Editorial I: Introduction

2009 BJA/PGA Supplement: a selection of eight reviews

For six decades, the PostGraduate Assembly (PGA) of the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists has continued to introduce innovative, challenging, stimulating, and mind-stretching techniques for the ongoing education of anaesthesiologists. We have broadened our horizons and now rank as the premiere international annual meeting, with more than 6000 attendees, drawing more than 30% of our total attendance from outside the USA. To keep to our commitment to provide cutting edge learning, we constantly explore new venues, creating a variety of experiences suited to the different needs of the participants. This year we have joined with the British Journal of Anaesthesia (BJA), which has the second highest Impact Factor of all anaesthetic journals, and a global distribution of more than 14 000 subscribers worldwide, to produce a special BJA/PGA supplement based on a selection of clinically relevant lectures from the PGA 63 in New York City, December 11–15, 2009. These eight selected review articles, presented by respected experts in the subspecialties of anaesthesiology and critical care, offer the reader a spectrum of clinical topics and acceptable practices. These articles will also be available on the BJA website (http://bja.oxfordjournals.org) along with the regular monthly journal content.

Drs Murkin and Arango highlight the use of cerebral oximetry as a tool to improve outcome after high-risk procedures. The utility of point-of-care coagulation testing and transfusion algorithms in the perioperative setting is covered by Drs Enriquez and Shore-Lesserson. Dr Candiotti and colleagues address the perioperative management of the triad of morbid obesity, diabetes mellitus, and obstructive sleep apnoea, conditions that continue to be on the rise globally. The feared complication of perioperative blindness is addressed by Dr Roth. As concerns about postoperative delirium and cognitive changes in the ageing population increase, Drs Deiner and Silverstein offer a review of current principles and research.

Dr Walfish and colleagues comprehensive review of maternal haemorrhage is relevant both within and beyond the obstetric unit. The review of current treatments in asthma and bronchospastic airway disease by Drs Woods and Sladen is very applicable to both anaesthesia and critical care clinicians. Finally, Dr Brodsky discusses the challenges associated with handling a difficult airway in patients undergoing surgery requiring lung separation.

It is our intent to continue to provide the international anaesthesiology community with updated knowledge and skills that will benefit you and your patients in clinical practice. We hope you enjoy this special supplement of clinically relevant reviews as an added bonus to this year’s meeting and journal.

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Editorial II: From the British Journal of Anaesthesia

On behalf of the Board of the British Journal of Anaesthesia (BJA), we are pleased to welcome this new venture with the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists (NYSSA) and their Postgraduate Assembly (PGA). With the NYSSA PGA into its sixth decade and the BJA in continuous publication since 1923, such an association is long overdue. The BJA is a monthly international journal and each year publishes clinical and laboratory studies from more than 50 countries worldwide. Around 10% of our submissions come from North America. In 2008, Prof. Hugh Hemmings became the first North American member of the Editorial team. He was appointed by the Editorial Board of the BJA to strengthen the journal’s links with the USA. The idea for this supplement arose from his appointment. The BJA, as well as publishing cutting-edge research, has a strong interest in Continuing Medical Education (CME) and each issue contains one or two review articles which have CME questions online at http://bja.oxfordjournals.org. This common ground between the NYSSA PGA and the BJA of providing high-quality clinical updates and education further strengthens our association.

We wish to congratulate the authors of these eight review articles on the excellence of their material and to thank Professors Rebecca Twersky and Hugh Hemmings for both the development of the project and their hard work to achieve it.

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