SASA Conference 2007

The Congress edition of the SAJAA is always an exciting one, as we feature a variety of articles, including the registrar submissions for the Research and Communications prize at our national SASA Congress. This year we have eight submissions, all of which have been published in the format in which they were submitted. As they are prize entries, they have not been peer reviewed, merely proof-read. We received so many contributions for this edition that we were unable to publish them all. My sincere thanks to Analee Milner who was instrumental in this exercise!

When we chose the articles for this edition, we tried to include as many areas of interest in our vast specialty as possible. Hence we have two paediatric articles, one on the common, but often difficult problem of the child with an URTI, and our vignette, which highlights the difficulties in anaesthetizing patients with King Denborough syndrome. We also look at drugs one old and one new, with a guest editorial review on an exciting new antiemetic, as well as an extensive review on one of our really “old” drugs, ketamine, and its use in cancer palliation.

For those readers with an interest in regional anaesthesia, our research article compares epidural and psoas compartment block in patients having hip replacements. And finally we are delighted to publish a guest editorial by one of the doyens of South African anaesthesia, Pat Foster (now resident in America), who has written “an intentionally unconventional article” (his words) on consciousness, and as we still don’t exactly understand how anaesthesia works, it is well worth reading.

As SASA now owns this journal, all CPD activities will be handled by the SASA office. SASA members do not need to subscribe to the journal or the CPD activities this forms part of your membership benefits. Instructions pertaining specifically to CPD will be on the CPD form in this journal. Currently CPD forms can be submitted via fax or snail mail, but as from May/June, this will be available electronically as well. In addition the journal is available electronically for SASA members (also as a membership benefit) and will also be linked to the SASA website. (The latter is not available yet). For those members wishing to access the electronic version of the journal, please contact the SASA office for the password.

As this is our congress edition, it is available to SASA members, as well as all those attending the SASA congress, many of whom do not yet belong to SASA. Hence we have included a membership form, as we would like to recruit new members to our Society. (See page 6) For those readers who are attending the Congress, enjoy the wonderful programme that Pierre Fourie and his team have organized.

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