

**IRC committee and strategy meeting**  
**16 October 2009**

**Grants** awarded to support work in developing countries, short-term overseas work and courses. £1000 travel grants awarded and larger grants for instance to support a trainee doing a self-funded OOPE in Uganda (£3000).

**Uganda Fellowship project** – 3 fellows currently supported (university fees and living costs, £3000 pa). Support from the committee for GAT to consider fundraising to pay for a 4<sup>th</sup> trainee.

**OAF (overseas anaesthesia fund) book donation programme** – buy textbooks bought at cost price and distribution arranged

**Future** - suggested that the IRC should have a guidance role for those who wish to work in the developing world

Trainees wishing to do OOPE

- Help with gaining College recognition
- General advice

## **EDUCATION**

**Books** are obtained at cost price – OHA (£6), Safe Anaesthesia (\$6), Understanding Paediatric Anaesthesia (\$6), Care of Critically Ill in the Tropics (£8). Books are distributed airfreight (approximately £1 per book) mainly to sub-Saharan Africa. The AAGBI spent £17000 in 2009 on the book donation programme.

'Anaesthesia for Obstetrics in Developing Countries' is currently being printed. 5000 copies will be purchased as a joint project by WFSA/OAA and AAGBI

**Journals.** *Update in Anaesthesia* is the official journal of WFSA and is available online in multiple languages on the WFSA website.

**CDROMs.** Three editions have been produced on behalf of the AAGBI. Each contains a variety of material: Update, videos and *Anaesthesia*.

**Anaesthesia Tutorial of the Week** 155 tutorials have been produced to date, available on the WFSA website and e-mailed out weekly to anaesthetists. The tutorials are free, mainly used by doctors.

**E-learning.** Examples discussed included the RCoA eLA, the WHO Global Oximetry Programme Powerpoint presentation and instructional videos.

**Future educational plans for the IRC.** Teaching in anaesthesia in developing countries is of variable quality – courses are short, training material not up to scratch, doctors are not available to train nurses.

Video provides an excellent medium to demonstrate good practice that cannot be described in a book. Ideally videos should be formatted to fit into a Powerpoint tutorial, longer videos may be free standing.

The group discussed the need for the IRC to develop a standardised nurse anaesthesia training curriculum and a training DVD series. A variety of training curriculum's have been set up by different groups in different countries (see below) and the IRC proposes to standardise these.

## **SOUTHAMPTON/NEPAL ANAESTHESIA LINK**

**Background** - There are 98 medical anaesthetists in Nepal (population 25M), 18 work outside the Kathmandu valley. The salary of the medical anaesthetists is \$200 per month thus all are required to work in the private sector and have limited opportunity for CME and to contribute to training.

There are 60 nurse anaesthetists, two nurse training schools, a new one-year nurse anaesthesia training course (extended from 6 months). The government aims to train 200 nurse anaesthetists. There are tensions between the medical and nurse anaesthetists. The Southampton team have visited Nepal four times to date, including an initial scoping visit. Visits have been to a number of different centres. There is a focus on nurse anaesthesia training and refresher training for physician anaesthetists, with class-room teaching, teaching based on the OR, critical incidents, scenarios and resus training.

### **Future plans of the Southampton link:**

1. Training videos to cover the core anaesthesia curriculum
2. Assessment of outcomes of the link, including the benefit to NHS staff.
3. **Trainee links** - e.g. 3 month UK trainee secondment to Nepal – learning and teaching, and 6 month fellowship post in Southampton for a senior Nepalese trainee

## **OBSTETRIC ANAESTHESIA**

**Background.** Kate Grady was invited by the RCOG International Office to set up the Life Saving Skills-Essential Obstetric and Newborn Care course (LSS – EOS and NC). The course covers essential skills for managing obstetrics for rural healthcare workers. She is part of the RCOG '58<sup>th</sup> study group' and will highlight the issue of anaesthesia services. The WHO programme 'Making Pregnancy Safer' includes an anaesthesia component.

**The LSS-EOS and NC Course.** This includes interactive training, hands on training, skills and drills, training the trainers, monitoring and evaluation, QA, and has a well defined infrastructure. There have been 35 courses to date, 1000 individuals trained, 150 local in-country facilitators, in 9 African countries, + 3 Asian countries.

## MOTHERS OF AFRICA

A charity set up to develop an anaesthesia curriculum for nurse anaesthetists in Liberia.

**Liberia nurse anaesthesia curriculum.** Liberia has a population of 3.5 M, is 5x size Wales, and is a state that is emerging from 15 years of civil war. There are currently 22 nurse anaesthetists, (most over 60yrs in age), 1 physician anaesthetist.

There have been four visits to date. The main challenges are a lack of resources, limited basic education, poor infrastructure, and communication difficulties. However, there is enthusiastic support for the project and excellent leadership locally.

A draft national curriculum for nurse anaesthesia training has been written. The course is 2 years and will be supported by 6 training visits by MoA timed to coincide with the examinations. There is an element of 'training the trainers' and the aim is for the course to be free standing in 5 years.

Emma Anderson  
**GAT Committee Member**