



# GAT

GROUP OF ANAESTHETISTS IN TRAINING

# We invite trainees to stand for election to the GAT Committee

**GAT is the original professional representative body for trainee anaesthetists of the AAGBI and has existed in some form for almost 50 years. With more than 3000 members we represent >80% of trainee anaesthetists, who together form the largest single group of acute hospital specialty trainees within the NHS.**



The Committee has 12 elected members, with an executive comprising Chair, Vice Chair and Honorary Secretary. We meet three times a year at the Association headquarters in Portland Place and also at the GAT ASM. The Chair and

Honorary Secretary are full members of AAGBI Council; the Vice-Chair is co-opted. The GAT Committee members represent trainees on all AAGBI committees and working parties; they are also co-opted onto several external committees, including The Royal College of Anaesthetists Trainee Committee. As well as committee and working party roles, the GAT Committee has editorial control of a monthly section in *Anaesthesia News* and also organises seminars specifically for trainees. GAT maintains an international presence by representing UK and Ireland trainees at international meetings. As advocates for our speciality, we continue to work with all training organisations to ensure we retain the highest quality in both anaesthetic practice and training.

It's never been a more interesting time to train in anaesthesia with the proposed changes to NHS Pensions, a reduction in training numbers, proposed changes to the NHS, Intensive Care becoming its own speciality, and increasing differences between NHS

England, NHS Wales, NHS Scotland and Health & Social Care in Northern Ireland. And that is just in the United Kingdom.

Unfortunately the GAT Committee does not currently have any members from Ireland, something we'd like to rectify. The AAGBI's mandate covers the UK and Ireland and I urge trainees there to stand for election to represent your speciality. We also need representation from all four nations of the United Kingdom, so I encourage nominations from Northern Ireland and Wales as they are currently unrepresented.

The GAT Committee tends to attract senior trainees. With the recent changes to anaesthetic training in the UK, the Committee feels it is less able to accurately reflect the opinions and concerns of core trainees as our most junior elected member starts higher training in August. To improve representation of core trainees, we would like to assess whether there should be a dedicated place on the GAT Committee for them. For this year's elections, we are encouraging CT1 and 2s to stand and will reserve one of the seats on the GAT Committee for a core trainee. If this pilot is successful, we will propose an amendment to the GAT Committee constitution at the Annual General Meeting to make this permanent.

If you become a member of the GAT Committee you will be in a position to impact nationally on how training evolves within anaesthesia over the next decade. It is very easy to criticise, much more difficult

to suggest compromise and solutions. If you think that you can represent your colleagues and peers, are innovative and resourceful, and can work well within a team of enthusiastic individuals, then we want you on the GAT Committee. The responsibility we are given is a privilege. As well as being interesting, it develops your management, negotiating and authorship skills at a national level.

### What to do next

In 2012, there will be at least four seats for election to the committee. Those standing for election will be expected to serve for a minimum of two years, with a maximum of four years. If elected, nominees agree to fulfil the duties and responsibilities required of them. The term of office on the committee commences at the GAT ASM in June 2012.

Further information and nomination forms are available from the AAGBI Secretariat on 020 7631 8812, [gat@aagbi.org](mailto:gat@aagbi.org) or can be downloaded from the AAGBI website ([www.aagbi.org](http://www.aagbi.org)). All forms should be submitted with the signatures of a proposer and seconder (who must both be trainee members of the AAGBI) to: Dr Nicholas Love, Chair, GAT Committee, 21 Portland Place, London, W1B 1PY, or faxed to 020 7631 4352. The closing date is Tuesday 10 April 2012. We look forward to receiving your nomination form.

**Dr Nicholas Love,**  
*Chair, Group of Anaesthetists in Training*