



# Difficult Airway Society

## NEWSLETTER

*President's report*

*Secretary's report*

*Website update*

*Trainee rep's report*

*Things to do at Stratford*



[www.das.uk.com](http://www.das.uk.com)

**PROJECTS EDITION 2014**

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to Stratford-upon-Avon for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting. Another year nearly gone and another National Audit Project published. It is worth reflecting on the massive amount of work involved with such projects, both by those who organise them and the anaesthetists who complete them. In this age of devolving powers in the UK for health delivery and regular criticism of the NHS (especially here in Wales) it is essential that these massively informative projects guiding our knowledge of patient safety continue.

We must remember that these National Audit Projects are quoted internationally and the envy of other health systems. I think it is unlikely without the NHS, our small densely populated country, a consultant based service and the College such feats would be possible. It is gratifying to see that stalwarts of DAS including Professors Cook and Pandit, and our previous President Dr. Ellen O'Sullivan all involved extensively with NAP5.

The new DAS Guidelines on unanticipated difficult intubation are a year away from their finished presentation at the World Airway Meeting 2015. A taste of things to come is available at [www.das.uk.com/content/update\\_on\\_new\\_das\\_guidelines\\_2015](http://www.das.uk.com/content/update_on_new_das_guidelines_2015). Please have a look and pass on your comments.

Late congratulation to all the team involved in the DAS Extubation Guidelines for the award of Top 10 cited paper in Anaesthesia (see inside backcover)

May Sajay and I wish you an enjoyable and informative meeting.

Chapeau to Krish and the Local Organising Committee

**Mark Price**



**M.Price**  
Cardiff



**A.Sajayan**  
Birmingham  
[newsletter@das.uk.com](mailto:newsletter@das.uk.com)

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

It is the time of the year when we are just on the verge of getting ready for our annual scientific meeting. I am sure the Stratford-upon-Avon local organising committee are putting on the final touches before the opening of the 19<sup>th</sup> DAS Annual Scientific Meeting. I am told that there are few places left, so please book and I am sure you will have a wonderful time [www.das2014.co.uk](http://www.das2014.co.uk)

Dr Peter Groom is completing two terms as the DAS Treasurer and is leaving behind a wonderful legacy due to his astute and excellent handling of our society's funds. We will continue to enjoy his experience for another year as Immediate Past Treasurer. DAS had announced that through the Electoral Reforms Services we would elect our new Treasurer, to take office from November 2014 - at the AGM. As there was only one candidate, voting was cancelled and the new Treasurer's name shall be announced at the 2014 AGM.

Several new projects are in the pipeline. New guidelines from the OAA (Obstetric Anaesthetists Association) and DAS are nearly ready for launch. I am sure we will be able to share all this and more at the DAS 2014 AGM.

Seattle, USA was the venue for the 18<sup>th</sup> Society for Airway Management (SAM) Scientific Meeting. Good quality papers, posters, breakaway sessions and workshops were spread over four days in September.

I was very lucky, not to have a single rainy day but never got to see any fish being thrown at the Pike Place Fish Market!



Drs Mahmood, Hagberg, Parker, Verghese and Rangasami



**Jairaj Rangasami**  
President DAS

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Difficult Airway Society.

To this end I must thank my team who have shown a great deal of commitment and zeal and have worked so very hard towards the goal. We have spent five years planning for the big event and it is now here!

As I write this, I have been informed that the workshops this year have attracted more delegates than ever before. The *Human Cadaveric Workshop* is fully booked, the *Traditional Workshop* is soon to reach its' brim. *Adult Simulation* and *Paediatric Workshops* still have places left, grab them while you can.

The **Adult Simulation Workshop** aims to awaken you to the concepts of human factors by engaging you in a series of simulations. While most of us have developed our technical skills, lack of human factor skills is what leads to error. Over 80% of errors in the health care industry are related to human factors and not technical skills. This is an opportunity for you to understand the many human limitations that we ourselves have, and the best means of avoiding error. The simulation is also designed not to be intimidating and the debrief will be interactive and friendly. All the scenarios are based on real critical incidents in obstetrics, trauma, and intensive care.

The **Paediatric Workshop** is another new feature of DAS 2014 and is hosted by the University Hospital of Coventry in collaboration with the Sheffield Children's Hospital. The team of expert faculty have many years of experience between them in dealing with tiny babies only a few days old. The workshop should give the trainee and senior anaesthetist an update on all aspects of paediatric airway management. In addition it has simulation sessions based on real cases to prepare you for those unplanned challenging events in your practice. This workshop combines the best of MEPA (Medical Emergencies in Paediatric Anaesthesia), APA (Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists) and DAS under one roof. As a promotional offer, yielding to some trainee requests, we have decided to offer 25% off the web price for UK based trainees. So the price will be £ 195 for the Paediatric Workshop for UK trainees only. This is to serve as an educational incentive to encourage trainees to specialise in paediatric anaesthesia.

The Thursday and Friday Scientific programs are all set to go, and will be in the newly refurbished ballroom at the Holiday Inn. We have paid special attention to acoustics, stage and lighting. Projectors, monitors and interactive voting should make you feel at centre stage. Quality food has been selected after careful taste testing. There are several outlets for serving lunch and coffee to minimise queueing. There are volunteers to support and guide you and free Wi-Fi for all.

Trade stands shall fill the grounds and our sponsors have come to support us as they have done over many years. All we ask of you is you visit them and spend some time looking at their products. The least we can do to say 'Thank you'!

We have 141 posters this year and 9 oral presentations. The top three oral presentations will be rewarded with prizes, and the posters have Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. Friday afternoon has three carefully selected interactive case presentations. They all will get certificates of recognition. We are planning more hidden rewards and games for delegates to make the experience as happy as it can be.

The gala dinner is something of a special treat this year. We will be presenting the Macewen Medals and honouring some special invitees. The evening also gives you an opportunity to meet the very best in our field . Music and wine, dancing and dinner and several surprise items to make this a night to remember!

There is plenty to do for the family too. Shakespeare's House, the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, boat rides, butterfly farm, the surrounding English countryside and Warwick Castle - to name a few.

See you at Stratford!



**Dr.S.Radhakrishna**

Chairman LOC, DAS 2014

## Exploring The Beauty of Stratford Upon Avon on Foot

Welcome to Stratford-upon-Avon, home of the world's most famous playwright, William Shakespeare. Stratford is steeped in history with many half-timbered buildings from medieval times and whilst attending the DAS 2014 Conference, we invite you to explore this lovely town.

From the Holiday Inn, walk across the road into Waterside and take a stroll along the **River Avon**. You can also enjoy a boat trip on the river with a pick up point at the Holiday Inn. You will soon come across the **Royal Shakespeare Theatre**. Go inside the theatre and have a drink in the café which has lovely views of the River Avon.



Take a trip up the Tower which affords views of Stratford and the surrounding Warwickshire countryside. The theatre is home to the Royal Shakespeare Company, one of the most prestigious ensemble acting companies in the world. Playing at the Theatre during our meeting is *Love's Labour Lost and Love's Labour Won* (also known as *Much Ado About Nothing*). If you are lucky you may spot a famous face wandering through the town.

A favourite hang-out of actors is the **Dirty Duck public house**, just down from the Theatre, near the river.

Further along the river is the church spire of **Holy Trinity**, one of England's most beautiful medieval churches.

Established 800 years ago and situated on the banks of the river Avon, Holy Trinity is the final resting place of Shakespeare where you can visit his grave.



Some of the historic buildings within the town provide an insight into the lives of William Shakespeare, and other members of his family. Of the five Shakespeare houses owned and cared for by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, three are in the town centre within easy walking distance. These are his **birthplace**, where he was born on 23rd April 1564, **Nash's House** which includes the site of New Place where he died on 23rd April 1616, and **Hall's Croft**.

The centre of the town also has many small unusual shops and galleries.

The **butterfly farm** at Swan's Nest Lane is regarded as UK's largest tropical butterfly farm.

You can also catch a boat ride from the Holiday Inn around Stratford if you want to rest your feet.

We hope you enjoy your visit to Stratford.



**Dr Joy Beamer**

Consultant Anaesthetist

Organising committee, DAS 2014

The Difficult Airway Society holds its Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in the second week of November each year. The last annual scientific meeting at Ascot in 2013 was a great success with excellent feedback from many satisfied delegates. Over 150 posters were submitted, and the conference introduced a new feature - use of ultrasound for inserting a surgical airway. This year the ASM will be on the 12- 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2014 at Stratford upon Avon.

DAS has seen many progressive changes in 2014.

- 1) The DAS name and logo are now registered and copyright protected
- 2) DAS is registered with the Information Commissioners Office, and can securely handle confidential patient data.
- 3) DAS is currently working on important guidelines and algorithms. The Obstetric Intubation Guidelines are approaching completion and should be published before the end of this year.
- 4) We intend to launch the DAS Unanticipated Intubation Guidelines at the next ASM in Dublin, November 2015.
- 5) DAS continues to support educational initiatives abroad and this year has introduced a new way of certifying overseas courses, by giving them a DAS verified logo and certificate. This certification involves two DAS members attending the meeting and ensuring that the course meets high educational standards. The Ramachandra Airway and Life Support Course (RAALS) in Chennai was given recognition this year. A number of international educational institutes have requested similar support from DAS.
- 6) DAS has accepted an invitation from the AAGBI to equally share the expenses involved in sponsoring a trainee to spend a year in a developing country to complete a fellowship program in anaesthesia under the auspices of Lifebox. We are very much looking forward to this exciting project.
- 7) DAS in partnership with the NIAA has supported airway research, donating £20,000 this year. This trend is likely to continue.
- 8) DAS membership is steadily on the increase, and we are looking to upgrade our database once the AAGBI introduces a new database management system. Membership currently stands at 3500 an increase of a few hundred over last year.



We have also introduced changes that will make joining DAS faster, smoother and completely paperless

9) Central to all these developments is the new DAS website that has seen a complete change. The new look DAS site has new features including a members only area. We have also created an expert panel consisting of airway experts from across the world. These experts will be available to comment on and guide anyone with airway related questions. Case reports, MRI and other educational materials will be available in addition to the guidelines and algorithms currently on the web page. The Airway Lead forum has been created on our web site and should serve the airway leads well. The forum creates an opportunity for the Airway Leads to interact with each other and the experts.

10) DAS is currently working on an Airway Alert Card to be launched nationwide and a newly designed DAS App to be launched in November this year. This App has not been given an official name but will replace iDAS which has suffered due to lack of updates. The new DAS App will constantly be updated and available in Apple and Android formats.

11) DAS has been busy with educational activities both within this country and abroad and has run workshops and lectures from Romania to Dublin, from India to the US, from Kenya to Bangkok. These are very rewarding exercises and show the strong commitment DAS has towards education. We have contributed to Society for Obesity and Bariatric Anaesthesia (SOBA), RCOA, AAGBI and College of Anaesthetists in Ireland in delivering airway related lectures for their core topics and annual scientific meetings.

12) The Involvement of Professor JJ Pandit, DAS Scientific Officer, as one of the main authors of NAP5 is another proud moment for DAS after the great success of NAP4.

We wish all the Specialist Society members a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year. We welcome educational and research collaboration or partnership in areas of common interest. Please get in touch with us through our DAS web page.

We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to Dr.Andrew Hartle, the newly appointed President of the AAGBI and our thanks to Dr.William Harrop-Griffith for his continued support of DAS. Incidentally, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November he will be at Stratford-upon-Avon, attending our Annual Scientific Meeting and locked in a scientific debate with me.

**Dr.S.Radhakrishna**

Hon Secretary of DAS

# LIFEBOX FELLOWSHIP FOR SENIOR ANAESTHETIC TRAINEES

**An exciting opportunity to make a significant contribution to quality improvement and anaesthesia care in Uganda or Ethiopia.**

Lifebox Foundation in collaboration with the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland, the Difficult Airway Society, World Anaesthesia Society and the Royal College of Anaesthetists are looking to recruit two exceptional ST6+ UK anaesthetic trainees to undertake Fellowships in Uganda and Ethiopia.

The Fellowships will commence in August 2015 or February 2016 and will be of 6–12 months duration. The Fellows will be supported to develop and deliver a sustainable and high-impact QI project in collaboration with local colleagues, in addition to taking part in delivery of anaesthetic care. Upon completion of the Fellowship, Fellows can expect to have completed the 'Anaesthesia in developing countries' and 'Improvement Science, Safe and Reliable Systems' units within the RCoA 2010 Curriculum.

**Application deadline: Friday 5 December 2014.**

Further details, including how to apply, can be found on the RCoA International Programmes webpage:

[www.rcoa.ac.uk/international-programmes](http://www.rcoa.ac.uk/international-programmes)

## WEBMASTER'S REPORT

After a lot of work behind the screens the new website was launched on 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2014. The website was launched with all the planned features. Some of the highlights are:

- Mobile friendly website
- Members area
- Forums for all users and airway leads
- Paperless online membership
- User login now encrypted with strong encryption technology to keep your data safe

Online membership form now supports payment by online direct debit through GoCardless in addition to credit card payments through PayPal. The online direct debit has been welcomed by new members. Most of whom, since launching the new website, have opted to use this facility.

The website uses a 'responsive design' technology which reformats the website on the fly for mobile devices. The website is thus optimized for the size of the device used to browse. We have also launched a forum which will be accessible to all members. We hope the forum will serve as a platform for airway related discussions. Members particularly those looking for other airway enthusiasts to take up multi-centre projects can use the forum to pitch their ideas.

The members' area currently enables users to change their personal details and to post in the forums. In the near future we will be launching various educational content which can be accessed through the members' area.

Website logins have been created for Airway leads who registered their details with DAS website. This can be used to login and post in the airway lead forums. Airway leads who have not yet been created accounts please register your details on the form provided in the website. We will contact you with account details.

I would also like to inform you that a new DAS app for guidelines is in the works and will be launched imminently. The next year is an exciting time for DAS as new guidelines are being launched and old ones updated. Please keep an eye on the website for announcements.

Over the past two months the number of visitors to the DAS website has increased by about 30%. We expect this to increase significantly in the near future.



**Dr Karthik Ponnusamy**

DAS Website Editor

## TRAINEE REP'S REPORT

How time has flown! It has been an interesting and rewarding experience representing trainees for DAS and it is hard to believe that my term will finish in February. This year we have a session within the annual scientific meeting dedicated to the learning experience and how we can raise the standards of airway education from the perspective of both the trainee and trainer

To increase the impact of valuable local audit, service improvement and research projects, we would like to help improve collaboration between regions. We have new Project and Trainee sections within the members' area of the redesigned DAS website. All members can post on the forums and we hope they will use this to exchange ideas and coordinate interested groups.

Being trainee representative for a national committee provides a unique opportunity to learn about the priorities and challenges that face the society, to develop ideas and shape future direction. It is going to be an exciting time on the Committee over the next few years and I would strongly encourage any budding difficult airway enthusiasts to run for election as the next DAS trainee representative.

As ever, if you have any suggestions or questions, please get in touch



**Dr Sam Perera**  
Consultant Anaesthetist (New)  
Northampton General Hospital

### *'To unpathed waters, to unpathed shores'* William Shakespeare

There has been an excellent response to the call for abstracts for DAS 2014, with over one hundred and fifty manuscripts submitted. The standard was high and competition for the nine oral presentation places and poster presentations was fierce. To maintain a high standard for acceptance, integrity of the scoring process involved the reviewers being unaware of authors and institutions, marking in isolation of each other. Thank you to all colleagues involved in the original scientific work for DAS 2014.

It was reassuring to see the oral and poster presentations encompassing a range of evidence from case reports to randomised controlled trials. The value of the accepted case reports, case series, surveys, observational studies is evident, with important messages for our consumption.

Amidst both the oral and poster presentations are abstracts which are thought provoking, involve ingenious ideas, and provide examples of practice to incorporate within our departments. To all those that formulated important questions and worked hard to answer them, thank you for submitting your manuscripts, to share knowledge, push our scientific frontiers and also to remind us of those easily forgotten important clinical lessons.

Warm wishes,

Dr Taj Saran

Dr Shyam Balasubramanian

Dr S Radhakrishna

A few final thoughts:

*'If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?'*  
Albert Einstein

*The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the person doing*  
(Attributed to Chinese proverb)



# Anaesthesia

Journal of the Association of Anaesthetists of  
Great Britain and Ireland

Top 10 most cited original

*Anaesthesia* paper 2011–2013

Difficult Airway Society Guidelines for  
the management of tracheal  
extubation

By M. Popat, V. Mitchell, R. Dravid, A. Patel, C.  
Swampillai and A. Higgs

*Anaesthesia* (2012) vol. 67 issue 3 p.318–340

Dr Steve Yentis

Editor-in-Chief

Dr A Hartle

President



THE ASSOCIATION OF ANAESTHETISTS  
of Great Britain & Ireland



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WORLD AIRWAY MANAGEMENT MEETING

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