

Editor's notes

Dear readers – welcome to the latest edition of *Update in Anaesthesia*. This edition brings a wide variety of anaesthesia and critical care articles, of particular use to clinicians working in the operating room and high-care areas. We are very grateful to Baxter for providing financial support for the production of this edition. As editor I am also grateful to the editorial teams of the *BJA Education* and *Anaesthesia News* for allowing us to reproduce some of their articles, in order to bring them to our worldwide readership.

I have been working with the editor-in-chief of *Anaesthesia Tutorial of the Week*, Nick Boyd, to plan the future development of both of the WFSA's main educational publications. Historically, *Update* and *ATOTW* have had a great deal of overlap in our goal to bring on-going professional development to cadres of anaesthetists working where resources are stretched and availability of educational material is unreliable or absent. Many hundreds of anaesthetists now benefit by receiving the latest *ATOTW* by email, but we have maintained the production and distribution of *Update* in printed format in recognition that there are still significant areas of the world where internet access is unavailable or unreliable. We still feel that there is a role for a printed edition, but we should continue to be aware of the gradual move towards electronic formatting and recognise when the extra cost of printing and (in particular) postal distribution renders it redundant. We also know that for larger special editions of *Update* many would prefer a physical printed copy to allow easy reference and study for examinations.

However, there is there is scope to streamline production of these two great publications, to avoid duplication of efforts for the two production teams and, in doing so, to reduce the workload. Our proposal is to create a core editorial team that will service both publications. Members of the editorial team will liaise with authors in commissioning and providing editorial support for production of tutorials. We will try to have a more structured and tailored plan for topics to be covered. This will largely be driven by plans for certain special editions of *Update in Anaesthesia*; for example focusing on safety in anaesthesia or obstetric

anaesthesia. We plan to create a pool of 'ready' tutorials, which then can then be published regularly as electronic tutorials and also drawn together in annual themed editions of *Update in Anaesthesia*. There will still be editors-in-chief of both *Update* and *ATOTW*.

Nick Boyd will present these plans to the Education Committee of the WFSA in Hong Kong in September 2016. The members of the editorial team will be appointed on a proven track record of commitment to these publications and will be for a fixed term of 4 years.

It is our vision that this plan will allow us to continue to produce high-quality material for you to read and learn from, and to improve the reliability and timeliness with which both tutorials and *Update* editions are produced. I'm sure it has not escaped your notice that *Update* editions are never published on schedule. This reflects the voluntary nature of our contributions to this work and also the fact that, in an ever-changing UK NHS, work of this nature is no longer recognised as part of our regular jobs.

Having been editor-in-chief for 10 years, the WFSA will be looking for my successor in the next year. I have been very proud to be involved in this work and to continue to contribute and support my colleagues working in challenging environments, not least those who inspired me in this project, whom I worked with for a year in Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi, in 2004.

I hope to continue as an editor for the journal and support anaesthetists from around the world in producing high-quality, appropriate professional development articles for their colleagues. In the meantime, my thanks go to Iain Wilson for establishing and building *Update* in the early 1990s, to Angie Jones for her sterling work as typesetter for every edition since edition 1, and to Dave Wilkinson for his excellent illustrations.

Bruce McCormick
Editor-in-chief

The WFSA would like to thank Baxter for their financial support of this edition of *Update in Anaesthesia*

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