

EAMS President's Report 2008

The last year has been busy for EAMS. It started with a very successful EAMS meeting (or EAMS contribution to Euroanaesthesia) in Munich in June 2007. EAMS provided two Refresher Course lectures for the first time. Our symposia and “workshops” were well attended and received. First suggested by Ulrich Braun, the Macewen Kirstein European Airway medal was presented to Archie Brain at the ESA award ceremony by Ulrich Braun and Peter Simpson, greatly increasing the profile of EAMS. EAMS members were active in chairing poster session.

The “pure” EAMS events were very successful. The Council meeting again allowed representatives from many countries to contribute to EAMS. A dinner, organised by Ulrich Braun, followed. Peter Simpson, President of ESA, and his wife and Archie Brain were guests. The costs of the Airway Medal and dinner were met by generous help from the Karl Storz, LMA and Phillips companies, for which we are very grateful. The General Assembly included reports by the Secretary, Treasurer and President.

The Board of EAMS met in London in November 2007, the main purpose being to make an airway programme for Euroanaesthesia in Milan in 2009.

In December 2007 Peter Biro, Flavia Petrini and Pierre Diemunsch worked hard to assess free papers on airway management for the Copenhagen meeting.

One of the principal issues of the last few years has been the relationship between EAMS and ESA. There have been many discussions, but the statements from ESA have varied. We pressed for a written agreement and, after further discussion, this was achieved. This agreement is satisfactory. ESA recognises the contribution of and independence of EAMS. The airway work in ESA and Euroanaesthesia is done by Subcommittee 19. It is perceived that members of Subcommittee 19 will almost certainly come from EAMS. This arrangement is needed by ESA as they need Committee 19 to be responsible to their management structure.

One proposal from ESA some time ago has been that EAMS could be regarded as a societal member of ESA and we recently received a document from ESA which makes further proposals. These latest proposals suggest that EAMS pays ESA substantial sums for societal membership, for holding the AGM during Euroanaesthesia and for the rooms used for the airway meetings. We regard the latter proposals as out of date and irrelevant as the airway meetings will be organised by Subcommittee 19 in the future. We have replied and await further communication from ESA.

During the ESA Scientific Programme Committee meeting in Brussels in March 2008 Jennie Hunter, the chairperson, asked us to prepare a programme for hands-on airway workshops at Euroanaesthesia meetings in the future, possibly starting at the Milan meeting in 2009. I stressed that we did not want to compete with but to complement the industry workshops and that the ESA workshops should not be on the Monday. We have submitted proposals to ESA and these will be discussed by the Scientific Programme Committee in Copenhagen in June.

Copenhagen meeting. We have another excellent airway programme for Euroanaesthesia in Copenhagen. Unfortunately we no longer have a full day in one room on the Sunday of Euroanaesthesia. EAMS has been better treated than the official ESA Subcommittees. I hope that we will have better arrangements again in the future.

Web site. Adrian Pearce has done an excellent job on the Web site and this work has now been taken on by Massimiliano Sorbello.

The official location of EAMS has been Bovenden, residence town of Ulrich Braun, since the inception of EAMS. Pierre Diemunsch has taken on the responsibility of transferring the official location to Strasbourg. There have been some problems to solve. French law about tax-free organisations requires a larger committee structure than does German law. It seems that the simplest solution is to terminate EAMS in its present iteration and recreate it in Strasbourg. Over many years Ulrich Braun has made annual reports for the German tax authorities. We are grateful for the hard work of Ulrich and Pierre.

No work has been done on mandatory reporting of airway incidents.

The support program, for the formation of national and local airway management interest groups or societies has been continued: J. Henderson and P. Biro at the 1st Difficult Airway Management Course in Serbia in Novi Sad 23-24 March 2007; P. Biro at the XV National Congress of Anesthesiology in Bulgaria, in Nessebar 4-7 October 2007; P. Biro at the 2nd Difficult Airway Management Course in Serbia in Novi Sad 28-29 March 2008. Future events already arranged are: John Henderson at an airway meeting in Albania on 28th July and participation of John Henderson, Pierre Diemunsch and Peter Biro is the EAMS Airway Session during the 21st International ISA Trienal Congress Tel Aviv 16 September 2008.

EAMS has achieved a great deal since its inception. We have remained independent from ESA but worked with it. We have give Euroanaesthesia an excellent airway programme since 2004. We have provided a forum for airway experts / enthusiasts from different European countries to meet and work together for the benefit of themselves and their patients. We have supported airway management groups with teaching in many

countries. The future will present different challenges. The Euroanaesthesia and ESA work will be done by Subcommittee 19. EAMS has supported airway meetings in Eastern European countries. However it would be good for EAMS to develop other roles. There is much to be done with workshops and guidelines in the future. It is fortuitous that Pierre Diemunsch has come forward with new proposals for workshops. These could form a template for future developments. The background is that Gilles d'Honneur, Professor in Paris, has been developing airway management courses for some years. He has proposed to develop, with EAMS, a new structure of airway management training.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Henderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the first name.

John Henderson
EAMS President