



RCoA: President's News

November 2015

THE ROYAL COLLEGE
OF ANAESTHETISTS



Paris tragedy

I am sure that, like me, you were deeply shocked and appalled by the terrorist attacks that occurred in Paris last Friday. We extend our condolences to the bereaved and our thoughts and best wishes to the emergency services, particularly fellow anaesthetists and intensivists, who dealt with the carnage and who are continuing to care for hundreds of victims, many of who remain in critical condition. Along with Anna Batchelor, Dean of the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine, I have sent a letter of sympathy to Professor Claude Ecoffey, President of the Société Française d'Anesthésie et de Réanimation, [on behalf of Fellows and Members](#).



Trainee doctor contract update

Early November saw the publication of details of the new contract for doctors in training. As a College we are not part of the contract negotiations, but, as the largest single secondary care specialty, we believe it is essential that the contribution anaesthesia makes to the safe and effective care of two thirds of hospital in-patients is properly recognised and supported in any new contract.

Anaesthesia and intensive care have always been fully committed to delivering safe and effective care 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for those with the most urgent need. We believe that well-

motivated and well-trained doctors can provide the best patient care, and, urge all parties to work together to deliver a resolution which underpins these fundamental components of effective healthcare for all.

We recently met with the Secretary of State for Health, as did several other Royal Colleges. We made the above points, stressing, all parties should return to meaningful negotiations, facilitated by independent arbitration if required, and emphasising the need to value our trainees as the future of the specialty.

The College knows how stressful the last few months have been for all our trainees and the wider profession. We would also direct all our Members and Fellows to [our earlier welfare statement](#). I have personally responded to many individual emails from Members and Fellows to offer reassurance that your College, Council, and I will continue to support trainees to deliver the safest patient care in the current challenging circumstances.



Shaping flexible training for well-rounded doctors

It has been some time since we updated you on the Shape of Training (SoT) Review and what Professor Greenaway's proposals could mean for anaesthetic and intensive care training.

In response to a statement released from the UK Medical Steering Group, Colleges undertook a mapping exercise, coordinated via the AoMRC, to explore how more generic training could be developed to meet the current and future needs of patients. Reconfiguration of service delivery requires doctors to lead complex change within the NHS. Raising the profile of perioperative medicine will facilitate the interface between primary and secondary care services and further embed the interactions of multidisciplinary teams within the hospital.

During the consultation period, the College worked collaboratively with the Faculties of Pain Medicine and Intensive Care Medicine, along with other stakeholders with related interests in anaesthesia training and service delivery. The College would like to thank the anaesthetic training community, members, fellows and stakeholders for their engagement in the mapping exercise.

The full RCoA submission to the mapping exercise [can be found on the website](#). A fuller review and update on next steps will appear in the next edition of the *Bulletin*.



National Audit Projects – celebrating the old and welcoming the new

The College's National Audit Projects continue to contribute important quality improvement learning in key areas of the specialty. We are delighted to announce that the [5th National Audit Project \(NAP5\) on Accidental Awareness During General Anaesthesia](#) last week won the overall prize at the Irish Healthcare Awards 2015.

NAP5 was awarded first place in the category [Best Hospital Project](#) as well as An Duais Mhór, the overall prize awarded to the outstanding project chosen from all categories. The report was the first national audit conducted in every hospital in the Republic of Ireland to achieve a 100% response rate.

Congratulations to the whole NAP5 team and to Dr Ellen O'Sullivan, Past President of the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland and the Irish NAP5 Project Lead.

The next national audit, NAP6, officially launched on 5 November 2015 and will examine perioperative anaphylaxis. Professor Nigel Harper has been appointed as the Clinical Lead for NAP6 and will be working closely alongside Dr Tim Cook, Director for National Audit Projects. Local Coordinators will lead the Baseline Survey in November 2015 and an Allergen Survey will be carried out in Spring 2016.

NAP6 will collect comprehensive information concerning perioperative anaphylactic events, enabling the anaesthetic and allergy communities to collaborate in order to make



recommendations for the improvement of patient care. Please contact your Local Coordinator in your hospital to find out how you can participate in ensuring the collection of quality comprehensive data and the sharing of best practice across the NHS.



Election update

I am delighted that so many of you have already exercised your democratic right and voted in the [College Council elections](#). With a little under three weeks until the close of the ballot I would encourage you all to participate. You will need to have either voted electronically or ensure that your ballot paper has been received by Electoral Reform Services by no later than **5.00 pm on Thursday, 3 December 2015**.



Safety first, last and always

The RCoA's 5th annual Patient Safety Conference was held earlier this month at the ThinkTank Centre in Birmingham. Opened by Dr Mike Durkin, National Director of Patient Safety NHS England, the conference was extremely well attended, with topics ranging from the improvement of clinical systems to how Formula One and commercial

air travel can offer lessons that can be applied to healthcare. Dr Durkin hailed anaesthesia as an honourable speciality and 'world leader for patient safety', reserving particular praise for anaesthetists as having 'a collective passion to improve.'



Anaesthetists in the news

Congratulations to Dr Jonathan Fielden, a consultant anaesthetist and intensivist from University College London Hospitals on his appointment as NHS England Deputy Medical Director with responsibility for specialist commissioning, and to Lieutenant Colonel Tom Woolley, who has been appointed as Defence Professor of Anaesthesia and Critical Care in succession to Colonel Peter Mahoney.



Regional Advisers' Meeting

We held a successful meeting of our Regional Advisers (RAs) last week, to discuss the important training and service issues impacting on our speciality. Anaesthetic and ICM workforce planning was discussed at length, and it was particularly interesting to hear how planning is being conducted on a national and regional level.

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I fully support our RAs in working with Clinical Directors and stakeholders in order to effectively plan for the future of our specialty. J-P Lomas and Adam Low made important contributions on workforce and trainee welfare, epitomising the professionalism and maturity demonstrated by all of our trainees and junior doctors at such a challenging time.

I was struck by the commitment and enthusiasm of RAs to engage in debates surrounding their future role, taking into account the changes over time to the structures and rules governing postgraduate medical education, training and assessment. One of the strongest sentiments expressed on the day, and a common theme that has emerged more widely, is that the College is a respected institution which represents our many thousands of members in the UK and abroad.

And finally...

If you have any comments on any of the issues raised in this eNewsletter or you would like to express your views on any other matters, then I would like to hear from you. Please contact me via presidentnews@rcoa.ac.uk.

Best wishes,

Liam

Liam Brennan
President