

Honorary Membership

Dr Jannicke Mellin-Olsen



It is a pleasure to write this citation for Dr Jannicke Mellin-Olsen in relation to the award of her Honorary Membership of the Association of Anaesthetists.

This award is made to 'eminent anaesthetists of great distinction'. Jannicke certainly fulfils that requirement, and much more. She joins a group of distinguished clinicians and others who have greatly benefited the work of the Association, its members and their patients. It is a great honour for us to have Jannicke accept this award. Her links to the Association - present informally for so much of her career - are now formalised, and deservedly so.

Jannicke has made huge contributions to anaesthesia and patient care in her native Norway, in Europe, and in the rest of the world. Among many other areas, she has been particularly influential in promoting international collaboration on patient safety. The list of other national societies that have recognised her contribution is evidence of the high esteem in which she is held.

Aligning with the interests of the Association on patient safety, education and welfare, her work in Europe (and wider) has been of direct benefit to colleagues in Great Britain and Ireland. We have worked with her during her time on the European Board of Anaesthesiology (where she held several high offices, including President), the European Society of Anesthesiology (where she was Honorary Secretary) and now as the President of the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA).

In 2010, while President of the EBA, she coordinated the production and subsequent signing of the Helsinki Declaration on Patient Safety in Anaesthesiology which has since been approved and signed by many countries. She served with distinction on the WFSA Education Committee before becoming its Chair in 2008, then Deputy Secretary of the WFSA in 2012, and then President-Elect in 2016. She has worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva to improve their anaesthesia protocols and has attended a series of World Health Assemblies on behalf of the WFSA and our speciality in Geneva.

She has always held deep concerns about those who do not have immediate access to urgent medical care. She has worked with MedAire Europe to promote better medical services to remote areas, with the Egyptian Health Ministry to develop air ambulance services, and was Medical Director of the Norwegian Air Ambulance service for several years.

She served with distinction with the United Nations peacekeeping forces and holds a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate's Medal, the Medal of Honour of the Nordic Blue Berets and the Norwegian UN Veterans Medal of Honour.

Her enthusiasm and leadership has been inspirational to all of those who have worked with her over the years in all these committees and organisations. She has an unshakeable sense of fair play and truly believes in equality of opportunity as a given right for all people. She is a great champion for gender-equality and for the rights of all patients throughout the world to receive an equal high standard of care.

Those who have worked with her, or heard her speak, know of Jannicke's sparkle and energy which are derived from her passion for patient care and for her colleagues no matter where they work or their needs. Her positivity and 'can do' attitude is obvious at any meeting she attends. While her work on patient safety is well-known; she is also the first to acknowledge there is much more to do and she continues to inspire and lead.

We are honoured to call Jannicke our colleague, our collaborator and our friend. We are delighted she has received this award.

Mike Nathanson
Honorary Secretary
AAGBI

David Wilkinson
Past-President
WFSA