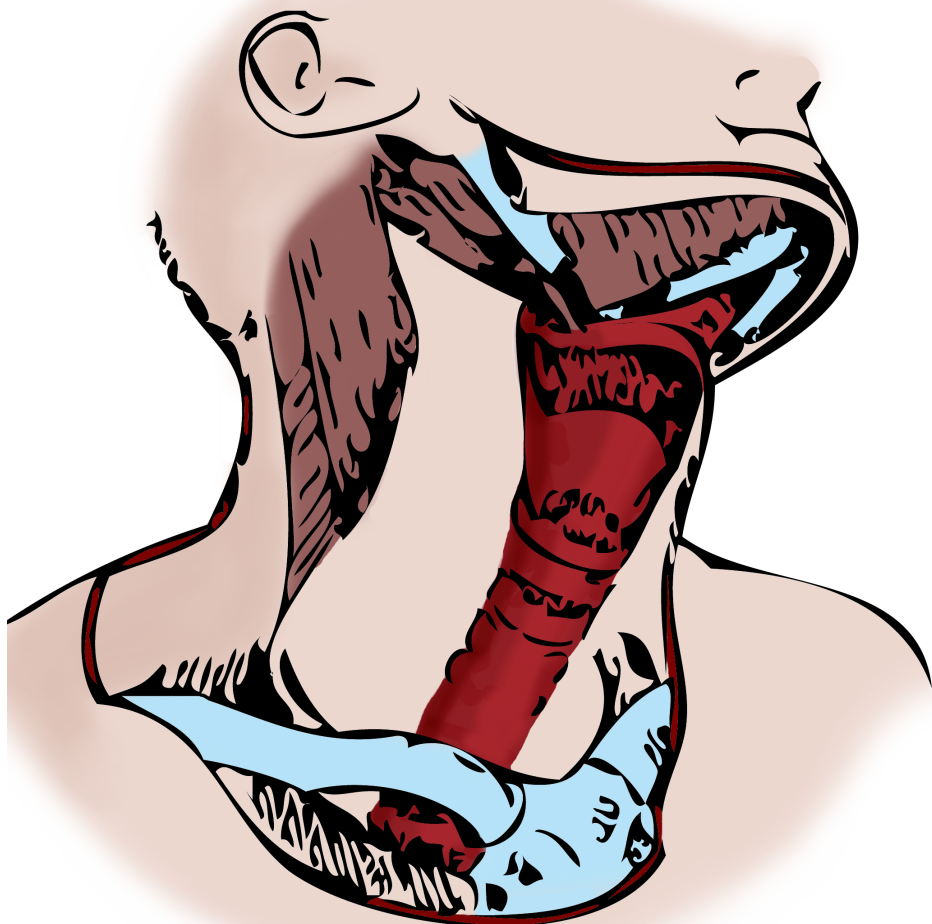


# The Difficult Airway Society

Newsletter September 2010



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

## From the editors

Welcome to this Summer Edition of the DAS Newsletter. It has been a busy year for the Society and this newsletter tries to give you a flavour of it, looking back to an excellent meeting in Perth and forward to the meeting in Cheltenham.

DAS is however, much more than its annual meeting, and we hope that the newsletter will be a way that members can keep in touch with Society activities. In this edition we had to stop somewhere, but we will print full reports of many things we could only mention briefly this time— idas, NAP 4, EAMS, Ugandan workshops- in future issues.

You do, however, get a report on DAS 09, including a list of prize winners, and input from the Society of Airway Management in the USA— including an obituary for Prof Ovassapian.. We also carry a scripted interview with an Albanian, the first Intavent Developing Nations Scholarship winner. We hope that he will be the first of many.

Astute readers will recognise that the newsletter now has new editors. It has taken two of us to replace Anil Patel, to whom we on the Society's behalf extend our most sincere and grateful thanks.

Ellen O'Sullivan, the new DAS Chair writes for us on [page 3](#), outlining her vision for the Society. We look forward to Ellen's regular newsletter contributions in the future. The rest of the committee introduce themselves on [page 5](#). The secretary and the treasurer appeal to all of you to keep your details up to date *so you can receive the newsletter* but also because the standing order payments system is coming to an end and

those not paying by DD risk ceasing to be members of the society. The secretary features again on [Page 16](#) as we look in detail at his duties. His post falls vacant at the AGM. The nomination form and AGM agenda are right at the back.

We hope to produce 3 editions of the newsletter a year; sent by post in the UK and Ireland and by email to members overseas. There is a debate to be had about an e-newsletter (although this paper version is ISO 14001:2004 compliant) and its content, size shape and format, and we are keen to hear your views and opinions. It is your newsletter— and *to date* we have not knowingly turned down anything for publication.

We look forward to seeing you in Cheltenham at the annual meeting ([page 14](#)) and to hearing your opinions ([page 6](#)).

Ravi Bhagrath,  
St Bartholomew's Hospital, London  
Alistair McNarry,  
Western General Hospital, Edinburgh

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## Chair's Report

Hi from the Chairman!

I was honoured and delighted to be elected as the new Chair of the Society at last year's DAS meeting in Perth. This society, founded in 1995, has always held a special place in my working life and its annual meeting a must in my academic calendar. I am presently a Consultant Anaesthetist at St James Hospital in Dublin where my clinical workload involves anaesthesia for major head and neck and maxillofacial surgery. Prior to this I was a Consultant at Aintree Hospital in Liverpool where I developed my interest in airway management. I was present at the founding meeting of the DAS and well remember the cries to battle from Adrian Pearce, Ralph Vaughan and many others as they strutted the floors of the lecture theatre in London. The enthusiasm has not waned and is still a quintessential element of the society.

From humble beginnings the ethos has spread and 15 years later we are now the second largest specialist society in Anaesthesia. This reflects the hard work of the previous committees and the excellent annual DAS meetings. The latter are run almost exclusively by the group/individuals who volunteer their services. Each annual meeting thus has an individual flavour and almost without exception all have been memorable and hugely successful. They are informative, up-to-date and interactive and attended by a healthy mixture of consultants and trainees. The next meeting, run by Dr Richard Vanner and his colleagues, has an excellent programme and social event

organised (*see page 14*) so book early !!

Since taking up my post as Chairman at the end of last year the committee has been particularly busy. I would like to thank the previous chair, Chris Frerk who has been so helpful and made the transition seamless. We are launching iDAS—an application for the iPhone which contains the DAS algorithms at the touch of a screen. This will prove useful for teaching/revision and perhaps may be useful in an emergency. Let us know what you think! Our Scientific Officer, Jaideep Pandit has been very productive and is working with Barema on creating a national platform for assessing the efficacy of airway devices.

One project, the national audit project (NAP4), which commenced in September 2008 looking at serious complications of airway management (death, hypoxic brain injury, emergency tracheostomy / cricothyroidotomy or unexpected ITU admission), should be completed next year. This is a joint project between DAS and the RCOA and we are grateful to Tim Cook, Nick Woodall and Chris Frerk for all their hard work to date on this and we are looking forward to the first results in Cheltenham.

Many other interesting initiatives are being developed. Thanks to Ravi Dravid we are now running workshops which integrate non-technical skills training (human factors) and technical skills training in the form of SMART courses. These courses are delivered to teams which include anaesthetists and ODPs and have proved extremely popular. Jairaj has been very busy keeping our website up to date and of course as in all organisations our dutiful treasurer, Peter Groom, is meticulous with our financial

affairs. No organisation thrives without an astute secretary and we have that with Atul Kapila who is extremely organised and efficient.

Interaction with other societies and countries is very important. The President of SAM (USA Society of airway Management) is a regular attendee at our annual meeting and this is reciprocated. The president of the EAMS (European airway management society) is also invited and we are in contact with the newly formed Australian “Airway Special Interest Group” to forge links. We feel these links will be mutually beneficial.

An exciting initiative of our society, and one close to my heart, is its commitment to airway workshops in developing countries. My personal experience of being involved in these is extremely positive and I can't emphasise how vital these are in these deprived areas. The first DAS sponsored workshop will be in Kampala, Uganda in Spring 2011.

As a society we are striving to improve communication with our members. The DAS newsletter is one way and I would like to thank Anil Patel, who for many years produced this newsletter single-handed. When he decided to pass the baton on I was delighted that Alistair McNarry and Ravi Bhagrath agreed to take on this onerous task so enthusiastically. This is your newsletter so please contribute material or make suggestions regarding its contents.

Finally I am looking forward to an active three years as Chair, thrilled to be working with such an excellent team and continuing to grow this very special society which has such exciting plans for the future.

Hope to see you all in Cheltenham in November!

*Ellen O'Sullivan*  
Chair, DAS

## Does DAS have your details?- An Appeal

DAS membership continues to grow, with **2425** Full and Overseas members in May 2010. This makes us the second largest specialist society recognised by AAGBI but also an administrative nightmare. The Specialist Societies Manager at the AAGBI, Busola Adesanya-Yusuf wonderfully administers our membership database even though it occupies a significant proportion of her time. Over two-thirds of members responded to an ‘update your details appeal’ two years ago and we are repeating the exercise now. Please respond to the email that has been sent to you and if you haven't received an email please let me know and I will send one through to you.

Email me at: [secretary@das.uk.com](mailto:secretary@das.uk.com)

*Atul Kapila, DAS Secretary*

*Does being the DAS Secretary appeal to YOU?– see the job description on page 16*

*Please note that although the newsletter welcomes all contributions, the views expressed in articles are those of the authors and may not reflect the views of the Society*

# Meet the Committee



**Ellen O' Sullivan - Chair (2009-2012)**

St James University Hospital Dublin

Email: [chairman@das.uk.com](mailto:chairman@das.uk.com)

I am responsible for leading the DAS strategy forward and representing the society nationally and internationally.



**Peter Groom - Treasurer (2008-2011)**

University Hospital Aintree, Liverpool.

Email: [treasurer@das.uk.com](mailto:treasurer@das.uk.com)

I am responsible for the prudent management of the societies financial assets.



**Atul Kapila– Secretary (2007-2010)**

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, Reading

Email: [secretary@das.uk.com](mailto:secretary@das.uk.com)

I look after the membership details of the Society, ensuring that you all get your newsletters! I am responsible for minut-ing our official meetings - in committee and at the AGM.



**Chris Frerk - Immediate Past Chair**

Northampton General Hospital

My role is to assist the incoming chair, using some of the knowledge I've accumulated over the past 7 years to help her deliver the best for the Society in her first year in post.



**Jaideep Pandit - Scientific Officer**

I am responsible for developing an academic strategy for DAS in relation to airway-related research, which includes relevant audits and equipment-related matters. I also represent DAS on the National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia and manage the DAS grants.



**Nick Woodall - NAP 4**

**Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital**

I started 5 years ago as a special project officer to collect data on airway management. This became the NAP4 project (run and funded jointly by the RCoA and DAS.) We aim to publish the snapshot report soon and a final report next year.



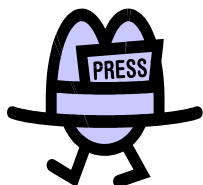
### Jairaj Rangasami – Website

Skilfully aided by Karthik Ponnusamy, these two designed the new DAS website and have been responsible for maintaining it since 2006 **Contact via the website**



### Ravi Dravid SMART Courses

Kettering General Hospital, Rothwell Road Kettering .  
Email: [ravidravid@das.uk.com](mailto:ravidravid@das.uk.com). My role is delivering airway training. I developed the SMART Anaesthesia course to teach technical and non-technical skills in airway management.



*And Finally, come and meet us at Cheltenham*

*We will listen to your opinions at anytime  
([newsletter@das.uk.com](mailto:newsletter@das.uk.com)),*

*but specifically during lunch on Friday November 26th*

## And a word from the Treasurer...



Part of the ongoing development of the Society is how we collect our subscriptions. Over the past few years, DAS has continually requested that its members' changeover to Direct Debit from Standing Order. Unfortunately, in the near future it will become difficult for us to maintain the society's membership because of the imminent demise of Standing Order as a payment method. A significant proportion of members are still paying by Standing Order and we do not want to lose them! So, if you have not already changed over I would respectfully request that you kindly complete the Direct Debit mandate below (It will be used with effect from January 2011) and return it as soon as possible to:

Busola Adesanya-Yusuf  
Specialist Societies Manager  
Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland  
21 Portland Place  
London  
W1B 1PY

or email [DAS@aagbi.org](mailto:DAS@aagbi.org)

**...please pay by direct debit**

*Peter Groom  
DAS Treasurer*



## PERTH 09

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Difficult airway Society was held in Perth Scotland, organised by a cast of thousands under the leadership of Barry McGuire

Day one started with the practical workshops. Two workshop streams ran simultaneously. The main auditorium housed *traditional* workshops, which gave delegates the opportunity to use a large variety of equipment and to link these skills to the 'real life' environment. This included a station devoted to interactive scenario-based discussion. The second group participated in a *simulation* workshop, overseen by Simon Edgar, demonstrating methods of incorporating simulation training into a variety of clinical areas. These included discussion on how delegates might use simulation in their training programmes; the formative assessment of airway management competency using a 'sim-man'; and how simulation can play a role in human factors training. The workshops were a unanimous success thanks to the meticulous planning and efficiency of organisers Grant Rodney and Alistair McDiarmid.

The scientific programme began by examining the issues of managing the airway *outside* theatre. Thomas Mort updated us with the optimal management of patients in critical care including tracheal tube exchange and transfer of these high risk patients, whilst Dermot McKeown gave a lively overview of training and management of the airway in the emergency room. Arndt Timmerman ended this session with a review of airway management outside the hospital, considering current success rates and practices.

Chris Frerk and Nikki Maran then discussed how to improve safety and reduce risk in airway management. They analysed the importance of non-technical skills during crisis management, why we do what we do, and how to reduce human error by identification of flaws and rehearsal of scenarios with simulation training. Andrew Smith showed how we can learn and change our practice by the analysis and feedback of reported incidents and near-misses.



*Adrian Pearce receives the inaugural DAS Medal from Chris Frerk*

Thursday afternoon began with oral presentations of free papers. This year boasted some excellent presentations with the winner of the oral presentation being M Roberts presenting a new method of assessing the airway. We would like to thank Alistair McNarry and Grant Hutchinson for their time and diligence in the huge task of reviewing all abstracts submitted.

The new SAM president, Elizabeth Behringer ended the day with a witty and entertaining talk 'Video Laryngoscopy: does it make direct laryngoscopy obsolete?', conveying that video laryngoscopes play a crucial role in airway

management, with further studies needed to define their role. The session ended with an impromptu opportunity to quiz a panel of international experts about this topic.



### *Seeing the way, hands on at the workshop*

Friday began early with the novel Breakfast Club. An intimate setting with breakfast provided delegates access to a unique opportunity to directly ‘pick the brains’ of the experts in their field.

The morning session then began with Michael Kristensen who presented a novel method of assessing the airway using ultrasonography, proving how easy it really is with a video of his son performing ultrasound on him and identifying all anatomical features! Tim Strang then outlined the problems and difficulties in dealing with patients with or requiring stents in the airway, emphasising the importance of rigid bronchoscopy. Anil Patel then shared his not insignificant experience and recommendations in dealing with the obstructed upper airway.

John Henderson dealt with laryngoscopy: past, present and future, describing the evolution of tracheal intubation techniques from the rudimentary digital

technique in the 1800s to laryngoscopes, fibreoptics, the LMA and Aintree catheter, and video-laryngoscopy. This was followed by a comprehensive review by Richard Cooper of the perils of the extubation process and strategies to reduce risk.

The final session began with an overview of DAS news, a preliminary report of the National Audit Project, and ongoing DAS projects. A heated debate on the topic “Supraglottic airway devices will become a gold standard for airway control” ensued with a confident Anil Patel supporting and a determined Richard Cooper opposing the motion. Tim Cook made the sensible suggestion that supraglottic airway devices are the gold standard in ‘some’ scenarios, but not all. Dr Cooper finally won the debate with a majority vote.

Following prize giving for poster winners, Chris Frerk, the dynamic and enthusiastic Chairman of the Difficult Airway Society graciously accepted the gift of a Quaich from the local organising committee and handed on the baton to the new Chairperson, the charismatic Ellen O’Sullivan.

This year the scientific programme had great topics as well as enthusiastic and learned speakers, and we would like to thank David Ball and Bernard Heide-mann for their organisation of this.

Perth provided a beautiful backdrop to the full social calendar, organised by Justine Nanson. John Henderson provided the authentic Scottish touch reciting the address ‘Tae a Haggis’, whilst delegates enjoyed the popular dish itself alongside champagne and canapés. The Lord Provost of Perth also made a guest



appearance to cap off an enjoyable evening. The Gala dinner on Thursday evening was held at Perth Racecourse with an enjoyably busy timetable beginning with a cocktail reception, a beautiful

all who contributed to the organisation and success of the meeting, and to all the sponsors and exhibitors who gave their support to this DAS meeting.



*“Who decided Breakfast Club should start at 8am?”*



*Professor Behringer spoke on video laryngoscopy?*

three course meal, followed by outdoor fireworks over the racecourse itself on a fortuitously clear, but cold evening. Guests warmed up quickly, however, with Scottish country dancing instructed by the International Ceilidh Collective resulting in a busy dance floor and a lot of fun.

A lot of hard work behind the scenes was also carried out by Catriona Conolly (Trade), Stephen Cole (Finance) and Peter Coe (Accommodation and Transport).

We look forward to seeing you all in Cheltenham.

The Local Organising Committee would like to thank everyone who attended the meeting, those who submitted abstracts,

*Corina Lee  
DAS Perth*

***Write for DAS***

If you're a trainee and have been to an anaesthetic meeting with airway-related lectures, presentations or workshops please write in with a review.. We'd like from you a brief summary of the meeting and why we should *or shouldn't* spread the word. [newsletter@das.com.uk](mailto:newsletter@das.com.uk)



# Abstract competition winners Perth 09

Oral presentation winners

## **1<sup>st</sup> Prize:**

M Roberts, E Curtis, M Mani, N Goodwin, AR Wilkes, T Zatman and C Holt  
Schools of Medicine and Engineering University of Cardiff  
Mouth opening and jaw protrusion measured using three-dimensional motion analysis.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**

SJ Mercer and A Guha Cheshire and Merseyside Simulation Centre  
Testing adherence to the DAS algorithm for difficult tracheal intubation during rapid sequence induction of anaesthesia.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Prize**

I Ahmad, T Shaikh and M Rai  
Anaesthetic Departments of Guys and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and Oxford Radcliffe NHS Trust  
Cricoid Pressure and videolaryngoscopy: A prospective study to evaluate the use of a video laryngoscope for effective application of cricoid pressure by anaesthetic assistants

## **Best Poster (Clinical Science)**

DJ Ross-Anderson, T Ferguson, A Patel  
Departments of Anaesthesia Royal National Throat Nose and Ear Hospital and University College London Hospital  
Transtracheal high frequency jet ventilaton in fifty patients with stridor secondary to laryngopharyngeal pathology

## **Best Poster (Equipment Evaluation)**

M Bretland, I Hodzovic, J Whelan, AR Wilkes, J Hall  
Department of Anaesthetics, Cardiff University  
Evaluation of the i-gel device when used by paramedics. Comparison with the classic Laryngeal Mask Airway and tracheal tube in a manikin

## **Best Posters (joint prize) Simple Safe and Saving Lives Category**

N Randive, A Khader, R Bhagrath, P Saunders  
Anaesthetics Department St Bartholomew's Hospital  
On wards and onwards: Postoperative airway obstruction: causes, initial management and implementation of training

AGW Chalmers, M Turner, G Stephenson and D Carapiet  
Queen Alexandra Hospital Portsmouth  
Organizational and Practical Non-technical Skills of Difficult airway Management

### **Best Case Report**

CS Russell and C Ong

Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Guys and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Case Report: Successful Fiberoptic Intubation Through an i-gel Supraglottic airway in a Difficult Intubation by a Junior Anaesthetist With Recent Simulator Course Training

### **Best Poster by an Overseas Author**

A Hamaekers, T Gotz, P Borg and D Enk

Departments of Anaesthesia Maastricht University Medical Center, The Netherlands and Knappschafts Krankenhaus Recklinghausen, Germany

Optimizing Expiratory Ventilation Assistance (EVA)

We look forward to publishing the results of the Abstract competition from Cheltenham in the next newsletter. Oral presentations from Perth 09 were published in *Anaesthesia* the journal of the AAGBI. *Anaesthesia*, 2010, **65**, pages 426–432. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2044.2010.6280.x

## **Perth 09 AGM**

*Here Chris Frerk summarises last year's AGM. This year the AGM will be at 5pm Thursday 25th November. It will be finished in time for the annual dinner. DAS projects feature in the Chair's report*

The society is now officially the largest specialist anaesthetic society with more than 2500 members.

Our finances are sound with our assets more than enough to cover DAS liabilities. PG explained that we need to have reserves to cover 3 years commitments but should be turning over a proportion of rest of capital (see financial reserves – later). He thanked two members who had kindly donated their accidental overpayments to the Society.

Suggestions were taken from the floor as to how our reserves might be utilised, these would need to be ratified by the committee:-

- i) Funding a DAS Fellow
- ii) Ongoing monitoring / investigation of adverse airway events (post NAP4)
- iii) Research registry
- iv)) ODP/ medical students meeting subsidies

ACCEA awards: Chris Frerk reported DAS had been able to support 8 nominations for the 2009 round of ACCEA awards. Three of these were successful and congratulations were due to Nick Woodall, Andy Norris and Jaideep Pandit who all gained Bronze awards. Details for next year's round would appear on the DAS website, volunteers were sought to be on the sieving committee.

# DAS Intavent Developing Nations Scholar



Igli Zhilla was the first DAS Intavent Developing Nations Scholar. Intavent Direct funded his registration for Perth 09 and the DAS helped with his travel and accommodation. In

the scripted interview below we invited Igli to give us a flavour of anaesthesia in Albania.

## *Tell us about life as a Doctor in Albania*

Albania is a small country of about 3 million people. It has only one University Hospital which is located in Tirana, the capital, where the majority of anaesthetists work, at least 100

Medical studies in Albania lasts 6 years. After that you can work as general practitioner. Anesthetic training in our department lasts 4 years and during this time all trainees go in all departments for about 3 months each. During this time they work with residents doing either research or clinical training.

Anesthetists work 40 hours per week, Monday to Friday. In most departments they do 24 hours on duty 4-5 times in a month. The starting salary for a consultant is about 250-300 euro.

## *Tell us about life in your department (the University Center in Tirana)*

The department of ENT, Ophthalmology and Max-Fax is located in a separate building within the hospital. I have worked there for about 15 years. There are 4 of us working in 4 operation theatres with an additional small microsurgical theatre. We perform about 35 to 50 different surgical procedures in a week.

The workload can vary from tonsillectomies, nose surgery, neck surgery, ear surgery, any kind of endoscopies ( larynx,pharynx, nasopharyngs, removal of foreign bodies from lower aero digestive tract) and all kinds of laryngectomies. We cannot perform tracheal repairs due to stenosis.

## *Tell us about airway equipment available to you, as we know that reading your abstract that the intubating Laryngeal Mask (iLMA) is a relatively newly available piece of equipment.*

I've personally introduced much of the equipment needed in an airway emergency including a fiberscope into our hospital, but not all of my colleagues have access to it because our hospital is a series of separate buildings, with three to four operating theatres in each building.

## *Tell us about what you can't do...*

Despite my efforts to get it in place as soon as possible, we are still unable to perform jet ventilation, we also lack all the equipment required for the can't intubate, can't ventilate scenario.- The equipment available is variable and depends where you are on the site.

Hospitals are not equipped equally, as what they have available depends fund-

ing and the procedures they perform

Similarly, our hospital budget is not enough to have the newest drugs; new neuromuscular blockers, remifentanyl etc. The problem for equipment and drugs is the same- the money...

*Is there an Albanian Difficult Airway Society*

We do not have an Albanian Airway Society yet, but we work as part of Albanian Society of Anesthesiology. I am also a member of EAMS and I have organised two meetings on airway management with their support. I have been lucky enough to persuade Prof Ulrich Braun and Dr John Henderson to honour these meetings with their presence.

*Finally Igli, what difference has coming to DAS 2009 made to your practice*

Being one of the participants in DAS 2009 has been a great opportunity for me to meet a lot of new and old colleagues. I have valued the opportunity to talk with them and exchange ideas. Hearing about new methods in managing the challenging airway make me responsible to take these back to Albania and introduce them into our everyday anesthesiology practice. I hope DAS will continue to collaborate with us to go ahead in our efforts to be more efficient in our practice.

*The organising committee of Perth 09 would like to thank Nicki Dill and Intavent Direct for their financial support of this venture.*

## ACCEA 2010/11

*This article summarises information that is already on the website—follow the ACCEA link from the homepage.*

In 2009 3 DAS members were awarded bronze ACCEA awards in recognition of their contribution to the NHS and DAS. If you think that this year could be your time to apply for a national award—Bronze, Silver or Gold then remember DAS support could finally nudge your application into the successful pile.

Over time we've had a number of successes and we hope this continues. Start thinking about who could write a citation for your DAS activities and ask them early. Guidance for citation writers is available on the ACCEA website.

The DAS ACCEA committee will sift and rank candidates at the end of 2010 and we would then endorse the citations written on your behalf. It would be helpful for the DAS committee to know in advance if you are thinking of applying with DAS support as we can then assist you to the best of our ability.

The deadline for requesting DAS support (with a copy of your ACCEA form) is currently **midnight 31st October 2010** although this may change when we have further information regarding the national timescales. Updates will be posted on the DAS website.

*NB: DAS will also support applications under the Scottish SACDA Scheme. Further details will be posted on the website after the new Scottish guidance is published in October.*

*Ellen O'Sullivan, DAS Chair*

## A letter from Cheltenham

Dear Colleague,

This year's annual meeting is at Cheltenham Racecourse. On behalf of the organising committee (there are ten of us) I would like to invite you to Cheltenham in November for the two day scientific meeting, preceded as usual by workshops on the 24th. The meeting has been awarded 5 CPD points per day.

The lecture program is exciting and challenging, with current controversies and up to date details of airway complications. In particular there are lectures on: laryngeal and tracheal surgery by two eminent surgeons complemented by a lecture on jet ventilation by Professor Bourgain from Paris- President of their ENT Anaesthetic Society. Tim Cook and David Bogod will address medico-legal aspects of the airway. Barrister Jo Lloyd will cross examine Tim as at a Coroner's inquest! Education and the airway as also covered with front of the neck HEMS experience from David Lockey, Corina Lee on her experiences as a Fellow in Toronto and Nick Wharton talking about our local, trainee led, airway rescue training programme. Nick Woodall will give the first presentation of NAP4 results in the UK. The role of rocuronium in RSI, its reversal with suggamadex and how muscle relaxants may help the difficult airway will make a fascinating trio of lectures from David Levy, Chris Frerk and Andy McLeod .

The President of SAM this year is Professor Maya Suresh from Houston and we will be honoured to welcome her to

Cheltenham to speak: her topic- Obstetric Airway Catastrophes. This will complement the rest of our programme nicely. There will also be original research with eight oral presentations and approximately 90 posters to view with seven prizes to be won. There will, of course, be a large trade exhibition with 20 stands with all the latest kit for you to play with.

The Airway Workshops on the 24th will be limited to 96 delegates. There will be four advanced core-topic workshops:- supraglottic airway intubation; video-laryngoscopy; front of neck access and fibre-optic intubation alongside stations on non- technical skills, simulation and airway scenarios. Workshops will be held in the hospitality boxes in the Grandstand overlooking the finish line.

Lunch will be in the Panoramic restaurant with spectacular views of the course and the Cotswold Hills. The Gala Dinner will be in the Pittville pump Room, an elegant Regency building. Dinner will be followed by entertainment and dancing— and a bar will be available. There is plenty of free parking at the Racecourse and coaches will take delegates to and from the hotels and for dinner. We have kept course fees as low as possible with a hefty trade exhibition contribution. Early bird rates apply until 13.09.2010. DAS members also receive a discount.

This promises to be a really successful meeting, we expect about 450 delegates but have room for more. So please register now and I look forward to seeing you in Cheltenham in November.

Go to [www.das2010.co.uk](http://www.das2010.co.uk) for more

Yours sincerely,  
*Richard Vanner,*  
*Chair of the Local Organising Committee*



Cheltenham 2010

# Difficult Airway Society Annual Meeting Cheltenham Racecourse

**24th - 26th November 2010**

## Workshops

Wednesday 24th November for 96 delegates will include 4 core topic stations in advanced airway management as well as 2 stations on simulation with non-technical skills and airway scenarios.

## Scientific meeting

Thursday 25th and Friday 26th November which will include lectures, free papers presented both as oral and poster presentations and the trade exhibition. We have lectures from experts in the airway from the UK, Europe and USA. Topics will be on the shared airway, medicolegal aspects, obstetric airway catastrophes, education, NAP4 results (major airway complications in the UK), RSI with rocuronium and failed intubation.

## Social

Welcome reception on the Wednesday early evening with the opening of the trade exhibition and local beverages with canapes. The Gala dinner at the superb Regency Pitville Pump Room with entertainment and dancing.

## CPD

The meeting has been allocated 15 CPD points by the RCOA (5 points per day).

## Website

Please look at our Website for more information on the above, how to submit an abstract, on-line registration details, accommodation and also the venue.



[www.das2010.co.uk](http://www.das2010.co.uk)

## **A year in the life of the DAS Secretary.**

Why would anyone put their hand up to take over any role in any of the myriad of specialist societies that are represented at AAGBI? In the current climate of tightening job plans and burdensome bureaucracy wouldn't it seem perverse to want to add even more to one's plate? Well....

my tenure as DAS secretary comes to an end at this year's AGM in Cheltenham and I want to make my pitch for why YOU should apply.

As an existing DAS member you either have an existing interest in high adrenaline jinks like freestyle rock-climbing or managing the obstructed airway...or is that just a rumour? Anyway, you already are a regular attendee at DAS annual meetings because you enjoy meeting like-minded individuals, the meeting content is usually excellent and as for outside the lectures...well let me say no more...So how does such a society keep thriving and functioning? Foremost of course it is the membership then the host departments for each year's AGM who put a huge amount into the meeting and finally behind the scenes is the DAS committee. I have been very lucky to have worked with the current committee and each meeting's agenda reflects the huge amount of work that is going on within the society. My main role is to prepare working papers and minute the committee meetings and for the AGM. This is much more interesting than you might think, as it has given me a unique insight into the whole breadth and width of the workings of DAS, the relations

with the RCoA and the NIAA, the specialist society meeting at AAGBI, Department of Health, Ministry of Defence and so on. The other aspect of my job is looking after our membership database. I do this with the Specialist Societies Manager at the AAGBI, Busola Aden-sanya- Yusuf. New applications come to me via the DAS website (and we owe a huge amount to the work of Jairaj Rangasami our webmaster for this....our website application system is the envy of many other societies!) and along with change of membership detail emails and various other membership inquiries I work with Busola on these. There is a steady stream of correspondence from all over the world to deal with, from seeking permission to use the DAS guidelines to asking our opinion on particular aspects of airway management. I will answer these directly or add them to committee agendas for discussion.

You might be wondering ...how much time does all this take? Well...I have 0.25 SPA, an hour a week, recognised in my job plan as external duties, and additionally have not had a problem taking time to attend the committee meetings and AGM. My department is happy to support this activity and I have been able to invite DAS luminaries to speak at local meetings and generally raise the profile of the society locally and regionally.

*Atul Kapila*

*DAS Secretary (until November 25th)*

***The DAS AGM Thursday  
25th November 2010***



## Reflections of the outgoing chairman

Suddenly at the end of the Perth meeting it was all over, a couple of terms as treasurer followed by the last three years as DAS Chairman. Looking back on my time at the heart of our society. the committee have been great, good natured and have worked tirelessly on our behalf. I've been asked to pick a couple of things that I am most pleased about that happened on "my watch as chairman"

First up, a chance meeting with Judith Hulf when she was President of the RCoA and I was chairman of the society led to a fruitful relationship developing between DAS and the Royal College of Anaesthetists. We have been able to advise and give input as to the importance of airway management in the training curriculum and to contribute to the work being done on revalidation.

Next, getting recognition from the ACCA so we can support members for national awards. In airway management there is a huge amount (workshops etc) going on in hospitals and regions around the country. This mechanism allows DAS to support anaesthetists who are moving airway management forward locally as well as nationally. Each year at least one DAS supported applicant has been successful. I urge you to consider applying.

However the thing of which I am most

proud is that I happened to be in the right place at the right time when the right people came together to develop NAP4, the National Audit of serious complications associated with airway management. Nick Woodall has been amazing, as the project got bigger and bigger (way more work than originally envisaged) – but he has taken it all on and managed it in a way that I truly believe could not be bettered (and stayed more or less sane). Tim Cook, the other lead has been crucial for the projects success from the word go, bringing all his experience and all his contacts from previous National Audits – this project could not be happening without him. The support and infrastructure provided by the College has been critical as has the support from many organisations and individuals working tirelessly in the background. And of course all the members of DAS who have contributed data ideas cases etc – without the information coming in there would be no NAP4. I truly believe this project will be a great credit to DAS but more importantly will be a major contribution to patient safety.

The last 3 years have flown by and have been great fun. I've had the pleasure of handing over the reigns to Ellen O'Sullivan as our new chairman and she and the committee are already planning some great new stuff for us, the members of the Society.

*Chris Frerk  
Das Chair 2006-2009*

## From our Foreign Correspondent

*Professor Elizabeth Behringer brings us up to date with the activities of our American cousins. Overleaf we reproduce her tribute to Andranik Ovassapian.*



The Society for Airway Management celebrates its fifteenth year! As current SAM President, I would like to review some of the Society's accomplishments in 2009 and update you of several remarkable events in store for SAM throughout my term in 2010.

Over the past year, SAM has grown to include nearly 600 members in 35 countries across the globe. SAM is a truly multidisciplinary society and includes anesthesiologists, emergency room physicians, intensivists, surgeons, nurse anesthetists and corporate individuals as members. This unprecedented and diverse growth of SAM is due in part to the enthusiasm of existing members, the quality of the annual meeting, the SAM Forum, the Airway Gazette as well as global interest in advanced airway management.

### ***Highlights of 2009-2010 have included:***

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Workshop was held at the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. Dr Ashu Wali (Baylor College of Medicine, Houston) did a fantastic job as Program Chair.

SAM enthusiastically continues its collaboration with the Difficult Airway Society, Dr. Anil Patel delivered the DAS lecture at the 2009 SAM meeting. He gave a fantastic lecture on his vast experience with post-intubation laryngotracheal stenosis in adult patients. The reciprocity between our two airway societies remains an ideal forum for the international growth of airway management through research and education. DAS President, Dr. Ellen O'Sullivan and I have discussed the importance of fostering exchange and collaboration between our two societies.

This tradition will continue at the upcoming 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting and Workshops in Chicago, from September 24-26, 2010. Dr. Barry McGuire, (Dundee) will bring his enthusiasm and expertise to the 2010 SAM annual meeting as a guest speaker. Dr. David Ball (Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary) will deliver the DAS lecture entitled "Patients, Principles and Paradigms".

The first exchange between SAM and the newly formed Chinese Society for Airway Management took place in 2009. This landmark exchange was due to the efforts of Past Presidents P. Allan Klock, M.D and Chandy Verghese. Immediate Past President Klock ( and Executive Director Carin Hagberg were invited Speakers at the Chinese Society of Anesthesiologists annual meeting in Shanghai China in 2009 where they lectured to standing room only audiences. In exchange, Dr. Ming Tian (Beijing Friendship Hospital) was an invited speaker at the SAM meeting in Las Vegas. Dr. Tian gave a phenomenal lecture on Airway Management in China, a

survey of nearly 1800 hospitals in his country from 2004-2006.

SAM is fortunate to continue this exchange program in 2010. Dr. Thomas Mort and I have been invited to speak at the first National Meeting for Airway Management in Zheng Zhou, Henan China in October 2010. SAM is honored to participate in this inaugural international conference.

The Airway Gazette, under the helm of Editor-in-Chief Dr. Katherine Gil (Northwestern University, Chicago), published phenomenal quarterly newsletters over the past year. The SAM website has links to past editions of this educational and entertaining publication.

Lastly, the new Society for Airway Management exhibit booth debuted at the 2009 American Society for Anesthesiologists annual meeting in New Orleans, LA. The new booth was located on the exhibit floor and was instrumental in recruiting 50 new members to join SAM!

I am honored to serve as President of the Society for Airway Management during the fifteenth year of this remarkable organization. I wish to thank all the individual SAM members who have generously donated their time, interest and expertise towards the continued growth and development of SAM. I hope this year continues to strengthen the collaboration between SAM and DAS! I would like to personally invite any interested DAS members to join SAM at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Chicago!

*Professor Elizabeth Behringer,*

Professor of Anesthesiology, Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, California

*President SAM*

**The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Workshops: The Swissotel, Chicago, Illinois September 24-26, 2010 ([www.samhq.com](http://www.samhq.com)).**

## **Changes to the DAS Website**

### **1 The Training Tab**

*In the future DAS intends to add a 'training tab' to the website. This will be where members can go and look up details of fellowships, advanced training modules, special skills training, etc. Whilst its potential as an educational resource is huge, it relies on content provided by you the DAS membership.*

*If you have a Airway Fellowship or an Advanced Training Module that you would like people to know about and apply for please contact [secretary@das.uk.com](mailto:secretary@das.uk.com)*

### **2 The Equipment List**

*The website has always had an equipment list ([www.das.uk.com/equipment.html](http://www.das.uk.com/equipment.html)), however the time has come for this to be updated with an Equipment Manufacturer's List, targeted at clinicians wishing to buy airway equipment. Detailed information will be provided by manufacturers along with their contact details.*

*KEEP WATCHING the website for more details.*

# **Andranik Ovassapian M.D.:**

## **Founding President: Society for Airway Management**



The June 2010 edition of the SAM Gazette was dedicated in loving memory to Andranik (Andy) Ovassapian M.D., Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care at the University of Chicago.

Andy passed away on June 17th, 2010 following a major stroke while attending the European Society of Anesthesiology meeting in Helsinki, Finland.

Andy was one of the 'Founding Fathers' of modern airway management as evidenced by his dedication to international teaching, scholarly writing and patient safety. His vision of an international multi-specialty society dedicated to training, education and research in the field of airway management was pivotal to the formation of the Society of Airway Management in 1995.

Amongst his many professional accomplishments, Andy served as the first president of SAM from 1995-97, as executive director from 1998-2008 and gave the Society's first Ovassapian Lecture in 2000. Andy received the SAM Patriarch award in 2006. Andy's humor, expertise, humility and penchant for hard work is well known to a myriad of colleagues around the globe.

Fittingly, the 2010 annual meeting will be held in Andy's hometown of Chicago. . The SAM community is fortunate to have known, worked and learned from Andy. It is the mission of SAM to continue the quality, compassion and excellence of his life's work. Our thoughts and prayers are with Andy's extended family during this time. Andy- your loss is palpable to many of us. But our lives are richer for having known you as friend and colleague.

*ECB.*



To Hon. Secretary

We wish to nominate:

for the post of

Hon. Secretary of DAS

He/She is a full member of DAS and has agreed to be nominated for the post.

**Proposer:**

Signed:

Email address:

**Secunder:**

Signed:

Email address:

Please print name and e-mail address

Date



28 August 2010

Dear Difficult Airway Society Member

This is notice of our forthcoming AGM to be held in Cheltenham on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Below is the agenda and notable items for discussion at the meeting..

**Nominations for election to post of Hon. Secretary**

Nominations are invited for the post of honorary secretary. These should be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary. A form is enclosed to assist with the process of nomination. It should be signed by the proposer and second-er. Elections will be held at the AGM in Cheltenham.

**Call for applications to ACCEA**

Members considering applying and seeking support from DAS are urged to contact the DAS chairman Dr Ellen O’Sullivan. There is an ACCEA section on the DAS website with more information and contact details. <http://www.das.uk.com/accea.html> . The deadline for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2010

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Atul Kapila  
Difficult Airway Society Hon Secretary :  
Department of Anaesthesia  
Royal Berkshire Hospital  
London Road, Reading  
Berkshire RG1 5AN, U.K.  
+44 (0)118 3227065

# Difficult Airway Society Annual General Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010 17:00 Cheltenham

## Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the AGM held in Perth on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009 for approval
3. Matters arising from minutes
4. Honorary Chairman's report – Dr Ellen O'Sullivan
5. Honorary Secretary's Report – Dr Atul Kapila
6. Honorary Treasurer's Report – Dr Peter Groom
7. Constitutional changes
8. DAS Project Reports – Dr Jaideep Pandit
9. DAS Newsletter – Dr Alistair McNarry
10. Nominations for DAS medal
11. Future Meetings

*2011: Nottingham*

*Dr Andy Norris*

*2012: Cardiff*

-

*Dr Iljaz Hodzovic*

*2013: Wexham Park/Slough-*

*Dr Jairaj Rangasami/*

*2014: Coventry*

-

*Dr Subrahmanyam Radhakrishna*

*2015: DAS 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting (venue TBA)*

*- joint meeting with society abroad -*

*Dr Bernie Liban*

12. ACCEA awards
13. Election of honorary secretary
14. Any other business
15. Date of next meeting

I hope that you are able to attend.

Best wishes  
Atul Kapila  
Secretary

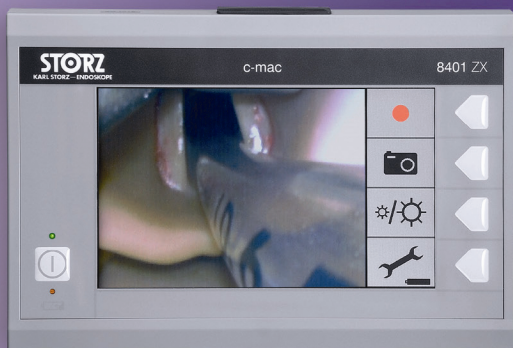
**Minutes of the 2009 AGM will be available  
on the website ([www.das.uk.com](http://www.das.uk.com))**

# KARL STORZ ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF THE NEW dBLADE FOR THE C-MAC™ VIDEOLARYNGOSCOPY SYSTEM

The D-BLADE laryngoscope blade primarily differs in shape from conventional laryngoscopes, characterized by an elliptical, tapering, distally rising blade shape. The D-BLADE fills the gap between the MACINTOSH laryngoscopes and flexible fibrescopes.

The innovative D-BLADE offers a fast and simple solution in patients with difficult anatomies (C&L III and IV) and when used properly, swelling, bleeding, and other “side effects” can be avoided. Its optimal length and the strong blade curvature also allow the intubation of patients with a large, ventrally displaced epiglottis. Since all components can be exchanged in seconds, users can also switch to the D-BLADE after initial assessment with, a MACINTOSH laryngoscope, for example.

The D-BLADE design is the result of more than 60 years of experience in ENT, extensive imaging, and years of experience in airway management – now resulting in the ultimate solution in airway management.



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