AN OPEN LETTER TO IRISH MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION FROM THE IRISH STANDING COMMITTEE

31 Oct 2023

ISC ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM, CONRAD HOTEL, DUBLIN, SAT 18 NOVEMBER

Dear AAGBI Member,

I have been tasked by the Irish Standing Committee (ISC), Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI), to contact you and to draw your attention to the forthcoming Annual Symposium of the Irish Standing Committee (see attached Programme).

In seeking to re-establish the former glories of Anaesthetic camaraderie, conviviality, and collegiality in this post-Covid dystopia, the ISC has decided to convene this year’s Symposium in-person only. We are meeting at the Conrad Hotel Dublin on Saturday 18 November from 08:45 onwards, to re-create the Saturday-morning-ambience of former Symposia in the Conrad and the Westbury in bygone years. There is an interesting and varied Programme (which may also trigger some controversy) and it will be of interest to both Trainees and Consultants.

Following the Closed Session dealing with Contractual and Practice Matters, we will be joined by Prof. Debbie McNamara (Incoming President, RCSI) to talk about New Ways of Working in Surgery in Ireland, with particular reference to Anaesthesia Associates (Physician Assistants), and by Dr. Richard Marks from London on why this might not be a good idea. Dr. Jan Steiner will seek to recapture the Anaesthesia Moral High Ground in the matter of Procedural Sedation, with an account of an Inquest with a finding of Medical Misadventure in respect of non-anaesthesiologist sedation and a lost airway with cardiac arrest. Finally, as the controversial subject of Assisted Dying and Doctors is currently both before an Oireachtas Committee and also the subject of a CAI Survey of Members and Fellows, Dr. David Bogod (former Editor of Anaesthesia, and a qualified UK Lawyer) will present a history of the law in this area, give his opinion on the matter, and have a response from Dr. Miriam Colleran, a HSE Palliative Care Consultant. The sessions will be followed by a light lunch.

If each of you could kindly bring the enclosed Programme to the attention of five non-member colleagues and encourage their attendance, then, as Taoiseach Albert Reynolds once famously said in his Showband days, “we could fill the hall”. The Symposium has been awarded 4 CME Points by CAI, so for HSE Consultants and CAI Trainees, the registration fees are refundable under the HSE’s CME and TSS Schemes. For non-CAI NCHDs, it is still good value for money, at €20 per CME Point, including lunch. Register on-line at www.anaesthetists.org.

Looking forward to seeing you in the Conrad on Saturday 18 November next.

Yours faithfully,

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Convenor, Irish Standing Committee, AAGBI.

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