

Editor's Preface

The Association of Anaesthetists of Malta is now four years old and is again organising its annual conference and publishing its journal the Acta Anaesthesiologica Melitensia. The Czech Association of Anaesthetists is participating in this conference. This joint effort is an attempt to break down the barriers of insularity that are common to a small island and its medical community. This paralysing inferiority complex has got to be defeated. Anaesthesia as practiced at the St. Luke's Hospital Complex is of a high standard comparable with that obtainable anywhere in the world – in apparatus, in drugs and in qualified anaesthetic personnel.

The Association of Anaesthetists is also active in the Paediatric section of the European branch of the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists and is appointed to sit on the panel of the First International Congress of Paediatric Anaesthesia being held in Holland in 1986.

The Association is already preparing for the fourth annual conference which will be held on the 15th August 1986, the height of summer, in an effort to attract more foreign participants who will combine a scientific one day session with their annual holiday.

The association is conscious of the role a nurse anaesthetist plays in the Anaesthetic department and is always requesting more state registered nurses to train in the speciality. One nurse anaesthetist Miss Grace Schembri N.O. was sent for further training in Messina Sicily, during this year.

The Association feels the need to attract more young doctors to choose the speciality as a career and is for the first time offering a monetary prize to the student who obtains the best marks in anaesthesia during the fourth year of medical studies.

The Association welcomes four young doctors who have chosen Anaesthesia and ITU as a speciality. These are: Dr. Marie Therese Licari, Dr. A. Padovani, Dr. M. Sammut and Dr. A. Sultana.

The University of Malta conscious of the new role of post graduate training in Anaesthesia run jointly with the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium has raised the speciality to the level of a Faculty with three lecturers and an extended programme for undergraduate and post graduate studies. This trend is common in many modern medical schools where post graduate degrees in Anaesthesia are granted.

A further development projected for next year is the setting up of a Pain Clinic. This will broaden the scope of the Acupuncture Clinic ably run by the Chinese doctors. The pain clinic will be mostly for the benefit of patients suffering from chronic pain whether due to a benign or malignant condition. This development will fulfil the desire of anaesthetists to be involved in Primary Health Care – a referral clinic on a par with other specialities.

December 1985
St Luke's Hospital
Malta.

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