EDITORIAL

2013 BJA/PGA Special Issue: a selection of nine educational reviews

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The PostGraduate Assembly (PGA) of the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists is one of the largest international gatherings of anesthesiologists, and is committed to innovative approaches to ongoing education. Given this commitment to continuing learning combined with the success of prior Supplements, the PGA has again joined with the British Journal of Anaesthesia (BJA) to produce a BJA/PGA Special Issue based on a selection of clinically relevant lectures from PGA67 held in New York City, December 13–17, 2013. The PGA is the premiere 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. Again the BJA is sponsoring a Scientific Panel of international experts on a timely topic. The panel this year is on The Role of the Anesthesiologist in Perioperative Hemostasis, moderated by Kenichi Tanaka, MD, a member of the BJA Associate Editorial Board, who has also contributed a review to this Special Issue.

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. The BJA publishes clinical and laboratory studies, with around 11% of submissions from North America. Online usage is global, with more than one-third coming from North America. The BJA, in addition to 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 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.

The nine educational review articles for the 2013 BJA/PGA Special Issue, 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 Programme). There are three reviews on Clinical Practice broadly relevant to anaesthesiology. Sebranek and colleagues1 discuss the changing practice in the optimal management of diabetes mellitus and other disorders of glucose homeostasis in the perioperative period. Tanaka and colleagues2 describe advances in the treatment of perioperative coagulopathies using coagulation factor concentrates and point-of-care testing. And Kiamanesh and colleagues3 review the complex pathophysiology of hepatic disease and its implications for monitoring and treatment in anaesthesia. A review in the Cardiovascular section by Oprea and Popescu4...
provides an update on recent changes in antiplatelet therapy and its implications for anaesthetic management. Two reviews highlight Critical Care topics. Cohen and Matot discuss the current controversy regarding the effects of storage on the safety and efficacy of red blood cell transfusion. Pham and Shaz provide an update on recent changes in massive transfusion protocols. Two reviews cover topics in Regional Anaesthesia. Benzon and colleagues review the impact of advances in oral anticoagulant therapy on the practice of regional anaesthesia. Shah and Suresh discuss the increasing use of regional anaesthesia techniques in paediatric practice. And finally, in the Paediatrics section, Patino and colleagues discuss the anaesthetic implications of obstructive sleep apnoea in children.

Our goal is to provide the international anaesthesiology community with updated knowledge and skills that will benefit you and your patients in clinical practice. We hope you again enjoy this special BJA Special Issue of clinically relevant reviews as an added bonus to this year’s PGA. We wish to congratulate the authors of these excellent educational review articles, 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.

Authors’ contributions

H.C.H. wrote, edited, and approved the final version. D.W., R.M., and N.R.W. revised and approved the final version.

Declaration of interest

H.C.H. is an Editor of the BJA and an Editor of Anesthesiology. R.M. is the Editor-in-Chief of the BJA. N.R.W. is the Chairman of the BJA Board.

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References