

GAT Update



Three more months have passed on the GAT Committee and so it is time for another *Anaesthesia News* update. The 'new look' GAT Committee met for the first time at the end of November and spent a long and productive day discussing and deliberating over topical issues; the report from this meeting can be found on our web-pages and covers all the salient points.

From these discussions came our first GAT Committee Statement following full implementation of the European Working Time Regulation (EWTR) in August 2009. This was posted on our web-pages on 17th December. By now we will hopefully have been able to update this following the results of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCOA) data collection exercise, so do go onto the GAT web-pages and follow the appropriate link. We will be collecting data ourselves with our Annual Training Survey at the GAT Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Cardiff in July, but are always keen to hear your thoughts and feelings on the whole issue of EWTR implementation. Do please let us know how it has been for you via gat@aagbi.org so that we can continue to keep our finger on the pulse and best represent our members.

Speaking of the GAT ASM in Cardiff (Wednesday June 30th to Friday July 2nd,) web booking is now in full swing and the closing date for abstract submission for both the Registrar's and Audit prizes (Friday 16th April) is fast approaching. Get your entries in quick and book your place and study leave now. The Royal Society of Medicine is kindly over-seeing our Intensive Care Medicine Session this year and will be present at the meeting.

The GAT web-pages, along with the AAGBI website, are in the process of being redesigned; hopefully this will be at or near completion by the time you read this article. However, it is not too late to let us know if there is anything you wish to see on our web-pages that you feel is missing, or if you have any suggestions for improvement. Again, please get in touch using the above e-mail address.

By now you may have seen a copy of the new "Core Survival Guide" which was mailed out to College Tutors in September. More copies are available on request from the AAGBI and an electronic version is on the website. Many thanks go to Liz Shewry for all her hard work in putting this publication together. A new version of "Your Career in Anaesthesia" edited by Alex Beckingsale and Rob Broomhead should also be available shortly.

The results of the recent survey by the AAGBI Welfare Committee regarding stress amongst trainees continue to be analysed and presented. They have made extremely interesting reading and we will continue to use them to inform professional activities and decisions for some time to come. One of the particularly insightful areas to the GAT Committee was the question "What should GAT be doing?" This will be the subject of a future *Anaesthesia News* article for the GAT page, but it appears that many people are still unclear about what GAT actually is. We are the trainee arm of the AAGBI; all trainee members automatically become members of GAT and can enjoy the benefits this brings. These include the free monthly journal *Anaesthesia* and this accompanying

newsletter, insurance cover for ambulance transfers (not provided by the NHS) and discounted rates for attendance at AAGBI seminars. For a full list of the membership benefits, and an application form, please go to the AAGBI website, and encourage your friends to join. GAT is not a trade union, but we do provide a means for representation of members' views over a broad range of areas related to working conditions. We act in accordance with the core principles of the AAGBI (by anaesthetists, for anaesthetists) rather than under the conditions of the Royal Charter of the RCoA, although of course we work closely with the RCoA over relevant issues.

There will be at least one space coming up on the GAT Committee this summer, so elections will be held shortly. Please see our article on page 12 for more information and consider standing for election to the Committee. We need you to get involved.

Please get in touch on gat@aagbi.org if there is anything else you wish us to help you with, discuss or take up on your behalf. The GAT Committee will meet again on Friday 12th March.

Felicity Howard
GAT Committee Chair