



President's e-Newsletter DECEMBER 2025



CAI
SALUS DUM VIGILAMUS

College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland





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NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY IN ANAESTHESIA CONFERENCE

Our Winter NAPSAC meeting on November 13-14 was a triumph for our community. There was a new record attendance of 250 and two workshops were held at College the day prior to the main meeting.

Thanks to everyone who attended at the Radisson Blu, including all our trainees who presented their audit or quality improvement work. Special thanks to Aislinn Sherwin, Terry Tan, Brian McCloskey
College staff team: Louise Dent, Juliana Gonzalez, Sophie Lynch and Orna McSorley .



NAPSAC CONFERENCE

The National Annual Patient Safety in Anaesthesia Conference (NAPSAC 25), held at the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel in Dublin on 14 November 2025, was one of our most successful autumn conferences to date. The event brought together over 240 delegates for a full day of learning, reflection, and collaboration focused on advancing patient safety.

The programme was exceptionally strong, featuring outstanding presentations on emerging developments in the medical use of AI alongside important clinical updates. Highlights included an in-depth session on Local Anaesthetic Systemic Toxicity and the much-anticipated launch of NAP8.

Our keynote lecture was delivered by Dr Theresa Morris, who shared her extensive experience at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Her powerful presentation explored the development and expansion of peer-to-peer support models and their profound impact on clinician wellbeing.

The Winter Scientific Lecture was presented by Dr Debra Leung, who offered detailed insights into the structured shared decision-making programme at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne. Her talk illustrated how these frameworks can enhance patient engagement and improve clinical outcomes.

This year's KP Moore Competition was another major highlight, attracting an impressive 140 submissions—a testament to the dedication, creativity, and quality-improvement focus of trainees nationwide.

- KP Moore Prize: Dr Orna Ní Choileáin for her work on Human Reliability Analysis.
- Best Poster & Elevator Pitch Award: Dr Mathew Ferguson for Simulation for Safer Progression in Anaesthesia.

A particularly memorable moment was the presentation of the Medical Student Essay Prize by Dr Ellen Kinsella, whose thoughtful perspective resonated strongly with the audience.

Pre-conference workshops added further depth to NAPSAC 25. Dr Debra Leung led an interactive session on Shared Decision-Making, while Dr Theresa Morris facilitated a complementary workshop on Peer-to-Peer Support, reinforcing the importance of wellbeing, connection, and collegiality in anaesthesia.

The success of NAPSAC 25 was enhanced by excellent organisation, a welcoming venue, and outstanding hospitality, creating a warm and engaging atmosphere throughout the day.

Overall, NAPSAC 25 was an energising and inspiring event, reflecting our specialty's shared commitment to continually advancing patient safety.



Dr Orna Ní Choileain, Winner, KP Moore Medal.



Prof Donal Buggy presenting the winner for best poster Dr Matthew Ferguson.



Dr Brian McCloskey, Dr Theresa Morris, Dr Marie Ward, Prof Terry Tan.



Prof Terry Tan, Dr Ellen Kinsella (Medical Essay Winner from Congress), Dr Brian McCloskey.



Dr Debra Leung, Prof Donal Buggy, President CAI.



JUDICIAL REVIEW

A former NCHD is demanding that all doctors who obtain specialist registration from the Medical Council should receive our College CSCST, even though they haven't done the CAI training programme.

The sole training programme in Ireland in anaesthesiology is ours here at CAI. Only doctors completing the CAI training programme are eligible for a CSCST.

The case continues with in-person witness hearings anticipated in the spring.



PHYSICAL SPACE EVALUATION

We continue to evaluate options to expand the College space, in light of our burgeoning numbers.

Following a formal architectural feasibility study, we have to outrule extending on site at 22 Merrion Sq (architect deemed it unfeasible and exorbitantly costly) and we will not purchase a 2nd premises.

Remaining options are “sell and go” to a new and well-connected part of Dublin (e.g. The Docklands near Convention Centre or Heuston Quarter)....

Or we could just stay put in Merrion Square.....

What do you think? Send your thoughts to president@coa.ie



OUR COLLEGE'S 20 YR AFRICAN MISSION

Co-Founded by CAI Past-President Anthony Cunningham, the College of Anaesthesia of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (CANECSA) trains local doctors. CANECSA spans 12 African countries

CANECSA has a 4 yr programme to their own fellowship exam standard.

We in CAI help by training local physician examiners, being external examiners and financially supporting some promising trainees annually.

CAI also promotes training in Malawi by teaching an annual HOT course (HDU / Obstetrics / Trauma) to clinical officers (non-doctor anaesthesia service providers).

>800 clinical officers have taken our CAI HOT course since 2005.

Clare Keaveney-Jaminez, CAI SAT-5, accompanied the CAI delegation in November.



The CAI delegation had a reception at Ireland's Embassy to Malawi in Lilongwe, with Ambassador Kate Brady (3rd from right).





CHANGES TO THE TUTOR FUND

The HSE has recently transitioned to a model of 6 Regional Health Delivery areas.

The National Doctors Training Programme (NDTP) within HSE has now devolved some funding for postgraduate training to these Regions, funding that previously would have contributed to developments in postgraduate training .

CAI funding for Wellness events and training supports locally will now be channelled through these Regional Training Officers.

We will provide contact details of the HSE NDTP regional training leads as soon as they are provided to us.



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CAI'S NEW EMERGING LEADERS COURSE

ONLY FEW PLACES REMAIN

If you are a current or aspiring departmental Chair, or are engaged in getting things reformed through committees and workgroup representation, consider joining our inaugural Emerging Leaders Course.

**January 22-23, 2026 at
CAI Merrion Square.**
Great contributors

Application
form available
on request.



WE'RE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE OUR NEW INSTAGRAM PAGE, @COA_IRL!

This will be your go-to space for staying up to date with current events, news, and courses taking place in the college. Follow us to make sure you never miss an update, whether it's about upcoming programs, workshops, or important announcements.

We're committed to being more transparent in our communications and keeping everyone informed. This is just the beginning, and we know there's a lot of work ahead—but we're taking steps to make information more accessible and clear for all fellows and trainees.

Alongside Instagram, we've also launched our newly developed website, which we're building into a central hub of information. It will feature details on courses, resources for fellows and trainees, and updates on college activities. Our goal is to make it easier for you to find everything you need in one place.





GILMARTIN LECTURE 2025

Our annual Gilmartin Lecture was delivered by Mr. Ciarán O'Connor, former State Architect with the OPW. Ciarán enthralled us by recounting, with contemporaneous images, stories behind the upgrading or building of multiple well-known buildings, monuments, and public amenities, including The National Concert Hall, the Botanical Gardens and the Blasket Islands Interpretive Centre in Dún Chaoin, Co. Kerry.

Such was the level of interest among the substantial audience of Fellows and guests, that Ciarán was congratulated by many individually throughout the evening. Our

President duly presented Ciarán with his engraved Gilmartin Medal.

Our Georgian premises was resplendent with Christmas decorations throughout the house, a tribute to the imaginative preparation of Orna McSorley and Eimear Beaddie. Guests were treated to memorable carol singing on arrival and later at dinner by members of the renowned, all-male acapella choir, The Ramparts.

It was a fantastic night enjoyed by all!



Mrs Nora Buggy, Prof Donal Buggy and Mr Ciaran O'Connor, Ms Ditte Kummer.



Mr Martin McCormack, CEO, College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland, Prof Donal Buggy, President, College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland with the presenter of the Gilmartin.



Prof Donal Buggy, President, College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland introducing the presenter of the 2025 Gilmartin Lecture Mr Ciaran O'Connor.



Prof Donal Buggy presenting Mr Ciaran O'Connor with the Gilmartin lecture medal.



Dr Brian McCloskey, Mrs Paula McCloskey, Dr Aoibhin Hutchinson, Dr Simon Hutchinson



Prof Crina Burlacu, Dr Michelle Duggan, VP, College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland, Dr Deirdre McCoy and Dr Nicola Duffy.



Prof George Shorten, Dr Gabrille Iohom, Dr Emer Hearte and Prof Camillus Power.





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