

# Association Award

## Dr Deirdre Conway



Dr Deirdre Conway has been a great asset to the Association of Anaesthetists and the Association's Trainee Committee (formerly known as GAT) and I am delighted and honoured to be writing her citation in recognition of her enormous contributions.

Deirdre was elected onto the GAT Committee in 2015 and stepped down at GAT ASM 2018 after completing her anaesthetic training in West of Scotland and her subsequent appointment as a Locum Consultant at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. After her first year on the committee as an elected GAT member, she spent a year as Vice Chair before taking on the roles of Chair of the GAT Committee and Board member of the Association.

Her main priorities have always been highlighting and tackling important trainee issues affecting trainees and the wider anaesthetic community. She has had a particular focus on trainee welfare and well-being.

Deirdre has continually been a great advocate for trainees and ensured that their concerns are voiced and heard. She has co-ordinated, contributed and authored numerous responses on behalf of trainees to many governmental consultations such as Williams Review on gross negligence manslaughter from the Department of Health. Deirdre was instrumental in organising a meeting with the GMC in light of the Bawa-Garba case to discuss anxieties from trainees and the Association/RCoA fatigue project. She has been involved with the fatigue project from its infancy and helped to make this project a success and improve rest facilities for anaesthetic trainees nationally. Deirdre also endorsed a national trainee salary survey to gauge the extent of reported problems with pay and subsequently organised a meeting with Health Education England to highlight this issue.

As GAT Chair, Deirdre was the co-opted representative on the Royal College of Anaesthetists Trainee Committee and the nominated UK representative of the European Society of Anaesthesiologists Trainee Network. These roles have ensured close working relations with other anaesthetic trainee organisations. However, her work also extends to building strong cross-specialty relationships amongst other trainee groups. An example of this is her work with the British Orthopaedic Trainee Association and promoting the #HammerItOut and #KnockItOut campaigns to challenge bullying and undermining behaviours in the workplace. She was invited to speak about this project at the Linkmen Conference 2017.

Her other notable roles have included being the GAT representative on the Association's Education Committee and the Scottish Standing Committee, and a member of the Working Party that published the a national guideline on 'Safe provision of anaesthetic services in magnetic resonance units'.

As an advocate for trainee welfare, she is a trained mentor for the Association and organised the well-being drop in session at GAT ASM 2018. Deirdre has been involved with the charitable aims of the Association by helping to raise money throughout her time with GAT. Most notably, she climbed Ben Nevis as part of the Great GAT 3 peak challenge to raise money for SAFE Africa!

Outside GAT, Deirdre has a keen interest in airway anaesthesia and teaching and has set up teaching courses including the West of Scotland Fibreoptic Airway Training.

In her free time, she can always be found surrounded by friends, off travelling to cities, or in the cinema. She is a great fan of West Wing and the Marvel series and has quoted both President Bartlett and Avengers on many an occasion during our GAT Committee meetings. She also has a huge passion for music - both listening as well as singing, wherever she can (usually something related to Les Mis or Hamilton)!

Deirdre is a strong, intelligent, witty and confident individual and her dedication and hard work is inspirational. She is highly supportive and she clearly cares about those around her as well as the welfare of anaesthetists in training. This is evident when she has been asked to represent trainees on the panel discussions at Association conferences, where she speaks with a huge amount of passion, great poise and remarkable grace.

It has been an honour knowing her both on a professional front through the GAT Committee as well as on a personal level as a friend. I have learnt so much from her and hope to continue to do so in her role as Immediate-Past Chair.

On the GAT Committee, Deirdre is known as "classy with a rock chick edge". However, I would like to go one step further and quote Charlie Young from the West Wing and describe her as 'a smart, savvy woman who could easily consider world domination for a next career move'. Congratulations on this great honour Deirdre – very well deserved and we are all so proud of you!

**Dr Sally El-Ghazali**  
Chair  
Trainee Committee



**Association  
of Anaesthetists**