



Ramana Alladi addresses the SAS session at Congress

SAS Page

It has been a fairly busy year for the SAS Committee of the Association, a year which began with a lot of uncertainty about the new SAS Contract. I welcome the introduction of the new Contract, which may not have been what many expected but it is here to stay. The implementation of the new contract is in full swing as I write.

The Association has published the long-awaited "glossy" on the SAS Contract, which has detailed guidance on the old and the new contracts. It is available for download from the AAGBI website (<http://www.aagbi.org/sas/publications.htm>) and has been sent to all SAS members. My thanks go to Dr Les Gemmill and the working party for all their contributions to the glossy. I do hope that it serves as a reference and gives appropriate guidance on contractual matters. It will be a good addition to the SAS Handbook we published earlier as a source of useful information. I wish you all the very best with your negotiations.

The proposed joint meeting of the SAS Committees of the AAGBI and the RCOA has taken place, and was very well attended. It was a worthwhile exercise and enabled the two organisations to work together on a broader forum and also to take some important decisions that matters SAS doctors. It is hoped that the joint effort will continue for the benefit of all SAS members of both organisations.

A major survey of SAS anaesthetists will be conducted in the near future. The aims of the survey are to assess various issues facing SAS doctors regarding careers, job plans, terms and conditions and other matters so that the Association and the College can address them effectively. The questionnaires will be sent to all identified SAS doctors working in anaesthetics. I would urge all recipients to spare a few minutes to fill them in to ensure the best quality of information reaches the Councils of both organisations.

This year the AAGBI SAS audit and research prize has been awarded for the first time, to Dr Smita Oswal. May I remind all the SAS members to look for the next call for applications and apply for the prize in larger numbers.

The editor of the journal 'Anaesthesia' informs me that the journal receives very few contributions from SAS doctors. Surely you may have interesting case reports or results of audit projects to report on. Please do try and contribute to the journal.

We had very successful SAS seminars last year, and the repeat of SAS review day has been fully subscribed. The Association will be holding the 2009 SAS Joint Review Day at 21 Portland Place. Two new seminars are planned for next year: one will be dealing with stress and associated issues and the





AAGBI President Dick Birks presents Dr Smita Oswal with the first SAS Audit and Research Prize

other with management issues. Please look out for further details in the seminar programme.

The lunchtime SAS session at the Annual Congress in Torquay was very well attended and received. We had interesting talks on revalidation from Professor Dodds, 'The Role of SAS doctors in the present manpower structure' by Dr Andrew Tomlinson, and an inspiring account of the contribution of SAS doctors to anaesthetics by Dr Chris Rowlands.

The recent College census revealed that there are approximately two thousand SAS doctors working in anaesthetics. It is important that as many SAS doctors as possible join the Association to strengthen the representation and the voice. I would like you to encourage your friends and colleagues who are still not members of the Association to join. The membership department of the AAGBI will give you assistance in this matter.

I am really pleased to inform you that the council of the AAGBI is wholeheartedly involved in the cause and welfare of SAS doctors and I have had full support from the past President Dr David Whitaker and the incoming President Dr Richard Birks and all the members of the Council. I request all the members to get involved with the Association and pass on any suggestions and criticisms you may have to me. Every comment will be taken seriously and acted upon.

As Chairman of the SAS committee, I would like to thank you for all your feedback and suggestions so far and of course the support, which makes my job easy and worthwhile.

Dr Ramana Alladi
Chairman, SAS Committee, AAGBI

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