



Obstetric Anaesthesia Special Interest Group Annual Report 2007

SIG Executive

The current SIG Executive comprises:

Members:

Dr Scott Simmons (Chair)	VIC
Dr Alicia Dennis	VIC
Dr Genevieve Goulding	QLD
Dr Steven Katz	NSW
Dr Kym Osborn	SA
Dr Andrew Ottaway	TAS
Prof Michael Paech	WA
Dr Graham Sharpe	NZ
Dr Elizabeth Ward	NSW

Coopted Members:

A/Prof Stephen Gatt	NSW
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Administration

In keeping with the constitution, elections were held during 2007 for a new executive. Appointments were duly confirmed as above during the AGM held in September. It is anticipated that a new Chair will be elected by this team during 2008. It was pleasing to welcome several new faces including representatives from Tasmania and South Australia. The departure of long-standing members was also noted; the contributions of Prof Warwick Ngan Kee and Dr Andrew Ross over a long period is greatly appreciated.

The Annual General Meeting for 2007 was held during the combined 66th Australian Society of Anaesthetists National Scientific Congress - 9th AOSRA-PM Biennial Congress in Perth in September.

The SIG Membership continues to increase and currently stands at 861. The financial position for the year ended 31st December was a net loss of \$9008, this being largely administrative costs and expenses related to the videoconference CME meeting held in November 2006, in the absence of any revenue-generating activities.

Quality Improvement Activities

The major quality improvement initiative for the period continues to be the project to develop a web-based consensus document of obstetric anaesthesia clinical practice guidelines relevant to our region. This project has now received direct support from all three parent bodies and is progressing through the preliminary draft stages according to the agreed business case. It is anticipated that the finished product will be launched by late 2008.

ACECC is a joint initiative of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, the Australian Society of Anaesthetists and the New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists.



The work of Executive members to facilitate the creation of the joint (RANZCOG/ANZCA/RACGP/ACRRM) position statement (WPI14) on the provision of obstetric anaesthesia services was noted. The creation of this important document was a very drawn out process but ultimate release during 2007 was welcomed. In relation to the detail of clinical responsibilities at caesarean section within this statement, the executive noted that whilst specifically defining the responsibility of the anaesthetist as lying with the mother, it was identified that the College of Physicians had developed a document pertaining to pediatrician attendance at caesareans but were not a party to the joint statement. It is anticipated that this will be addressed in the near future.

The multicentre survey on various aspects of the use of general anaesthesia for caesarean section under the direction of Michael Paech was completed and preliminary results were presented during the combined 66th Australian Society of Anaesthetists National Scientific Congress - 9th AOSRA-PM Biennial Congress in Perth in September.

The executive also determined that it was appropriate to develop a position statement in relation to the role and use of nitrous oxide in obstetric anaesthesia. It is anticipated that this will be produced in early 2008.

Continuing Education

The SIG has continued to support the major national meetings, the ANZCA ASM and ASA NSC. At the ASM in Melbourne the refresher session included a mixture of stimulating and thought-provoking material covering management and scheduling of emergency caesarean sections, methods to facilitate clinical communication including basic techniques in hypnosis as well as a systematic review of the relative merits of CSE versus epidural for labour analgesia. At the most recent NSC in Perth we were very fortunate to have keynote speakers in Prof Jim Eisenach and Prof Warwick Ngan Kee update us on the effects of labour analgesia on the progress of labour and approaches to reducing hypotension at caesarean section respectively; in addition, we were reminded of the obstetricians' perspective by Dr Chris Pennell.

Planning and preparations for the forthcoming SIG single-theme scientific conference in Blenheim, NZ in October 2008 is ongoing. The event is to be held as a satellite of the combined ASA/NZSA meeting in Wellington. Some of the many high-profile speakers who have confirmed for this conference include Dr Steve Yentis, Prof Michael Paech, and Prof Warwick Ngan Kee.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the untiring efforts of Juliette Mullumby and her staff supporting the activities of the SIG.

Scott Simmons
Chair