Anaesthetics Subcommittee of the Central Consultants and Specialists Committee (CCSC) of the British Medical Association (BMA)

The Anaesthetics Subcommittee is traditionally chaired by an AAGBI representative and its members derive from the CCSC, GAT, the RCoA, the Intensive Care Society, the British Pain Society, and the BMA’s SAS and Junior Doctors’ Committees. Its remit is as follows:

- To report to the CCSC in all matters affecting the interests of senior medical staff in anaesthesia.
- To provide advice to the CCSC and the wider BMA on specialty specific issues.
- To promote liaison between the CCSC/BMA, the AAGBI, the Intensive Care Society, the British Pain Society and the RCoA.
- To provide a lead on specialty specific issues, including liaison with the press and political lobbying or the development of relevant policy on behalf of the CCSC.
- To provide advice to consultants in anaesthesia on specialty specific issues (where appropriate) and to contribute to the development of broader CCSC advice and guidance as required.

To which can now be added: to save the BMA money by moving to video conferencing. We did this for one of the Subcommittee’s meetings this year and it was remarkably successful – we plan to hold more video meetings in the future. Much of the Subcommittee’s energy this year has been targeted at issues relating to two key current topics: revalidation and SPAs. At the recent Consultants’ Conference in BMA House, the Subcommittee had two motions passed all but unanimously; these will now be put before the BMA’s Annual Representatives Meeting and have a chance of becoming formal BMA policy.

They were:

- That this conference believes that some of the current royal colleges’ plans for specialist recertification and revalidation are too burdensome, and calls on the General Medical Council to ensure that the royal colleges urgently revise their revalidation requirements so that they are much more achievable and tailored towards the work that specialists actually undertake in their day-to-day medical practice.
- That this conference insists that employers advertise and appoint all new consultant posts with at least 2.5 SPAs in accordance with the 2003 consultant contracts, and asks the royal colleges to ensure that their Regional Education Advisors or equivalents only approve prospective new consultant posts with at least 2.5 SPAs.

The chair wrote two letters to the president of the RCoA pleading the cases of highly specialised pain physicians and paediatric anaesthetists, arguing that they should not be obliged to show CPD activity in every cell of Level 1 of the RCoA’s recently published CPD Matrix. The Subcommittee likes to think that these letters played a significant part in the subsequent withdrawal of the CPD Matrix and a commitment by the RCoA to reconsider this aspect of their plans for revalidation.

If you think the Subcommittee might be able to help you, please do not hesitate to contact its chair on harropg@mac.com

Will Harrop-Griffiths

AAGBI representatives on the Anaesthetic Subcommittee of the Central Consultants and Specialist Committee (CCSC) of the British Medical Association (BMA): A W Harrop-Griffiths, Chairman; R Griffiths; A J Hartle; F S Piaat