

Association Award

Dr Liam Brennan



Liam is a Consultant Anaesthetist with an interest in paediatrics at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. As might be expected of someone who becomes President of our College, he first held important and developmental local roles in education and management. He was, in turn, College Tutor, Programme Director and Deputy Regional Advisor, squeezing in a period as Department Chair as well.

I first met Liam at the FRCA Examination, happily not on opposite sides of the exam table but alongside as fellow examiners. It was clear that he was destined for greater things in education at the College and was elected to the RCoA Council in 2010. His fellow Council members clearly recognised his energy, enthusiasm and leadership qualities by electing him as Vice President in 2013 and then President in 2015.

During his time as President, Liam has led the College in a time of great transformation including its modernisation, development of a five-year strategy, improvements to its governance which have established clearer accountability for its Trustees, and importantly, the development of a Communication and External Affairs Directorate which is giving the College a stronger voice to use to the benefit of our specialty. It's not all been hard work, as last year was a time of great celebration in recognition of the College's 25 years since gaining its Royal Charter.

During my time as President of the Association, I have valued Liam's friendship, support and wisdom. I have always felt that I could pick up the phone and discuss common issues affecting our two organisations knowing that at the end of the conversation we would have a solution and a way forward. Relations between the College and Association have not always been conducive to working together, but under Liam's leadership, and to the greater benefit of our specialty, relationships have been good and there has been excellent collaboration, working closely over patient safety, anaesthetists' wellbeing and research.

Liam has just completed his term as President of the Royal College of Anaesthetists. During his term of office, he has been an important and influential member of the Association's Council and worked tirelessly for the benefit of anaesthesia and critical care specialties. I am pleased that the Association is recognising Liam's hard work on behalf of our specialty with the Association Award.

Liam's time at the RCoA may be drawing to an end but he is hardly seeking an easy 'retirement' as he is embarking on a new role as Deputy Medical Director at his hospital, with responsibility for infection control and adult safeguarding. I'm sure that he'll find this role no easier than that of College President, just different. I know he is up to the challenge and wish him every success.

Dr Paul Clyburn
President



**Association
of Anaesthetists**