

## Editorial

Dear Readers, welcome to Update 22. My first lines as editor of Update are to thank my predecessor, Iain Wilson, for fifteen years of outstanding dedication in producing this journal. It is only now, after editing my first 'solo' edition, that I realise the volume of work that Iain has put in. I hope I am able to send you articles of the same high quality, for which Update in Anaesthesia has become renowned since its launch in 1992.

I aim to continue to select articles that are of everyday relevance and use to working anaesthetists around the world. Unpredicted high spinal block continues to be cause of morbidity and mortality, particularly in obstetric practice. Two articles (one in this edition and one in the next) describe the factors that effect spinal anaesthetic spread and assessment of spinal block height. These articles should come as a timely refresher to help anaesthetists prevent unexpected high spinal blocks, and also to detect it rapidly and reliably if it does occur. Articles dealing with aspects of the care of critically ill patients reflect the rapid development of intensive care medicine around the world. Similarly, blood transfusion is increasingly widely available, so anaesthetists should be aware of the potential adverse effects of this life-saving treatment.

A new section, Cerebral Challenge, has been introduced to demonstrate interpretation of commonly performed investigations, such as chest Xray, ECG and CT scanning. I'd be grateful to receive similar examples from readers, demonstrating simple learning points.

Update in Anaesthesia is still available free on-line, however we have moved this access to our new website, [www.worldanaesthesia.org](http://www.worldanaesthesia.org). Anaesthesia Tutorial of the Week is also available from this website and several of our recent tutorials are reproduced in this edition of Update. If you rely on the printed version, please don't forget to inform us if you change your address. **Please note that our contact email is now [worldanaesthesia@mac.com](mailto:worldanaesthesia@mac.com).**

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Enjoy Update 22.

Best wishes,  
Bruce McCormick

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