

# Association Award

## Prof Kevin Carson



It is an honour to write a citation for Professor Kevin Carson in recognition of his contribution to the work of the Association of Anaesthetists, for keeping the 'I' in AAGBI so prominent and active, and through his leadership, involving the College of Anaesthetist of Ireland (CAI) in so many important and exciting ventures for our members.

Before embarking on a career in anaesthesia, Kevin graduated in Microbiology and then studied medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College. He attained four fellowships (anaesthesia, pain medicine, intensive care and sports and exercise medicine) and was awarded a Fellowship from the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (FAMM) in 2016.

He is a Clinical Professor in University College Dublin School of Medicine. He was Director and Chair of the Department of Anaesthesia, Intensive Care and Pain Medicine (2002-2011) at Temple Street Children's University Hospital and Clinical Director of the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (2008-2017). He was Lead for Paediatric Chronic Pain Management, has an interest in adolescent cardiac anaesthesia, anaesthesia for electrophysiology studies and cardiac ablation in paediatric patients, and anaesthesia for neonates. Whilst continuing with his onerous and highly skilled "day job" in paediatric intensive care medicine, he was elected to the Council of the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland in May 2006 and since that time has held the post of Chair of the Examinations Committee, Chair of the International Committee, Chair of the Advisory Committee of the National Clinical Programme of Anaesthesia, and Vice President of the College. He was also a member of the Trauma Committee of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and the HSE Procurement and Advisory Committee for National Paediatric Neurosurgery Services. Prof Kevin Carson was elected President of the College of Anaesthetists in May 2015 and currently sits on the Executive of the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies and the HSE National Consultants Application Advisory Committee.

I have known Kevin since he was co-opted onto Council of the Association. He is approachable, thoughtful, kind and fun. Kevin has been a torch bearer for all our Irish members. He has ensured that there is representation of the CAI on guidelines that are relevant to Irish members, ensuring that differences between the United Kingdom and Ireland are recognised in our work. He has also been a staunch supporter of the Irish Standing Committee. This group discusses matters of particular relevance to anaesthetic practice in the Republic of Ireland and works to provide support to our Irish members. Kevin has embraced and jointly badged the Association's environment statement, which together with the RCoA makes us a strong voice in driving forward the green agenda in anaesthesia.

One of the things that has most both impressed and touched me about Kevin, has been his overriding concern for the wellbeing of anaesthetists particularly in relation to the subject of suicide in anaesthetists. He has demonstrated commitment to the development of a wellbeing strategy within the CAI focused on a broad range of wellbeing supports along the continuum of prevention and management (structured mentorship & supporting the fight fatigue campaign, advocating for the aging anaesthetist), to crisis intervention strategies with trainees, consultants and their teams following the death of a team member by suicide.

Not one to shy away from a challenge and always thinking of the next step, Kevin has successfully introduced a change in terminology in Ireland, so that anaesthesia becomes anaesthesiology and anaesthetist becomes anaesthesiologist. This change in name is seen as an opportunity to rebrand the specialty to incorporate the role of perioperative medicine as a core part of the specialty.

Kevin is a truly worthy recipient of the Association Award. We will miss his warmth, positivity and caring attitude. Never one to stand still, as he steps down from Council of the Association, we look forward to seeing and sharing in his next ventures.

**Dr Samantha Shinde**  
Vice President