

# GAT 2010

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

# CARDIFF

30 JUNE–2 JULY 2010



# An Update from the GAT Committee

*Anaesthesia News*, being the mouthpiece of the Association, lends itself well to an update for our members on what the GAT Committee has been up to since I took to the Chair in July. Our current GAT Page editor and Honorary Secretary, Susan Williams, has been made an assistant editor of *Anaesthesia News*, continuing to ensure that the GAT voice features prominently.

The GAT Committee, with its six new elected members, has been unable to meet since our ASM in Cambridge due to a number of factors, but communications continue by e-mail and through representation on multiple committees at the AAGBI, RCoA and others. Please see our website for a full list of these, including our representatives on AAGBI Working Parties. Unfortunately, after many years of representation as a co-opted member of the RCoA Council, GAT has been removed from this position

over the summer. Negotiations over this continue, as we feel this should remain a vital part of our work and, indeed, is the main reason for the existence of our elected Vice Chair position.

The 9th Edition of our GAT Handbook should have found its way to your doorsteps by now, and I'm sure you'll agree it looks very impressive. Thanks again to Drs Mark Hearn and Alex Ward for all their hard work in putting it together. Our new publication, the "Core Survival Guide" edited by Liz Shewry, will also be out shortly, and our booklet "Your Career in Anaesthesia" is in the process of being rewritten to reflect changes in the training pathway post-MMC. The remaining copies of the previous edition were given away at our joint AAGBI/RCoA/ICS stand at the BMJ Careers Fairs in London and Birmingham in early October. Representatives from

GAT spent time at the London BMJ Careers Fair promoting our specialty to medical students and Foundation doctors, and were delighted at the amount of interest expressed in careers in both anaesthetics and ICM.

The GAT ASM 2010 in Cardiff (June 30th to July 2nd) is in the advanced planning stages under the stewardship of Professor Judith Hall and the Local Organising Committee. The Royal Society of Medicine will be present on the first day, and the GAT Committee have organised a session on peri-operative optimisation with three experts in this field. It has all the makings of an excellent meeting so book your study leave now! Our 2011 ASM is in its early planning stages and will be held in Leeds.

Rob Broomhead had taken over as co-ordinator of our GAT seminars. These

continue to be popular ways of gaining experience and education in different areas of our specialty, and the Consultant Interview seminar remains particularly popular. Look out for the advertisements within the AAGBI Seminars programme published each month, and please let us know if you have any ideas for future topics.

GAT has recently written to the RCoA Training Committee expressing concerns over the integration of training with the demands of the introduction of full EWTD compliance. We have also been in contact with the RCoA Advisor for less-than-full-time training in an attempt to clarify the position regarding time-in-lieu for study leave taken on non-working days. This issue is still open for debate. One of our major functions is to write to appropriate people on your behalf regarding key concerns and issues, so if there is anything else that we should be following up on your behalf then please let us know.

We have been actively promoting the use of the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist and the Patient Safety First project 'SAVED', which took place during Patient Safety Week in September. Hannah Gill, one of our newly elected members, has been appointed to the role of Patient Safety Link, liaising with the NPSA on such matters. She is also involved in the writing of the Patient Safety Curriculum in conjunction with the RCoS and PMETB.

Susan Williams is an active member of the AAGBI Welfare Committee and has co-ordinated the recent survey of stress amongst trainees. Some of this data was presented in an excellent talk at the AAGBI Annual Congress in Liverpool entitled "Trainee stressors". Thank you to everyone who took time to complete this important survey; more information will be available regarding the results in due course. Also, thank you to those who completed our Annual Training Survey at the Cambridge ASM. These results were presented in an article in the October issue of *Anaesthesia News* by the co-ordinator, Liz Shewry. The results from our Annual On-call Survey will also be available shortly; please do keep helping us with data collection – we try to limit the numbers of requests for your help in completing surveys, but we cannot properly represent you if we do not know what your views and opinions are and without hard data to back up any claims we make on your behalf. We do not allow others access to our e-mail database to distribute individual surveys, and following an incident at the GAT ASM this year, we do not allow distribution of surveys other than our own Annual Training Survey at our ASM.

Our web-pages are our main communication tool with you and we are extremely proud of them and their content and endeavour to keep them updated regularly. However, we are currently in the process of redesigning them in conjunction with the whole AAGBI website project so please bear with us during the transition process.

The GAT Committee continue to work hard on your behalf and are always happy to be contacted on [gat@aagbi.org](mailto:gat@aagbi.org) for any ideas, questions or comments. Please encourage all anaesthetic trainees who are not yet members to sign up – membership of GAT is automatic for trainees on joining the AAGBI, and the large number of benefits available can also be found on our website. We will continue to keep you updated about all relevant GAT issues.

**Felicity Howard**  
GAT Committee Chair

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