perioperative Medicine

It has been some time since we updated you on our Perioperative Medicine Programme and we have some exciting developments and upcoming events to share with you. Perioperative practice is as much about leading patient-centred care as delivering it, and we continue to build on our efforts to develop existing aspects of perioperative care, with the primary goal of improving patient outcomes through collaborative perioperative care pathways.

### Local Leads

Many of you will be aware that the College has been building a network of Perioperative Medicine Leads, who will be their hospital's link to the College's Perioperative Medicine Programme. I am pleased to update you that the College now has more than sixty Leads across the UK, who will play a pivotal role in making sure that their Trust meets the needs of its surgical patients now and into the future.

To become part of a network that we hope will span the whole UK, I would like to encourage you [to view the job description](#) for the post and to contact your Clinical Director if you wish to express an interest in the role in your own hospital.

### Anniversary Meeting

The College's annual Anniversary Meeting celebrates the creation of the Faculty in 1948 and the birth of our Royal College in March 1992. With lectures presented by renowned speakers on various topics each year, the focus for the 2016 meeting on 9-10th March will be innovation and improvement within

perioperative medicine. I am particularly looking forward to hearing The John Snow Oration by world acclaimed patient safety expert Professor Don Berwick, who will provide insight on how to design a high quality healthcare system, and from Professor Carol Peden, Professor of Anesthesiology at the University of Southern California, who will deliver the Macintosh Lecture on how anaesthetists can engage in improvement science.

I hope that you will join me at the meeting in March; you can find [further information here](#).



## National Audit Projects

In November's e-newsletter I gave a short update on our 6th National Audit Project (NAP). Examining perioperative anaphylaxis, NAP6 will facilitate collaboration between anaesthetists and allergy specialist communities to better manage and investigate this life-threatening condition. I am pleased to inform you that the data collection webtool for this project [is now live](#).

I would like to extend my thanks to all Local Coordinators for their hard work on the NAP6 Baseline Survey. We received more than 11,500 responses to the survey, which is an impressive total and extremely helpful to us as work on the project continues. The [NAP6 FAQ section](#) has recently been updated, but if you have any further queries, comments or suitable cases for inclusion, please do [notify the team](#). [A full list of Resources for NAP6 to date](#) can be found on the NAP webpages.



## Opioids Aware

Like me, you may have seen the recent BBC Panorama episode, [Hooked on Painkillers](#). The documentary revealed that four million people are taking opioids across the United Kingdom, highlighting a significant issue facing NHS prescribing.

In the wake of this documentary and supported by Public Health England, the Faculty of Pain Medicine led on the development of an e-prescribing resource, Opioids Aware, which has now been [launched online](#). This important and informative resource was designed with patients and healthcare professionals in mind, and will support better opioid prescribing. Further information [can be found here](#).

## And finally...

### AGM 2016

The RCoA's Annual General Meeting will take place as part of the Anniversary Meeting on Wednesday 9 March. As per College Regulations, I would like to invite Motions for consideration at the meeting, which should be submitted by 2 February 2016 to [ceo@rcoa.ac.uk](mailto:ceo@rcoa.ac.uk). Submitted items will be considered for inclusion at the February Council meeting. A full AGM agenda will be circulated in advance of the meeting in mid-February.

If you have any comments on any of the issues highlighted in this e-newsletter or would like to express your views on any other matters, I would like to hear from you. Please contact me via [presidentnews@rcoa.ac.uk](mailto:presidentnews@rcoa.ac.uk).

Best wishes,

Liam

**Liam Brennan, President**