

# CHAIR'S LETTER

It is with great pleasure and pride that I introduce myself as your new chairman. I have been working in various roles on the committee now for 10 years so to many members I need no introduction. Ten years has seen BARNA grow and develop due to the efforts of a very hard working committee and in particular to such natural leaders as Rose Gulley and Mark Radford. We now have an excellent journal, which I know will go from strength to strength in the very capable hands of Melanie Oakley. This year's conference has been organised by Fitwise for the first time. Our liaison with this commercial management company has been crucial in enabling the committee to put together an excellent conference programme fully supported by a flourishing commercial exhibition. Fitwise will now also take over the preparation and distribution of the journal. You as members will I am sure, note the improvement in this service.

Much has been achieved but I am very aware of the challenges implicit in leading this association in such fast moving, exciting times. Of one thing I am assured. No company can afford any longer to be complacent or appear 'amateur'. Conscious of this fact, I will work very hard to ensure that BARNA truly reflect the interests of our members. I believe that it is not enough to hold an annual conference and produce four journals a year. We must offer more. With this in mind, we are working hard to produce national standards for anaesthetic and recovery nursing. This has been a long-term goal for the association. The sharp focus on quality brought about by clinical governance

has made this even more imperative. We will present our standards project to date at conference.

The clinical focus at conference this year will be familiar to BARNA members. In the past BARNA has always supplied clinical theory essential to underpin members' practice particularly in the recovery domain when there were few designated recovery courses for the novice or advanced practitioner. This situation is rapidly changing. Degree courses for the perioperative practitioner will soon be common place offering tremendous scope for advanced practice either in anaesthetics or recovery. My longer-term goal is to develop BARNA's role in producing educational material to assist in the education of practitioners from novice to expert.

How do I qualify to understand the needs of the association and develop it? Well, I have worked within the recovery, general and intensive care settings both within the UK (seven years as a recovery sister) and abroad (Switzerland, Sultanate of Oman and the United States). Prior to nursing, I completed a degree in history (I am now studying for a diploma in the history of medicine) and taught for two years. I gained my Masters Degree in Nursing in 1995. I believe this varied career path gives me a broad experience on which to base my ideas. I strongly believe in this Association and its work in promoting Anaesthetic and Recovery nursing. I look forward very much to an exciting conference and the chance to meet as many delegates as possible.



Pat Smedley

## BARNA Conference 2002

Clarendon Suites

Hagley Road Edgbaston

Birmingham

United Kingdom

25-26 June 2002

For an application form contact Jo at Fitwise

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