WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Anaesthesiology is the practice of medicine dedicated to the total care of the patient before, during, and after surgery. Anaesthesiologists are also experts in resuscitation, pain management and intensive care.

With a network of over 130,000 anaesthesiologists in more than 140 countries, the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) facilitates learning, and promotes the highest standards of patient care around the world.

Our Vision

WFSA is the foremost global alliance of anaesthesiologists, working together with national, regional and specialty organisations to facilitate and promote the highest standards of patient care.

Our Mission

To improve patient care by uniting anaesthesiologists around the world.

We deliver our mission through programmes that are implemented in partnership with National Societies of Anaesthesiology and other organisations that share our objectives. We work with the World Health Organisation (WHO), governments, other standard setters, surgical organisations, NGOs, hospitals and training centres, and we welcome partnerships with organisations that support safe surgery and recognise that safe anaesthesia is an essential element of the same.
2013 was one of the most eventful years in the history of the WFSA, as the leadership sought to move the organisation forward, to provide a more effective resource in every way for its membership.

The degree of activity amongst all our Committees has been very impressive. The Education Committee led by Dr Wayne Morriss goes from strength to strength, with new programmes being created and funded all around the world. Perhaps the most exciting of these is the new paediatric teaching centre in Nairobi which has been many years in gestation, and which started to function as planned in August 2013. Dr Gastão Duval Neto’s Professional Wellbeing Committee has completed and published a book on wellbeing which is available on our website. Written by experts around the globe, it provides an excellent resource for all.

One of our long standing successes is the Anaesthesia Tutorial of the Week (ATOTW), which by December 2013 had reached its 300th edition. The ATOTW is a fantastic teaching resource for anaesthesiologists in all countries, and we are very grateful to Dr Richard Hughes (Editor-in-Chief) for his efforts in making this such a useful project. We are constantly looking for new partnerships and areas of cooperation in all our work, and have maintained old affiliations, and finalised some new ones, this year. Baxter Healthcare continues to support the ability of young anaesthesiologists to attend regional meetings, which they would otherwise never have the chance to attend. Our training programme in Palestine has a new partner in IMET 2000, a charity based in the United Kingdom, and we are very grateful for their financial and logistical support. We have made new affiliations with Lifebox and the Primary Trauma Care Foundation, both independent Foundations that were substantially funded at their inception by us, and we continue to have close relationships with them and their work.

During 2013 I visited 16 countries, and lectured and represented the WFSA on each visit (all but three of which were at my own expense), and we had representation at a series of WFSA Regional Section and other major regional meetings over the year. These included the SAARC-AA meeting in Bangladesh, the All Africa in Egypt, the CLASA meeting in Paraguay, the ESA in Spain, the ASA in San Francisco and the SARANF meeting in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Sadly the Pan Arab meeting was postponed, but is planned to go ahead in 2014.

The WFSA is moving forward with new determination. We need to adapt to a changing world and we need to do this in partnership with our Member Societies and other organisations that share our aims. To this end we are determined to improve our level of communication, our professionalism, and most importantly our impact on our members and the people they serve. I am determined to see all this happen in the run-up to the next World Congress, in Hong Kong 2016.

Until we meet then, please watch our website, read our newsletters and spread the word about what we are doing. I look forward to meeting more of you in 2014.

Dr David Wilkinson
President
EDUCATION

Educating and training anaesthesiologists, especially those in low and middle income countries, is a core activity of the WFSA. Highlights for the year include:

- Commencement of the University of Nairobi Paediatric Anaesthetic Fellowship in August 2013
- Piloting the ICU fellowship in Assiut, Egypt
- Piloting the obstetric anaesthesia fellowship in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Piloting the regional anaesthesia fellowship in Kumasi, Ghana
- An agreement to co-fund a pain management fellowship in Bogota, Colombia with IASP
- Establishing a Pain Management fellowship in Botacatu, Sao Paulo, Brasil.
- The WFSA Baxter scholarships allowed 36 young anaesthesiologists to attend, and present posters at, 4 Regional Congresses.

WFSA also provided funding for the SAFE Obstetric Anaesthesia course in Rwanda and also a first course in Bangladesh. This work (together with the AAGBI, ASA, CASIEF and Lifebox) makes a real difference to the care of pregnant women and is something that WFSA is proud to have fostered and supported.

Current Fellowships (December 2013)

Together with our partners around the world, the WFSA supports fellowships in the different specialist areas of anaesthesiology. Our philosophy is that fellowships are delivered by and for the regions, such that what fellows are learning is applicable in their own environments. The success of the programme is evidenced by the fact that 90% of the 68 graduates from one of our partners (the Bangkok Anaesthetic Regional Training Centre BARTC), are now practising anaesthesia in their home countries.
Christian Medical College, Vellore, India
2 in ICU (1 year fellowships)
2 in Paediatrics (6 month fellowships)

Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok
4 in General Anaesthesia (1 year fellowships)
2 in Pain (1 year fellowships in partnership with the IASP)

KK Hospital, Singapore
Pilot fellowship in Paediatrics (6 month fellowship)

Cape Town and Johannesburg
2 in Pain Management (3 month fellowships in partnership with the IASP)

Wolfson Medical Centre (Tel Aviv, Israel)
4 covering a range of specialties (6 month fellowships)

University of Nairobi, Kenya
4 covering Paediatrics (1 year fellowships)

Medellin, Colombia
2 covering Obstetrics (3 month fellowships in partnership with the Colombian Society, SCARE)

Luis CalvoMackenna Hospital, Santiago, Chile
2 in Paediatrics (6 month fellowships)

Fortaleza, Brasil
2 covering Regional anaesthesia (2 month fellowships in partnership with CLASA and the Brazilian Society)

Botacatu, Sao Paulo, Brasil
Pilot in Pain Management (2 month fellowship in partnership with CLASA)
TEACHER TRAINING COURSES

**ESA Teach the Teacher Course**

This two-week course has developed from another course called the International School for Instructors in Anaesthesiology (ISIA), developed by the WFSA and ESA. ISIA trained Anaesthesiology teachers in Eastern Europe, and many graduates of ISIA are involved with teaching the new ESA Teach the Teacher Course.

For more information, see http://www.esahq.org/education/teach-the-teacher-course/about-the-course.

**Russian Teaching the Teachers Course**

The WFSA is supporting short teacher training courses in Russia and the former Soviet republics. Courses have been held in St Petersburg and Krasnojarsk, and a course is planned for Minsk, Belarus.

**Teach the Teachers Latin America (TTTLA)**

TTTLA is a collaboration between the WFSA, Colombian Society (SCARE) and Baxter. The course comprises a series of online modules, followed by a face-to-face course.

**Palestinian Anaesthesia Teaching Mission (PATM)**

PATM provides in-country anaesthesia training for resident doctors in Palestine. The programme was started by the Canadian Anesthesiologists’ Society International Education Fund (CASIEF). Training takes place in hospitals in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.
WFSA Baxter Scholarships
36 young anaesthetists were able to attend and present posters at the following regional meetings:

- SAARC-AA Congress in Dhaka, Bangladesh (February 2013)
- AAAC in Cairo, Egypt (April 2013)
- CLASA Congress in Asuncion, Paraguay (September-October 2013)
- SARANF Congress in Kinshasa, DRC (November 2013)

Scholars were also selected for the PanArab meeting, scheduled for September 2013, but this has been postponed until late 2014.

WFSA Research Grants
Two research grants were provided in 2013. The first to a Vietnamese, and the second to an Egyptian. At the end of 2013, the 3 successful recipients of the attributed grants for 2014, were selected. The winners are from Moldova, Nepal and Uganda.

Did You Know?
More than 230 million major surgeries occur annually around the world, but the poorest third of our global population receive only 3.5% of these.

34 million anaesthetics are delivered annually in low-income countries without the standard safety equipment needed or a trained provider.
At least 11% of the global burden of disease could be treated with surgery.

The cost of surgical care in Africa is comparable to measles immunization (USD 32.78 vs. 30 per DALY averted)

Around 2 billion people worldwide lack access to surgical and anaesthetic care, mainly in low income countries.

**Anaesthesia Tutorial of the Week**
The WFSA’s online tutorial published its 300th edition in December 2013, adding to the extensive archive of tutorials already available on our website.

The tutorials provide a wide range of materials for trainees as well as experienced anaesthetists, and are of particular interest for those anaesthetists working in isolation, without access to CME. The Tutorials are designed to encourage reflective learning by including questions and self-assessments.

Some tutorials are also available in Spanish or French, and 33 Portuguese language translations are now available through the Brazilian Society of Anaesthesiology at http://grofsc.net/wp/
**Update in Anaesthesia** is the official CME publication of the WFSA. It is designed for anaesthetists working in resource-poor settings, and is edited by Dr Bruce McCormick. We aim to have each English edition translated into Russian, Chinese and Spanish. We are investigating French translation.

**Highlights for 2013:**
- The special edition of Update ‘Intensive Care Medicine’ was translated into Russian by Professor Nedashkovsky (senior editor), Dr Vsevolod Kuzkov and colleagues. 1000 copies were printed locally for distribution at meetings (part funded by the WFSA), and the electronic version has been posted on the website of the All-Russian Anesthesiology Federation (http://www.far.org.ru/publication)
- The themed edition in Paediatric Anaesthesia is nearing completion, publication date planned for June 2014.

**e-SAFE DVD** - This DVD is the result of a successful collaboration between the WFSA and the AAGBI, the Royal College of Anaesthetists in United Kingdom, and the UK DH eLearning for Health. The DVD was formally launched at the Royal College of Anaesthetists in April 2013 and more than 1000 copies have now been distributed to support anaesthesia training programmes in low-income countries. Online access is now available http://www.e-safe-anaesthesia.org/

**Safe Anaesthesia** – by Jean Lees. French and English editions were printed and this was funded by WFSA. This book was distributed to 450 delegates who attended the Société d’Anesthésie Réanimation d’Afrique Noire Francophone (SARANF) conference in Kinshasa, DRC in November 2013.

**How to Teach : A handbook for clinicians** – Edited by Shirley Dobson, Mike Dobson and Lesley Bromley, this is a short practical guide for clinicians who may not have had formal training, but are required to teach, and to teach others to teach. The book has been distributed to support training courses in Kenya and Uganda in 2013.
**Oxford Handbook of Anaesthesia** – Edited by K. Allman and I. Wilson, this book is ideal for anaesthesiologists and non-medical providers and has proved very popular. 1000 copies have been purchased, at a substantial discount, for distribution by the WFSA.

**SAFETY & QUALITY**

The WFSA published a reference guide for use during the tender process for the acquisition of anaesthesia workstations or machines (see wfsahq.org). There are three circumstances for operation of the machines;

1) Unlimited and backed up supply of electricity and compressed gas;
2) Reliable compressed gas supply but no reliable electrical supply, and
3) Unreliable supply of both compressed gas and electricity.

The book “Occupational Well-Being In Anaesthesiologists” is now available in English and Portuguese. Edited by Dr Gastao Duval Neto, Chair of the WFSA’s Well-Being Committee, and published by the Brazilian Society of Anaesthetists, the book brings together leading academics and practitioners concerned with the very real issues facing the health of anaesthesiologists around the world.
The WFSA’s support to Lifebox remains a core part of our work. During 2013, Lifebox distributed more than 7,000 pulse oximeters and trained more than 2,500 healthcare workers around the world. Lifebox equipment and education material are now in use across 90 countries - a phenomenal achievement.

Did You Know?
In some countries as many as 90% of anaesthesia departments do not have the equipment to provide a safe anaesthetic for a child.

Alarming mortality rates (as much as 1,000 times higher than the best centres in high-income countries) have been associated with the delivery of surgery and anaesthesia in parts of the world where such services have been neglected due to the intense competition for limited healthcare resources.

The publication aims to stimulate the development of effective action on the part of world entities involved with anaesthesiology, in favour of the occupational health of anaesthesiologists and safety of their patients. For anaesthesiologists themselves it aims to promote awareness, conscious that awareness of any problem is the first step towards its solution.

This is a “must read” for anaesthesiologists and those with whom they live and work.

Lifebox
Looking Ahead

2014 promises to be a year of continued development with a clearer programme approach, covering:

- Advocacy
- Education & Training
- Innovation & Research
- Safety & Quality

This will be backed up by a strengthened governance structure and a greater emphasis on strategy, communications and fundraising. The WFSA is well placed to play a leading role in ensuring that safe surgery, safe anaesthesia and effective pain relief are available to all, and will work hard towards this goal in the coming year and beyond.

FINANCE

WFSA income is derived from member subscriptions, interest and investments, and donations. In certain years income is also derived from the World Congress of Anaesthesiologists which shares a portion of any profit with the WFSA. In 2013 total revenue was US$686,596*.

The majority of WFSA’s expenditure is allocated across Education, Publications and other grants as well as support costs such as salaries, legal fees, accountancy and investment fees. Total Expenditure in 2013 also included additional costs related to the WCA 2012 and came to US$1,018,011* with the deficit being covered from reserves (as per the reserves policy and the approved budget).

*These are non-audited figures. A copy of the audited accounts can be requested from the Secretariat. The value of volunteer time made available to the WFSA is over US$2m per annum, however this is an estimate and is not included in the accounts.

WFSA Council and Secretariat Staff

Members of the WFSA Council (formerly Executive Committee) at the 2014 annual meeting. Your new staff members, both appointed in 2013, are Julian Gore-Booth, Chief Executive (far right) and Renée Blij, Administrative Coordinator (far left).
Following on from the success of Buenos Aires in 2012, don’t forget to add the 2016 World Congress of Anaesthesiologists to your calendar of events.

Hong Kong 28 August - 2 September 2016

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