

Honorary Membership

Dr Ravi Dravid



Dr Ravi Dravid qualified from Indore University, India in 1979. After completing postgraduate studies in anaesthesia he worked in Mumbai and then in Muscat before arriving in the UK in 1995. He completed the structured Senior Registrar training in the Oxford Deanery and started his consultant career at Kettering General Hospital in 2000.

Oxford was one of few centres offering structured advanced airway training when Ravi was a trainee. It was evident that he was one of those trainees who would not just stop at learning and practising these techniques himself but use his experience to benefit others and thus was laid a foundation for a life long passion of teaching and training in 'safe' airway management. He achieved this goal by getting involved in local, regional and national/international organisations offering to lecture, conduct and organise workshops and seminars.

Ravi's hallmark was attention to detail and innovation. It was always a pleasure to help at Ravi's workshops because you were assured that every little detail would have been taken care of – you just had to ask for a certain piece of equipment or even a tape or scissor and it was there! No wonder his workshops were popular, not only amongst well-known faculty, but also industry representatives. He was obsessive about feedback he obtained from the delegates as this spurred him to even better the next workshop. This way he kept on innovating and introduced new ideas and techniques into his workshops. It is no surprise that he was invited to organise Airway Workshops at the Association's annual scientific and winter scientific meetings in 2002 and successfully ran these for the next ten years.

Ravi's involvement with the Difficult Airway Society was inevitable. He completed a successful term as Treasurer between 2006 and 2008. His passion in education and empowering anaesthetist to practice safe airway techniques confirmed the Society's confidence in him as Education Lead between 2008-15. Here he excelled in showing vision. In the mid 2000 'human factors' was the buzzword. Ravi researched this area and gave numerous lectures on awareness of Human Factors in improving airway safety. His vision was that airway emergencies in the operating theatre are better managed as a structured team approach. He designed and organised a training course – the SMART (Structured Management Airway Response Teams) Course. To date, 25 courses have been conducted in various centres in the UK and 300 theatre teams have been trained. Ravi introduced the idea of Extubation Guidelines to DAS and co authored the guidelines. He organised Airway Revalidation courses for the Royal College to benefit anaesthetists.

In Kettering, Ravi was the Airway Lead for his trust. He maintained a database with prospective planning for management of patients with difficult airways for the last 10 years. He initiated primary airway assessment by nurses in pre-assessment clinics to act as first barrier to 'missed difficult airway'. He was given the Regional Innovation award for developing a checklist for improving communication and facilitating a safe handover between anaesthetists of an anaesthetised patient.

Ravi firmly believed in Albert Einstein's quote – "Intellectuals solve problems, geniuses prevent them". Ravi has tirelessly worked to train anaesthetists in safe airway management and thus prevent airway problems.

Professor Mansukh Popat
Consultant Anaesthetist (Retired)
Oxford



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