

# T piece



Spring 2016

## Contents:

President's report

Trainee news

Charity options

Scottish Snippets



Annual Dinner 2015 in Aberdeen



## President's Report

The T piece starts a new year which sees the NHS undergoing the usual battles through the winter pressures, increased demand for paediatric anaesthesia input in and out of the operating room and unresolved issues around seven day working and contracts. While the core business of the Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists is to support education, standards and development of those who are involved with anaesthesia of infants and children undergoing anaesthesia, it is hard not to be influenced by the current issues facing the profession. This probably is a very important time for all us: occasional practitioner, trainee or specialist in paediatric anaesthesia to maintain

close ties with the APA. Our website continues to expand providing key information on current issues, and the work of the education committee led by Mark Thomas and professional standards led by Bob Bingham maintains a strong source of information and guidance. We look forward to a full Belfast Annual scientific meeting (May 4-6<sup>th</sup>) complete with a half-day Trainee meeting on the Wednesday at nominal cost, parallel streams of lectures on the Thursday and Friday, workshops and a great social programme. Maintaining contact through membership of the APA is vital at this time so that we can support each other. We recently sent out a membership survey, which will

help Council direct efforts and activities in the next year. However, we are always happy to respond to direct contact, suggestions and calls for advice and contact details are on the website. My e-mail address is [awolfbch@aol.com](mailto:awolfbch@aol.com) and I while I may take a few days to get back to you, I will respond as soon as I can. As the APA has evolved over time, the make up of membership and Council has changed considerably from a smaller group of specialist paediatric anaesthetists, to a much broader base that reflects the wide spectrum of paediatric anaesthesia. The current Council reflects not only the different environments where paediatric anaesthesia is undertaken but also the regional approaches to practice across Great Britain and Ireland. We also get valuable input from an elected overseas representative, at present held by Walid Habre from Geneva. It is essential that the APA Council continues to be an inclusive group and in order to maintain this “freshness” there needs to be a regular intake of new Council members who have the ideas and enthusiasm to take paediatric anaesthesia forward. This has become increasingly important as children with complex needs are not just found in large specialist centres and ways need to be found to integrate care throughout regional networks and ways found to maintain skills and knowledge. I would therefore urge those from both specialist and mixed practice to consider applying for Council election later this year when vacancies will occur. Personally, after 15 years associated with Council I still find it really stimulating to work with a

group of enthusiastic individuals as we try our best to support the profession and practice of paediatric anaesthesia.

We have had some changes on Council in the last few months. Karen Bartholomew who is no stranger to APA council through her work with the linkman scheme is now an elected member to Council. We also welcome Dr Richard Marks, Vice President of the Royal College of Anaesthetists and Dr Upma Misra Council member of AAGBI and on the Editorial Board of Anaesthesia. Both are co-opted to strengthen our ties with these two important national bodies and collaborate on matters paediatric. For many years, the APA provided Peer review of paediatric anaesthetic practice at the request of anaesthesia departments in order to evaluate all aspects of paediatric anaesthesia and its adjacencies with a view to help the local team improve their practice. This aspect of our work was much approved and admired by many of our colleagues in other specialties. Recently, the RCoA has begun rolling out a similar scheme of quality improvement through peer review that can be applied universally to all hospitals. This process of Anaesthesia Clinical Services Accreditation (ACSA) has drawn much from our own experience of peer review and Simon Courtman has put a huge amount of work with the RCoA in establishing appropriate paediatric needs within the core domains of the ACSA process. Another current active collaboration is a joint project with the RCoA led by Alistair Cranston and Kathy Wilkinson to develop a microsite for Safeguarding level 3 training for anaesthetists. These

collaborative projects all bode well for close integrated working across the Anaesthetic organisations with the APA providing a central touchstone for specialist advice and input in paediatric anaesthesia.

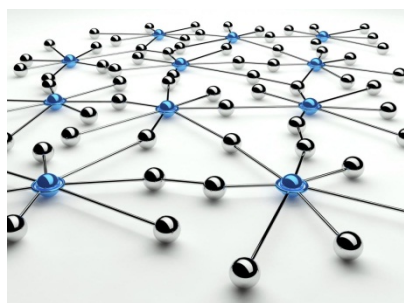
2015 has been a good year for research within the APA. Not only were two paediatric anaesthetic projects given Grant funding by the National Institute for Academic Anaesthesia (NIAA), but also, the results of a previous APA commissioned and funded research project, the “pain at home study” was published in the journal *Pediatric Anesthesia*. Sally Wilmshurst, from Great Ormond Street, who has been appointed by Council to lead the development of Quality Improvement (QI) methodology in paediatric anaesthesia, is currently working on how to help different departments to set up and undertake QI projects in the future. Sally gave a brief presentation of her vision on how to roll out this project at the recent Council meeting, and now she has been tasked to set out a blueprint of how individual departments can organise and roll out their initial QI projects. Please watch out for this development on the APA website. We are also aiming

to help these projects get off the ground and will be working out how to do this in the next few months as the process develops. This year also saw the formation of the Paediatric Anaesthesia Trainee Research Network (PATRN) led by Dr Elin Hughes who is the trainee rep on Council in collaboration with Drs Zoe Harclerode and Anna Barrow. They have already started work on some simple projects and following useful informal discussions with the paediatric surgical trainee network we hope that some more complex collaborative studies could be undertaken in the next couple of years.

I look forward to an energetic 2016 with a brilliant Belfast Annual Scientific Meeting. We will let you know what you have come up with as priorities for the Association from the membership survey. Meanwhile, if this is more convenient, let us have your ideas for new projects and areas you think we need to concentrate on in the next couple of years, and do consider whether you might want to apply for election to Council in the future.

**Andrew Wolf**  
**APAGBI President**

# Trainee News



PATRN, the new trainee research network has had a very good start. So far, over forty APA trainee members have joined from a mixture of tertiary centres and district general hospitals. Our pilot project, on day case tonsillectomy, has closed and the data crunching has begun. A second project is currently on the go. A number of others have suggested projects that they'd like to put through the network. The PATRN committee would like to say a big thank you to those who have joined and helped with the first data collection. We will be contacting you shortly with certificates for your portfolios. Using the network, we have the potential to collect much more meaningful data, and hopefully complete some worthwhile projects. If you would like to join, or have a project idea, please get in touch and we'll see how we can help. The email address is [patrn.network@gmail.com](mailto:patrn.network@gmail.com). The new 'Article Watch' feature is on the APAGBI website. This contains a summary of the most recent quarterly articles of note in the field of paediatric anaesthesia. This is a fantastic resource for keeping up to

date, looking for journal club inspiration, pre-interview cramming and guiding further reading. If any APA trainee members would like to write an 'Article Watch' piece, email me at [elin.jones@doctors.org](mailto:elin.jones@doctors.org) and I'd be happy to help you.

We are attempting to improve and update the exam questions on the APAGBI website. An APA trainee member Dr Dave Newby is endeavouring to set up an exam writing group. You may have received an email about this already and contacted him directly, however if you missed it, he can be contacted on [davenewby@doctors.org.uk](mailto:davenewby@doctors.org.uk).

I have gained an enormous amount from my (nearly!) two years acting as rep. Not only do you get an insight into how a large organisation like APA works, it is fantastic platform for interacting with other trainees in paediatric anaesthesia, introducing projects that can have a big impact and seeing them through to fruition. Any expressions of interest in becoming the next representative should come to me initially and I'll be happy to talk you through what's involved.

**Dr Elin Jones**  
**APAGBI Trainee Representative**



**ONLY A FEW DAYS TO GO!**



**BOOK online NOW @**  
<http://www.apagbi2016.co.uk>

**SAVE the DATE**

APA Linkman Meeting 2016  
Monday November 7<sup>th</sup>  
Birmingham – details soon at  
<http://www.apagbi.org.uk>

# Council shorts:

## New members of Council

- Karen Bartholomew elected Home member
- Nirmala Soundararajan elected Linkman Co-ordinator

Congratulations to both

## Election season

Elections will take place in the summer for a new Trainee representative and in the autumn for a new Home member to Council. Details will be posted on the APA website.

## APA Members Survey 2016

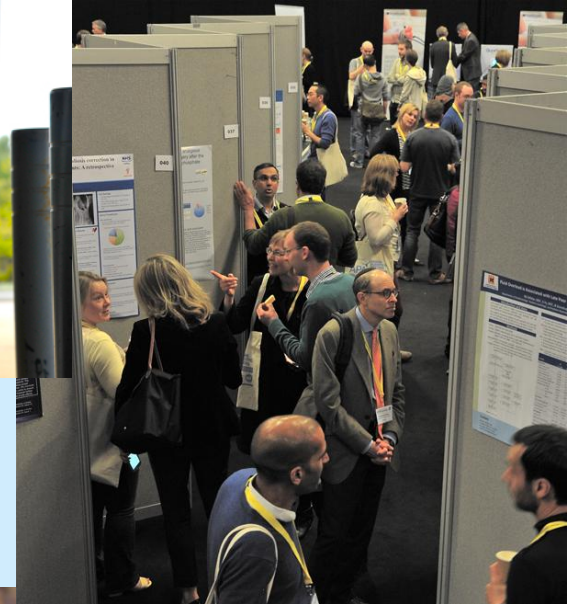
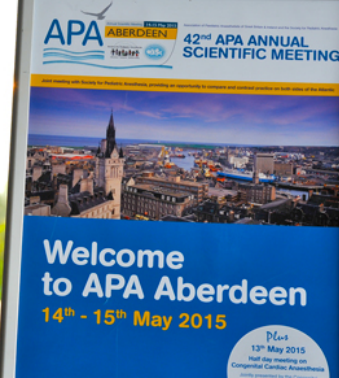
Results and Council's response will be posted on the website soon after the ASM in Belfast

## Jackson Rees Lecture 2015, Aberdeen

Mr. Chris Allen received his Jackson Rees medal from Dr. Bob Bingham, outgoing APA President, at the Aberdeen meeting







# Aberdeen 2015



## Overseas missions

The APA is aware that many anaesthetists consider working overseas as a volunteer during their working lives. There are many websites with information for each individual charity and there is some useful information on both the AAGBI and RCoA websites. However, these do not specifically look at paediatric anaesthetic possibilities abroad.

Therefore, we are trying to set up a database for information for anyone wishing to think about volunteering for an overseas paediatric anaesthetic placement. The aim is to

collect a list of those available, a brief description of what the work entails, contact details of the charity website and of anyone who has worked for that charity if they are happy to be contacted by anyone who is interested. I am aware that there are some trainee opportunities but also volunteer ones for consultants.

Please can you either let me know about any that you have been involved in or are aware of and we will put them on the website for others as a resource.

Many thanks

**Charles Stack**  
**President Elect**  
[c.stack@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:c.stack@sheffield.ac.uk)

## Scottish Snippets

This has been an interesting year for paediatric anaesthesia in Scotland with the opening of the Royal Hospital for children in Glasgow, the hosting of the APA in Aberdeen and the retirement of one of the previous APA presidents Dr Neil Morton.

### **SPAN:**

The Winter Education meeting entitled “Critical Care Update” on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December proved popular. The central location and varied topics drew a large group of paediatric enthusiasts from around the country. The meeting consisted of lectures in the morning sessions and a series of workshops in the afternoon.

The next AGM will be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2016 in the Teachers building in Glasgow with video-conferencing being available on request. Further details and outline programme will be available on the span website: [www.span.scot.nhs](http://www.span.scot.nhs) in due course.

Scotland has had an excellent response to the call for inclusion in the **Apricot** study with all hospitals submitting data. Dr Tom Engelhardt will hopefully present some of the findings at the next AGM.

### **SCCCSS:**

Mr Fraser Munro has now succeeded Mr Roderick Duncan as chair of this group of Paediatric Specialty

Consultants. There continues to be problems recruiting into paediatric surgical specialty posts such that the long-term retention of such services is an increasing concern. A short life working group has been collating a paper looking at how to ensure training enables and informs the future generations of paediatric surgical specialists. A report from this should be available in the near future.

**NSD:**

National services division has recently set up a new group whose remit is to audit the Managed Clinical Networks within Children's Surgical

Services to ensure children are receiving the best care possible.

**MEPA / MEPA-FC:**

Both of these courses continue to be popular with Consultants and trainees wishing update / enhance their paediatric anaesthetic management. Courses are based at the Scottish Centre for Simulation and Clinical Human Factors at Forth Valley Hospital and can be booked through the website:

[www.scschf.org](http://www.scschf.org)

**Carolyn Smith**

**APAGBI Scottish Representative**

# AND FINALLY



**“Peter, only 5 more sleeps until the meeting in Belfast. I can’t wait! ”**

**See you all in Belfast. Have a safe journey.**