As one of the largest international gatherings of anaesthesiologists, the PostGraduate Assembly (PGA) of the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists is committed to innovative approaches to ongoing education. On the basis of its commitment to continuing learning and the success of last year’s supplement, the PGA has again joined with the British Journal of Anaesthesia (BJA) to produce a special BJA/PGA supplement based on a selection of clinically relevant lectures from PGA 64 held in New York City, December 10–14, 2010. The PGA now ranks as the premier international annual meeting with more than 6000 attendees, of whom more than 30% are from outside the USA. This collaborative international project thus represents an opportunity to enhance the educational missions of both the PGA and the BJA.

The BJA, published since 1923, has the second highest Impact Factor of all anaesthesia journals, and a global distribution to more than 14 000 subscribers in 50 countries worldwide. It is the oldest and largest independent journal of anaesthesia, and is now published in full colour with no additional cost to authors. The BJA publishes clinical and laboratory studies with around 10% (and growing) of submissions from North America. 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 that have CME questions online (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.

The 10 educational review articles for the 2010 BJA/PGA supplement, selected from the extensive programme offered at the PGA to complement recent publications in the BJA, are presented by respected experts in the subspecialties of anaesthesiology, pain, and critical care. These topical review articles offer the reader a spectrum of clinical topics and acceptable practices, and will also be available free to meeting attendees and regular subscribers on the BJA website (http://bja.oxfordjournals.org) along with the regular monthly journal content.

The following contributors to the PGA have kindly agreed to provide a detailed review of their lectures to supplement their oral presentations (the relevant lectures are indicated by the BJA logo in the PGA Program). Barash and Akhtar provide a timely review of perioperative complications related to coronary artery stenting. Ingrande and Lemmens review pharmacological and pharmacokinetic considerations relevant to the perioperative management of morbidly obese patients. Tung discusses anaesthetic considerations relevant to treating patients with metabolic syndrome characterized by truncal obesity, dyslipidaemia, insulin resistance, and hypertension. Erickson and Cole offer a review of anaesthetic considerations relevant to the evolving management of carotid artery disease including carotid artery stenting. Cambie and Wong contribute a comprehensive review of the interactions between labour analgesia and the progress of labour. Growing concerns over the impact of anaesthetic exposure during early paediatric development and current efforts to clarify this issue are highlighted by...
Three contributions highlight important developments relevant to pain and regional anaesthesia. Voscopoulos and Lema review current concepts of mechanisms contributing to the transition from acute to chronic pain. Ghisi and colleagues review approaches to the use of continuous peripheral nerve block in both ambulatory and inpatient management of perioperative pain. Jeng and colleagues provide a review of complications related to the use of peripheral nerve block techniques for regional analgesia and anaesthesia. Finally, Kilpatrick and Slinger discuss strategies to reduce acute lung injury in susceptible patients, particularly those requiring single-lung ventilation.

It is our intent to continue to provide the international anaesthesiology community with updated knowledge that will benefit you and your patients in clinical practice. We hope you again enjoy this special supplement of clinically relevant reviews as an added bonus to this year’s meeting. We wish to congratulate the authors of these 10 educational review articles on the excellence of their material and to thank all involved in the preparation of this special supplement, including the authors, Oxford University Press, and CSL Behring for their continued financial support of this project.

Conflict of interest

H.C.H. is Editor, British Journal of Anaesthesia. A.D.R. has no interests to declare. C.S.R. is Editor-in-Chief, British Journal of Anaesthesia. J.M.H. is Chairman of the Editorial Board, British Journal of Anaesthesia.

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