

The AAGBI Staff and Associate Specialist Committee



The SAS Committee was established in 2002 under the Chairmanship of Dr Kate Bullen who remains the only SAS member to be elected to the Council of AAGBI. The Association recognised the service rendered by SAS doctors in anaesthesia and felt that a committee should be established to look after the needs and welfare of SAS doctors. The then President of the Association, Mike Harmer, took great interest and the Council and Executive continue to assist the committee to do all it can to raise the profile of SAS doctors.

The functions of the committee are:

- To represent the interests of SAS members of the AAGBI
- To advise Council on matters relating to SAS doctors
- To promote the aims and aspirations of the AAGBI to SAS doctors
- To encourage the professional development of SAS doctors
- To ensure effective collaboration with SAS Committees of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, other Royal Colleges and professional bodies on issues of mutual interest.

The SAS Committee conducted a major survey of all SAS members in 2004 to establish the issues facing doctors in terms of job prospects, terms and conditions, educational and welfare needs and other relevant issues. The Committee has acted upon the results of the survey.

The numbers of SAS members did not accurately reflect actual numbers of SAS doctors working in anaesthetics

and there was scope for improvement. The Council agreed to create a special category of subscription for SAS doctors and the subscription was set at £75 for the first year to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Association. The numbers have trebled over the last two years but there is still much to be done. There are still many Trust grade and Staff grade doctors who are not members of the Association, but the committee continues to work towards improving that.

The SAS Committee organises the following meetings annually:

- A seminar on academic topics
- A study day on management topics
- The Joint Review Day in association with the SAS Committee of the RCOA
- The SAS session at Annual Congress of AAGBI

AAGBI Council, at the request of SAS Committee, also established a Research/Audit award for SAS doctors to encourage research among this group.

The SAS Committee has successfully launched the first edition of the SAS Handbook under the chairmanship of Les Gemmell. It has been a good source of relevant information and due to its popularity, extra copies of the handbook were printed. The handbook will be updated regularly.

The SAS Committee is due to publish the latest edition of the SAS "glossy" very soon. The purpose is to provide guidance to doctors on contractual issues. The SAS Committee runs a frequent SAS page in *Anaesthesia News* to provide a forum for this group and has attracted varied and interesting contributions.

SAS Pages on AAGBI Website

There is a separate section for SAS anaesthetists on the AAGBI main web site. This has all the relevant information including details of SAS articles, documents and useful links. It is regularly updated by the SAS Committee.

SAS Committee Membership

We now have a substantial and strong SAS committee at the Association. The chairman of the SAS Committee is Dr Ramana Alladi (Ashton under Lyne) who is also a co-opted member of the Council of AAGBI. The members of the committee include the Executive of AAGBI and three other elected Council members. The committee also includes representatives from the RCoA SAS Committee (Dr Andy Lim, Chairman of the SAS Committee and member of the Council of the RCOA), Dr Anthea Mowat, (Conference Chair, SASC of BMA) and co-opted SAS members Dr Chris Rowlands (past chairman of the SAS Committee of the RCoA), Dr Christine Robison from Scotland and Dr Sajayan

who are both very active SAS members. The committee meets twice a year.

The SAS committee of the Association is planning to hold a joint meeting in association with the full SAS committee of the RCoA. It is hoped that this will create a broader forum for making decisions. Joint projects which may be undertaken include establishing a database of SAS doctors working in anaesthetics; conducting a survey to assess the concerns of the members on various aspects of the jobs; review and improve continuous medical education needs, provision of training and career progression.

In view of the radical changes likely to take place in medical manpower structure in the near future the Committee feels that it has an important role to play in representing SAS doctors by assisting them with career and contractual issues. It is the intention of the SAS Committee to increase the membership and work

towards raising the profile of Anaesthetic SAS doctors in every possible way. The Committee and the Council believe that SAS doctors provide an invaluable service to the NHS and deserve better.

The committee keeps in touch with SAS affairs and relays to AAGBI Council the comments and views of the membership on topical matters from time to time. Sir John Tooke's report hints at the need for the introduction of 'Trust Registrar' grade which is similar to the present SAS grade. This raises questions about the SAS role, job plans, training and education and career progression. The role of the SAS Committee will be significant in this changing climate.

The SAS Committee believes that it has and will have a significant role to play in raising the profile of SAS doctors and improving the welfare of its members.

Ramana Alladi
Chairman, SAS Committee, AAGBI

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