

European Society of Anaesthesiology
ESA Secretariat
24 Rue des Comediens
1000 Brussels
Belgium

9th December 2007

Dr John Henderson
President
European Airway Management Society

Dear John

The Board of the European Society of Anaesthesiology (ESA) is very aware of the need to establish a clear and unambiguous relationship between itself, its Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) and Subcommittees and Specialist Anaesthesiology Societies, who work with the ESA and may wish to become Society Members of the ESA now or in the future. In the case of the European Airway Management Society (EAMS), a collaborative and highly fruitful relationship already exists, from which both parties benefit considerably. The ESA clearly acknowledges the major part that the EAMS has played in many aspects of airway management training and evaluation, particularly in relation to our annual Euroanaesthesia meeting. Equally we accept that the EAMS wishes to retain its independence and identity outside the ESA and to hold its own AGM and sessions during Euroanaesthesia. We therefore need to agree how both Societies can work together for our mutual benefit and satisfaction.

To this end and realising the major demand for all aspects of airway management within Euroanaesthesia, the ESA's Scientific Programme

Committee (SPC) will now consist of 19 subcommittees, one of which (19), has been newly formed and is specifically dedicated to “Airway Management”. For 2008, as has happened in the past and for which the ESA is extremely grateful, subcommittee 19 will be jointly badged and will work together with EAMS, the members inevitably being largely drawn from that Society. In the future, however, the ESA needs to ensure that its subcommittee members, as acknowledged experts, can come from anywhere in Europe and beyond and that membership of EAMS or any other Society is not a pre-requisite for becoming a subcommittee member.

Not surprisingly, there is huge interest from delegates to Euroanaesthesia meetings in the airway, and this subcommittee does and will deal each year with a large number of abstracts submitted for formal presentation at Euroanaesthesia. It will also organise the scientific programme in respect of the airway – Refresher Courses, Symposia, Workshops etc. Thus the Airway subcommittee of the SPC is an integral part of the running of the ESA’s annual scientific meeting, and its members’ input is much appreciated by all members of the SPC.

The demand for workshops in relation to the “Difficult Airway” is particularly great: many, many delegates have to be turned away each year for lack of space and facility, they are so popular. In addition, it is predicted that the demand for these workshops will increase exponentially in the near future, as the range and sophistication of this equipment expands.

The ESA acknowledges that you as President of EAMS and your team have, most professionally, allowed Euroanaesthesia meetings to lead these educational developments at an international level year on year. In addition, it is our view, the ESA needs not only such professional expertise, but also the support of the more academic and research orientated industrial companies to consolidate these facilities and to develop them further. It is our hope and intention that in future years, close collaboration between the Chairman and members of Sub-committee 19 and the EAMS, as a Society member of ESA,

will allow us to develop and build upon the sound foundations which have been laid down during previous years.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Simpson'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sir Peter Simpson MD FRCA FRCP
President, European Society of Anaesthesiology