

CHAIR'S LETTER



Pat Smedley

Much to be done – and not enough time to do it? Ring bells? That is the situation from where I am sitting – working hard with the committee to put BARNA on the map this year.

First – thank you to everyone who made it to conference – we enjoyed it –we felt that most of you did too. The evaluations were extremely useful – thanks to all who filled them out. Many favourable comments – and many valid criticisms – we have considered them all and I would like to indicate briefly here the major changes which we are planning right now.

First – venue – time for a change – while the Clarendon has served us well over the years – in June 2003 we will be in Hove Brighton. An exciting challenge for us on the committee – a chance to attract more delegates from the London area and the south. However, for those who live north of the Birmingham Bullring – worry not – we intend to launch a second conference/study day in the north. If you would like to become involved in this project please email me : patsmedley@hotmail.com. Conference organisation believe it or not is fun – to organise one conference we are using our committee at full stretch – to organise two – well - that requires some help – from you!

Research – we need to have this up and running in BARNA this year – certainly there will be sessions on this at conference and we will be working on putting together a research package for members this year. Many of you are involved in mini audit/ research trials in your units and on your recovery/anaesthetic course. Be it quantitative, qualitative, large or small – we need to hear what you are doing. Come forward and present a research poster at conference this year – be brave – its only takes a 10 minute presentation!

A more interactive conference – many of you wanted more time for this approach (the chance for more informal open discussion – in smaller groups). We hope to facilitate this by adding a third track to our conference schedule next year which will include clinical workshops – and breakaway forum group work.

Dare I mention standards again. Only to say that we are moving ahead and we hope to have complete the drafts by early December. After that date we would like to organise an open meeting (probably Saturday morning) to present them to you – to comment – change – applaud – share – ownership – please respond to the boxed invitation in this journal – these are YOUR standards. I would add here that BARNA welcomes the Association of Anaesthetists' newly publicised document on the immediate reception of post operative cases into the recovery area. A valuable document and one that BARNA helped shape in the peer review process.

Recruit a member campaign and double our membership – Sue Acourt our new membership secretary is working hard on this... if every one member recruited another... and they in turn recruited another... think how much more we could do for this association. Don't forget to photocopy your application form and hand it round to your colleagues.

Finally we are delighted to announce to our members the formation of our sister association in Ireland – The Irish Anaesthetic and Recovery Nurses Association.

We will be there at their inaugural meeting in November – we wish them well.

Now what was my email address again? – patsmedley@hotmail.com