

Spring/Summer 2019 Newsletter

Welcome to the BJA Research Forum newsletter for Spring and Summer 2019! This is to update you on the work of the Anaesthetic Research Society and the BJA Research Forum. Last year marked 60 years of the Anaesthetic Research Society, celebrated at our Winter Scientific Meeting in Dundee (Nov 2018) with special guest speakers and a gala dinner. The meeting was attended by many past members, committee members and presidents and with an address by Prof Hunter, reminding us of the importance of research in our specialities. The ARS and the BJA Research Forum are committed to supporting research and you can find out more about how we do this below.



Also at the Dundee meeting, Dr Rita Campos Pires from Imperial College who presented her work on xenon anaesthesia at the 2018 Spring Meeting in London was awarded the Mapleson Medal for the best overall presentation.



Round up from the Spring Scientific Meeting

The BJA Research Forum held its flagship Spring Scientific Meeting at the Royal College of Anaesthetists in London in early May 2019. The meeting had the highest attendance and greatest number of abstract submissions for many years, reflecting the health of the society. There was the usual high-quality mixture of abstract presentations and keynote speakers with researchers from the University of Edinburgh taking a clean sweep of the undergraduate awards for presenters on offer. Max Fourman (below left, overleaf) was runner up in the President's award for undergrad research with Jonathan Owen (below right) taking the top prize.



The bar for abstracts was high again this year with the abstract submissions significantly out-numbering the presentation slots. Shortlisted abstracts that were presented and successfully defended against keen questioning from the audience will be published in the *British Journal of Anaesthesia*, as is usual for our meetings. Abstracts were presented by front-line clinicians, academic staff, students, trainees, Regional Trainee Research Groups and RAFT.

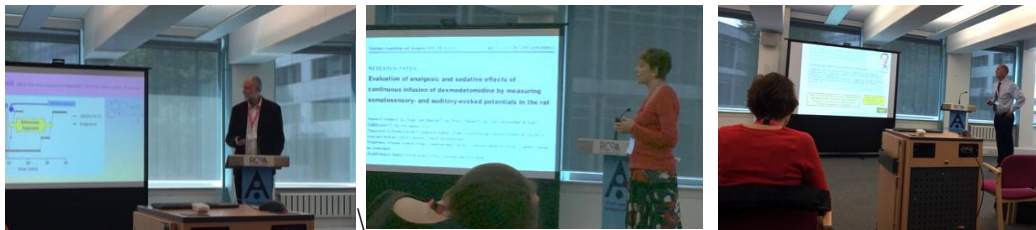


The meeting was an opportunity to present the prestigious Mapleson Medal for the best overall presentation at previous meetings. Here, Dr Gareth Hughes from Manchester (left) receives his medal from the ARS President, Professor Helen Galley for his presentation in Dundee on circadian regulation, pneumococcal pneumonia and macrophage function.



Two Hughes medals for the best student presentations were awarded to Emma Murphy (left) for her presentation at the Spring meeting in London 2018 and to Shafeer Rishad (right) for his presentation at the Winter meeting in Dundee. Both students were from the University of Glasgow.

This Spring's **BJA Symposia** saw fascinating and varied talks from some of the country's top researchers, including an international presentation from **Prof Jamie Sleigh** (left) from the University of Auckland in New Zealand. Prof Sleigh discussed new ketamine ester analogues which offer the promise of ketamine analgesia without the side effects. We changed track to hear about dexmedetomidine in anaesthesia and pain practice, but from the perspective of **Dr Jo Murrell** (centre) from the University of Bristol, who specializes in large animal veterinary anaesthesia. Those who heard this talk will never complain about having to anaesthetize oversized patients ever again! Completing the trio of speakers on novel anaesthetic agents was **Rob Sneyd** (right), Dean and Professor Emeritus of Anaesthesia at the University of Plymouth. Rob invited us to take another look at benzodiazepine general anaesthesia with a look at relevant pharmacological agents past, present and future.



As usual for our meetings, **Prof Judith Stephenson** from UCL presented something completely different to the main programme, describing a number of 'female firsts' from the alumni of UCL. These pioneering women had achieved some extraordinary feats and their achievements had been commemorated by a yearlong program at UCL, promoting gender equality.

Next Meeting: BJA Research Forum Winter Scientific Meeting, York

The next meeting will be in collaboration with the National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia (NIAA) and the Health Services Research Centre (HSRC), encompassing experimental and discovery medicine. As usual, there will be plenary sessions with keynote speakers with the popular BJA Symposia sessions continuing. There will be plenty of opportunity to present and defend abstract presentations on a wide variety of topics in the usual format of 8 minutes presentation and 7 minutes of questioning from the audience. However the format of the meeting means that there will be fewer presentation slots for the ARS than usual -so submit your abstracts early!

This meeting will be slightly different though, with parallel and complementary themed sessions running with the NIAA and HSRC, bringing fantastic opportunities for researchers and clinicians to interact, discuss, critique and collaborate on projects relevant to all. There will of course be a social programme! The meeting will be held right next to York station at the **Principal Hotel** on the 2nd and 3rd December 2019 (<https://www.ihg.com/spnd/hotels/gb/en/york/yorpy/hoteldetail>). For this meeting registration will be via the RCoA website <https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/education-and-events/anaesthesia-research-2019> and not through the ARS. **Abstracts should still be submitted at www.ars.ac.uk as usual.**

BJA Research Forum Winter Scientific Meeting NIAA / HSRC Experimental & Discovery Medicine 2nd & 3rd December 2019, Principal Hotel, York

*Keynote speakers
Abstract presentation
Latest research*



Further details will be announced soon. Keep an eye on the ARS website (www.ars.ac.uk), the College website (www.rcoa.ac.uk) and why not sign up to follow our Twitter feed so you always have the latest news and deadlines for these prestigious meetings: [@BJA_Research](https://twitter.com/BJA_Research).

Abstracts are invited that describe work relevant to Anaesthesia and the related disciplines of Peri-operative Medicine, Pain Medicine and Intensive Care Medicine. Students, clinicians and experienced researchers and research teams are welcome to submit abstracts, which will be competitively screened against the criteria detailed on the website (www.ars.ac.uk).

What is the BJA Research Forum?

This forum is a partnership between the British Journal of Anaesthesia and the Anaesthetic Research Society who joined forces to deliver twice yearly meetings with presentation of recent research and keynote lectures. We aim to facilitate high quality scientific meetings with a focus on current research from anaesthesia and its related disciplines. Meetings have both themed and open abstract submissions and there is a commitment from university academic departments, journal editorial teams and key academics to attend. The meetings allow junior and senior presenters alike to discuss their work and collaborate and will build on international links to key individuals and societies. The BJA Research Forum is open to all and we offer reduced registration fees for different levels of staff and students.

The forum has a membership, through the Anaesthetic Research Society. Members are kept up to date with UK Research highlights and news and receive preferential rates for our meetings. Updates will be provided by [Twitter](https://twitter.com/BJA_Research) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BJA_Research) and you can find us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/BJA_Research) by clicking the icon at the top of this page.

ARS membership and BJA Research Forum meeting registration

You can join the Anaesthetic Research Society at any BJA Research Forum meeting or online at www.ars.ac.uk. Non-members who have paid the full fee for a meeting will have their first year's membership fee waived and receive the same benefits as current members. Membership is £30 per year and offers regular newsletters and updates on Research, Grants and opportunities within UK Anaesthetic Research. Members will receive preferential rates for all future meetings.

Anaesthetic Research Society Committee

Details of the ARS committee can be found on the website. If you want to get involved in the ARS and the BJA Research Forum, please contact one of the council members via the links on the website or by social media. We currently have vacancies for committee members so please get in touch if you want to find out more: anaestheticresearchsociety@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming you to York!