

Association Award

Dr Victoria McCormack



It is an absolute pleasure to write this citation for Victoria McCormack who I first met when we both joined the GAT Committee in 2015. A self-proclaimed 'proud Scot living in England', Victoria is a dual Anaesthetics/ICM trainee in the North West of England, having trained in St Andrew's and Manchester.

During her time on the GAT Committee, she demonstrated that decisions are made by those who show up, serving on the Membership Services Committee, being a vocal GAT representative on the rebranding group, a key part of the Less Than Full Time network and co-author of the pending Association guidelines on 'Transfer of the Patient with a Brain Injury'. Furthermore, she has served as Trainee Network Link (TNL) lead from 2016-17 and Vice Chair from 2017-18 (a veritable Leo to my Bartlet). In each role her natural wit and sharp thinking shone through.

In every venture both, within and beyond the GAT committee, Victoria infused us with lateral thinking and fresh ideas, lobbying for important issues such as environmental sustainability (and a meat free lunch!). Without her innovation, we would not have a GAT Twitter account (and some wonderful hashtags: #askGAT) or be in the process of developing podcasts.

Despite her social media prowess, Victoria knows it is not just about the optics. She is a tireless advocate for less than full time trainees and women in medicine. As a co-opted member of the Intensive Care Society she has invested a lot of time and effort into advocating for dual trainees and preserving the relationship between ICM and anaesthesia.

One of the first times Victoria and I collaborated was writing an article for *Anaesthesia News* on 'Fatigue, stress and death in training'. She interviewed the widow of a trainee colleague who had died following a car crash and her compassion and sensitivity were clearly evident. These attributes are inherent in everything Victoria does and none more so when she came up with the idea for GAT's 'Coffee and a Gas' - a local coffee morning to promote sharing and catching up with colleagues in a safe space on International Stress Awareness Day 2017.

Perhaps her most impressive skill is her unparalleled ability to shrewdly read the room and summarise key points without breaking a sweat. This has been invaluable when navigating the odd dilemma within the GAT committee or when sitting around a table with representatives from the GMC in the wake of Bawa-Garba. I have learned so much from the wonderful turn of phrase she has (and not just those borrowed from Aaron Sorkin).

It has been an honour to work alongside Victoria and learn from her for the last three years on the GAT committee. I can only imagine how successful and capable she will be as a consultant as she is a wonderful human who I am proud to call my friend.

Dr Deirdre Conway
Immediate Past Chair, GAT Committee