



THE INTERNATIONAL ANAESTHETIST

The e-newsletter for international members of the Royal College of Anaesthetists

February 2018

Welcome to the first Royal College of Anaesthetists' international fellows and members e-newsletter, which we hope you will find interesting and informative.

With seven per cent of our membership based overseas, living and working in very different environments than we experience in the UK, a key element of our [Global Partnerships Strategy](#) is to engage more effectively with our international members so that we can better meet your needs. This involves reviewing member benefits, which you will hear more about in this first e-newsletter, and exploring ways to provide networking opportunities where you can discuss professional issues and share ideas. We will update you as these plans progress.

I would like to take this opportunity to make you aware of some exciting College events that you may find interesting. Firstly, [Anaesthesia 2018: The International Meeting of the RCoA](#) will be taking place between 22 and 23 May 2018. The event, held in the iconic surroundings of the British Museum, will bring together national and internationally renowned experts to present the latest advances in perioperative medicine, critical care and pain medicine. It would be fantastic to see as many of our international fellows and members as possible attending. If you are planning a trip to the UK in 2018 – this could be an

ideal opportunity and by May, with winter a distant memory, we should be enjoying pleasant spring weather. We are hoping, if there is significant international member uptake, to hold a networking reception for those in attendance. We are also in the early stages of planning, in collaboration with the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland and the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, an international conference to be held in Malaysia in 2019. Further details will be available later this year.

We hope that this quarterly e-newsletter will reflect the diversity of our global membership and provide information that is of interest to you. As this is your e-newsletter, we would welcome suggestions about what you would like to see included – perhaps you might consider contributing an article yourself. Please let us know via global@rcoa.ac.uk

With my very best wishes for 2018.

Dr Liam Brennan
President, Royal College of Anaesthetists

@RCoANews



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Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the Royal College of Anaesthetists' international e-newsletter. Due to be distributed once every quarter, we intend this to be a great opportunity to communicate with our diverse international membership.

The Global Partnerships Committee has a broad remit, implementing the College's [Global Partnerships Strategy](#), with a focus on education and training of anaesthetists in a variety of different settings. In addition, the Committee will be exploring ways of further engaging with our members based overseas, including member benefits and also how we might facilitate networking opportunities for those based overseas. You will hear a bit about this within this e-newsletter, and continued updates as this develops in later editions.

In order for this e-newsletter to be a success, we need input from you, in the form of suggestions, and articles. We intend to have regular features, including 'A day in the life of...' which will put the spotlight on one of our international members, who will describe their working environment, including the challenges and opportunities they face. We will also be featuring an article from a partner organisation in each issue, which will show the diverse range of anaesthesia, based projects being undertaken globally.

We welcome your input and collaboration and we are keen for you to share experiences and ideas, and

to discuss the various issues faced in different contexts. If you have any thoughts on other useful material, or if you would like to contribute an article yourself, please email your thoughts to us at global@rcoa.ac.uk

Finally, you will see that this first edition of the e-newsletter is entitled *The International Anaesthetist*. We would be very keen to know your thoughts on this name, and any further suggestions you might have. The name needs to be relevant and reflect both the content and the diverse range of recipients. Please be creative and email your suggested names to global@rcoa.ac.uk by **Friday 2 March 2018**. The winner will see the e-newsletter named as per their suggestion, and will also receive a mystery prize. We look forward to hearing your suggestions.

Happy reading,



Professor Ellen O'Sullivan
Chair of the Global Partnerships
Committee, RCoA Council Member

 @RCoANews



By Maria Burke
RCoA Global Partnerships
Manager

2017 saw the launch of the Royal College of Anaesthetists' first [Global Partnerships Strategy](#), which provides a direction for our work in partnering and engaging with health ministries, professional organisations and anaesthesia societies.

We have continued to build relationships with our existing partners and in April 2017 held the College's first film night showing [The Checklist Effect](#). The film looks at the implementation of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Surgical Safety Checklist in different countries across the world. If you would like to see the film, or arrange a screening of your own, Lifebox would love to hear from you!

In the summer of 2017, we ran our first International fellows and members' survey – more can be read about this in our International Membership article on [page 6](#).

We have also continued to support UK trainees undertaking fellowships in low and middle income countries (LMICs) and are delighted that we have partnered with the King's Sierra Leone Partnership to allow two trainees to undertake a placement in Freetown. Sierra Leone has only two physician anaesthetists for a population of approximately 7.5 million.

The College has also used its expertise in anaesthetic training provision to assist Iceland with the introduction of Acute Core Care Stem (ACCS) training, with experienced UK trainers providing a Training the Trainer course in Reykjavik in September. We have also worked with the Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists (HKCA), which is introducing a competency-based curriculum. A UK faculty ran a Training the Trainer course in Hong Kong in October, particularly focusing on Workplace Based Assessment methodologies. A review group was also convened to assist with the HKCA curriculum review. In November, the group provided a report with a number of recommendations.

More recently, the Global Partnerships team ran the College's first Global Anaesthesia themed conference on



HRH The Princess Royal attending the World Anaesthesia Day conference on 16 October 2017

2017

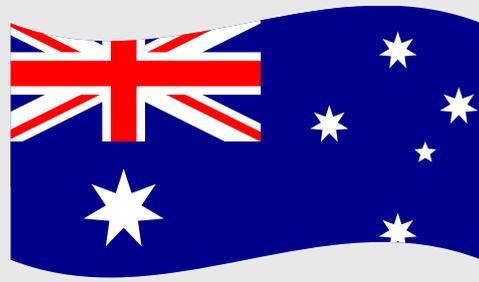
What a year for the Global Partnerships team!

16 October 2017, which was World Anaesthesia Day. The event had some excellent speakers, including Mr Andy Leather, one of the lead authors for [The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery](#), Mr Julian Gore-Booth, CEO of the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists and [Lord Nigel Crisp](#). The day also saw the launch of the revised e-SAFE, resource, which provides free access to 100 interactive e-learning sessions and an extensive e-library. The

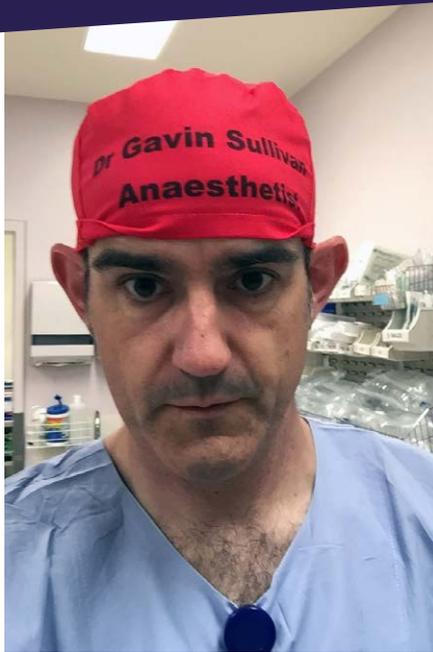
resource is targeted at non-physician anaesthetists and is available [online](#) and via a USB. A further resource, Essential Anaesthesia, aimed at physician anaesthetists focusing on paediatrics, obstetrics, trauma and pain will be online shortly.

We look forward to the challenges and opportunities that 2018 will bring!

A day in the life of...



Insight from Australia



By Dr Gavin Sullivan, Staff Specialist Anaesthetist, John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia

Two hours north of Sydney, the John Hunter Hospital is a tertiary referral centre servicing an area the size of England with a population of 875,000. We have a department of 40 full time equivalents made up of 100 staff specialists (public) and visiting medical officers (private).

Our demographic is working-middle class with a huge service industry for the mining facilities that employ the majority of people in our area (second only to the health service).

As such we have a high prevalence of lifestyle diseases that impact our patients. 70 per cent of our workload is acute surgery with a large trauma and orthopaedic load. Otherwise we service all surgical specialties excluding burns. We have separate on-calls for cardiac and paediatric although, interestingly for a large centre, our obstetrics is still catered for in main theatres.

My week is split into the usual ten sessions – I have three academic and management (non-clinical) and seven clinical sessions. Currently these seven sessions are not fixed in time or specialty. My workload is mainly orthopaedic, colorectal and hepatobiliary. This allows me to maintain skills in large, complex surgeries and some regional anaesthesia. The on-call is not onerous but is stressful – with a complex

multidisciplinary logistic work load and sometimes technical cases.

The challenges of my job revolve around the complexity of a public hospital that is funded by government and private insurance providers. This creates inequity for both doctors and patients – acute patients are not remunerated as well as elective patients and this can cause issues.

My department, however, is immensely collegiate and the breadth of instantly available expertise is incredibly useful. The tertiary nature of the hospital also means that expert medical opinion is never far away.

I miss the UK but the weather, pay, decreased population density and lifestyle are insurmountable – we are here for the foreseeable future!



Delegates during the practical module of the Lifebox training in Bihar, India (© Lifebox)



Lifebox's team-centered approach to safer anaesthesia in India

By Dr Mansi Tara, Lifebox Project Manager

This year in India, 954 surgical procedures will take place per 100,000 people.¹ Apply the ratio across a population of 1.324 billion, and you have a huge – and growing – need for anaesthesia and surgery. Factor in a lack of human resources, limited or faulty equipment, and a vast urban/rural divide, and the challenge of meeting that need with safe, timely and affordable care is clear.

Lifebox Foundation is a global health charity improving the equation. Since 2016, we have worked across India in partnership with local non government organisations, private hospitals, professional societies and individual doctors, to improve the safety and quality of perioperative care.

Founded by surgeon and author Professor Atul Gawande, with our roots in the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist, Lifebox works to make anaesthesia and surgery safer globally.

The combination of the WHO Checklist and pulse oximetry has been shown to reduce surgical mortality and complications by more than 30 per cent, and at the heart of this improvement is teamwork and communication.

Lifebox training workshops involve the entire operating room team – anaesthetists, doctors, nurses and support staff – working together for better implementation of these life-saving tools.

With generous support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, we have trained more than 20 anaesthetists across India as regional faculty, establishing a network of anaesthetist champions who support and inform our work. We've provided more than 300 high-quality, environment-appropriate pulse oximeters to operating rooms and recovery settings missing this essential monitoring.

In the next few years, Lifebox aims to expand access to these universal tools and training opportunities. At the same time, we'll be listening, learning and

strengthening partnerships in order to deliver truly needs-specific interventions – including post-op recovery education modules responsive to the Indian context.

'My trainee anaesthetist was worried about postop recovery but I assured him that the patient was sent directly to the recovery ward with a Lifebox pulse oximeter for monitoring,' explained our partner Dr Surajit Giri, at the Community Health Center in Assam. 'This gave him a sense of security and at the same time improved the patient's safety.'

Reference

- 1 Number of surgical procedures (per 100,000 population) (<http://bit.ly/2Dja6ts>).

International Membership update

By Maria Burke, RCoA Global Partnerships Manager

You will remember back in July 2017 we sent out a membership survey to our fellows and members based overseas. We were delighted to receive so many responses back from you. For the first time, the College has contemporaneous data specifically from its international members, which we are using to explore what international membership, and in particular, the international membership benefit package might look like.

Of those who responded, 49 per cent felt that existing benefits were either 'excellent' or 'very good' and a further 39 per cent described them as average. We are keen to ensure that your benefits are of relevance to you, acknowledging that, as overseas members, your needs may differ from individuals in the UK.

The Global Partnerships team is currently working with the Membership Engagement team to explore options, based on feedback. We are planning to run online focus groups to discuss potential ideas with representatives from the international membership. We will be approaching our Country Champions (identified through the survey) in the first instance to participate. We would of course, welcome any suggestions that you did not make within the survey, and these should be sent to the Global Partnerships team via: global@rcoa.ac.uk

Many thanks to those of you who have nominated yourselves as Country Champions, we have been delighted with the response we have received so far. Opportunities are still available, and it is possible for there to be more than one Champion in-country. The

role will not be onerous, but will be very important. We are looking to have Champions in-country to whom we can direct information (for example, new guidelines or standards) for dissemination to colleagues if felt appropriate. We would like this information flow to be two ways, with Champions alerting us to any significant developments in-country which can be shared with other fellows and members. We would very much welcome nominations from South America and Africa, which are regionally under-represented at present. If you would like more information about this initiative, please email: global@rcoa.ac.uk

Please do watch this space – there will be plenty of developments in this area going forward!

RCoA
Royal College of Anaesthetists

**Royal College
of Anaesthetists**

Churchill House
35 Red Lion Square
London WC1R 4SG

020 7092 1709

global@rcoa.ac.uk

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ANAESTHESIA 2018

International Meeting of the Royal College of Anaesthetists

What you can expect:

- quick-fire specialist updates
- informative keynotes from international experts
- your choice of breakout sessions
- live audience interaction and debate.

22–23 May

British Museum,
London

 #Anaesthesia2018



Professor Jennifer Weller
University of Auckland



Professor Paul Myles
Alfred Hospital and
Monash University,
Melbourne



Professor Mary Dixon-Woods
University of Cambridge



Dr Patrick Wong
Singapore General Hospital



Professor Mike Grocott
University of Southampton

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