**Dear Fellows,**

It gives me great pleasure to send you the College Newsletter. I hope this will provide a forum for greater communication between Fellows and the College and will outline the activities that are presently ongoing. The Newsletter will issue every two months and I very much welcome both feedback and contributions. We are in a time of great change and challenge and the College will be in regular contact with you by Survey, email, etc to seek your opinion, advice and ideas on how we should meet and address these challenges.

Medical Council Accreditation

Under the 2007 Medical Practitioners Act, The Medical Council now accredits all Postgraduate Training Bodies. For the Training Body itself, this has involved an extensive assessment of all aspects of our training delivery and supports by a selected group nominated by the Medical Council which was made up of International Experts and Council representatives. I am pleased to advise that following this process the group of assessors have recommended to the Professional Development Committee of the Medical Council that the College should be approved as the training body in Anaesthesia for a period of 5 years. Included with their report are a series of recommendations which we will make available to all Fellows in the coming weeks. This is good news and reflects the hard work of all involved in training (Tutors, trainees, etc) and the staff in the College.

Strategic Workshop

On the 14th and 15th October, the College held its first Strategic Workshop at the Radisson Hotel in Athlone. In attendance were Council Members, Tutors, Trainees, Deans, University representatives and College Senior Management. We focused on 4 key areas of College activity with the intention of drawing up a 3 – 5 year strategic plan. The areas were Training, Finance, Education and Governance. In the next issue, I will present an outline of what our overall strategic plan will look like and what will be the key areas of attention in the coming years.

Website

A web presence is more than just a nice looking web site with fancy graphics or flashy pictures. It is a way to connect to Fellows and trainees in an interactive way. An effective web presence will provide a way to build trust in our organisation. It allows us meet your needs and allows two-way communication. It is essential that the website reflects who we are, our qualities and our personality as a College and Training Body. With the introduction of PCS, the contact you will have with the website will increase substantially and it is therefore critical that we can ensure it fulfils what you need to access, see and do. In addition the website reflects a modern organisation with many arms to its activities. Under the direction and guidance of the Postgraduate Dean, Dr. Surgeon and our CEO, Mr. Foy, we are close to finalising a new interactive website which will be launched in early January 2012 and which will better reflect the many activities of the College and its membership. The Project is being managed by Ms. Ruth Flaherty from the Examinations Office and I know she has interacted with many of you regarding what you would like to see.

College Commercial Activities

The College facilities and our wonderful Georgian building in Merrion Square are ideally suited for other bodies to use for meetings, receptions, etc. On the 9th and 10th November we opened the College Doors to Pharmaceutical Companies, Educational Bodies and other groups who may be interested in hosting their meetings in the College. It proved to be a very successful two days and already institutions like the Royal Irish Architecture Institute (RIAI) have hosted some of their CPD lectures in the College. The additional income this will generate for the College will be used solely for educational purposes and to benefit those who are in and provide training. This area of activity in the College is being managed by Ms. Ruth Baily and Ms. Orla Doran.

Overseas activity

For many years the College has been involved in running examinations in Saudi Arabia and more recently in Oman. This activity stopped approximately 5 years ago primarily because of changes in Irish Medical Council regulations. However, in the last 12 months, we have received expressions of interest from Oman, Malaysia and Egypt to develop new contacts with the relevant Anaesthetic

bodies in each of those countries. Discussions are at a very early stage but we are exploring linkages in respect to training, education and examinations. In addition to those links we are also exploring mechanisms whereby we can develop strong and beneficial working relationships with our sister Colleges in the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. By such linkages, we can all learn and adopt best practices in many areas of our activities.

Appointments

I am pleased to advise that Dr. Bairbre Golden has been appointed as the first National Programme Director in Anaesthesia. This appointment is made jointly by the HSE and the College. This undoubtedly is a very challenging role, but I wish Bairbre well and the College will provide every support and guidance to her along the way.

PCS

Many of you have already signed up for the Professional Competence Scheme. May I remind those who have not yet done so that they must enrol and start collating their internal and external CME activities. The half year report has been submitted to the Medical Council.

Rental of College Facilities

To encourage Fellows to make use of the college’s excellent facilities, all Fellows in Good Standing are entitled to free access to Meeting Rooms by pre-arrangement. For further information

regarding availability, please contact Ms. Sinead Byrne at (01) 260615 or by email at [sbyrne@coa.ie](mailto:sbyrne@coa.ie). I hope this will encourage more of you to visit our beautiful building.

The above is very much a snapshot of current activities within the College and I am sure all will identify that it is both a busy and challenging time. I look forward to communicating with you on a regular basis and as I said in my introduction, I would also welcome feedback.

The next edition will issue in early February 2012. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and successful and happy new year.

**Dr Jeanne Moriarty, President**

**College of Anaesthetists of Ireland**

**Dates for your diary**

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| **JANUARY 2012** | |
| Wed 11th Jan | Credentials Committee Meeting |
| Thursday 12th Jan | Training Day for Examiners |
| Friday 13th Jan | Anaesthesia Emergencies Course |
| Friday 13th Jan | SpR Interviews |
| Tuesday 17th Jan | BST Interviews |
| Thursday 19th Jan | Primary MCQ Exam |
| Friday 20th Jan | MSc Strategic Health Management Module |
| Saturday 21st Jan | MSc Strategic Health Management Module |
| Thursday 26th January | Leadership Lecture |
| Fri 27th January | Council Meeting |
| Fri 27th & Sat 28th Jan | Professional in Practice MSc Module |
| Tues 31st January | Clinical Research Practice MSc Module |
| **FEBRUARY 2012** | |
| Friday 10th Feb | AAGBI Core Topics Day |
| Thurs 16th Feb | Faculty Pain Medicine  Frances Rynd Lecture at 19.00 |
| Monday 20th Feb | Vascular Access Workshop |
| Friday 24th Feb | ARREST Course |
| Friday 24th Feb | Examinations Committee Meeting |
| Friday 24th Feb | Training Committee Meeting |
| Wed 29th Feb | Finance Audit Committee Meeting |