

Anniversary Medal

Prof Rachel Collis



If anyone mentions Cardiff obstetric anaesthesia, it is likely that the first name that comes to mind is Rachel Collis, and for very good reason. Rachel is a highly respected anaesthetist, renowned as a skilled clinician, teacher and mentor. She has made huge contributions to maintaining and enhancing the academic reputation of obstetric anaesthesia in Cardiff. Her groundbreaking research work in obstetric haemostasis is more than just good science; through the Quality Improvement work of the ObsCymru initiative she is implementing the fruits of good research throughout Wales, and further afield. Translating research evidence into clinical practice is helping to save mothers lives during childbirth. Her legacy is greater than just her research work; she has also nurtured leadership skills in her colleagues and set them on a course to maintain the strong academic reputation of Cardiff. Rachel's academic achievements were justly recognised by the Obstetric Anaesthesia Association in awarding her, in 2017, the OAA Professorship.

In addition to her research achievements, her Anniversary Medal is awarded in recognition of the fantastic work Rachel has undertaken on behalf of the Association since joining its Board and Council in 2012.

Rachel was an excellent chair of the International Relations Committee (IRC) between 2013 and 2016. Among her many achievements in that role, she introduced a more robust process for awarding travel and project grants, and promoted the design and development of the SAFE education courses. These innovative structured courses are making a significant difference and, by developing the skills of anaesthesia providers, are improving the safety of patients undergoing surgery in low-income countries.

Rachel has been a major contributor and editor of *Anaesthesia News*, commissioning articles to ensure entertaining reading in the issues that she has edited. She has been an active member of other committees including Research and Grants, Heritage, Welfare, and Safety. She also contributed to a number of the Association's Working Parties and notably Co-Chaired the Draw-Over Anaesthesia Check-list.

Rachel is a talented artist and as well as running the Art Exhibition in recent years, she brought her artistic eye to the group charged with the development of the new Association brand.

In the last two years, Rachel has served as Association Vice President., bringing her vast experience, skills and good sense to the Association's work.

Following an industrious and successful term on the Board and Council of the Association of Anaesthetists, I am pleased that Rachel's hard work and dedication on behalf of the Association's members, their patients and the specialty of anaesthesia worldwide, is being recognised by the award of a well-deserved Anniversary Medal.

Dr Paul Clyburn
President



**Association
of Anaesthetists**