



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

**ANNUAL REPORT  
AND  
ACCOUNTS  
2022**

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## 1. Current Council

### Chair

Dr. Mark Thomas (MT) President

### Officers

Dr. Simon Courtman (SC) Honorary Secretary, President Elect  
Dr. Karen Bartholomew (KB) Honorary Treasurer  
Dr. Chris Gildersleve (CG) Immediate Past President  
Dr. Sumit Das (SD) Home Member, Secretary Elect

### Elected Members

Dr Janet Stansfield (JS) Home Member  
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, Education Chair

### Co-opted Members

Dr. Nicola Disma (ND) Overseas member  
Dr Phil Arnold (PA) Chair Scientific Committee  
Dr. Sarah Greenaway (SG) Newly Appointed Consultant post, Sustainability Lead  
Dr. James Farrant (JF) Webmaster/Social Media Lead, National Adviser Wales  
Dr. Vimmi Oshan (VO) QI Lead  
Dr Nadia Ladak (NL) Paediatric Perioperative Care Lead  
Dr John Rutherford (JR) Linkmen Lead

Dr. Zuzana Kusnirikova (ZK) National Advisor, Scotland  
Dr. Bill Walsh (BW) National Advisor, Ireland  
Dr. Brian Foster (BF) National Advisor, Northern Ireland

Dr. Hannah Lewis (HLew) PATRN representative  
Dr Tom Bennett (TB) PATRN representative  
Ms Camilla Poulton (CP) Patients' Advisor

Dr Russell Perkins (RP) RCOA Representative  
Dr. Ken Barker (KB) AoA Representative  
Dr. Sarah Mahoney (SM) PICS Representative

## 2. President's report

Since our last physical AGM in 2019 in Sheffield much has happened. We produce extensive council minutes that contain much of the detail, but I will summarise some of the highlights here.

Clearly the pandemic has been tough on everyone but out of the all the negatives there have been some significant positives for us an Association.

We, like many organisations had to adapt to online meetings both for our day-to-day business but also for education. One of the benefits has been lower costs in terms of venue and travel (not to mention the smaller carbon footprint) and we intend to keep one of our 3 annual council meetings virtual going forward. Some excellent learning material in the form of bitesize meetings, the trainee tutorial series, linkman talks, joint webinars etc have sprung out of the new need to adapt and we are proud of all of them. Many of the resources have been free and are available on our website to view.

We had always intended to do away with the physical AGM as we are no longer required to hold one and they can be dry affairs. However, we are keen not to lose the face-to-face opportunity for members to pose questions and make suggestions to council and to this end, we will be making ourselves available in Cardiff at the ASM on May 12-13.

### ***Ted Sumner***

Very sadly, Ted Sumner passed away last year. He was a leading light in our specialty and a former President of the APA. He is much missed. An obituary link has been published on our website.

### ***Changes in Council***

Official terms of office that are ending in Cardiff are Colin Dryden, Judith Nolan and Jonathan Smith. Council would like to thank them for all their hard work over their elected terms. We may even see them around as they continue in key non-elected roles.

We had a very closely fought election for their replacements and the successful candidates are listed above as new members. We look forward to working with them all. Thanks to all that applied.

Simon Courtman has been elected as President elect and will take over from myself as President in May 2023. Many congratulations to him.

Also, I would like to welcome Zuzana, who is taking over from John Rutherford, as the council representative on behalf of Scotland and SPAN.

APA officers have been meeting with the RCOA President Fiona Donald, every 6 months or so, to keep Paediatric matters as near to the fore as possible. These meetings have proved fruitful, and we have, for example, joined forces with the perioperative care initiative within the College to help produce new standards of care for preassessment in children and a regular newsletter. A joint project has also resulted in an excellent risk infographic that will be launched in Cardiff. Another initiative is around the management of peri-op anxiety in children with a new online training course planned.

I have been meeting with CEPOD on a new study looking at the timely treatment of testicular torsion. This is a national initiative examining the barriers to prompt treatment and highlighting areas of best practice. It is expected to report within the next year or two.

Some Officers have also held meetings with the RCPCH and with the Children's Surgical forum to thrash out some current topics. Notably, we issued a joint statement reiterating the 14 day rule as far as recovery from COVID and elective surgery in children to distinguish it from the much longer adult time interval. This is one of several challenges that stand in the way of tackling the backlog of elective care that the pandemic has resulted in.

There have been obvious barriers to peer review during the pandemic, but it is hoped this can get underway again as there is much to be gained from these. Please get in touch if you would like your department to be considered.

We have also joined an initiative with BAPS to explore best practice around the aspiration/swallowing of button batteries. Another time-sensitive emergency that presents challenges in terms of prompt treatment. Sumit Das from Oxford is kindly representing us.

Vimmi Oshan is representing the APA on the EUROFAST project that is examining the effect of the new fasting guidelines on fasting times/ aspiration rates etc across several nations.

We have committed to have more joint meetings with both the European Society (ESPA), Australasian (SPANZA) and the American Society of the SPA (Joint Meeting San Francisco October 2023). We look forward to more collaboration in terms of sharing online resources and faculty.

We are about to undertake a review of our membership database and web hosting to ensure that we provide both good value for members and also safety /compliance of the membership database' storage and use.

Colin Dryden and the meetings team have done a great job in putting together a programme for Cardiff and other meetings throughout the year. We will be reviewing what we can continue to provide for free as we also need to be mindful of the need to generate an income to serve our core purposes. Kira Archibar's trainee tutorial series has been superb and has had rave reviews. Judith Nolan hosted a Paeds webinar with the AoA and again this was very well received as a triumph.

Dr Arnie Choi is revisiting the difficult airway guidelines with DAS and has convened a high-power working group to examine the evidence and publish new user-friendly guidelines jointly with the ESA.

We donated 3000 pounds on behalf of members to the government Ukrainian relief scheme and this was matched by another 3000 pounds of government funding.

These are just some of the highlights of the work being done on your behalf. More details can be found in the individual reports to follow below. Cardiff promises to be a celebration of all that we have proudly achieved as a specialty through the most challenging of times. It

will also be an opportunity to reconnect with colleagues who we won't have seen for far too long.

Dr Mark Thomas

### 3. Honorary Secretary's report

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

Full	741
Trainee	113
Affiliate	33
Overseas	40
Honorary	44
Retired	98
<b>Total</b>	<b>1069</b>

#### **Consultations:**

The APAGBI has been involved in many consultations over the last year:

- PCC standards 2021
- BNF Chronic Pain chapter review
- RCPCH ROP screening standards
- Letter to the government regarding reinstating international charitable contributions.
- CASAP – Children's Acute Surgical Abdomen Programme
- 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. The current guidance is included with the papers.
- RCPCH Guidelines for Surgery in Children during a Pandemic
- "Procedure Induced Anxiety" Course
- PEWS/SPOT Working Group – assessing a new nationwide early scoring system for children.
- RCPCH second opinion (Jan 2021)
- NICE Head Injury Stakeholders (2021)
- GPAS Perioperative Care (2020)

#### **Newsletter**

We are delighted that we have restarted our APAGBI newsletters. These will be created using an online publishing platform and emailed out every 4-6 months to keep you all up to date with news and events.

#### **Guidelines on Paediatric Preassessment**

After 2 years of work by the expert panel, and in close partnership with the RCOA, we have recently published this guidance to support the establishment and delivery of this important

service for children. The guidance was created in response to an action from an HSIB inquiry into a paediatric death under general anaesthesia. It is hoped that these will inform the next iterations of the GPAS chapter and ACSA standards.

Simon Courtman

## 4. Honorary Treasurer's report

### Supplemented by Trustees' Report 2021 and Accounting Statements for 2021 in conjunction with Thomas Barrie Accountants & Co

The balances in our various accounts are as follows:

<b>HSBC current account</b>	<b>£ 251,160</b> (05/05/22) £ 245, 338 (25/4/21) £ 215, 323 (13/4/20)
<b>Santander 1 year bond</b>	<b>£77,165</b> (31/03/22) £77,165 (31/12/20) £76,812 (5/4/20)
<b>Virgin Money Charity Account</b>	£77,551 (30/11/21) £77,506 (31/05/21) £77,359 (31/05/20)
<b>*CAF Portfolio</b> (Defensive capital growth) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aberdeen Standard Capital Ltd since 31/03/21</li></ul>	<b>£111,047 (31/03/22)</b> £109,682.68 (31/03/21) £101,998.54 (5/3/19)
<b><u>Total as of 05/05/22</u></b>	<b><u>£516,923</u></b> (05/05/22)

**\*The above figure compares with previous totals of:**

See note below re ICMS invoices

£511,462.00 (April 2021)  
£475,224.40 (April 2020)  
£495,874.43 (at June 2019 ASM)

My access as Treasurer, to account information and management is now fully functional, since Covid delays in transfer during 2020-21.

All APAGBI official post to AoA at 21 Portland Place is being forwarded efficiently now, mostly electronically.

I have submitted all our 2021 accounts, bank statements etc to our accountants Thomas Barrie & Co, **all electronically**, for the first time. No printing, paper, postage of large files involved at all! We have received a draft version of the 2021 accounting statements which incorporates the Trustees' report and is submitted along with this report.

#### **Santander**

- Whilst recently applying for business banking and seeking options for better interest, I discovered that the names and positions of **all** company directors (elected council members) need to be updated as per our listings with Companies House.
- Hence, for Santander's purposes, I need to notify APAGBI council, and we all need to agree that the following signatories should be removed from this account, all on the grounds that they have demitted from APAGBI council as per the expected timeline; Dr Charles Graham Stack, Dr Alistair James Cranston, Dr Kathleen Ann Wilkinson. This needs to be minuted and a copy provided to Santander.
- I have been advised to fill out the Change of Mandates Form following our May 2022 council meeting, to include our newly elected council members.
- We are also required to list our current signatories separately; Dr Karen Scholefield (AKA Bartholomew), Dr Mark Thomas, Dr Simon Courtman, Dr Christopher Gildersleve.

All APAGBI trustee information registered on the Charities Commission and Companies House websites is correct and up to date. This will need to be updated to incorporate our newly elected council members after 11<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **ICMS**

\* There are some belated invoices from Index Communications (ICMS) still outstanding, approximating 10K. I will calculate by council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May. I have formally written to ICMS to ask for a quarterly statement and regular invoicing. The ICMS accounts and terminology remain difficult to follow and I have also raised this issue again.

**Karen Bartholomew**



## 5. Professional Standards Committee Report

### Committee Terms of Reference

The Professional Standards Committee oversees and supports numerous areas of APA work: Governance, Guidelines, QI, Peer Review, Linkman, Patient Information, ACCIA, is responsible for the production of position statements and has a liaison role with the Science and Education committees.

The committee as an entity has not met, a requirement in previous editions of the Standing Orders, for at least 3 years. While the activity of each individual area does require oversight and support this has been delivered on a prn basis by Officers rather than formalised within a committee structure. Indeed, each area covered by the Professional Standards brief has been operating independently throughout the Covid interlude.

The 2021 Standing Orders (SOs) review gave us the opportunity to rewrite the Terms of Reference for the Professional Standards committee to reflect what actually happens. There is now no requirement for regular meetings to take place, however meetings may be convened by the Chair at the request of Council or individual Committee Chairs. (Appendix 7, Standing Orders 2021 Edition).

### National Clinical Impact Awards 2022

One of the outcomes following the government response to the 2021 ACCEA consultation process was the exclusion of the APA from its designation as a National Nominating Organisation (NNO) by ACCIA, Advisory Committee for the rebranded National Clinical Impact Awards.

Discussions with Dr Stuart Dollow, Chair of ACCIA (Advisory Committee for the National Clinical Impact Awards) and Professor William Harrop-Griffiths (Vice President Royal College of Anaesthetists) have confirmed there is no recourse to appeal and the APAGBI, together with **all** other Anaesthesia Specialist Societies and Associations are excluded from the new list of National Nominating Organisations (NNOs). The only recognised NNOs for anaesthesia are the Association of Anaesthetists and the Royal College of Anaesthetists.

We are therefore unable to directly support the application of specialist paediatric anaesthetists in the 2022 awards round.

In recent weeks I have been in discussion with William Harrop-Griffiths and William Fawcett, who lead on the Clinical Awards Scheme for the College and Association respectively. Both organisations are supportive but are unable to directly involve the APAGBI or any other Specialist Society in their process of assessment and support of award applications for the 2022 round. However, both have indicated that the iniquity of the new system, based on "equality of access", should be challenged, and have agreed to work with us and other Specialist Societies on appealing the decision of exclusion once the work on the 2022 round is complete.

Applications for the 2022 round of the rebranded National Clinical Impact Awards opened on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April and will close on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022. Details of the process and applications forms may be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clinical-impact-awards-application-form>

If you are intending to seek an award in the 2022 round, please prepare your application in the usual way and then seek support from the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA) and

Association of Anaesthetists (AoA). If your specialty involves liaison with other NNOs such as RCPCH or the Paediatric Critical Care Society, then you might also consider approaching these organisations for support.

Information on support for application via the AoA may be found here:

<https://anaesthetists.org/Home/News-opinion/News/National-Clinical-Impact-Awards>

Please note that the deadline for submission via the AoA is **09.00 on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>**

**May.** Applications should be sent to [secretariat@anaesthetists.org](mailto:secretariat@anaesthetists.org)

Information can also be found on the RCoA website here:

<https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/about-college/college-governance/honours-awards-prizes/clinical-excellence-awards-become-clinical>

### **Reform of our membership application process**

Our current membership application process is to download an application form (pdf) from the website, fill it in by hand for most, scan and return to APAGBI Administration, to be entered onto our secure database. We do not have an online application system linked to our database. Nor do we collect any data on the protected characteristics (PCs) defined in Equality and Diversity legislation. Our policy on Equality and Diversity provides general statements on the need to eliminate discrimination and we are “committed to ensure that equality of opportunity becomes an integral feature in **all** our activities”.

Our membership information is held on an ACCESS database by our AoA Secretariat. This is no longer fit for purpose, and we are in the process of exploring a database solution with the AoA that will allow an online membership application, linked securely to a Direct Debit process direct from the website. This upgrade in functionality will require an investment and may entail website migration. An introductory meeting with a recommended Digital CRM Project manager is planned for the week of the ASM, so we may be able to update members with progress in Cardiff. With a more sophisticated, secure and GDPR compliant membership database we would be able to collect some information, on an optional basis, on a limited number of the protected characteristics. As a comparator, currently the AoA collect information on up to 4 (of 9) of these on a voluntary basis at application.

It is worth noting that one of the elements explored in the 2021 ACCEA review was the capacity of each nominating organisation to ensure that nominations put forward should be representative of their membership. We cannot do this, nor can we best represent our members’ interests without some data on the protected characteristics of our membership.

## 6. Science Committee Report

The APA science committee is a collaboration of active clinical and basic science researchers committed to using research to improve the peri-operative care of children.

The COVID pandemic has affected clinical research in positive and negative ways. As we emerge from the worst, opportunities are opening and studies, which were on hold, are now recommencing. In this new environment it is more important than ever to make a strong case for research into the care of children undergoing surgery.

Bringing researchers together and supporting new researchers is an important role for the APA. At this year's annual meeting we are holding our first 'research workshop'. From such events we hope to build a network of active researchers and those interested in becoming more involved in research.

This year we have offered several small grants. We have tried to make the application process for these simple and more open. Details are at:

<https://www.apagbi.org.uk/professionals/science/grants/support-research>

Grants awarded include:

- To Benjamin Blaise to support the PUPPEE study (examining the impact of enhanced PPE on performance and cognition of paediatric anaesthetists). This is of £1,550 to purchase equipment.
- We have agreed funding up to £10K to May Chan (final amount to depend on possible joint funding) for the TRIP study (Training Review In Paediatric anaesthesia). This is a prospective study to examine anaesthetic trainees exposure to paediatric anaesthesia.

Larger grant funding is available through the National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia (<https://www.niaa.org.uk/>). The APA plans to contribute, soon, to funding rounds with a themed paediatric call. We will email members when this is formalised. These grants will be up to £40K. We would advise those interested in applying to start thinking about their applications soon. Also remember that even if a specific call is made for paediatric studies, children's anaesthetists are free to apply to other programmes sponsored by the NIAA.

The main recourse of an organisation such as the APA is its membership. Not surprisingly surveys are forming a large part of the work of the science committee. Advice on writing a good survey and how to apply is at:

<https://www.apagbi.org.uk/professionals/science/surveys>. All applications should be sent to our new dedicated email address: [surveys@apagbi.org.uk](mailto:surveys@apagbi.org.uk). When applying to distribute a survey please think carefully about your intentions, the aims and objectives behind the questions you are asking and whether a survey is the best method. We are available for advice but have limited resources. Please note we will only distribute surveys that we agree are important and well designed and likely to lead to publication.

## 7. Education and Training Report

There is an increasing amount of material of interest appearing on a regular basis on the Education and Training section of the website.

New Hot Topics are being added every one to two months—don't forget to cast your vote.

We are developing a 'model CRQ' section for trainees studying for the final FRCA to practice some mock questions—these are not 'real' exam questions but a taste of what the candidates are likely to get.

The resources now include a list of recent paediatric topics in the BJA CCEACP articles.

We are sharing more educational material with other societies and delivering more joint webinars.

We are also working on updating the E&T section, to create more current material and make it easier to navigate

If you are aware of anyone who may wish to write a hot topic or get involved in any other way, please do let me know.

Judith Nolan

## 8. Meetings Committee Report

In keeping with Council strategy, we are at the time of writing, on course to resume physical meetings in 2022, with the ASM in Cardiff.

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

**2023 London 26-28 May** confirmed with Dan Taylor, venue tbc, but likely Connaught Rooms

**2024 Newcastle** confirmed with Lisa Daniels, dates and venue tbc

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

**2026 Southwest peninsula**

**2027 Oxford**

I've received expressions of interest from firstly Aberdeen, followed by Birmingham to host the next available slot, and have replied that we will invite applications for 2028 in early 2023.

### Linkman

The last two Linkman meetings have been conducted online. The experience suggests that it would be reasonable to consider whether online should be the model of choice for Linkman, however, we agreed at January Council to seek the opinion of Linkmen before deciding the format of the 2022 edition.

### Online tutorial series

The online tutorial series concludes later this month. All of the tutorials will continue to be free to view, live and after the event, open to all, aimed at anyone who wants to hear from a regular practitioner about what's hot and what's not. The series was the concept of Kira Achaibar, Trainee Rep on Council. The tutorials were produced in the same style as the

online ASMs, Linkman, and Bitesize meetings, and have been extremely well received by those who have viewed them. Live attendance figures are disappointing, but the full picture will only become clear when I receive the final data for viewing. However, it is fair to say that the tutorials have not been cheap to produce to this standard and Council officers will need to make an objective assessment of the data when we have it to decide whether this project has run its course. Whatever the decision, I would like it to be a point of record that Kira has my greatest admiration for the concept and its realisation, and it has been a pleasure to work with her on this.

### **Online Meetings**

I would also like to thank Rebecca at Index for the administration, and all at ESW for the technical production, of *all* of our online output, since the need to innovate was forced upon us by the events of the last couple of years. Thanks to these people, we delivered a professional product which was appreciated by all of our speakers, and was comparable with anything that was available in the field of medical education.

## **9. Trainee Representative's Report**

### **International Journal Watch**

The APAGBI spring edition of the 'International Journal Watch' is due to be published with summaries from January to March 2022 shortly. We continue to alternate in producing a joint quarterly summary of the latest paediatric headlines. We have recruited six new IJW authors (Dr. Matthew Sinnott, Dr. Katherine Harvey-Kelly, Dr. Becca Harris, Dr. Anna Ratcliffe and Dr. Matthew Luney and Dr. Leda Lignos) to join the team from across the UK. Our latest publication can be found at: <http://www.apagbi.org.uk/professionals/education-and-training/article-watch>

### **APAGBI Paediatric Tutorial Series**

We are due to deliver our final tutorial of our ten part paediatric anaesthesia series on 25th May 2022. Dr Helen Neary from Alder Hey Hospital will be speaking on the 'Considerations in acute and chronic pain management in children'. The feedback on the tutorial series from delegates both live and retrospectively has been extremely positive. The library of tutorials can be accessed on: <https://www.apagbi.org.uk/professionals/education-and-training/paediatric-anaesthesia-tutorial-series>. I would like to thank Colin Dryden, Rebecca Lawrence-Bristol, James Farrant and the ESW team for their immense support in the production of this educational series.

Dr Kira Achaibar

## 10. Website and Social Media Report

The APAGBI website continues to be actively maintained, and there is a huge amount of content available on it, although we acknowledge this can sometimes be hard to find. Our education & training area has had the most development, showcasing the Paediatric Anaesthesia Tutorial Series, with video links to our hosting site. The Paediatric Perioperative care pages are being developed with the aim of signposting useful resources. News items are regularly posted, as are hot topics with their linked edu-torial articles. We hope you find the content useful, but would welcome any suggestions if you think we are missing material, or how to navigate the content easier.

Website information is also shared via twitter & Facebook, and we continue to share information we believe to be interesting. We have over 2000 followers on twitter @apagbi with a growth of 500 in the past year.

James Farrant

## 11. Reports from Other Organisations

### a. Report on Behalf of the Royal College of Anaesthetists

Since the beginning of the pandemic the majority of the College's work has been conducted remotely and face to face meetings at Churchill House have returned only for short-lived periods of the late summer months only. There is no timescale for the resumption of usual working practices at the moment although there is an unspoken assumption that this spring will see significant changes.

The RCoA has elected a new President, Fiona Donald and she will be supported by two Vice-Presidents: Will Harrop-Griffiths and Russell Perkins.

There was a very competitive round of elections completed in December 2021 and a total of 8 new Council members were elected. 6x Consultant, 1x SAS 1x Trainee.

There have been a number of workstreams and untoward events at the RCoA that have implications for the APA.

Each is described by directorate:

#### ***Education, Training and Examinations.***

The introduction of the new curriculum, which contained some significant changes for paediatric anaesthesia, was postponed until August 2021. There were teething issues and some significant questions about the paediatric components. I think that APA Council should be updated verbally during its meeting by myself to facilitate a sub-specialty wide response.

The exams department have had to deal with a significant number of challenges over the last 6 months regarding the CRQ delivery, online OSCEs, publishing exam results and recruitment. I believe this has been a period on unprecedented demand, change and exception; which has predictably caused upset within and outside of Churchill House. I am happy to provide a detailed update should Council wish.

The collaboration of the RCoA and the APA with the Procedural Anxiety Management teaching resource with Rich Martin is progressing very well. Significant funding was secured to allow the online development via E-Learning.

***Clinical Quality and Research.***

The HSIB asked the College and APA to produce several documents in response to its investigation of the Death of a Child having an MRI under GA, published as “Undiagnosed Cardiomyopathy in a young person with Autism”. These are now for the most part complete and being uploaded for access and use on the RCoA website. Imaging under General Anaesthetic and Perioperative Assessment Standards.

The College has been working on its response to a PFD Coroner’s report that involves an undiagnosed oesophageal intubation. The College sees this as a significant patient safety concern and is determined to work tirelessly to improve patient care in this field. The main focus of the work will be on Human Factors and Ergonomics as the solution as well as discussing the educational deficits around capnography. Although the index case is an adult there is a lot of evidence of similar incidents in paediatric care. APA Council is asked to engage with this work and develop materials directed at paediatric intubations.

The APA liaison with CPOC appears to have improved significantly over the last 12 months with a commitment to collaborate of work streams of joint interest and regular publication of a CPOC newsletter focused on children’s care.

***Communications and External Affairs.***

This Directorate has been subject to great upheaval in the last year but it is restructuring its teams. It continues to have good success highlighting the specialty in the written and broadcast press.

***Finance and Resources.***

The College continues to run with a deficit budget but it is taking steps to address the discrepancy between income and expenditure.

Dr Russell Perkins

**b. Report on Behalf of PICS**

**c. Report on Behalf of the Association of Anaesthetists**

## 12. National reports

### A. APAGBI Report from Scotland

The Ninewells Hospital in Dundee will see their new Children's Theatre Suit open on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May. It is a new twin operating theatre suite with accompanying reception space, treatment and assessment rooms and 10 bed postoperative ward. This major investment at NHS Tayside had additional charity input from the Archie Foundation. The design, environment and the inclusion of art from an excellent local artist has allowed a uniquely child and family friendly environment to be created.

The efforts to promote and provide equal access to advanced training in paediatric anaesthesia continue. SPAN (Scottish paediatric Anaesthetic Network) and various representatives from all regions held discussions about possible ways to ensure that trainees with interest in having paediatric anaesthesia as a part of their career will all have the opportunity to achieve this. It is encouraging to see the ongoing support and collaboration in this. Several trainees recently accomplished their additional training and were able to take up appointments with paediatric anaesthesia included. There is a plan to expand fellowship opportunities at NHS Lothian.

After a longer gap, SPAN again hosted the biannual Winter Educational Day in November 2021. It was a well-attended online event.

SPAN also hosted a webinar 'Training in Paediatric Anaesthesia' in March 2022. It got together trainees and recently appointed consultants who shared their experiences of advanced training. The discussions were lively, and it is hoped that this format will continue.

The SPAN Annual Spring Meeting will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May at Waldorf Astoria Hotel in Edinburgh. The topics will include update on fasting guidelines, Gloves are off campaign, updates from research, role of art in medicine and more. We are looking forward to be meeting in person and online too. The bookings are still open, and everyone is very welcome to attend.

Zuzana Kusnirikova

### B. APAGBI Report from Wales

### C. APAGBI Report from Northern Ireland

### D. APAGBI Report from Ireland

#### **New Complex Pain Service**

A new Children's Complex Pain Service has launched in Children's Health Ireland (CHI) in 2022. The team is composed of two ANPs, an ANP candidate, a dedicated physiotherapist, occupational therapist and music therapist and is being led by Dr Rory Maguire.



The new service has moved away from the pre-existing medical model to a function and rehabilitation-based service offering patient and family centred personalised management plans using a bio-psycho-social model. A new two-day pain rehabilitation programme is now offered to both young people and families.

Rather than a multidisciplinary service the team is an interdisciplinary one with all stake holders being equal.

There is both an interdisciplinary clinic and an ANP led clinic weekly. The service currently manages approximately 70 patients with 6-10 new referrals per month.

Rehabilitation is now seen as best practise and the programme is aligning itself with other established services, notably Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne.

### **Pre-assessment**

A formalised pre-assessment service commenced in CHI at Crumlin in March 2021.

Previously certain services such as spine, cardiothoracic, renal transplant and craniofacial clinical nurse specialists co-ordinated pre-assessment of their own patients which included an anaesthesia review.

The new service is for all other specialities and is consultant led and nursing delivered at present. The service consists of 3 whole time equivalent Clinical Nurse Managers, 5 (pre-existing) consultant anaesthetists and a whole-time administrator. Currently the nursing team screen the theatre lists 2 weeks in advance and contact the patients by phone to work through the health questionnaire. Any issues are then discussed with the named consultant of the day.

The aim in the medium-term is for an automated health questionnaire to be sent to all patients upon booking using the 'my pre-op kids' app which will then stratify the level of assessment required. The long-term aim is for the questionnaire to be fully integrated with the electronic patient record in the New Children's Hospital. Upon completion of the health questionnaire children will be stratified to nurse-led or consultant-led with an option for virtual pre-assessment for either. There will also be 2 additional WTE nursing staff and 1.5 WTE consultant staff required for the clinic in the new hospital.

Dr. Bill Walsh.

## **13. Peer Review Report**

There were 3 Hospitals with outstanding Peer Reviews from before Covid. (South Tees; Mid and South Essex and The Portland) All three were contacted and have all declined to take it further at the present time.

We have conducted a survey which was sent out to all of the link-people earlier this year with a reminder sent at the beginning of April. We have had 18 responses. Of those 2 said

that they would consider Peer Review in the next year, 4 in the next 1-2 years and 11 within the next 3-5 years. Over half would want a peer review to support ACSA accreditation. Although we currently do not have any active requests for Peer Review, there is clearly going to be an ongoing need and this may increase over the next 5 years as trusts re-establish their paediatric practice so we need to be prepared to take this on. In the last report it was suggested that 3 visits a year would be manageable, but we need to recruit more clinical reviewers and patient representatives to make this sustainable. At present Judith has handed over to me as lead but I have no experience as yet of carrying out a review so we will need some continuing overlap over the next few visits. I think that it would be prudent to have a second person to train up over the next few visits to future proof the service.

## 14. Linkman report

The last couple of years have been challenging! The Linkman meetings have continued in a webinar format, most recently on 4th November 2021. The webinar format has allowed those with an interest in paediatric anaesthesia to join the meeting without the challenges of travelling to the meeting. However, this has resulted in a loss of face to face contact, and the networking that has been such an important feature of the Linkman meetings prior to the coronavirus pandemic. However, the webinar approach has improved access for those colleagues working in more remote and rural settings, and potentially a hybrid option needs to be considered.

I feel the Linkman scheme has been a valuable support, both for myself and for other anaesthetists with a paediatric interest who are not full time paediatric anaesthetists. Is there a better description or name for the scheme? Linkman does have a male connotation, Link-person sounds a bit cumbersome. Link? Linking? Linkage?

A mailing has been sent out to see which members of the Linkman scheme are still active, and to identify hospitals which may not have a Linkman.

The next APAGBI Link meeting is provisionally planned for November 2022.

John Rutherford.

## 15. PATRN Report

### Upcoming PATRN Projects

- **PINEAPPLE: Paediatric caNcellation ratEs And Peri-oPerative clinical Evaluation**
  - **UK Service Evaluation of Paediatric Pre-Assessment**
  - **Primary Aim:** To establish the proportion of children ≤16 years old seen in paediatric pre-assessment prior to elective surgery and the format of that pre-assessment
  - **Secondary Aims:** To establish the on-the-day cancellation rate for children ≤16 years old presenting for elective surgery and the reason for cancellation.

- To establish the incidence and impact of anxiety in children identified at pre-assessment and on the day of surgery
- Grant Proposal Phase – waiting for quote from statistician and then will submit to APA
- **FIGS: Fasting Induced hypoGlycaemia before Surgery**
  - **UK Research Project**
  - **Primary Aim:** Evaluate the distribution of glycaemia in anaesthetised children to establish a threshold for defining hypoglycaemia
  - Pre-study surveys running now:
  - **FIGS Departmental Survey**
  - **Peri-Operative Paediatric Hypoglycaemia Survey**

### **Swift Survey**

- **2021:** High number of submissions. Ran 2 surveys 2021 APAGBI ASM
  - **‘Paediatric Anaesthesia and the Environment’**
  - Poster presentation Greener Anaesthesia and Sustainability Project National Conference
  - Article Published *Pediatric Anesthesia* <https://doi.org/10.1111/pan.14435>
  - **‘Anaesthetist’s approach to the child who refuses anaesthesia – a cross-sectional survey’**
  - Accepted poster presentation Cardiff APAGBI ASM 2022
- **2022 survey**
  - 23 submissions – scored PATRN and APAGBI Scientific Committee
  - Will run at Cardiff APAGBI ASM 2022

### **Regional Leads**

- Will advertise for regional deanery leads to help with running of projects
- Formal application – statement of interest and CV
- If lots of entries - decision and scoring by PATRN / APAGBI Scientific Committee

### **APAGBI ASM 2022**

- Will run swift survey 2022
- Andy Selman (on behalf of Tom and Hannah) giving talk about PATRN at Research Workshop
- Catherine and Jess attending – will have PATRN stand

### **Committee News**

- Hannah, Ben and Catherine have CCT’d
- Will remain on committee to run PINEAPPLE / FIGS
- Hannah on maternity leave so will remain in role till May 2023
- Will advertise for new committee members later in the year

## **PEACHY**

- Secondary outcome paper on paracetamol dosing in obese children
- Statistic results back
- Meeting to plan paper – aim to publish *Pediatric Anesthesia* later in the year

## **Other Projects**

- PATRN advertising TRIP – Training Review in Paediatric Anaesthesia. APAGBI study. Run by May Suet Chan a trainee at GOSH – likely June 2022.
- PATRN advertising National Peri-Operative Blood Management in Paediatrics. Audit completed. Study likely to run June 2022 (from Sheffield)

Hannah Lewis, Tom Bennett

## **16. Information for Parents and Children Report**

Our current project is in collaboration with the RCoA and the Beano Comic! It is designed with primary school age children in mind and features the patient journey of Dennis the Menace undergoing a tonsillectomy from initial referral to post op advice. Gnasher is also featured of course. The development is part of a response to patient surveys conducted by the RCoA (Kaizen) / RCPCH in 2019.

The resource will be web based and in comic format, and the APAGBI and the RCoA have permission to use the resource in perpetuity, which is a departure from the usual Beano contract. We are sharing the costs 50:50 with RCoA, and the agreement was £6,000 each. I have just received an invoice for £7,200 including VAT at 20% payable by the end of June 2022. I am checking whether we may be exempt for the VAT for this purpose, although it's unlikely, and will settle the invoice once we are satisfied with the script.

Work on the script is well underway, and I'm hoping I will be able to provide the current draft by the time of the council meeting. The core contributors are myself, Samantha Black from Medway, who is also now RCoA PIG lead and a paediatric anaesthetist, Elena Fabbrani and Carly Melbourne both representing RCoA, Amy Norrington from South Tees and Rahul Bandopadhyay also from Medway. The script has also been reviewed and commented on by the APAGBI officers and by Camilla Poulton. The very tight turnaround times and deadlines for the various stages of script review has precluded wider distribution so far, but that should hopefully be rectified this week. Appropriate aged children and families will also be consulted at a suitable stage of development.

Here is a link to an example of the work the Beano has already completed in collaboration with GOSH; <https://www.gosh.org/the-power-of-play/lets-play/dennis-loses-his-hair/>

The completion date for the project is expected to be summer 2022.

Out of all our other patient information resources, only Davy the Detective still awaits being updated. I need to clarify what the plan is with RCoA, as I think initially the Beano project was possibly intended to replace Davy.

Karen Bartholomew

## 17. Perioperative Care Report

### **Patient information** (Sam Black)

A collaboration has commenced with APA, RCoA & Beano Comic to revamp the RCoA preoperative information leaflets e.g. Davy the Detective. The funding has been secured with contributions from the APAGBI and RCoA. The project is now in the development stage.

**RCoA “Fitter Better Sooner” project.** The paediatric version is funded from June 2022-2023 based on work established in Sheffield;

<https://www.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk/patients-and-parents/waiting-times/>

Zoe Burton in touch with SOBA (society for obesity and bariatric anaesthesia) to make a single page information sheet for obesity in children.

**APAGBI Paediatric preassessment guidelines** due to launch on the 3rd May 2022, which will give each centre a common goal to establish and develop services.

**CPOC Paediatric themed newsletter.** We have established a planned regular paediatric themed newsletter published by CPOC. 2 excellent newsletters have been released with 3 articles each. [https://www.cpoc.org.uk/sites/cpoc/files/documents/2021-11/CPOC%20Newsletter%20October%202021\\_0.pdf](https://www.cpoc.org.uk/sites/cpoc/files/documents/2021-11/CPOC%20Newsletter%20October%202021_0.pdf)

### **Next Paediatric Perioperative Care Conference**

The PPOC team are working with the events team to organise the next meeting, likely to be in the Autumn. Topics to be included so far are practitioner wellbeing, optimisation and working with ODNs.

### **Paediatric PMB NHS Blood Transfusion Audit**

The audit pilot has been successful. The main project is due to start in June 2022 with 6 months’ retrospective and 6 months’ prospective data being collected. We already have halved the blood transfusion rate in Sheffield using the 4 pillars (correction of pre op anaemia, tranexamic acid, cell salvage and Hb <70 for transfusion). CPOC Perioperative Anaemia guideline now has a substantial section for children which should be released summer 2022.

### **Assisting PATRN with PINEAPPLE**

(Paediatric caNcellation RatEs And PerioPerative cLinical Events)

**Working with National Surgery in Children ODNs** to reduce variations in perioperative care for children. Multiple presentations at different ODN meetings, exploring helping to reduce the waiting list with Preop closer to home etc

**Developing the PPOC webpage.** The PPOC page on the APAGBI website is being developed to share examples of good practice, such as policies and guidelines, for all Preop teams to access.

Dr Nadia Ladak.

## 18. Quality Improvement Report

The ethos of patient safety and quality improvement is well embedded in the everyday working of the APAGBI Council. Our APAGBI website offers useful resources to professionals seeking to incorporate this in their practice.

Following on the success of the QI workshop at the ASM in Sheffield 2019, the ASM in Cardiff this year also offers a workshop (led by Dr Gethin Pugh) dedicated to QI methodology, to help enthusiasts understand QI methodology and help plan new projects. We hope that this would be a regular feature in future ASM's too.

We are supporting a QI project to look into the care of children with congenital heart disease undergoing non-cardiac procedures in both cardiac and non-cardiac centres in the UK. The project will be informed by national surveys to look into our current practices with the aim to establish best practice guidance on the care of this complex group of patients, with particular focus on the care provided in non-cardiac centres.

### European Preoperative Fasting Audit (EUROFAST)

Several international associations including the APAGBI have recently issued revised guidelines on preoperative fasting in children. We are conducting an international multicentre audit that will look into the incidence of pulmonary aspiration with different fasting regimes following implementation of the new guidance. The study is in the stage of finalising the protocol and the plan is to call out for centres nationally to join the study towards the end of this year.

In the coming year, I look forward to seeing the ongoing projects move towards fruition and to continue to lead and support QI activity by the Council.

Dr Vimmi Oshan

## 19. Sustainability Report

Within medicine, and in particular anaesthesia, it can often feel that change and shifts in professional practice take considerable time to come about. However, there is one area where we cannot afford to delay change – the climate emergency which faces us.

As a society, we stand in solidarity with the *international paediatric societies' declaration on responding to the impact of climate change on children*<sup>1</sup>. We believe that it is our responsibility to advocate for children's health and wellbeing; this mandates ensuring the

world in which they develop is as conducive to that as possible. Climate change threatens children's development in many different ways – from natural disasters and extreme weather affecting habitat and agriculture, to competition for usable land and conflict for it, to exploitation of natural resources leading to reduced air quality and increase in childhood disease.

We commit to continued efforts to improve the sustainability of paediatric anaesthesia across the United Kingdom and Ireland. To this end, we advocate for and work towards local and national policy which uses evidence to reduce the carbon footprint within our practice. We will offer support in a structured manner to advance changes in practice which bring this about, and we will welcome opportunities from our professional community to assist where we can.

- N2O statement to NHSE Improvement and Sustainability sent.
- I have met virtually with Michael Ralph (principal engineer for NHSE) regarding the nitrous problem and solutions – heavily focussed on shutting down existing pipelines and using N2O cylinders on anaesthetic room machines.
- I have written a climate commitment statement on behalf of the APAGBI (attached) for discussion/approval by the council.
- There are potentially large numbers of projects in sustainability to support – does the council feel that there is anything particularly we should focus in? Perhaps highlighting a small number of issues to members would serve better than a scattergun approach to sustainability.
- I attended the RCSEd NetZero operating theatre webinar – should we forge connections with our surgical colleagues in sustainability