

## Innovation Award

# Do you have what it takes to innovate?

Now in its seventh year, the Association's Innovation Award in Anaesthesia, Critical Care and Pain recognises the impact of innovation and new ideas on patient safety, high quality clinical care and improvements in the working environment. The award was established by Dr Bernie Liban, a former Council member. In anticipation of the 2019 Innovation Award, we spoke to Dr Chris Evans who won the award earlier this year with the Little Journey app.

I've always had an interest in innovation and I was inspired by previous Innovation Award winners such as Dr Maryanne Mariyaselvam (Non-injectable Arterial line connector) and Dr Peter Brooks (RELAX Anaesthetics app). I remember listening to Peter's winning presentation at the Association's WSM London conference in 2016. As my interest in paediatric peri-operative anxiety was growing at this point, learning about Peter's work really spurred me on to develop the Little Journey app.

The whole process was straightforward with a written application, followed by an on-the-day eight-minute presentation with questions. Within the application I was able to showcase the research and patient-driven app design process, the research performed to provide proof of concept and the planned future of the app. The presentation allowed me to show the panel how the app actually prepares children for surgery using virtual reality, the research we've performed to develop the app and how it has been used since its launch – including being downloaded in 14 countries worldwide.

I remember feeling very shocked when it was announced that I had won the 2018 Innovation Award. I was absolutely stunned by the response I received and celebrated my win with my family that evening.

After winning the 2018 Innovation Award, the project and associated research continues to progress at a high speed. The award has greatly assisted with local adoption of our innovation. We've had interest from hospitals from all around the world wanting to use the Little Journey app, of which 10 hospitals in the UK are now setup ready to provide it to their patients, with a further 11 hospitals undergoing this process. If you would like further information about how to set up your hospital to use the app, please contact [chris@littlesparkshospital.com](mailto:chris@littlesparkshospital.com).



*Dr Chris Evans receiving the 2018 Award for Innovation in Anaesthesia from Dr Paul Clyburn, AAGBI President*

The Association's Innovation Award is a brilliant initiative to help support the development of anaesthesia and critical care innovations, from both grass-roots and commercial teams. It helps create links with industry partners and provides recognition for the hard work being performed to further our speciality in the areas of patient safety, patient care and the working environment. I would encourage anyone to apply for the award if you have an innovation at any stage of development from concept to finished product.'

The 2019 Association's Innovation Award is open to all anaesthetists, intensivists and pain specialists based in Great Britain and Ireland. Those shortlisted will present their innovation at the Association's Winter Scientific Meeting in London on Friday 11 January 2019. The closing date for applications is **Friday 28 September 2018**.

Apply today at [www.aagbi.org/innovation](http://www.aagbi.org/innovation)