

Association Award

Mr Jose Gonsalves



In 2014 the Association of Anaesthetists decided to appoint two lay members to its Finance and Investment Committees. Out of a strong field of applicants, Jose Gonsalves (and the other lay member we appointed) were ideal appointments. Up until that time we relied on a variety of paid professional advisors, but we wanted truly independent financial advice from 'professionals' who understood membership organisations and charities.

When Jose started we immediately realised what we had been missing. (Until then we 'didn't know what we didn't know'). He brought a huge depth and breadth of financial experience, an analytical mind, and a passion for maximising our investment returns. A Chartered Accountant by training, with senior roles in 'The City' and experience from assisting the finance committees of Voluntary Service Overseas and the Royal Astronomical Society, his pedigree was superb.

We have not been disappointed. Jose has offered sage advice, assisted us on a number of significant financial issues, helped us with our annual audits, and worked tirelessly (and relentlessly) on our investments where he has helped us understand the effect of charges on the investment returns. He has taken time to explain the issues to the medical members, who are the real 'lay' members, of the Finance Committee and even organised a competition to see who could pick the best shares. (Don't worry – the Association's investments are overseen by professional advisors who choose our portfolio for us!) In 2017, our Finance Department underwent several staff changes and Jose helped us through what could have been a difficult time.

The importance of a sound finance function and investment policy should not be underestimated – they provide the bedrock of all of the Association's activities. Jose has been a true champion of the Association's finances and, through that, it's work for the membership and our charitable aims. He truly deserves the Association Award. As a 'return on investment', he has been worth his weight in gold!

Dr Mike Nathanson
Honorary Secretary
Association of Anaesthetists



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