



SAS Committee Report

What a year it has been for the SAS doctors and the SAS Committee at the Association!

The year commenced with negotiations for a new SAS Contract. It was finally introduced after a lot of uncertainty and deliberation. Not many seemed to be in favour of the contract, especially the older associate specialists and senior staff grade doctors. The Association published its long awaited glossy on the contract, with guidance for old and new contracts. It was well received and thanks go to the working party for all its hard work.

There are many staff grade doctors trying to get re-graded to the associate specialist grade. This is their last chance to do so. The SAS Committee managed to issue some guidance on re-grading. Unfortunately several members are still having problems due to lack of support either from lead clinicians or the human resources department. The committee is trying to advise such members on an individual basis.

It is exciting to see that funding has been made available for career progress and the development of SAS doctors under the new specialty doctor contract. The posts of SAS clinical tutors are being created in several trusts, and it was good to see some of them recently at the NACT meeting. This, I hope, will help SAS doctors and inspire their academic interests. It is also heartening to see SAS doctors being appointed as Associate Deans in some areas to represent SAS doctors and being included in the

discussions. However, there appears to be a lot of discrepancy in the way funds are utilised and it seems to vary between deaneries.

We had quite a few 'firsts' this year. The SAS Research and Audit grant was instituted and awarded for the first time at the Annual Congress of the AAGBI in Torquay last year. A new SAS Travel Grant has been established and is advertised this year. This is a grant which is intended exclusively for SAS members so that they can visit a place of excellence relevant to their practice.

The SAS Committee, in association with the SAS Committee of the RCoA, is conducting a major survey of all the SAS doctors this year. This is to identify the main issues that concern SAS doctors working in anaesthetics and the problems they face at work and otherwise. This will enable both SAS Committees to serve members better. SAS membership of the AAGBI has gone up four-fold since the committee's inception. The committee is planning to create representation in the form of an 'SAS Linkman' scheme to improve communications and help the message spread more efficiently to members.

The SAS Committee has organised new seminars this year. The seminar on 'SAS matters' was held in April this year. It dealt with various aspects of our job and will be repeated in November this year. Further seminars on stress, mentoring, and other essential management matters are planned for the future.

There is traditionally a lunchtime session for SAS doctors at Association's Annual Congress. This year for the first time the SAS session will be part of the main programme, and is entitled 'Stress, stressors and strategies'.

The SAS Committee also held a session at the GAT ASM in Cambridge in July. It is a very welcome development as it gives an opportunity for SAS doctors to mingle with trainees as these two groups work together at all levels in hospitals. Thanks go to the GAT Committee and its Chairman Chris Meadows.

The SAS Committee is planning to organize a 2-day meeting in London in 2010 to celebrate its achievements. This programme will not only include educational sessions and workshops but also entertainment and dinner so that the members can network. The Third SAS Review Day, which is a joint meeting of the SAS Committees of the Association and the RCoA, was held recently at 21 Portland Place. It was fully booked and had excellent feedback.

I believe that much has been achieved over the last few years to raise the profile of SAS doctors. I am sure with the continued support of the Council and the membership of the AAGBI, the SAS Committee will continue to grow and achieve even more in future.

Ramana Alladi
Chairman, SAS Committee