

Association Award

Dr Sabrina Butcher



It has been my great pleasure over the last year to work alongside Sabrina on the SAS committee. Sabrina travelled up to the north east for her medical training, graduating from Newcastle University in 2003. Like many southerners who have made this long journey, she found her adopted home in the North, remaining here for her medical career. Sabrina initially started out training in plastic surgery, but she soon found her true calling and started anaesthetic training in 2014. However, she does still retain an impressive knowledge of anatomy for an anaesthetist! After completing her core training she felt a change of focus was needed in order to balance work and family life, particularly life with her sons Harry and Archie. As a result, she moved into the role of Specialty Doctor, taking up a post at South Tees Hospital Trust.

As a trainee, she was involved in her local trainee committee, and saw the benefits of giving her peers a voice, and the difference getting involved in such roles can bring about. So it was perhaps no surprise that when the SAS committee was looking for new members to strengthen their representation that Sabrina put her name forward. Indeed, I first met Sabrina in the foyer of 21 Portland Place, waiting for our interviews. We soon realised that we were both a little confused and unsure by what we had applied for, and just a little overawed by it. One year later and perhaps some of this has persisted!

Since joining the committee, Sabrina has been an invaluable colleague, keen to promote the benefits of the SAS grade, to give voice to our members within the Association and to other organisations and to raise the profile of SAS anaesthetists throughout the Association. She has thrown herself into the work, and has been involved with organising and presenting at seminars and generally being accessible as a SAS representative. She has a particular interest in SAS doctors using audit to develop services and their careers and this was recognised with second prize in the SAS poster competition at Annual Congress.

Sabrina has represented SAS members on the Education Committee and Trainees Committee. With GAT she has even climbed the UK Three Peaks, which is surely going above and beyond the call of duty, and definitely not mentioned in the original job description!

As a fellow newbie to the committee and the Association I have been very fortunate to have Sabrina starting alongside me, as we navigated through our new roles together.

As circumstances have changed, Sabrina has decided to return to training, and we all congratulate her on achieving her post. Sadly, this means she must step down from the SAS committee and we are all very sad to see her leave us. All of us on the committee will miss her input, her friendliness and helpfulness and general good nature. We wish her all the best in her training in anaesthesia, and have no doubt that we will see her again in some role or other with the Association in the future.

I have no hesitation in recommending Sabrina for this award, and it gives me great pleasure to do so.

Dr Thomas James

AAGBI SAS committee member