

Association Award

Dr David Ray



David Ray is a Consultant in anaesthesia and intensive care at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. He is also the Immediate-Past Convenor of the Scottish Standing Committee (SSC) of the Association of Anaesthetists and it is for this latter role that we present David for the AAGBI Award.

I have known David for many years. He attended our local ATLS course as an energetic, knowledgeable, well prepared, well-rehearsed, organised ATLS instructor; all features which I aspire to having but he has in abundance and are recognisable in him today in his work for the SSC and the Association's Council.

David was an elected member of the SSC (2009) and moved quickly and ably into an officer role in that group. He was Treasurer for 3 years and then he took over as Convenor in 2014. As David writes of the SSC: *'Our priorities are to understand and meet the challenges posed to anaesthetists working in Scotland, to continue our support for adequate recruitment and retention of anaesthetists and intensive care doctors in Scotland, to ensure that new-style consultant posts are managed sensibly and sensitively, to represent the views of anaesthetists in Scotland to Association Council.'*

To achieve these objectives, David has applied his trademark enthusiasm and organisational skills to the leading the Committee. One example which stands out is that, along with Hilary Aitken, he collated and published the views of Scottish anaesthetists on contract issues relating to SPA time allocation and job planning. Nine to one contracts were the norm for many newly appointed consultants, but things are changing and we'd like to think that David and Hilary had some considerable hand in that.

As stated already, David has many talents and just as many interests. He has undertaken several important roles within his own department: Clinical Director, Educational Supervisor, consultant appraiser, ATLS Course Director, University of Edinburgh examiner, journal reviewer and he has been a member of national review and steering groups for trauma and emergency airway management. The list is endless, and this is perhaps why he has such a grasp on what's happening to individuals and their departments; he has been able to feed this understanding into the SSC. He is always interested and can formulate a reasoned stand-point to work or argue from on almost anything (everything might perhaps be pushing it too far). This is a talent.

David's latest venture for the Association has been driving forward, in collaboration with the Scottish Board of the RCOA, a Quality and Safety in Scottish Anaesthesia group for the benefit of patients and colleagues. Noting the potential for learning created by SALG, David has championed a similar venture north of the border. This has gained real traction and David plans to see this job through on behalf of the Association.

A tribute to David would not be complete without mentioning his sense of humour. David has a quick and dry wit which he uses to charm and delight his audience. That said, he is a supreme team player and allows everyone their time and place. He has been an excellent leader of the SSC and we are sad to see him go. I am delighted to present David, a deserving recipient, for the Association Award.

Dr Kathleen Ferguson
President Elect



**Association
of Anaesthetists**