

APA&ESPA
Cambridge 2013



APAGBI/ESPA Meeting, Cambridge, 19th - 21st June 2013

Cambridge hosted the 40th Annual Scientific Meeting of the APAGBI, joint with the European Society for Paediatric Anaesthesiology (ESPA) this year and, by popular consent, this has been one of the most successful meetings of recent years. Almost 500 delegates attended the meeting in the West Road Concert Hall and Law Faculty of the University of Cambridge, the weather was fine and the City of Cambridge an excellent backdrop for proceedings. We are hugely grateful to Dr Liam Brennan and his colleagues from Addenbrookes Hospital, who hosted and organised the meeting in fine style. Thanks are also due to our trade sponsors, event venues and our event organisers from the AAGBI headed by Oliver Kingham.

Wednesday 19th June saw 140 delegates enjoy a half-day history session to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the APA with 4 compelling lectures from an international faculty. These were complemented by a small exhibition of equipment and paraphernalia relating to our specialty organised by Trish Willis of the AAGBI Heritage Centre. It was splendid to welcome 9 former presidents of our association, including several founder members to this special event.

The spectacular Fitzwilliam Museum hosted the evening reception event and we were welcomed to Cambridge by Professor Sir Leslek Borysiewicz, Vice Chancellor of the University. Sir Leslek also presented a donation, on behalf of the APA, to the East Anglian Children's Hospices movement. We enjoyed acapella musical entertainment from a quartet of boys from The King's School, Ely.

For the main sessions of the meeting, we were delighted to welcome Dr Nigel Turner, ESPA president, and many of his colleagues to co-host the meeting. Attendance at the meeting was fantastic with close to 500 delegates registering, equalling numbers for the 2009 Glasgow meeting.

A varied programme of talks, workshops and interactive discussions for both specialist and generalist children's anaesthetists with an emphasis on neuroscience and core topics kept (most) delegates away from the other attractions of Cambridge for two days and the standard was agreed to be excellent by all. Full details of the programme can be found on the APA website, www.apagbi.org

The APA was delighted to confer honorary membership of the association on Dr Martin Johr, Dr Jane Peutrell and Mrs Ann Seymour.

Prof David Spiegelhalter delivered the keynote Jackson Rees Lecture on the subject of risk in anaesthesia and surgery. His unravelling of some aspects of how to

present risk was entertaining and informative and the subject of much conversation. Prof Spiegelhalter was also able to plug his book, "The Norm Chronicles" more details of which together with much more can be found on his website.

<http://understandinguncertainty.org/>

We received record number of abstract submissions for the meeting and were able to accept 9 free paper presentations and 100 poster presentations, including 10 selected for the trainee poster prize. Dr Ruth Treadgold won the poster prize with her presentation of a paediatric pain care-bundle across the South-West clinical network of ED and minor injury units. The free paper prize-winner was Dr Hannah Gill who presented "MACvoc": A new sub-anaesthetic measurement in neonatal rats. The standard of submissions was very high and we are grateful to members of the APA Scientific Committee for selecting and judging these. All of the accepted abstracts can be viewed in the online abstract booklet via the APA website; <http://www.apagbi.org.uk/professionals/meetings/annual-scientific-meeting> as can some photos of the meeting.

During the meeting Sarah Kessler made a presentation on behalf of the "Lifebox" charity. A collection raised £400 and an equal amount will be pledged by APA Council. This will allow the purchase of spare paediatric and neonatal paediatric oximeter probes for the initiative. For more information on Lifebox, please visit <http://www.lifebox.org/>

The Annual Dinner was held in the imposing surroundings of Queens College and was a sell-out event. We were delighted to be joined by the President of BAPS and the lead for Children and Young People at the RCN as well as several of our past presidents and honorary members. "Cambridge Voices", who included a musical version of checking the anaesthetic machine in their repertoire, entertained us. Dr JP van Besouw, President of The Royal College of Anaesthetists, proposed the toast to the APA.

As the meeting closed, our indefatigable president of the last two years, Dr Kathy Wilkinson, handed over the reins and the presidential medal of office to our new President, Dr Bob Bingham. Prof Andy Wolf becomes our president-elect.

May I request that all delegates who have not already done so please return feedback forms for the meeting (available on the APA website), so that we can continue to plan meetings that are relevant and informative for all of our members.

On that note the caravan moves on, but we hope the dogs are not barking too loudly! Preparations are well advanced for next year's meeting in Leeds. This will be held at The Royal Armouries Museum on 15th and 16th May and we trust will be as successful as was this meeting.

Dr Alistair Cranston,

Meetings Secretary,
Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of GB and Ireland.

July 2013.