

Citation for David Mason Honorary Membership of APAGBI

Delivered by Dr Kathy Wilkinson, London 2023

I am very happy to have the honour of proposing my friend David Mason for honorary membership to this esteemed society. When David and I were ventilator jockeys at GOSH in the late 1980s I think we could only dream of being APA members let alone be on the list of Hon members.

David is a very self-effacing, but I want to tell you about just a few things he has done that I think are particularly remarkable.

David trained in London and Oxford and then was an Attending Paediatric Anaesthesiologist at Duke University Medical Centre, North Carolina for a year. On his return he was appointed a consultant in Oxford. The first dedicated paediatric on call rota in Oxford was set up not long afterwards doing a 1 in 4 with Emily Williams, John Stevens and Simon Berg covering anaesthesia and PICU from 1994 until 2002!

His job plan to begin with was 60% children and so it's not perhaps so surprising what with his enduring various interests that he had much to do with organising teaching, training and infrastructure for the whole department. David was the originator of the first adult Acute Pain service in Oxford in 2001 as well as setting up the Children's inpatient pain management service in 2012. He introduced Nurse Controlled Epidural Analgesia in 2018 amongst other interventions. In his final few years of practice, he became interested in evidenced based dosing of oral analgesics in children. He lectured widely trying to convince colleagues to prescribe the best doses.

Despite the fact that he doesn't see himself as an academic he has published some very important papers in all his areas of interest, co-authoring the first UK paper on the use of the LMA in Children with Bob Bingham in 1990. He was a member of the APAGBI Scientific committee from 2016 to 2019.

David replicated his pattern of juggling local with national work by establishing the Oxford PALs and PILS courses and serving on the Resuscitation Council UK, European Paediatric Life Support Course committee of (2003-12). During this time, he undertook investigations in the LMA as an alternative for airway maintenance in children during paediatric resuscitation. The findings were included from 2010 in Resuscitation Council (UK) and European Resuscitation Council (ERC) Paediatric Life Support Guidelines.

David's other interest was the difficult airway and in 2010 he devised and ran first Paediatric Difficult Airway Workshop in UK. They were much famed for using a local village hall outside Oxford as the venue for the workshops.

It is perhaps in relation to QI that you might have also heard about David's work at NCEPOD where he led the last Surgery in Children review in 2011. It was fantastic to work again alongside him on this one. We were infuriated and disappointed in turns on how much push back we got from the surgeons at that point – why ever did we need a report? What was the problem? ...Subsequently the report recommendations have lived on and proven to be

incredibly close to those finally understood by NHS England and appear within the 2021 Paeds surgery GIRFT report.

David was NCEPOD Honorary Treasurer on the board of Trustees from 2012-2022.

In April 2021 after a grand clinical finale supporting his department during COVID David retired completely from clinical practice. I know he was very much loved and respected by his colleagues in Oxford and known for his absolute reliability, his slightly OCD ways and his amazing anaesthetic room toy box. His swan song was as one of the authors of GPAS Paediatric Anaesthesia Chapter.

He now spends his time creating many beautiful pots which he sells at arts fairs and online with profits going to the Oxford Children's Hospital Charity.

He once told me that he only did things he truly wanted to...so getting him here today was a bit of a risk. I'm so glad he came!!