



Association of
Paediatric Anaesthetists
of Great Britain and
Ireland

**ANNUAL REPORT
AND
ACCOUNTS
2023**

CONTENTS

1. CURRENT COUNCIL.....	3
2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT	4
3. HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT.....	10
4. HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT	11
5. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT	12
6. SCIENCE COMMITTEE REPORT	15
7. EDUCATION AND TRAINING REPORT	18
8. MEETINGS COMMITTEE REPORT.....	18
9. TRAINEE REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT	21
10. WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT.....	21
11. REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS.....	22
A. REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF ANAESTHETISTS	22
B. REPORT ON BEHALF OF PICS	23
C. REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ANAESTHETISTS	23
12. NATIONAL REPORTS.....	25
A. APAGBI REPORT FROM SCOTLAND	25
B. APAGBI REPORT FROM WALES	25
C. APAGBI REPORT FROM NORTHERN IRELAND	26
D. APAGBI REPORT FROM IRELAND	27
12. LINK LEAD REPORT.....	28
13. PATRN REPORT	29
14. INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN REPORT.....	30
15. PERIOPERATIVE CARE REPORT	30
16. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT.....	32
17. SUSTAINABILITY REPORT	32

1. Current Council

Chair

Dr Mark Thomas (MT) President

Officers

Dr Sumit Das (SD) Honorary Secretary

Dr Karen Bartholomew (KB) Honorary Treasurer

Dr Chris Gildersleve (CG) Immediate Past President

Dr Simon Courtman (SC) President Elect

Elected Members

Dr Jonathan Smith (JS) Home Member, Chair Meetings Committee

Dr Laurence Hulatt (LH) Home Member, PICS Liaison, Link Lead

Dr Nirmala Soundararajan (NS), Home Member

Dr Raju Reddy (RR), Home Member

Dr Nadia Ladak (NL) Home Member, Paediatric Perioperative Care Lead

Co-opted Members

Dr Judith Nolan (JN) Education Chair

Dr Nicola Disma (ND) Overseas member

Dr Phil Arnold (PA) Chair Scientific Committee

Dr Sarah Greenaway (SG) Sustainability Lead

Dr James Farrant (JF) Webmaster/Social Media Lead,

Dr Vimmi Oshan (VO) QI Lead

Dr Catherine Riley (CR) Newly Appointed Consultant

Dr Zuzana Kusnirikova (ZK) National Advisor, Scotland

Dr Bill Walsh (BW) National Advisor, Ireland

Dr Brian Foster (BF) National Advisor, Northern Ireland

Dr Jess McArdle (JM) PATRN Chair

Ms Camilla Poulton (CP) Patients' Advisor

Dr Russell Perkins (RP) RCOA Representative

Dr Ken Barker (KB) AoA Representative

Dr Sarah Mahoney (SM) PICS Representative

Dr Shivan Kanani (SK) Trainee Representative

2. President's report

September 2022

We had a successful ASM in Cardiff in May. This was the first physical meeting we have been able to hold for two years due to the pandemic and was slightly under attended compared with previous ASMs as a result. We await the final accounts but are broadly on course to break even financially, I understand. We will be holding a wash up meeting to discuss the learning and feedback soon.

The TRIP survey is nearing completion and will give us a clearer idea of the training experience and opportunities that exist within our specialty nationally. There has been great engagement from college tutors and trainees alike so many thanks must go to then and May Chan for running the survey.

Myself and Sumit met with Fiona Donald, President of the APA in July at our 6 monthly catch up. We touched upon the challenges of the new curriculum especially around the 1 year old competence that is referred to within it. Some anxiety was allayed by an apparent softening of the terms by which this is defined and the reassurance that it is more of an aspiration than an expectation. Clearly the best person available will have to deal with time-sensitive emergencies should they present locally. It will be interesting to see how many, if any, of these cases present as part of the NCEPOD torted testis study that is about to start. This latter project (I attended a meeting online in May) is due to run for 12 months from later this year.

We also touched upon the HSIB report that led to new guidance for consent esp. around MRI. We have been approached by a member who expressed concern about the need to discuss death as part of the consent process. Chris Gildersleve is kindly formulating a response to the RCOA that will feed back these anxieties to the College.

Birmingham contacted us re a project on recovery from the pandemic and its effect on waiting lists. Raju Reddy has kindly agreed to represent us on this important project so many thanks to him. There is a real challenge ahead with long waiting lists in all disciplines.

I represented the APA at several RCPCH meetings to discuss (and pressure!) to drop pre-op testing for COVID. We jointly published national guidance in July that will help streamline admissions and the management of waiting lists as well as avoid a stressful test and visit for parents and children. <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/national-guidance-restoration-recovery-elective-surgery-children>

We have confirmed our fiftieth anniversary ASM in London 2023 will be a joint meeting with SPANZA and they will be sending a delegation over for some interesting talks and lively

debate. Planning is well underway with venues secured. The dates of the meeting are 24-26 May 2023.

A few of the officers met with the AoA in July as part of our plan to revamp our membership database and possibly our website. This would allow members to manage their own details and direct debits etc as well as allow us to host a member only section of the website with educational and other content. The project is yet to be costed. It is likely to take a year or so to complete.

We are involved on several RCPCH consultations as always. The NICE peri-op fluid guidelines is also due for review and doubtless we will be involved in due course.

Nadia Ladak is running a national peri-op blood ordering survey and we have signposted to it.

Zoe Burton is producing an information leaflet and possibly a dosing app for the management of obese children. We have been providing feedback and signage.

January 2023

We are gradually getting back to face-to-face council meetings and educational /scientific meetings as we emerge from the pandemic. We look forward to our 50th Anniversary meeting in London in May 2023.

In November we held our annual strategy meeting and discussed various topics including our need to revisit (and retender) for a PCO. We will be convening a group from Council to take this forward.

We have been disappointed by the progress we have made towards revamping our member database and web site. A tendering intermediary that we had engaged with, proved unable to take matters forward. The Obstetric Anaesthetists Association have just been down this route themselves and so I contacted their Treasurer, Jim Bamber, to discuss the options they went with. They are still part way through their revamp and would rather we didn't put more work the way of their current project managers. What I gleaned was that a project manager via the AoA to run the tendering process and engagement costs upwards of 750 pounds per day (a Consultant salary in effect!). We need to discuss our strategy to take this forward. I would favour copying the OAA providers and avoiding the cost of a tendering intermediary. I have been asked by Jim Bamber not divulge more details of their providers at this stage, but I have them on record and it might be worth us approaching them to get conversations going with a view to them taking us on once the OAA project is complete. Jim estimated (we are a third of the size of the OAA) that the project will cost us 100-150K. this also needs discussion at Council clearly.

We are advertising for an election to Council to replace Janet Stansfield, who sadly has decided to step down from Council. We thank Janet for her service and wish her the best for the future.

This change has also prompted discussion around the need for a formal peer review representative as this role has largely been supplanted by ODN visits and ACSA. We have thus decided to leave the door open to departments to approach the APA for peer review but will not be actively undertaking any unless approached.

The challenge of the elective catch-up continues. There is evidence that children's services lag behind adult service provision, compounding the issue. A new scoring system focussing less on mortality and more on milestone achievement will hopefully help redress some of this discrepancy. Industrial action across the professions will inevitably not help in the short term in addressing the pre- and post-pandemic waiting lists.

I had a successful visit to New Orleans to speak on clear fluid fasting regimes as part of a new ASA/SPA/APA initiative for joint sessions at scientific meetings. Jonathan Smith, our meetings lead, is in discussion with the SPA re a joint session in San Francisco in October 2023.

A very successful webinar was held jointly with the AoA on sustainability. Many thanks to Judith Nolan for helping organise it.

PPOC have produced another useful newsletter highlighting obesity and anaemia. Many thanks to them. We look forward to the study day peri-operative care that will form part of our ASM in May.

Many congratulations to Karen on being pivotal in the production of the Beano information leaflet for children. This has been very well received.

We have attempted to address the anxiety of members around the discussion of the risk of death as part of the preop consent process. A joint statement has been produced by ourselves and the RCOA and is to be posted on our respective websites. A newsletter article from the College and the APA will also be produced by Russell Perkins and Hugo Wellesley that will also reference the use of the risk infographic.

The new curriculum especially around the need to be able to anaesthetise down to 1 year, is vexing many. We (myself, Simon Courtman and Sumit Das) met with Fiona Donald and Russell Perkins (from the RCOA) and had a very useful meeting in December. We discussed a wide range of issues as above. Re the curriculum, we were reassured that a revision has gone to the GMC as part of the 1 year review that suggests a level of 2b as being satisfactory in relation to the anaesthetic care of a 1 year old.

There is a large variation in the attainability of this achievement across the regions and schools. The TRIP survey will hopefully help identify some of the discrepancies. This is the first important step in addressing them.

May 2023

The NHS continues to go through some challenging times as we emerge from the pandemic with inflationary pressures and pay disputes putting a further squeeze on services and working environments.

Many challenges still lie ahead but here at the APA we have been hard at work with some wonderful initiatives to facilitate ongoing learning and research.

In March I represented us at a Fatigue seminar at the House of Commons that highlighted the great strides that have been made, and the challenges that we still face, in acknowledging and combating the effects of fatigue in the workplace. I would commend the resource pack to you all. <https://anaesthetists.org/Home/Wellbeing-support/Fatigue/-Fight-Fatigue-download-our-information-packs>

Simon Courtman kindly represented us at the Joint surgical services committee, also in March (22nd), at which the key points were as follows

- RCPCH policy lead reported that NHSE has shelved publication of refreshed NHSE Long-term Plan, 10 year mental health policy and 10 year cancer services plan. Instead has opted for a short-term plan document for the next 2 years focussing on key morbidities i.e. CVS disease, COPD, dementia. Largely adult focussed and RCPCH has raised concerns regards lack of prioritisation of children.
- NHSE planning to decentralise clinical target setting to ICSs (integrated care systems) which means that each ICS around England can decide how to prioritise children's surgery and recovery
- Elective recovery. Persistent 8-10% lag behind adult recovery. BAPS cannot see situation improving due to competing adult pressures for theatre capacity but also workforce shortages preventing additional activity being provided.
- Multiple pathways discussed - torsion/appendix/tonsillectomy/button battery. There is some duplication of work at national and regional levels.
- RCPCH raised prospect of merging surgical liaison meeting with specialty board. All reps from BAPS, CSF and APA voiced importance of this meeting and preference to continue in current format
- Following RCPCH Specialty board, RCPCH plan to raise with NHSE the raised concerns regarding procurement of equipment and purchasing drugs for children - particularly in younger age range. They would value any information or data to help support this issue

We have produced a couple of joint statements with the RCOA around supply issues regarding tracheostomy sets and epidural kits since my last report and these are available on our website.

Myself, Simon Courtman and Sumit Das are due to meet Fiona Donald (RCOA President) and Russell Perkins (RCOA VP) on Tue 2nd May at the time of writing. We will be discussing common themes around waiting lists, supply issues, the new curriculum, joint ventures and national initiatives.

On Wed 10th May, I will be attending the Children's Surgical Forum where we will be thrashing out some of the thornier challenges facing us and surgical paediatric specialties. If there are any significant updates I can post them on our website since this report must be submitted before the meeting.

Almost inevitably, our AoA admin fees are facing a 10% uplift due to inflationary pressures. We are doing our best to pass as little of this cost as possible on to members but there will sadly be some modest increases in registration and membership fees so that we can remain solvent. Karen may well have more to say about this in her report.

One of our more astute retired members noted that some of that group had been excluded from recent council election voting by virtue of a glitch in the email database being used and a discrepancy between our standing orders and our articles. This has now been amended.

It was heartening to see 4 excellent applications for our recent council vacancy for a newly appointed consultant representative and I am sure we will be able to find roles for all these enthusiastic members over the coming year. Many congratulations to Catherine Riley who was duly elected.

Nadia Ladak was appointed as a full home member of Council in the most recent round; many congratulations to her. Nadia brings a wealth of experience especially around preop assessment and I am sure will be a great asset to our Association. The 3 other applicants all scored well in the election, and we intend to harness their enthusiasm and expertise by offering them other key roles within the scope of our work.

We are running a joint session at the SPA in San Francisco in October 2023 and I am giving a talk on preop fasting at the ASA, the following day. These sessions are part of a new initiative, started last year, which looks to engage us more with North America and the many educational and research opportunities that might follow.

Our education committee, led by Judith Nolan, has run yet another successful webinar (20.4.23) this time with the European Society, on cardiac anaesthesia for the non-cardiac paediatric anaesthetist. This is one of a series of amazing accomplishments of this active sub-committee which continues to go from strength to strength under Judith's leadership. Judith will be appointing a successor shortly and we would like to thank her for her stalwart leadership of this important area of our work. Feedback for all the sessions run to date has been universally glowing.

Laurence Hullat has taken over the link-lead (please note the change in language from the rather archaic link-'man') committee and has been busy surveying that group and organising a national meeting. This is an important conduit for discussing grass root concerns, networking and education and Laurence is doing a great job of providing members with what they need.

It cannot have escaped your notice that this year is our 50th anniversary and we are marking the occasion in several ways. There will be a history display at the ASM in London: many thanks to Danielle Huckle, Alistair Cranston, Chris Gildersleve and Declan Ward among others in helping prepare for this and other exciting events. All the past Presidents have been invited to our gala dinner in London at the ASM and Declan has produced an article

documenting our history that will be published in Pediatric Anaesthesia shortly. We have had little to celebrate in the past few years and even less opportunity to get together, but all the signs are that we are about to make up for it in May in London!

A SPANZA delegation will be joining us in London, and we will be having hearty debates, exchanging ideas across the width of the globe.

As you will be aware, we don't hold a formal AGM anymore, but issues can be raised with Council members and officers at the ASM as we mingle or at any time by emailing the secretary via our web page link.

Talking of web pages and the like, we have been exploring options with regards to our web host/provider and our membership database. I have held preliminary discussions with a couple of companies who have recently helped the Obstetric Anaesthetists Association update their resources. I am expecting quotes within the next 2-3 weeks at the time of writing and will be bringing these to May Council.

Finally, since this is my last report as President, I would like to thank Council and the membership for their support and suggestions over my tenure. I wish Simon Courtman all the very best during his Presidency and look forward to supporting him and others on Council over the next two years in my new title of immediate past (not quite past it) President.

Mark Thomas

3. Honorary Secretary's report

Membership of the Association has increased with total membership at:

Full	731
Trainee	130
Affiliate	39
Overseas	39
Honorary	44
Retired	99
Total	1082

Consultations:

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

- RCPCH Child Protection and the anaesthetist 2023
- RCPCH/BAPS/APA/CSF Joint Surgery Liaison
- Children's Surgical Forum
- NCEPOD Testicular Torsion Study
- GIRFT best practice pathway development: for a child on home mechanical ventilation ('LTV') requiring admission to hospital 2023
- New Covid testing proposal in children RCPCH 2023
- GIRFT/BAPO Paediatric Day case tonsillectomy 2023
- New Appendix pathway from GIRFT 2023
- RCOA Anxiety Project
- NICE Head Injury Stakeholders (2023)
- NICE Paediatric Fluids update (2022/3)
- GPAS Perioperative Care (2023)
- Button Battery Ingestion Management (BAPS/APA)
- DAS/APA Paediatric Difficult Airway Guidelines Group (2023)

Newsletter

We are delighted that we have restarted our APAGBI newsletters. These are created using an online publishing platform and will be emailed out every quarter to keep you all up to date with news and events. Our first "new look" newsletter debuted in January 2023.

Pediatric Anesthesia Journal Monthly Podcasts

I am one of three Education editors (Dabe Chatterjee, USA and Nilru Vitharana, Australia) for the journal *Pediatric Anesthesia*, representing the APAGBI on the journal board. We record a

new podcast with authors of papers of interest every month. These podcasts can be accessed via the journal website, iTunes, and Podbean.



<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/14609592/homepage/podcasts>

Sumit Das
Honorary Secretary

4. Honorary Treasurer's report

APAGBI Honorary Treasurer's Interim Report April 2023

Final report will be submitted when our accountants Thomas Barrie & Co have finalised APAGBI 2022 accounts, and these will be submitted in conjunction.

The Meetings accounts are dealt with separately and need to be validated.

Total Approximated Balance as of 18/04/2023	<u>£471,199</u>
	<u>£467,246</u> (11/01/23)

The balances in our various accounts are as follows:

HSBC current account	£210,750 (18/04/23)
• £100,00 of which is now in 1 month fixed interest account at 3.62% pa	
• Other higher interest options are available (longer term)	
	£206,988 (11/01/23)
*Santander	
	£ 77, 267 (17/04/23)
	£77,165 (31/03/22)
Virgin Money Charity Account	£77,775 (30/11/22)
*next interest will be added end of May	

****CAF Portfolio** (Defensive capital growth)
Aberdeen Standard Capital Ltd

£105,407 (31/12/22)

Liquidation awaited as per
31st March 2023

Points of note and for discussion are;

***Santander**

- Change of Mandates Form prepared for signatories and was submitted by email last year
- Minutes of last Council meeting were also submitted by email, as requested, to confirm previous demitted / retired trustees are no longer signatories

No response – turns out my established contact had left Santander and there was no notification or action.

- Intended to reinvest in 1 year plan, but recently discovered APAGBI are no longer eligible, as we have more than two trustees
- Reconsider and reinvest elsewhere

**** CAF Portfolio**

- We were informed in Dec 2022 that Abrdn will no longer be providing a service (unless our investment exceeds £500,00).
- Automatic reinvestment proved difficult, with many hurdles; we were subsequently advised that liquidation and future reinvestment would be an easier process.
- Liquidation is in progress, but it can take time; see excerpts from recent email from Abrdn portfolio manager dated 6th April 2023
 - “As some of the funds were closing at the same time it will take a little bit longer for the cash to settle in the portfolio prior to returning the proceeds to you (APAGBI)”
 - “One of my colleagues, will email you shortly to outline exactly what we will require in order to return the proceeds to the charity bank account.”
 - “These requirements are to satisfy any AML requests that our compliance team has ahead of payment and closure of the portfolio”
 - I have recently emailed a reminder, saying we would like to reinvest our funds swiftly
- I have navigated and identified the processes required for reinvestment in **IFSL CAF** – Investment Fund Services Ltd Charities Aid Foundation and the codes for the new range of ESG – Environmental & Social Governance- focus funds launched; cautious i.e. low/medium risk is our agreed choice within council.

Karen Bartholomew (Scholefield)
Honorary Treasurer

5. Professional Standards Committee Report

Professional Standards Committee

Annual report 2023

Over the past few years, the Professional Standards Committee has progressively evolved itself out of existence as a formal and physical entity. Even before the Covid pandemic formal face to face meetings of this group had declined to a short group meeting in or around the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM). And ever since, oversight of the various responsibilities of the Professional Standards Committee (PSC) has been conducted through online meetings or discussion, primarily through the Officers as a group and wider Council when a broader discussion of topics is required. In short, evolution of communication with the immediacy of WhatsApp and ease of Zoom has rendered the formality of annual or other PSC meetings superfluous.

Professional Standards oversight remains with the Immediate Past President, though much of the actual work is now managed via a core group of Officers, co-opting advice from specialty areas where necessary. In particular this has streamlined our approach to the development of safety advice, position, and consensus statements in coordination with other professional bodies. Essentially this is a more modern way of working.

The Professional Standards committee was comprised of a group of Council sub-committees that required formal oversight, namely: Peer Review, Guideline development, Clinical Excellence Awards, Information for Parents and Families and Linkman (now re-branded Link-Network). PSC then provided a formal conduit to full Council. However, each of these responsibilities have been superseded or are no longer required.

We retain the capacity to formally reconvene the PSC as and when required. The Standing Orders (2023 edition) have been revised to reflect how business with respect to Professional Standards matters is now conducted.

APA Peer Review

Pre-pandemic much work was done to align APA Peer Review with the paediatric anaesthesia element of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA) Anaesthesia Clinical Services Accreditation (ACSA) process whilst retaining the positive features of our original concept. Formal agreement was reached with the RCoA such that paediatric anaesthesia review would be undertaken by the APA Peer Review team and their report would then be included as part of the final ACSA report. APA Peer Review was also available as preparation for ACSA. A waiting list for APA Peer Review existed before Covid but since the resumption of “normal” service the take up has been zero. Following Council debate, we have decided to “rest” APA Peer Review until such time as centres feel able to fully participate in the process. The capacity for Peer Review remains a core element of APA Council *raison d’etre* and we expect that in time we may be able to reintroduce this valuable service. In the meantime, the agreement with RCoA remains, and we have the capacity to offer our unique expertise in the paediatric component of that process.

Guideline development

Isolated de-novo APA Guideline development has not taken place for a number of years. Our landmark guidelines on Pain, Postoperative nausea and vomiting, Immunisation and Difficult Airway management have been or are being reviewed and updated. Noteworthy is the ongoing review of Difficult Airway management, this is being led by Dr Arnie Choi (Oxford) and is a joint undertaking with the Difficult Airway Society. We very much look forward to the publication of this much needed update in due course.

Much of our Guideline output is now in the form of Best Practice Guidance or Consensus Statements, usually with fellow stakeholder organisations. I draw attention to the following publications in the past year:

Anaemia in the perioperative pathway. Dr Nadia Ladak represented us in this Centre for Perioperative Care (CPOC) publication:

<https://cpoc.org.uk/guidelines-resources-guidelines/anaemia-perioperative-pathway>

Best practice guidance: Preassessment Services for children undergoing surgery or procedures. Dr Simon Courtman was the Lead author, with contribution from a number of Council members. Published in conjunction with the RCoA and also to be found on our Guidelines page:

<https://www.apagbi.org.uk/guidelines>

We continue to work with fellow organisations including the RCoA, RCPCH and AoA to ensure that timely guidance is published to support clinical decision making. The recent safety alerts and advice regarding Bivona tracheostomy tubes and BD Bodyguard microsets are examples of this:

<https://www.apagbi.org.uk/news/latest-news>

This output is overseen by the Officer group and Full Council if time allows.

Clinical excellence awards

Rebranded in England and Wales as National Clinical Impact Awards (NCIA), these are now overseen by the Advisory Committee on Clinical Impact Awards (ACCIA). Following Government review a number of membership organisations, including the APA were excluded as National Nominating Organisations (NNOs) for the 2022 round. Applications from APA members, who were previously ranked and supported by our Clinical awards sub-committee, were instead ranked by the two remaining Anaesthesia Organisations, the Association of Anaesthetists (AoA) and the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA). Following a comprehensive review of the 2022 round, including direct feedback from ourselves and joint representation from the RCoA, AoA and the APA, the disproportionate weighting towards Medical and Surgical specialty groups was, I think, recognised. As of March 2023, NICA will no longer include rankings and citations from the previously recognised NNOs. Applicants may now seek advice from any number of Membership Organisations, including the APA, who are able to review applications but not edit or critique the text directly. We are happy to provide this advice and enquiries should be directed to the Immediate Past President, who will coordinate matters. Formal ranking, nomination, or citation, previously undertaken by the APA Clinical Awards sub-committee, will no longer take place.

Full information on the new NCIA scheme and 2023 round may be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/advisory-committee-on-clinical-impact-awards>

and on our website:

<https://www.apagbi.org.uk/professionals/professional-standards/apa-awards-sub-committee/accia-information>

The 2023 round closes for applications on the 5th of May.

Clinical Excellence/Impact awards have not been awarded in Scotland or N Ireland for a number of years.

Information for Parents and Families

Much of the patient information we have developed over the years in conjunction with the RCoA has now been revised. This has been led by Dr Karen Bartholomew in coordination with the RCoA. Some older information has been removed and we have introduced new material to our library. In particular I should draw your attention to our collaboration with the *Beano* in the development of a new online comic strip: *Dennis has an anaesthetic*.

This is aimed at children aged 7-11 years and may be found here:

<https://www.apagbi.org.uk/children-and-young-people/leaflets-children>

And our video library has also been enhanced with two new Q and A videos aimed at children aged 8-11 and also older children of 12 years upwards. These may be found here:

<https://www.apagbi.org.uk/children-and-young-people/videos-children>

Our thanks go to Karen for seeing these new projects through to their conclusion.

Link-Network

The APA Link-Network is now led by Dr Laurence Hulatt. Following a survey of local Link Leads this year's Annual meeting will be held online on Wednesday 22nd November. The intention is to alternate with biennial Face-to-Face meetings.

Oversight of the Link-Network is by Full Council, with more detailed input from Officers, SciCom and the Meetings Sub-committee with respect to the planning of meetings. A separate tier of oversight via Professional Standards no longer seems necessary.

Full details of the Link-Network may be found here:

<https://www.apagbi.org.uk/professionals/apa-linkmen>

Chris Gildersleve

Immediate Past President APAGBI

6. Science Committee Report

The last report from the science committee was in September 2022 and references much of our work in the last 12 months. I have appended this report.

News is that Hannah Lewis has now joined the science committee having previously been very active with PATRN. The science committee continues to be involved in the abstract competition during the ASM and in supporting the activity of PATRN.

We also participated in the latest round of NIAA funding, however we were not able to fund any of the studies submitted. Work for next year will be thinking about how we can better support researchers in working towards high quality funding application to the APA/NIAA program or for external bodies (especially NIHR). We hope to participate in future NIAA rounds depending on finances after the ASM

Contents

APA science committee report April 2023	1
Membership of Science Committee:	17
APA ASM abstracts:	17
Funding for Research from APAGBI:.....	17
Ongoing multicentre a trials (including NIHR portfolio studies) of interest:	17
Surveys:.....	17
PATRN:	17
Appendix:.....	18
APA Science Committee Report Sept 2022	18
Annual Scientific Meeting.	18
Grant Funding.....	18
General Comments	18

Membership of Science Committee:

Philip Arnold
Peter Brooks
Hannah Gill
Velupandian Guruswamy
Danielle Franklin
Pratheeban Nambyiah
Natasha Woodman
Jennie Craske
Richard Newton
James Armstrong
John Rutherford
Hannah Longsdale
Amaki Sogbodjor
Thomas Engelhardt
Hannah Lewis

APA ASM abstracts:

Last years best abstracts have been published in Pediatric Anesthesia. The abstracts submitted to the next ASM have been reviewed and papers selected for oral and poster presentations.

Funding for Research from APAGBI:

I will aim to update the APA council on progress of studies we have directly funded in the last few years.

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

I am not currently aware of on-going NIHR trials directly relevant to peri-operative care of children.

The Blueberry study (an international study of dexamethasone and tonsillectomy) has recently been unsuccessful in gaining funding for a UK branch.

Surveys:

Hannah Gill is our survey lead with help from myself and Richard Newton. We have distributed a few surveys to members and have deflected some requests

PATRN:

I will allow PATRN to explain their own activity.

Appendix:

APA Science Committee Report Sept 2022

Annual Scientific Meeting.

Successful abstract competition. Some very good posters and oral presentations. It is normal for us to publish the abstracts for the oral presentations in Pediatric Anesthesia. Whilst the abstracts are not indexed (ie pubmed etc) it is good exposure for the authors many of whom are doctors in training and some good visibility for the APA and our ASM. As the abstracts are not peer reviewed by the journal, we decided this year (prior to the competition) to conduct an additional process of 'peer review light'. This is underway but has delayed publication a little.

Science Workshop. We had our first science workshops at the ASM. This was well attended, and informal feedback seemed positive (we did not get formal feedback). Good speakers taking a range of perspectives. Not enough time for discussion so perhaps less content if we repeat in future. Plan was to run every couple of years and we should probably aim to run again before judging success of this innovation.

Grant Funding

We are taking part in the current round of the NIAA ([APAGBI Small Research Grant - The National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia \(niaa.org.uk\)](http://APAGBI Small Research Grant - The National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia (niaa.org.uk))). The closing date for applications is 23rd September. I am not aware of any applications but will enquire to see if anyone has applied. If there are applications then decisions on funding will be made at the NIAA meeting (of which we are a part) later in the year.

PATRN have requested funding for there project looking at pre-assessment. Myself and members of the science committee have reviewed the proposal and happy to fund in principle (would be useful to get agreement on this at council). The costing are comparable to similar projects conducted recently (or even better value). Some further discussion is required but concerns details only.

General Comments

The workshop and science committee meeting brought together a good group of researchers. There are some very impressive researchers in paediatric anaesthesia in the UK: mainly early career consultants or senior trainees which is very positive for the future. Several have come through the NIAA fellowship programmes. It is important that the APA continues to look for opportunities to support this effort and that as individuals we encourage research interests of trainees. Also, it is important that those who have been active in research as trainees (such as PATRN members) are encouraged to maintain research interests as they move to consultant posts (including research time and sufficient SPA time for new consultants).

Phil Arnold

Chair Science Committee

7. Education and Training Report

APA EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The E&T section of the website has had quite an overhaul, is now more user friendly and continues to be updated.

Hot Topics are ongoing—don't forget to cast your vote.

The International Journal Watch section continues quarterly with a selection of the latest interesting paediatric articles highlighted and summarised.

Much collaboration is going into creating a new regional section and this should be populated later in the year.

We continue to establish more links with other societies to share educational material, much of which will be freely available.

Our next joint webinar is on 20th April with ESPA—3 eminent speakers enlightening us on the subject of non-cardiac anaesthesia in children with congenital cardiac problems. More than 500 delegates are signed up already.

We are expecting to run a third joint webinar with the AoA later in the year, on the back of the success of the 2 previous ones.

We plan to continue these joint webinars with the Association and ESPA.

Our next meeting will be during the APA when we will discuss further website developments.

Judith Nolan

Chair Education and Training Committee

8. Meetings Committee Report

Annual Scientific Meetings

Cardiff 2022

The meeting in Cardiff was a great success and a welcome return to the face to face format.

Recordings of many of the sessions will be made available to view via the APABGI website.

London 24-25 May 2023. Connaught Rooms, London

Preparations are well under way with a record 350+ registrants to date. The workshops are full with long stand-by waiting lists so the possibility of adding extra workshops is being explored. There has been strong interest in both social functions with tickets selling well. Disappointingly there has been a much-reduced interest in the trade stands and this is reflective of a generalised trend in reduced spending by companies. There are 6 speakers from SPANZA travelling and over 30 registrants from Australia and New Zealand.

The pre-meeting peri-operative assessment workshop at RCoA on 23rd May is full at 150 registrants.

Newcastle 20-21 May 2024. SAGE conference centre.

Lisa Daniels the local organiser has confirmed the venue. Of note this is a Monday / Tuesday due to venue availability. Programme planning has started and a number of speakers have been invited from South Africa.

Edinburgh 2025.

Alistair Baxter, the local organiser, has yet to confirm dates and a venue. Of note, the SPA has expressed interest of this being a 'joint' meeting.

2026 Southwest peninsula Dates and venue TBC

2027 Oxford Dates and venue TBC

Aberdeen, followed by Birmingham have expressed interests in the next available slot. We will invite applications for 2028 after the London 2023 meeting.

Online tutorial series

The online tutorial series has concluded. All of the tutorials will continue to be free to view, 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.

ESPA

ESPA hosted a live webinar jointly with APAGBI on 'Non-Cardiac Surgery for Cardiac Children' in April 2023. There were over 200 participants registered and the quality of the talks was very high. The session was recorded and will be available to be hosted via the ESPA And APAGBI websites once it is edited and formatted.

ESA

The ESA has expressed an interest in including a 'paeds' workshop at its 'EuroAnaesthesia' meetings. Rebecca Freedman has agreed to run a 'safe paeds' style workshop and this hopefully will be included in the 2024 Munich meeting.

SPA

Mark, Simon and Sumit have agreed to participate in the SPA meeting in San Francisco in October 2023.

It is hoped that the 2024 SPA meeting in Philadelphia can be held jointly with SPANZA and APAGBI.

SPA has expressed an interest in jointly hosting the APAGBI ASM in Edinburgh in 2025

Meeting Organisers

I would also like to thank Rebecca and Peter at Index for their help with the organisation of the London ASM and the planning of Newcastle.

Council should consider if it is a good time to call for expressions of interest from other conference organisers as well as Index.

Jonathan Smith
Meetings Secretary

9. Trainee Representative's Report

International Journal Watch continues to produce quarterly article summaries in conjunction with SPANZA. Our authors for this year include Dr Anna Ratcliffe, Dr Leda Lignos, Dr Matthew Luney, Dr Katherine Harvey-Kelly, Dr Edmund Chan and Dr Ato Ocansey. For those interested in becoming authors for 2024, please email me for more information. The latest articles can be found at: <https://www.apagbi.org.uk/education-and-training/international-journal-watch>

Our fellowship database for trainees is currently being updated with the latest job summaries and contact information thanks to the hard work of Dr Lisa Elam. The APA 'paediatric anaesthesia for beginners' is in the process of being updated by Dr Laurence Hulatt and Dr Juleen Fasham so please look out for that. We are looking for trainees to help update the 'APAGBI Trainee Handbook' so please contact me! Finally, I am hoping to set up a mentoring scheme to help guide trainees, regardless of their stage of training, through the world of paediatric anaesthesia so watch this space!

Shivan Kanani
Trainee Rep

10. Website and Social Media Report

Digital Content & Communications

The APAGBI website receives an average of 2100 hits per month, reflecting that the membership and wider community find value in the educational, informational, and historical content that we share via the website.

Do make sure you vote and read the hot topic articles and take a look at the latest edition of International Journal Watch which has distilled some interesting articles into a quick read.

The most popular pages are those relating to APA meetings, education & training, and the excellent Paediatric Anaesthesia Tutorial Series.

In the past year, time has been spent on redesigning the education section, rationalising content, and making the section more visually appealing. There is more to be done,

reviewing and updating other sections of the site and we hope to embark on commissioning a members only area of the site, to allow us to share the most valuable content with you. I hope you have seen the occasional email newsletter, periodically highlighting recent updates from the association and other organisations. We'll limit the number we send, as we all get too many emails, but when one does land, have a scroll. Data shows that those who do open, find something that interests them.

Most of our updates and other interesting content we come across are also shared via social media platforms Facebook, Twitter & Instagram, so you can pick your platform of choice to follow us on. 2300 people follow us on Twitter, the same number on Facebook, but Instagram has some catching up to do.

If you spot anything out of place on the website, or have suggestions of what you would like to see, please contact webmaster@apagbi.org.uk

James Farrant
Webmaster

11. Reports from Other Organisations

a. Report on Behalf of the Royal College of Anaesthetists

- At the AGM in December, the college membership approved changes to the structure and composition of the Board of Trustees, as well as corrections to the wording of the Ordinances of the College. This is essential to the effective running of the charity.
- An internal review of the college exams was published last week, it will be considered alongside an external report. Both of which recommend some changes to the structure of the primary and final exam. This will improve the exam for both candidates and examiners.

Notable achievements with the APA:

- The Beano comic strip was an outstanding success.
- A joint statement was published in the autumn explaining both the RCoA and APA's belief that colleagues should mention the risk of death when consenting patients for anaesthesia when it is clearly the only risk to the child, eg for radiology procedures. The Risk Infographic is key to this, and both will be considered by the RCoA ethics committee in the spring.
- A statement on Paediatric Interventional Radiology will be published shortly and it is endorsed by the RCOA. I have written a personal endorsement.

There have been a number of other projects at the RCoA that have implications for the APA.

Each is described by directorate:

Education, Training and Examinations.

The jointly sponsored work by Rich Martin on Anxiety Management in Children is now written and it is with e-learning for health to be formatted and published online. This should be completed in the spring.

Clinical Quality and Research.

The RCPCH are looking for an anaesthetist to join their working party re-writing their guidelines for child protection training for anaesthetists. I would ask the council to consider this nomination as a matter of urgency.

The RCoA endorsed the GIRFT pathway for tonsillectomy in children. We urged GIRFT to highlight local pathways as well particularly those written by ODNs.

Communications and External Affairs.

Nothing to report.

Finance and Resources.

The college remains under financial pressure, however cost savings and increased revenue have reduced the size of the current budget deficit.

Russell Perkins
RCOA

b. Report on Behalf of PICS

The APAGBI and PCCS both have a range of shared interests. Mutual representation on respective Councils helps to further sharing of ideas and shared interests of improving care of children requiring anaesthesia and critical care.

Examples of topics where the Councils have cooperated this year include:

- discussion and representation regarding the implications for paediatric anaesthesia and critical care of the RCPCH statement regarding standardisation of intravenous infusions for children.
- Position statement on shortage of appropriate equipment for managing children presenting for anaesthesia/critical care.
- Information sharing regarding journal access for members

Laurence Hulatt
APAGBI Representative on PCCS Council

c. Report on Behalf of the Association of Anaesthetists

Successful Winter Scientific Meeting (Hybrid) in London 12-13 Jan 2023

Wide variety of topics and themes covered in workshops, lectures, and including live on-stage demonstrations. Keynote talks by Dr Jocalyn Clark of the BMJ about EDI, and Professor of Psychology Andy McCann, speaking about Resilience in the human domain.

Themes of on-going work programme at the Association.

The **Membership Survey** reported on the value to members of the Association and on areas that could be improved. Guidelines and Educational events form the core of Association activity and are highly valued by members, including *Anaesthesia* and *Anaesthesia Reports* journals, as well as transfer insurance, and e-learning opportunities. Representation, campaigning and advocacy are valued highly, especially in training issues and pensions. Areas for potential improvement include the high number of e-mail communications, and the messaging around and awareness of research grants, international work and the fairly new “Community” platform. A strategic planning day was held in March on the theme “Making sure we matter”, with follow up work to be undertaken in the coming months.

A joint meeting of the Association and RCoA Council scheduled for 14th April was postponed in the light of the BMA industrial action contingency work.

Equality, diversity and inclusion position statement in recent *Anaesthesia*, and a statement from *Anaesthesia Reports* is due soon.

Environment

Joint statement released with Association, RCoA and Greener NHS confirming cessation of use of Desflurane by spring 2024 in England, and noting cessation of contract in Scotland in February 2023.

Nitrous oxide – Association is now recommending the decommissioning of manifold supply of N₂O where appropriate. Cylinder replacement for certain uses such as paediatric inductions.

Single use vs reusable debate recognised as key area of work to address, and Association are represented in Green Surgery Project, run by Prof Mahmood Bhutta.

Anaesthesia Associates

The president attended a GMC meeting discussing regulation, legislation for which is due before the end of 2024.

Trainee conference is scheduled for **6th -7th July in Leeds**, with “hot topics”, live demonstrations, workshops and interactive debates.

Annual Congress is planned for **13th-15th September in Edinburgh**, and of course an attractive on-going webinar and locally provided Core Topics programme is available to view on the website.

Kenneth Barker
Association of Anaesthetists

12. National reports

A. APAGBI Report from Scotland

Workforce:

The Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital is expanding their team of paediatric anaesthetists and they will be looking for 2 new colleagues to join the department.

Education:

SAFE Paediatrics course, organized by Dr Kay Davies and Dr Roz Lawson and Dr Rachel Freeman, was delivered in Aberdeen in September 2022. This was the first course in Scotland and fourth pilot in UK. 16 delegates were trained during a 2-day course, as well as observers aiming to set up a course locally. A further course is already planned for Truro on 13-14 July 2023.

The Scottish Paediatric Anaesthetic Network Spring Meeting was held in March in Edinburgh. The topics included sustainability of paediatric chronic pain service in Scotland, pathway for managing preoperative anxiety, paediatric processed EEG, psychological management of acute distress and a difficult cases session.

The Educational Day in Paediatric Anaesthesia, biannually organized by SPAN, is planned for November 2023.

Research:

At least 2 centres (RHC Glasgow and RACH Aberdeen) have joined EUROFAST study.

Zuzana Kusnirikova

B. APAGBI Report from Wales

Annual Scientific Meeting 2022

We were delighted to be able to host the first Face-to-Face ASM post-pandemic in Cardiff. Despite the last-minute nature of the microsite booking process, we were able to attract a healthy circa 230 delegates, who enjoyed an eclectic mix of science, new developments in clinical practice and insights on health and well-being as practitioners. The undoubted highlight was the Jackson Rees lecture, delivered from Australia, as live, by Dr Richard Harris on his experience managing the Thailand cave rescue.

Given the relatively low attendance a small loss was sustained. Details are to be found within the Honorary Treasurers report together with details of the statutory donation to the host centre. This is being used to fund educational developments in Cardiff.

PAGW

The plans for the 2023 PAGW meeting are in their infancy. An autumn meeting is planned, in conjunction with the Society of Anaesthetists of Wales. Further details will follow in due course.

Home member elections 2023

Two candidates from Wales stood for election to the single vacancy for Home Member on Council earlier this year. Sadly, neither James Farrant nor Mari Roberts were successful in this endeavour in the face of strong competition. Nadia Ladak (Sheffield) was duly elected to Council.

James will continue in his current co-opted role as APA Webmaster, and I suspect his expertise will be vital to our medium-term future with prospective database and website developments required to ensure our data governance and security.

Mari has agreed to join the Education and Training committee, where her skills and experience as College Tutor and in education will be a good fit and help our development in that area.

Wales representation on APA Council

It has been my privilege to serve on Council and represent Wales since my election as Home Member in 2010. I demit from Council at the ASM in London as my term as Immediate Past President comes to an end.

James Farrant remains on Council as a co-opted member and so will be able to provide future representation for Wales on Council, not least since his role with PAGW will enable him to fully represent paediatric anaesthesia in Wales.

Chris Gildersleve

Immediate Past President APAGBI

C. APAGBI Report from Northern Ireland

Paediatric services in Northern Ireland continue to deal with the backlog of elective surgical cases postponed between March 2020 and March 2022 due to the CoVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic had a disproportionate impact on children in NI considering the small number of children requiring hospitalisation and advanced respiratory support due to CoVID-19. Our current operating capacity returned to normal at the end of 2022. Additional capacity to treat children in NI is needed now more than ever to solve the backlog of surgical cases that was already longer than the UK average before March 2020.

At present, due to the absence of local government in NI, no solutions within NI current hospital capacity can affect the necessary increases in children's surgical services required to deal with our waiting lists. We look forward to the day a Health Minister can engage with us to improve children's access to the surgical healthcare they need within NI current Health and Social Care Structures. We also await the completion of the new Belfast Children's Hospital. Unfortunately due to Brexit and the pandemic the scheduled opening has been

pushed back two years to the end of 2027. This new accommodation will double the capacity for children's surgical services, bring outreach clinics under one roof and create world class facilities to treat children according to recommended standards now and in the future.

Brian Foster

D. APAGBI Report from Ireland

Irish Paediatric and Critical Care Society Meeting

The Irish Paediatric Anaesthesia and Critical Care Society (IPACCS) Annual Scientific Meeting returned in March 2023 after a four-year hiatus. It took place in the beautiful Kinnitty Castle and was a great success (eventcreate.com/ipaccs). It was fantastic to meet in person as a national group of paediatric anaesthetists to share ideas and strategies for increasing post COVID surgical activity. Some sites have moved on from routine pre-op testing and facemasks and returned to extubating in recovery while others have not. This sharing of information was greatly received. The plenary lecture was delivered by the EPIC physician builder Dr Melanie Tan of UCH to prepare and stimulate our group prior to the upcoming design phase of our EPIC EPR for the new National Children's Hospital.

New Consultant Contract

In March 2023 the Department of Health launched the 2023 Consultant's Contract. This replaces all previous iterations of the 2008 Consultant's contact of which there were multiple types, with different remunerations and external working privileges. The new contract provides a single 6-point salary scale with a significant increase in remuneration. It also provides for external work where this does not impact upon public service delivery. It expands routine consultant working hours to include up to 10pm weekdays and Saturdays to 6pm.

New Services

A new *Children's Complex Pain Service* 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. The service currently manages approximately 70 patients with 6-10 new referrals per month.

A *formalised pre-assessment service* has commenced in CHI consisting of 3 whole time equivalent Clinical Nurse Managers, 5 (pre-existing) consultant anaesthetists and a whole-time administrator. Currently health questionnaires are discussed by phone 2 weeks in advance of surgery. The medium-term aim is to perform and stratify health questionnaires

using the 'my pre-op kids app.' The long-term aim is to integrate the questionnaire and stratification into the EPR.

New National Children's Hospital and Career Opportunities

Children's Health Ireland is the sole hospital group (Trust equivalent) providing tertiary level care for the population of Ireland. It is currently split across three sites which will amalgamate into a new National Children's Hospital which is scheduled to open in 2025. This hospital will cater for all subspecialities on a single site: Cardiac, neurosurgery, craniofacial, renal transplant, airway surgery, congenital spine surgery as well as complex pain and peri-operative medicine. There will be 22 operating theatres in the new hospital, a significant increase from the current total of 15 across the three sites. With this will come a need for consultant recruitment and expansion as well as world class fellowship opportunities (contact details on APA fellowship page). We would like to remind our UK colleagues to consider CHI for both fellowship and long-term career opportunities. There is an exciting new hospital with world class facilities, a case-mix and complexity to rival anywhere, the potential for world class research opportunities and a new consultant contract with a very attractive salary.

Bill Walsh

14. Link Lead report

The APAGBI Link-Network consists of a Link-representative in every hospital/Trust (often the Clinical Lead for Children's anaesthesia) and a Link Lead who is a member of the APAGBI Council. The Link-Network ethos is link, learn, connect and collaborate.

Dr John Rutherford was the Link Lead for several years and successfully led the network through the COVID years – and in particular, maintained the popular Network Meetings in an online format. The APAGBI would like to thank him for his service in this role. The new Link Lead is Dr Laurence Hulatt – elected home member of APAGBI Council and Paediatric anaesthetic consultant in Plymouth.

Current workstreams:

- Link Network meeting – planned for 22nd November 2023, an afternoon meeting, continuing in a virtual format (as per majority request in Link-representative survey). The themes for this meeting will be Patient Pathways and Training. If supported by the network, the plan will be for alternating virtual and face-to-face meetings for future years.
- Link Network opinion survey – distributed in April 2023. This survey aims to seek opinions on changes to paediatric anaesthesia / surgical services since the COVID pandemic, as well as thoughts about confidence and competence relating to paediatric anaesthesia. APAGBI Council will use the results of the survey to seek to

support the membership on matters of training / maintaining paediatric competencies and to best represent for children's surgical services at a National level.

If there are any matters that the APAGBI membership would like to bring to the attention of Council, please do contact the Link Lead: linkman@apagbi.org.uk .

Laurence Hulatt
Link-Network Lead

15. PATRN Report

- **PINEAPPLE** – Paediatric Cancellation Rates and Perioperative Clinical Evaluation is running!
 - 96 sites are registered in the UK
 - Data collection period 25th April – 20th June (each site selects 2 weeks within 8 week period)
 - Pre study survey has been completed all sites

- **Swift Survey 2022**
 - Regional Anaesthesia and Tonsillectomy Techniques from 2022 have both been accepted as poster presentations for the ASM

- **Swift Survey 2023**
 - 13 submissions – currently being scored with the aim to run 1 – 2 at this years ASM

- **Environmental Swift 2021**
 - Contacted from RCH Melbourne – going to use the template to run the survey in Australia / NZ
 - Hopefully will be able to compare the results between the two
 - Approached a contact in US to see if something similar possible there

- **PATRN Committee Applications**
 - 17 applications – currently being scored. 5 positions available
 - Jess will take over from Hannah and Tom as chair

- **PEACHY Paracetamol Paper**
 - Statistics completed. Secondary outcome paper currently being written.

Hannah Lewis, Tom Bennett

16. Information for Parents and Children Report

We have completed our latest project 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 is web based and in comic format. The script has also been reviewed and commented on by the APAGBI officers and by Camilla Poulton, our APA patient advisor.

Through reading the online comic strip, children will have their questions answered, including:

- What is a general anaesthetic and is it safe?
- How will I feel when I wake up?
- How can I prepare for my operation?
- What should I do if I am worried or have questions?

Dennis has an anaesthetic will also help children and their parents/carers understand what happens in the run-up to an operation, the care children will need afterwards and how they can best prepare. As Dennis finds out, there are lots of practical things he can do ahead of his operation, such as eating a balanced diet and getting plenty of sleep and exercise.

All children who are due to have a general anaesthetic will benefit from reading the comic strip, even if they are not outwardly demonstrating anxiety. As well as being a fun and playful way to help children understand more about their operation and how to prepare for it, *Dennis has an anaesthetic* includes familiar characters, games, and links to other resources.

Dennis has an Anaesthetic is available for download at:

<https://www.apagbi.org.uk/children-and-young-people>

<https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/patients/patient-information-resources/information-children-parents-carers>

Karen Bartholomew
Patient Information Lead

17. Perioperative Care Report

It has been a very productive year for the PPOC team, which will be showcased at the Perioperative day [Wednesday 24th May at the APA London meeting](#). The day is open to all members of the Perioperative care team.

This year APAGBI's PPOC subcommittee has worked together with a number of organisations on paediatric Perioperative care projects:

- NHS BT National comparative audit of patient blood management (PBM) in elective paediatric surgery. Data collection from 30 sites completed with over 700 cases, data cleaning & analysis underway, report due later this year. (NL)
- PATRN's next national audit project on paediatric preassessment: Paediatric cancellation rates And Perioperative clinical Evaluation. Recruited 96 centres. (CR)
- RCOA: [Special Beano comic strip](#) to manage preoperative anxiety in children. (SB&AN)
- RCoA: a beano spin off, Preoperative optimisation for children. To be released later this year. (SB&AN)
- CPOC: [anaemia guideline](#) paediatric section. (NL)
- CPOC: biannual paediatric themed newsletter: [October 2023](#), [March 2023](#) (ALL)
- BJA education: [Paediatric Preassessment article](#) (AN)
- British Haematology Society's (BHS) Writing group for guideline on transfusion for fetuses, neonates and older children. Previously [published in 2014](#) (NL)
- RCOA: fitter better sooner Paediatric version, currently sourcing funding for the project. [Adult version](#) (SB&NL)
- Association of anaesthetists working party representing the APAGBI in order to update the Association of Anaesthetists publication Pre-operative Assessment and Patient Preparation: The Role of the Anaesthetist. Previously [published in 2010](#) (NL)
- Surgery in children (SiC) Operational delivery network (ODN) working with the networks to promote paediatric Perioperative care. Via local & national meetings to share good practice & survey current set ups. (SM&MB)
- NHS England: consultation on the paediatric sections of the upcoming "National Preoperative Care Self- Assessment survey". (NL)
- Anaesthesia & intensive care article on paediatric transfusion, publication due later this year. (NL)

Catherine has been the PPOC trainee representative since conception, we would like to thank her for all her hardwork and wish her luck in the APA council's "Newly appointed consultant" position.

Nadia Ladak
PPOC Lead

Dr Nadia Ladak (Chair)-NL
Dr Sam Black-SB
Dr Amy Norrington-AN
Dr Maggie Babbs-MB
Dr Shyamala Moganandram-SM
Dr Barry Lambert-BL
Dr Catherine Riley-CR

18. Quality Improvement Report

QI Report April 2023

The QI team continues to support the Council in its various projects and assisted the Science committee in shortlisting high quality abstracts for the oral/poster presentations at the forthcoming APAGBI Annual Scientific meeting (London).

The EUROFAST study commenced recruitment of cases in January 2023 across 15 centres in the UK. Unfortunately, the study has had to be put on hold due to miscommunication with the HRA by one of the interested (but not enrolled at the time of the event) centres and we are now awaiting a clarification on the same. The Chief Investigator is fully aware of the situation and has supported us throughout.

We are involved in a GIRFT project to look at the care of children on long term home ventilation that will aim to provide best practice guidance on hospital admissions of these children with complex health care needs.

Neonatologists from Oxford University Hospitals have started a national group NeoPIG (Neonatal Perioperative Improvement Group) comprising of professionals interested in the perioperative care of Neonates, with the aim of sharing good practice and identifying areas where improvements could be made. We have expressed interest in advancing the aims of this group that hopes to bridge divides between specialties and bring together the varied experience, skills and expertise to improve Neonatal care. Watch the space for future developments!

Vimmi Oshan
QI Lead, APAGBI

19. Sustainability Report

- Joint AoA/APAGBI sustainability focused education event in November 2022 was well attended virtually and has had excellent feedback.
- Upcoming ASM to feature sustainability debate vs SPANZA – “a green anaesthetic: safe for the planet but is it safe for the patient?”
- Ongoing planning for APAGBI sustainability network for sharing ideas/projects/methodology/networking, consensus statement production for the APA, and delivery of national projects going forwards.

Sarah Greenaway
Sustainability Lead