

Editor's Notes

Update in Anaesthesia - a new chapter

The role of the Publications committee of the WFSA is to promote the production and distribution of good quality educational materials to anaesthetists who are working with poor supplies of up to date books and journals. *Update in Anaesthesia* is the official educational journal of the WFSA and this edition features some important changes to the journal, aiming to deliver the WFSA vision for anaesthesia in a more effective way.

In order to develop the way *Update* is produced we have formed an editorial board made up of the members of the Publications committee who are listed below. We are committed to producing a first class peer-reviewed journal, with a mixture of clinical review articles, original contributions, case reports and self assessment sections. In addition we will describe abstracts of recently published papers of importance in the international literature.

We know that anaesthesia in some developing countries is extremely challenging¹ and associated with an extremely high mortality – as high as 1 in 130 from anaesthesia alone.² Research and outcome studies from these parts of the world are rarely published, and the role of the WFSA's Scientific and Research committee is to encourage anaesthesia providers to take an active role in quantifying the level of safety in anaesthesia and evaluating other developments in anaesthesia. The editors of *Update* will now be keen to receive good quality submissions of original scientific research alongside its more traditional clinical review articles. We hope that this will encourage researchers to be active and also to try to improve standards in our specialty by demonstrating good practice and improving outcome data. Submissions should follow the guidelines at the back of this edition. In this issue we include an audit of waiting times for surgery in Zambia, a survey describing the current state of anaesthesia training in French-speaking West Africa and a case report describing a blood salvage technique for use during a ruptured ectopic pregnancy.

Update will continue to print high quality clinical overview articles, focusing on techniques for provision of anaesthesia that are relevant to anaesthetists throughout the world, whether working where resources are freely available or scarce. As far as possible we will respond to requests from readers – the article on pentazocine has been commissioned and written directly in response to such a request.

Update will continue to be published twice a year in English, producing editions in June and December of each year. The June version will be in the format of this edition, the second

annual issue will be a 'themed' edition, starting with Basic Science in December 2008. The themed editions will be larger at over 100 pages and feature reprints of older (but re-edited and modernised) *Update* articles, along with newly commissioned articles to cover topics that have not been dealt with before. I am grateful to Matthew Mackenzie for his help in editing the forthcoming Basic Science edition.

We intend to continue translation of the journal into Russian, Chinese, French and Spanish, and plans are in place to produce a Portuguese version from this edition onwards. Details of the editors for each of these editions are available on the back cover of this edition and volunteers with the expertise to assist in translation will be greatly welcomed. We are dependent on the generosity of the WFSA Publications committee budget to fund our work and on the unpaid volunteers who give up their time to help produce the journal. If further sponsorship becomes available, we will increase the numbers of editions produced each year and look to expand the number of languages into which the journal is translated. Every edition is available to be viewed or downloaded free of charge on the WFSA website (www.anaesthesiologists.com) and also on the website of the World Anaesthesia Society (www.worldanaesthesia.org), which has helped the WFSA with projects of this type for many years.

We hope that you will enjoy the journal in its new format, and that you accept the challenge of continuing to strive to develop the standards of anaesthesia internationally. This will improve outcomes for our patients and consequently the standing of our profession.

Editorial Board of Update in Anaesthesia

Dr Bruce McCormick (Editor-in-chief)	United Kingdom
Dr Gustavo Elena	Argentina
Prof Berend Mets	USA
Dr Aboudoul-Fataou Ouro-Bang'na Maman	Togo
Dr David Pescod	Australia
Dr Jeanette Thirlwell	Australia
Dr Isabeau Walker	United Kingdom
Dr Iain Wilson (Chair of the WFSA Publications Committee)	United Kingdom

REFERENCES

1. Walker IA and Wilson IH. Anaesthesia in developing countries - a risk for patients. *Lancet* 2008; **371**: 968-9
2. Ouro-Bang'na Maman AF, Tomta K, Ahouangbevi S, Chobli M. Deaths associated with anaesthesia in Togo, West Africa. *Tropical Doctor* 2005; **35**: 220-2