

Come join us!

It's the GAT Committee election time again and we're looking for YOU!

The reasons for becoming a GAT Committee member are wide ranging but all very valid. Many of us are passionate about ensuring good quality anaesthetic training and wish to represent trainees at a national level. Frustrated perhaps by the constraints of the European Working Time Directive, the threat of becoming part of the a 'Hospital at Night' team or the impact of physician's assistants in anaesthesia and critical care. Others are curious as to the workings of the Association of Anaesthetists and how committees and working parties function at a national level. Some of us see it as more of a personal challenge to engage in debates about issues concerning us all and ensuring the trainee voice is heard. Whatever the reason or motivation we work hard to represent you and now we have a vacancy on our committee.

Who are we? Where did we come from?

The Group of Anaesthetists in Training (GAT) was established more than 40 years ago and we're still going strong. It continues to be the only nationally elected anaesthetic trainee group representing YOU. We are proud of the fact that our committee consists of trainees from throughout the UK and all different training grades.

Trainee anaesthetists were first permitted to become Associate members of the AAGBI in 1956 but they had no representation and no voting rights. In 1967, the Associates in Training Group was established, and a constitution drawn up. The elected committee of five trainees met twice a

year to represent less than 100 members and initially had non-voting representation on Council. In 1970, the constitution changed: two members of the trainees' committee were admitted to Council with full voting rights, and all trainee members were given full voting rights within the Association. The name also changed to the Junior Anaesthetists Group (JAG).

In the early 1990s, as juniors became known as trainees, JAG became GAT and the number of elected members rose to ten. In the 21st century, GAT has over 3500 members, all of whom have voting rights within the Association. An annual postal ballot of all GAT members was held in the past. This year we pilot on line voting to elect the new Committee member. We also co-opt committee members including the RCoA trainee representative, and members from the BMA Junior Doctors Committee

and an Irish representative ensuring that we are well informed of current issues and able to feedback to other organisations. We are pleased to have the support of AAGBI council and a member of Council also sits on our committee giving us valuable input.

Make a difference

The GAT committees' objectives are to promote training, the practice of anaesthesia and communication amongst trainees. We aim to report back on important and influential changes to keep you updated. This we do principally via our website (www.aagbi.org/gat.htm), which is about to undergo a radical redesign.



The current GAT committee

Importantly we represent trainee views from trainees by trainees, to the 'powers that be'. Your input, whether just keeping in touch (via email gat@aagbi.org), letting us know of any problems or completing our surveys, helps us do that better.

Why not take your input a step further and become a fully fledged committee member? With all the dramatic changes to postgraduate training over the last few years (and more to come I'm sure!) representation by trainees for trainees remains vital. We always welcome keen, enthusiastic anaesthetic trainees to join our committee.

Commitment

We ask that you are able to make at least a two year commitment. It doesn't matter which year of training you are in, all new members are gradually introduced to the workings of the committee.

We hold 4 GAT Committee meetings a year, one of which is held prior to our ASM in July. Each member commits to attend the various committees, meetings, working parties they are assigned to- whether AAGBI, RCoA, BMA or other. The majority of these meetings take place at 21, Portland Place but travel expenses are reimbursed. In all, GAT has representation on nearly 40 committees and working parties.

We also run a range of trainee seminars (e.g 'your Consultant Interview', 'Management' seminars) and our Annual Scientific Meeting, held in Cardiff this year. We produce a number of publications (developing editorial skills). Our GAT handbook is published every 2 years and our other publications have included; The Core Survival Guide, Your Career in Anaesthesia and Organising A Year Abroad.

In addition we provide topical articles for our GAT Page within *Anaesthesia News*. This is a fantastic opportunity to keep our members up to date and well informed. It's not all hard work though! We are a social group and fit in time for a little relaxation occasionally...

How to apply?

It's simple. Download a nomination form and then find two colleagues who are trainee members of the AAGBI, one to nominate and one to second you. Next you need to write a 250-word 'mission statement'! This will be sent out to GAT members to help them decide who to vote for, so it's all important. Don't worry, we'll include some examples with the nomination form to help you along the way. Then it's voting time so please encourage all your colleagues to vote. If you are elected we look forward to meeting you at our GAT ASM in July! Good Luck

Can you make a difference?

Susan Williams Honorary Secretary
Elizabeth Shewry Vice Chair



THE ASSOCIATION OF ANAESTHETISTS

of Great Britain & Ireland

GAT COMMITTEE ELECTIONS 2010

The Group of Anaesthetists in Training (GAT) Committee comprises elected trainees of all grades. It is the only democratically elected and official, independent body representing anaesthetic trainees at AAGBI committees, Royal College committees and other national medical bodies. The GAT Committee also works on publications, seminars and the ever-popular Annual Scientific Meeting.

Nominations are now invited from trainee members of the Association wishing to stand for election. In 2010, there is one available seat on the Committee. **Those standing for election will be expected to serve for a minimum of two years. If elected, nominees agree to fulfil the duties and responsibilities required of them.**

Further information and nomination forms are available from Chloë Hoy on 020 7631 8807, gat@aagbi.org or can be downloaded from the AAGBI website www.aagbi.org

All forms should be submitted with the signatures of a proposer and seconder (who must both be trainee members of the Association) to:

Dr Felicity Howard, Chairman, GAT Committee,
21 Portland Place, London, W1B 1PY
or faxed to 020 7631 4352

Closing date – Friday 16th April 2010