



**Association of
Paediatric Anaesthetists
of Great Britain and
Ireland**

**ANNUAL REPORT
AND
ACCOUNTS
2021**

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1. Current Council

Current Council:

Chair

Dr. Chris Gildersleve	(CG)	President
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Officers

Dr. Mark Thomas	(MT)	President Elect
Dr. Simon Courtman	(SC)	Honorary Secretary
Dr. Karen Bartholomew	(KB)	Honorary Treasurer
Dr. Charles Stack	(CS)	Immediate Past President

Elected Members:

Dr Janet Stansfield	(JS)	Home Member
Dr. Sumit Das	(SD)	Home Member, Website Lead
Dr. Colin Dryden	(CD)	Home Member, Chair Meetings Committee
Dr. Jonathan Smith	(JS)	Home Member, PICS Liaison
Dr. Kira Achaibar	(KA)	Trainee Representative
Dr. Judith Nolan	(JN)	Home Member, Lead Peer Review

Co-opted Members:

Dr. Nicola Disma	(ND)	Overseas member
Dr Phil Arnold	(PA)	Chair Scientific Committee Chair Education Committee
Dr. John Rutherford	(JR)	Linkman Lead, National Advisor, Scotland
Dr. Hannah Lonsdale	(HLon)	Newly Appointed Consultant post
Dr. James Farrant	(JF)	Social Media Lead
Dr Danielle Franklin	(DF)	QI Lead
Dr. Brian Foster	(BF)	National Advisor, Northern Ireland
Dr. Hannah Lewis	(HLew)	PATRN co-chair
Dr Tom Bennett	(TB)	PATRN co-chair
Ms Camilla Poulton	(CP)	Patients' Advisor
Dr Russell Perkins	(RP)	RCOA Representative
Dr Ann Harvey	(AH)	AoA Representative
Dr. Sarah Mahoney	(SM)	PICS Representative
Dr Fidelma Kirby	(FK)	National Advisor, Ireland

2. President's report

Council matters

2021 marks the departure of Charles Stack from APA Council after more than 20 years involvement with the Association, initially as a pre-millennial PICS representative and then as an elected member of Council in the early 2000s. He has covered the Guidelines brief and then 2 terms as Honorary Treasurer which saw a substantial restructuring of APA finances leading to the financial stability we now enjoy. Charles was elected President and served from 2017-2019. We thank him for his service and wish him a very happy and well-deserved retirement.

Further information regarding election to Council and other personnel changes may be found in the Honorary Secretary's report.

The future of the AGM and governance

In March 2021 I wrote to the membership to outline our plans with respect to changes to our Articles of Association and the potential impact on the need for an AGM and a parallel desire to modernise the way we communicate in the post COVID era.

Our Articles of Association are framed according to the Companies Act 1985, this has been superseded by the Companies Act 2006. In the 2006 Act there is no requirement that the members approve accounts, nor that the accounts are laid before members at a general meeting. Therefore, it is open to APAGBI to approve the accounts with a resolution of the Council, on the basis they are the trustees. Due to the exceptional situation last year, provision was made to allow us to submit our audited accounts to Companies House without the need for an AGM.

Following legal advice, it was clear that a general modernisation of our Articles was required to bring us up to date with the provisions of the 2006 Act. The APAGBI solicitors have undertaken these changes to formally proceed with an online AGM this year, and these changes will also remove the stipulation that an AGM is required to conduct APA business.

While this will formally allow us to use an online format for any future AGM, it will also allow us to proceed, if we wish, without the need for an AGM. Importantly the facility, if needed, to hold a physical general meeting at the behest of Council or the membership will be retained. Our wish is that we move to an Engagement session format, where Council members are available for questions, discussion, comment in a less formal environment during the ASM and that all the usual information required of an AGM will be placed on the website in the usual way.

This will be an agenda item at the online AGM on May 12th, where we will summarise the feedback from our consultation with members and open the discussion further. It is our hope that this will provide a way forward to become a modern, responsive, and flexible organisation.

Usually, the Standing Orders are reviewed in conjunction with the Articles but given the fundamental change proposed in the Articles and the volume of change required to accommodate the array of Governance policies that we have introduced and the incorporation of additional roles on Council we have decided to defer this update until September Council 2021.

The work, started last year on the governance structures that underpin the Association's work has been continued, led by Charles Stack, and we have added an APA agreement on corporate sponsorship to our portfolio.

Our range of policies including Badging and Endorsement, our Parental policy, Commercial Sponsorship, Equality and Diversity, Comments and Complaints and Social Media are displayed here: <https://www.apagbi.org.uk/index.php/about-us/council/governance/policies>

Honorary Members 2020, 2021 and 2022

Last year I was pleased to inform the membership of our 3 nominations for Honorary Membership: Dr Alistair Cranston, Professor Walid Habre and Dr Isabeau Walker. Unfortunately, due to postponement of the 2020 London ASM we were unable to award these memberships, choosing to

defer the ceremony until 2021. With the reprise of an online format for this year's ASM we are once again obliged to place the award of these memberships on hold. It is our intention that once we resume our physical meetings, in Cardiff 2022, that we will have the opportunity to present these awards with citations to the recipients in front of their peers. This is the essence of the decision of Council to place "on furlough" the award of Honorary Memberships until such time as we can present them in person, with the acknowledgment of one's peers. Nominations already received from the membership for award in 2021 will be placed on hold for consideration until our Strategy Meeting in December once we are able to confirm a physical meeting for Cardiff.

In memoriam

It has been my sad duty to inform the membership of the passing of Ted Sumner, Anneke Meursing, Anthony Chisakuta and Krister Nilsson over the course of the past year, all of whom have contributed to the work of our Association.

Dr Ted Sumner

It is with great sadness that the APAGBI announced the passing of Ted Sumner on 6th May 2021. Ted was a leading light in our specialty, a former President of the APAGBI and a former editor in chief of 'Pediatric Anesthesia'.

A video interview from 2019 is available to view as a reminder of what a remarkable career he had. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=4IFnCjdK3Ys>

Dr Anneke Meursing

We noted the passing of Dr Meursing in December 2020. She was an Honorary Member of the Association and a former WFSA President. An obituary is carried on the WFSA website: <https://wfsahq.org/news/in-memoriam-dr-anneke-meursing-1946-2020/>

Dr Anthony Chisakuta

Anthony was a valued member of Council for a number of years, representing N. Ireland where he was inspiration to many. He returned to Zambia after retirement where he worked to improve anaesthesia provision with education. He passed away in March 2021 and will be sadly missed by family, friends, and colleagues. I have written to his widow, Emma to express my condolences and on behalf of the Association.

Associate Professor Krister Nilsson

Krister Nilsson passed away over the Easter weekend 2021. He was great friend and contributor to the work of the APA and was awarded Honorary Membership in 2011. Krister was a pioneer of paediatric anaesthesia in Scandinavia and among many things the founder and inaugural chair of the Swedish Association. I have written to his widow, Ulla to express our condolences.

I have commissioned obituaries for both Anthony Chisakuta and Krister Nilsson and we will post these on the website once they become available.

Database updates

With the events of the past year, we are all more aware of our dependence on electronic communication. With the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of our Association on the near horizon in 2023 I am particularly keen to ensure that members of that founder generation, retired and Honorary members can keep in touch with our plans. I am also conscious that the contact details of a number of these members are incomplete. To that end we have embarked on a database update with a view to maximising the uptake for communication via email and our other platforms wherever we can. In addition, we wish to ensure that those who retain a postal address with us,

that this is an up-to-date home address rather than an old hospital address. I am grateful for the work of Dr Alistair Cranston, our Archivist, for his work on this project, much of which will happen via the APA “grapevine” and to Dr Declan Warde for his invaluable contribution and historical perspective.

COVID reflections and the restart of paediatric surgery

With the arrival of spring, the nationwide vaccine roll out and declining COVID prevalence throughout most of the UK we can all look forward to better times ahead both at work and for all our families. This return to some sort of normality is not without challenge and we have been mindful of this throughout the winter COVID surge.

Much has changed over the past year, many hospitals stopped operating on children in March 2020, and only some restarted during the summer months and for many of our members and colleagues that comprise the wider paediatric anaesthesia team this has effectively been a year without exposure to elective paediatric work. This has an insidious effect on clinical confidence, and we understand the challenges faced by many as emergency intakes continue and anaesthetists are faced with situations such as resuscitation in the Emergency Department without that regular exposure to children having routine surgery to fall back on.

There has been a pragmatic centralisation of some paediatric surgical services and this has run counter to much of the proposals of the 2019 NHSE recommendations for paediatric surgical services and critical care. There remains a risk that in some regions this centralisation will remain in the medium and longer term and there is a concern that unplanned centralisation will lead to deleterious effects on children.

Throughout the past year we have been in regular communication with Professor Simon Kenny (National Clinical Director for Children), and most recently the dialogue has centred around our concerns for the restart of paediatric surgery and the fear that the paediatric voice will be swamped in the clamour to catch up with adult work. We are reassured that paediatrics is well represented within the national and regional recovery process. Integral to this in England will be the regional Operational Delivery Networks (ODNs), which have been tasked with the planning and delivering paediatric surgical care within their region. The delivery of paediatric services will differ region to region and ODN to ODN, as each seeks to optimise the delivery of services within their region.

Throughout the past year we have worked closely with a multi-specialty group, under the auspices of the National Clinical Director for children on advice for the recovery of children’s surgery. This is carried on the RCPCH website and the guidance is regularly updated to reflect COVID prevalence such that we can provide “real-time” advice for all those involved in the planning and delivery of paediatric surgical services. The last update was on 12th April 2021, and may be found here:

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/national-guidance-recovery-elective-surgery-children>

As part of the wider UK picture, we are working with our partner organisations; RCPCH, BAPS and the CSF as we seek a joined-up approach to the return of elective paediatric surgical work as we seek to “build back better” post pandemic.

The APA is committed to providing good quality CPD to support our members. The need for this has never been more apparent as many units strive to restore their paediatric services and others deal with service reconfiguration. To this end we are seeking to increase the opportunities for high quality online learning via our APAGBI Online series of meetings:

<https://na.eventcloud.com/website/20289/regtc/>

In addition, we are also pleased to announce that we have resolved to provide enhanced financial support for regional meetings to support local CPD opportunities to replace the one-off grant to fund an APA speaker. Details will shortly be posted on the website, together with an announcement at the AGM. We would also encourage members to seek out refresher opportunities with an

attachment to their local tertiary centre in the relative lull before full services resume and to use the individual appraisal process to support targeted paediatric CPD.

As a final observation on the past year, starting with the pre-COVID publication of the NHS reviews of Paediatric Surgery and Critical Care, we await the publication of the GIRFT (Getting it Right First Time) reports for both Paediatric Surgery and Paediatric Critical Care. The APA has provided feedback to both these reports during their final embargoed consultation. In the meantime, NHSE has encouraged regional decision-making via the developing ODNs as we re-boot paediatric surgery. It will be interesting to see how these various strands mesh in the coming months and years. I am encouraged that with the huge strides we have made in communication and cooperation with all those groups involved with managing the response to COVID that we will emerge to a different but better place with respect to the delivery of paediatric services.

Collaboration with partner organisations

1. **Tripartite APAGBI/BAPS/RCPCH meeting.** This has been resurrected using Zoom. Priority matters for discussion included the 2020 GMC update on consent and the restart of paediatric surgery post-COVID. It was useful to uncouple this from the usual and frequently cancelled CSF meetings at the RCS and this will give us improved flexibility for the future with incoming presidents to both RCPCH and ourselves.
2. **Association of Anaesthetists (AoA).** We were pleased to be invited to a Zoom meeting with the incoming AoA President, Dr Mike Nathanson during the 2020 autumn term where we were able to discuss matters of mutual interest and concern. This was stimulated by the recognition from the AoA that they could do more to engage with and assist the Specialist Societies affiliated to the AoA. We hope to move this conversation on further with our 2021 SLA and contract meeting (date tba), together with a strategic discussion about our database, managed by AoA but on a MS Access platform which will at some point become non-GDPR compliant.
In addition, as we explore the opportunities for CPD for all involved in the care of children Council has agreed to endorse the SAFE UK (Safer Anaesthesia from Education, UK) course. Pilot courses were being rolled out immediately pre-COVID, and subsequently stalled, and we hope that this project will continue this summer.
3. **Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA).** Our regular established 6 monthly meetings with the RCoA President have continued via Zoom over the past year and this has continued to reinforce our productive relationship. We are indebted to the work of Russell Perkins, RCoA representative on Council for our collaborative activity. We seem, at last, to be making progress on one area of concern and that is our relationship and input into the Centre for Perioperative Care (CPOC). Despite our support for the project our strong and repeated representations to the RCoA to be represented on the CPOC board were declined, our access defined as Stakeholder. We have also been disappointed in the lack of progress with respect to paediatric perioperative activity from CPOC in a kind of self-fulfilling prophecy. In the meantime, our own APA Paediatric Perioperative Medicine group (PPOM) has gone from strength to strength with an online meeting held in the autumn of 2020 and much work going on behind the scenes as they, rather than the RCoA lead the UK in paediatric aspects of perioperative care. We have now been invited to a meeting with CPOC in May so I hope that this will lead to more engagement with us and the work already underway with PPOM.

An update on our Airway guideline review in collaboration with the Difficult Airway Society (DAS) and our contribution to the 2021 Paediatric Critical Care Standards are itemised below:

APA/DAS Paediatric Airway guidelines

This was parked as COVID hit last spring and our intention to start in the autumn was thwarted as we entered the long winter lockdown. As at last we have some breathing space our intention is to re-boot this review and start in the summer. Essentially, we are a year behind in this long overdue review. At the time of writing, we have been approached by Nicola Disma on behalf of our European colleagues with a view to a pan-European approach to this new guidance. This may be an opportunity to enable the timely development of a more powerful piece of work and we will explore the options in the coming weeks.

Paediatric Critical Care Society (PCCS) standards 2021

Likewise, the development of these standards, by the renamed PCCS, led by Dr Peter-Marc Fortune, Immediate Past President of PCCS has been on hold over the past year. The APA has been represented in this review by Drs John Rutherford, Simon Martin and myself.

The final draft is currently out for consultation with a view to publication in June 2021. The COVID related delay has presented the opportunity to ensure alignment with the draft, embargoed GIRFT report on Paediatric Critical Care. This latter report is also out for consultation at the present time, and the APA have provided feedback in conjunction with the RCoA.

HSIB case review

Following the 2019 report and recommendations by the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB) into a critical incident during an MRI under general anaesthesia in a young person with autism and with undiagnosed cardiomyopathy outlined in my 2020 report I can only report that we will continue to work with the RCoA on the topics of consent for MRI, preoperative assessment, and perioperative care as they are reconvened after last year's hiatus. These topics are on the agenda for our upcoming meeting with Professor Ravi Mahajan, RCoA President.

Dr Colin Dryden will be representing us on the Consent review group.

Anaesthesia and the developing brain

Our last joint statement on the use of general anaesthesia in young children was published in the summer of 2019. In the light of several recent publications that add to the evidence base I have asked Professor Suellen Walker to appraise this evidence with a view to providing an update to our statement later this summer.

Our current guidance is jointly badged with the Royal College of Anaesthetists, the Association of Anaesthetists and the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland and may be found here:

<https://www.apagbi.org.uk/sites/default/files/paragraphs/files/Neurotoxicity%20guidance%20Final%20September%202019.pdf>

SPANZA/ANZCA Guidelines

I wrote last year, in the aftermath of our very successful joint meeting with SPANZA in Brisbane that both organisations hoped for a more collaborative future relationship. This has been tested over the past year and seeing familiar faces on the series on pan-international Zoom meeting held peri COVID 1 was reassuring.

Ruth Matters, SPANZA President has shared with me the new SPANZA/ANZCA Guideline on the provision of Anaesthesia Care to Children (PS29). This is available on the SPANZA website Guidelines page at:

<https://www.spanza.org.au/resources-links/guidelines/>

This link is also shared on our website.

There is common ground with our own GPAS publication and the capacity to reference each document is helpful in the drive to improve standards wherever we might practice. I am sure that we will continue to develop our relationship with SPANZA colleagues as we approach 2023.

GPAS: Guidance on the Provision of Paediatric Anaesthesia Services (RCoA)

A new 5-year cycle for this important set of recommendations has commenced. This has been a useful opportunity to refresh the author group with Alistair Cranston and myself demitting from the group, and Karen Bartholomew remaining. She will be joined by Judith Nolan, Judith Morgan, Nirmala Soundararajan and David Mason. Congratulations to all.

Annual Scientific Meetings (ASMs) and the 50th anniversary meeting, London 2023

The sequence of ASMs has been reviewed considering the loss of physical meetings in both 2020 and 2021. 2023 is the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the APA. We hope that provided the progress with COVID recovery is maintained we will be able to reconvene the postponed London meeting in 2023. This will now be the joint meeting with SPANZA, deferred from its original timing for Cardiff 2021, trusting of course that this gives a sufficient time interval for the restoration of international travel.

Our early plans for the 2023 celebration remain on hold and I hope that a combination of the recognition of our history and projection of the future of paediatric anaesthesia will form a focus the whole meeting.

With this in mind I hope that the timely update of our database of retired and Honorary members will allow us to share 2023 with as many of that older generation as possible. They, after all, created our history.

A complete discussion of our plans for ASMs and all APA meetings can be found in the report from Colin Dryden, our Meetings Secretary.

Chris Gildersleve

3. Honorary Secretary's report

Membership of the Association remains relatively unchanged with total membership at:

Category	April 2019	April 2020	April 2021
Full £90	596	717	729
Trainee £60	161	88	134
Affiliate £60	20	25	26
Overseas £90	41	41	37
Retired £0	86	93	92
Honorary £0	45	44	44
Outstanding	95	58	106
Total	1044	1008	1168

Changes and Elections to Council

The full council membership is above. There have been several changes to council over the last few months. We must firstly thank Mary Lane (Chair of the Education committee for 4 years), Hannah Lonsdale (Newly Appointed Consultant co-opted post, NAC) and Danielle Franklin (QI lead for 4 years) for their contributions to the Association. Joining the council are Sarah Greenaway (NAC) and Kira Achaibar (Trainee Representative).

As the president has already mentioned, we are also saying goodbye to Charles Stack who has served the APAGBI for many years contributing in many roles including as the president.

We must also take a moment to thank Dr Chris Gildersleve as he completes his term as president and becomes the Immediate Past President. He has served this role with extreme dedication and commitment in the strangest of times. He has never had the opportunity to attend a single ASM as President or indeed any meeting face to face. He has been a strong voice for children's anaesthesia and surgery when we have really needed one. Thank you.

Dr Mark Thomas now takes over the role as President and will undoubtedly continue in this mould.

Consultations:

The APAGBI remains involved in several consultations:

- **CASAP – Children's Acute Surgical Abdomen Programme**
This work has been disrupted by COVID and has recently restarted data collection after modifying their study window and targets:
"We have updated the CASAP protocol to enable retrospective consent for eligible patients after the COVID-19 surge, (noted as March 1st, 2020) and updated the study duration and recruitment end date until January 31st, 2022. We will stop at this date even if we have not yet hit our target of 5,000 patients. To date we have 1,500 patients recruited to the study across 65 sites. There are currently 84 hospitals participating."
- **BNF Chronic Pain Update**
- **BMA (BAPS) Non-therapeutic Circumcision Guidance** - we have been asked to become involved (again) in a review of these guidelines having previously expressed our reservations in 2018.
- **RCPCH Guidelines for Surgery in Children during a Pandemic**

- **“Procedure Induced Anxiety” Course** – Rich Martin is continuing with this work on behalf of the APAGBI and RCOA and hopes to have a draft version of the completed course work later this year.
- **PEWS/SPOT Working Group** – assessing a new nationwide early scoring system for children. (KB, JN)
- **RCPCH second opinion (Jan 2021).** “New RCPCH project - External Second Opinion: Recommendations to aid decision making in complex children’s healthcare”. We have been asked to comment on this new piece of work being led by RCPCH and PCC.
- **NICE Head Injury Stakeholders (2021).** We have registered as stakeholders in this revision of existing standards.
- **GPAS Perioperative Care (2020)** – we were asked to comment on the revised new chapter on perioperative care standards. However, there was no revision of paediatric standards within this document.

Paediatric Perioperative Care

The newly formed subcommittee for Paediatric Perioperative Care is working to support the development of preassessment services for children and also share and promote good practice of perioperative care in children. The committee is hoping to establish representation within the newly formed Centre for Perioperative Care within the RCOA. As a consequence of a review of a case by HSIB, the APAGBI are working with the RCOA to develop national guidelines for preassessment in children which could become established within GPAS for Paediatric Anaesthesia.

Meetings with Other Organisations

1. RCOA President (Ravi Mahajan)

We have established regular meetings with the RCOA president which has been extremely productive in discussing issues specific to children and determining how the RCOA and APAGBI can support each other in addressing them.

2. RCS Children’s Surgical Forum

We recently attended this forum after an 18-month hiatus. Simon Kenny, the National Clinical Director for Children and Young People, gave a short update on the recovery progress for children’s surgery and the ongoing challenges over the next couple of years to re-establish itself at pre-pandemic levels.

3. RCPCH Liaison Committee

A joint meeting of RCPCH, BAPS, RCS and the APAGBI to discuss recovery of children’s surgery, changes to consent processes.

Simon Courtman

4. Honorary Treasurer's report

(Supplemented by Trustees Report 2020 and Accounting Statements 2020 in conjunction with Thomas Barrie & Co)

The balances in our various accounts are as follows:

HSBC current account	£ 245, 338. 06 (25/4/21)
	£ 187, 156.02 (14/1/20)
	£ 215, 323.47 (13/4/20)
	£ 172, 009.54 (23/12/19)

Santander 1-year bond	£77,165.07 (31/12/20)
	£76,812.57 (5/4/20)
	£76,426.92 (2/4/19)

Virgin Money Charity Account	£77,448.98 (30/11/20)
Next update due in May 2021	£77,359.00 (31/05/20)
	£77,070.00 (30/11/19)

***CAF Portfolio** (Defensive capital growth)
Transfer from Octopus Investments to Aberdeen Standard Capital Ltd on 31/03/21

£109,682.68 (31/03/21)
£111,510.61 (5/01/21)

£106, 094.81 (5/10/20)
£106, 292.66 (5/10/19)
£106, 404.01 (5/7/19)
£101,998.54 (5/3/19)

Total as of 25/04/21	<u>£511,462.00</u> (April 2021)
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The above figure compares with previous totals of:

£446,747.00 (Jan 2021) **Estimated
£475,224.40 (April 2020)

£431,298.68 (Dec 2019)

£495,874.43 (at June 2019 ASM)

***Update on the IFSL CAF Funds**

Investment Fund Services Limited Charities Aid Foundation

From 31 March 2021, the appointed investment manager for the IFSL CAF Funds, Octopus Investments Limited, stepped down. **Aberdeen Standard Capital Limited** took on the investment management of the Funds. Having consulted with existing investors in the IFSL CAF funds, CAF charity customers and donors, and Investment Fund Services Limited (IFSL), which is the Authorised

Corporate Director (ACD) of these Funds, we agreed the selection of the new investment manager, and have completed the transfer.

<https://www.cafonline.org/charities/investments/caf-fund-prices>

****Our main annual income from subscriptions is usually in spring every year. This is included in the current figure and has remained static as compared to 2020. See Trustee's report.**

There were no surpluses from meetings last year, as neither the ASM nor Linkman meeting were held, due to Covid-19. However, thanks to Colin Dryden and Index communications, we were saved around £53,000.00 in lost deposits to the London venues. I have included this figure as a correction to the estimate of £40,000 I submitted in the January report.

However, this doesn't mean that the cancelled meeting was not costly, as overall we had to spend approx. £31K to administrate, including ICMS fees. Further detail can be found in the accompanying Trustee report and accounts.

At the September 2020 council meeting, we discussed moving some more of our investments (perhaps another 50k) to the CAF fund. To benefit from the preferential business account with HSBC, we need to keep a reasonably large balance with them. We haven't yet moved any funds and should consider whether we should re-invest any of our funds.

There have been relatively few expenses to pay out since March 2020, aside from;

- The quarterly admin fee to AoA which varies between £ 2,526.00 - 3,400.00
The service level agreement between us and the AoA needs to be reviewed
- The regular monthly fees for the website which total £594 per month
- The annual fee of £12,000 pa for Pediatric Anesthesia journal access for all members
- Monthly costs of approximately £25 for Zoom and Buzzsprout.
- Variable monthly banking charges, depending upon the number of transactions, averaging £20-25

All APAGBI trustee information registered on the Charities Commission and Companies House websites is correct and up to date.

Our accountants, Thomas Barrie & Co, have approved our finances for 2020, and have submitted electronically to Companies House. However, should any amendments be necessary, the final documents can be amended after our Council meeting and AGM.

Karen Bartholomew

5. Professional Standards Committee Report

ACCEA

Due to the Pandemic, the ACCEA round for 2020 was postponed. One applicant had their application renewed as this was done automatically for 1 year.

For the 2021 round, the APA has supported the only application for both Silver and renewal of their Bronze awards. Results are known in December.

I had only one other enquiry.

The National ACCEA committee is very concerned that there is a lack of gender and ethnic diversity in the awards. They are holding a consultation about the way forward with the idea of reforming the process from April 2022. The good news is that they are considering increasing the number of awards.

Can I urge members to at least position themselves to be able to apply, which requires a minimum of 3 local points and preferably 4 and some activity in each section. I think that the research is probably the most discriminatory.

6. Science Committee Report

- Small Grant Application Process
- Survey Request Process

As with many areas of medicine 2020-2021 has been a difficult year for research. Many important projects have halted, important sources of funding have become severely restricted, many institutional R&D committees have halted (non-COVID) research activity and research time has been generally subsumed into clinical work. Research activity is beginning again and how this is managed and prioritised, given the pressures to 'catch up' on clinical activity is uncertain. The APA has continued to support research and researchers were possible. Of particular note is research examining the impact of COVID on peri-operative care of children.

The current committee consists of: Philip Arnold, Peter Brooks, Hannah Gill, Velupandian Guruswamy, Danielle Franklin, Pratheeban Nambyiah, Natasha Woodman, Jennie Craske, Richard Newton, James Armstrong, John Rutherford, Hannah Lonsdale, Amaki Sogbodjor and Thomas Engelhardt.

APA ASM abstracts:

Colin will brief Council on the work to allow an online ASM to happen this year.

We had 49 submissions of abstracts. This compares to 87 in 2018; 73 in 2019 unfortunately I could not track down how many in 2020 but more than 49. The reduced numbers are not surprising, and I feel we are generally doing well in the circumstances. It would, however, be nice to see more submissions of a higher quality. We offered more advice on what constitutes a good abstract this year but not clear whether this has as yet had an impact.

We plan the same format as 2020. We will conduct a virtual poster round a week before the ASM on zoom. The oral presentations will be at the virtual ASM and winners announced at the meeting. Abstracts accepted for oral presentation will be published in Pediatric Anesthesia.

Funding for Research from APAGBI:

To Benjamin Blaise, for a study to examine the effect of PPE on performance of paediatric anaesthetists and on anxiety in children. We have agreed to fund to a total of £2,738.24 to cover costs associated with psychometric tests.

To Ijeoma Okonkwo, for COVID-KIDS study. A multicentre study project: 'to characterise the level and nature of children's surgery across the UK and assess peri-operative outcomes and safety during the endemic phase of COVID-19'. Data has already been collected and funding is to support data management and statistical analysis. Funding of £4128.77 agreed.

Ongoing multicentre trials (including NIHR portfolio studies) of interest:

MAGIC: Melatonin for pre-op anxiety.

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/scharr/research/centres/ctru/magic#Downloads>. Communication with Marie Hyslop (Trial Manager, 29th April 2021). Recruitment currently on hold due to COVID.

Currently 13 centres involved with PIs, according to website 89 children recruited so far. Aiming for 624 children. They are looking to extend the time of their funding and to involve more centres. It would be worthwhile to discuss this trial at APA council, my impression is that active intervention is required if the trial is to meet its objectives.

PLUTO: Choice of IV fluid in children undergoing renal transplant,

<https://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/clinical-trials-unit/current-trials-and-studies/pluto/>. As of April 2021, 24 patients recruited at 4 centres, aiming for 144. All UK transplant centres involved (one planning not to recruit). They are expecting to see an increase in recruitment with more children coming for transplant in next few months.

CASAP: (Acute Abdomens: <https://www.niaa-hsrc.org.uk/CASAP-Home>) We should all be aware of this and hopefully be working in hospitals which are actively recruiting. Amaki Sogbodjor is a lead on this study. Over 1000 patients recruited in over 80 hospitals. Is open to new sites until December 2021 (may be worth using APAs network to give further publicity to this).

Surveys:

We have distributed a few surveys to members and have deflected some requests. I am proposing to change the way we do surveys: in particular to collate requests and limit to two surveys each year. Timing will be announced, and authors will bid to have their questions included. Authors will have 'ownership' of the data collected. I will aim to circulate more detail prior to the council meeting.

PATRN:

I will leave to PATRN to present their activities.

Appendix:

Small research funding proposal
Proposal for Surveys

Philip Arnold

7. Meetings Committee Report

At the Strategy Meeting in December, it was decided that the conference environment in the covid era was too uncertain to sustain the idea of providing any physical CPD meetings. It was therefore agreed to provide online:

February 2021	Linkman meeting (the intended Belfast meeting originally scheduled for November 2020)
May 2021	ASM with registrars' prize for best abstract
July 2021	"Bitesize" meeting
November 2021	Linkman meeting.

It was agreed that we would work with Index, our existing PCO, to deliver all four of these meetings.

The Linkman meeting proceeded on 10 February as scheduled with a programme of four excellent presentations fulfilling the brief of short, sharp and topical, of interest to a general audience of Linkmen and other delegates. An additional highlight of the programme was a Q&A session with senior APA officers, and this provided the challenge for the officers to handle live questions arising from whatever was weighing on the minds of the audience. Searching questions and quick thinking by the officers produced a session that was thought-provoking illuminating.

The online ASM has been scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday 13 May. As with last year's inaugural online ASM, the format is 2 invited speakers to open proceedings followed by the presentation of the abstracts selected by the Science Committee as being of sufficient merit to justify oral presentation and live scrutiny by the judging panel, followed by two more invited speakers and the closing remarks of the President. The programme has been finalised and Index have made arrangements for all speakers to record their presentations with ESW.

Draft programmes have been drawn up for the "Bitesize" meeting (14 July) and the 2021 Linkman meeting (4 November), although no speakers have yet been formally confirmed.

Council's attitude was that the online series could be tolerated to run at a loss, which has permitted the series to be attractively priced, affording good value for money CPD to members. A spin-off benefit of the online nature and generous discount available to lower income counties has been the registrations from, and hence raising of the APA profile in, countries not usually associated with attendance at physical meetings.

Future meetings.

Council strategy is that it should be our aspiration to resume physical meetings in 2022, although the format for such will remain fluid until nearer the time. It was agreed that Cardiff presented less of a financial risk in the event of plans having to be altered late in the day, and so we have swapped Cardiff and London in their order in the sequence. With the agreement of the chairs of both LOCs, Cardiff will host in 2022 and London in 2023. SPANZA officers have agreed to postpone their joint meeting with us to 2023, which by happy coincidence, will also be the APA's 50th anniversary meeting.

2022 Cardiff 11-13 May, confirmed with Mari Roberts, venue City Hall

2023 London confirmed with Dan Taylor, venue tbc

2024 Newcastle confirmed with Lisa Daniels, dates and venue tbc

2025 Edinburgh - confirmed with Alistair Baxter, dates and venue tbc

I still await confirmation of the continued interest of Southwest Peninsula, and once I have ascertained that, I will liaise with Sumit re Oxford. I've put on hold an expression of interest from Aberdeen to host the next available slot, with the explanation that we will invite applications for 2028 in 2 year's time approximately.

Proposed online tutorial series

Kira Achaibar, elected Council Trainee rep, came to me recently with a proposal for an online series of tutorials. We felt that the model for our online meetings (pre-record with live Q&A) would lend itself very nicely to Kira's ideas. With the support of the President, I invited Index and ESW to cost the proposal for us, but at the time of writing it doesn't look likely to be prohibitive, and I expect to blaze ahead shortly with this initiative. In short, 10 tutorials by experts in each topic, 40 minutes long, 20 minutes interactive discussion, presented one a month from September 2021 to July 2022 (omitting December). Free to view, live and after the event, open to all, aimed at anyone who wants to hear from a regular practitioner what's hot and what's not.

Issues for consideration

Commercial sponsorship has proved elusive so far. Industry partners have largely been dissatisfied with the return from their investment and are proving reticent about providing financial support in return for online exposure. What little enthusiasm from industry there has been has come with more strings attached than we, the APA, are comfortable with. However, that said, it is not entirely clear what the APA is in fact comfortable with, and Index and I have done much of our negotiating with one hand tied behind our backs. Guidance on acceptable parameters for sponsorship would be welcome. Or even, if it is felt to be the case, the expressed preference that we are a self-funding body which wishes to remain independent from commercial relationships, so that Index and the Meetings Secretary do not mis-focus on chasing sponsorship that is not compatible with the ethos of the APA.

Colin Dryden

8. Quality Improvement Report

My term as APA QI lead has drawn to a close. I want to say thank you to all the support on this journey over the last four years. I believe we now have QI as a firm component of the science committee. There has been a considerable increase in the number of high-quality submissions of QI projects from around the world to our linkman and annual scientific meetings. There is now a QI prize recognising this outstanding work by paediatric anaesthesia teams.

The recent 2020 RCOA Quality Improvement Compendium has a whole chapter dedicated to paediatric anaesthesia. In this chapter many of the APA members have contributed sharing ideas and resources for QI projects. I hope that we can only continue to grow the expertise in paediatric anaesthesia by continuing to contribute to such resources and showcasing the work at regional and national meetings. The website remains a starting point for teams interested in using QI methodology.

I wish my successor every success in continuing to grow this area of the APA and providing support for the membership.

Danielle Franklin

9. Website and Social Media Report

Recently, the site has been updating members of the forthcoming ASM and promoting our numerous online educational initiatives, which are extremely well received.

I have attached some data of performance of the website for your information.

This data is for April 2020-April 2021. Traffic averages around 2,000 visits per month, peaking to around 3,000 recently, presumably due to interest in the ASM.

Most Popular Pages: no of views in last 12 months:

Guidelines	4,497
Fellowship Database	2,842
APA Meetings pages	2,084
Education materials + exam	1,770
Courses	1,636
Education and training	1,404

The podcast downloads are consistently increasing, helped by their promotion on social media and the APA website. They can be accessed via iTunes, Spotify, Soundcloud and online via the Buzzsprout website. Total number of plays currently 7,402 (5,515 in the last year).

The most popular medium for listening to the podcasts is via iTunes, Spotify and via the web using the Buzzsprout site (which host the podcasts).

They are listened to all over the world, the top 3 being Europe, Australia and USA. I have just recorded my first podcast for Pediatric Anesthesia, interviewing authors of a recently published paper regarding vaccination and anaesthesia.

Sumit Das

10. Peer Review Report

Sadly, the Peer Review situation remains largely unchanged since the last report.

The same Trusts remain outstanding (Broomfield, Essex and South Tees), and in fact are now probably further away from a visit than they were before lockdown, in light of other more pressing issues on their minds.

I have again been in touch with the Portland private hospital who were keen on a Peer Review to help prepare them for ACSA, but have had no replies to my last email communications with them so our assistance with this is still on hold.

I have been looking into other ways that Peer Review may be helpful and supportive during the post-lockdown phase when priorities are perhaps elsewhere. More to come on this.....

On a positive note, I seem to have recruited some keen reviewers for when work does start up again properly, so there is certainly enthusiasm on the horizon, and possibly the prospect of 3 visits towards the end of 2021 or early in 2022!!

Judith Nolan

11. Linkman report

The Belfast Linkman meeting in November 2020 was sadly cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. A webinar Linkman meeting was held on 10th February 2021 including topics data driven healthcare, pre-operative assessment, in situ simulation, and the implications of the new guidance of GMC. The next Linkman meeting will be held on the afternoon of Thursday 4th November 2021 (<https://na.eventscloud.com/website/20289/regtc/>).

John Rutherford

12. Paediatric Perioperative Care Subcommittee

The PPOC committee have met monthly over the last few months in order to progress the writing of best practice guidance for the preassessment of children before surgery. This has been requested by the RCOA in response to the recommendations of a recent HSIB investigation.

The PPOC committee have also recently been contacted by representatives from some centres in France who would like to seek any advice on establishing a large-scale ambulatory centre for children and optimising care pathways.

The PPOC team continue to seek engagement with the CPOC team (see secretary's report).

S Courtman

13. Reports from Other Organisations

A. Report on Behalf of the Royal College of Anaesthetists

B. Report on Behalf of PICS

C. Report on behalf of the Association of Anaesthetists

21 Portland Place remains closed to staff and anaesthetists. While this is the case, we are updating infrastructure and facilities.

Board and trainee elections are underway. We are particularly pleased at the number of trainees who have allowed their names to go forward for election to the Trainee Committee.

Nominations for President-elect and Hon Membership Sec-elect have opened.

Education: Following on from the success of WSM 2021, we are considering continuing our e-offering, with a hybrid conference model planned for the future. We are trialling this at the Trainee conference in July (C19 rules permitting). Future developments also include 'Bite-size education' – short 15-minute opportunities, designed for learning while drinking your coffee.

Anaesthesia Associates: Anaesthesia Associates are looking to develop their roles, around prescribing, post-graduate education, and government regulation. There has been much discussion about this, and we will be releasing a position statement soon.

Well-being: Work is focusing on the Covid recovery phase for the membership and we are working with other leaders and organisations, such as Claire Gerada and Neil Greenberg, to develop a strategy. This also links in with the backlog of surgical work that has accumulated and how the surgical pathway will need to be reformed to meet it.

Workforce: This continues to be at the forefront of our discussions following the presentation of the current status of anaesthesia from the CD network. We are looking at trainee numbers, retention of trainees and consultants, and the development of the SAS grade. The Aging Anaesthetist Working Party is reviewing optimising job plans for senior Consultants, to keep people in work for longer.

Ann Harvey

14. National reports

A. APAGBI Report from Scotland

The coronavirus pandemic affected paediatric anaesthesia in Scotland, as it did elsewhere. The reduction in theatre cases and re-allocation of staff to critical care reduced the opportunity for trainees to gain experience in paediatric anaesthesia.

The Scottish Paediatric Anaesthetic Network hosted a couple of webinars on dexmetomidine for sedation in paediatric anaesthesia, and neonatal surgical emergencies. The spring 2021 meeting is being run in webinar format on morning of 13th May.

John Rutherford

B. APAGBI Report from Wales

Annual Scientific Meeting, Cardiff 2022

As a result of the COVID reshuffle the intention is that the Cardiff ASM will now take place at the City Hall from 12-13th May 2022. Given the uncertainty regarding the resumption of physical meetings little more than the provisional booking of the venue is possible at this time. The format of the meeting is likely to be different to previous ASMs, possibly smaller and probably hybrid to maximise uptake. Formal planning will be dependent on post COVID progress over the summer and any autumn surge. The local lead for this meeting is Dr Mari Roberts (Children's Hospital for Wales).

PAGW

It is expected that the 2021 meeting will be an online offering. No details are available at the time of going to press.

COVID impact on training

Results of a survey of trainees in the Welsh school undertaken in the wake of COVID 1 last year reveal a disturbing reduction in exposure to paediatric cases, no doubt reflecting the almost complete shutdown of elective paediatric surgery in DGHs at that time. This survey has been abstracted to the 2021 APA ASM and we await the presentation with interest.

Dr Chris Gildersleve