

Citation for Dr Alistair Cranston for Honorary Membership of the APAGBI

Delivered by Dr Oliver Bagshaw at the Cardiff ASM 2022

It is a pleasure to provide this citation for my good friend and colleague of 27 years, Dr Alistair Cranston. Alistair was the first person I met when I visited Birmingham Children's Hospital in 1995 to look at a potential Consultant job. He helped convince me to apply.

Alistair grew up in London, although his heart was always very firmly in Scotland. Given that his father was Professor of Medicine at the London Hospital, it was only natural he would follow a medical career path.

Alistair qualified from the London Hospital in 1982 and initially wanted to be a Paediatric Cardiologist. However, a lack of teaching and training in the specialty meant he gravitated towards anaesthesia instead. He entered his anaesthetic training scheme on the Guy's Hospital rotation in 1984. This included time at the long-since closed Sydenham Children's Hospital and Great Ormond Street Hospital, which helped develop his interest in Paediatric Anaesthesia.

Alistair moved up to the West Midlands for his Senior Registrar training in 1989 and hasn't managed to fully escape since. He was appointed as a Consultant, primarily in Neonatal Anaesthesia, at Birmingham Children's Hospital in 1992. He then continued to develop his interest in Cardiac Anaesthesia.

A very skilled Cardiac Anaesthetist, Alistair was the first choice for anaesthetising the child of one of our Cardiac Surgeons for major cardiac surgery. He was also selected as one of the anaesthetists for the only set of conjoined twins to be separated in Birmingham.

Other career highlights included being a candidate on the first APLS course in the UK, setting up the West Midlands Paediatric Anaesthesia Network, which still functions today, and undertaking charitable cardiac work in Palestine for a number of years.

Alistair held a lot of important roles at BCH, including College Tutor, Resuscitation Committee Chair, Clinical Lead, Clinical Director and Medical Staff Committee Chair, to name but a few.

More recently, Alistair developed his long association with the APAGBI. First elected onto Council in 2010, he became Meetings Secretary in 2011, then Honorary Treasurer in 2014, a post he held for 4 years. Not quite the 'full-house', but still an admirable commitment to the Association. He now continues in the role of APAGBI archivist.

Another APA role Alistair took very seriously was to be one of the last people out of the bar at the ASM as part of the Birmingham contingent. Not easy, given that the Cardiff contingent were usually our main opposition. So you know where to find him later.

Alistair fully retired last year and we are all missing his dry wit, great wisdom and clinical excellence in Birmingham. Hopefully, he can spend more time at his holiday home in Scotland, with his wife Lisa, enjoying fine malts, and taking beautiful photographs of the Scottish countryside.

It gives me great pleasure to propose Dr Alistair Cranston for Honorary Membership of the Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland.