



## **AUT LIAISON REPORT – AGM 2010**

2010 has been an interesting and busy year. A number of projects have been completed as follows:

### **National Assessments**

In May this a year a group of senior technicians from throughout the country were invited to attend an all day meeting to review the AUT National Assessments. Together with Wendy Emson, Programme Leader for the Diploma in Applied Sciences (Anaesthetic Technology) the goal was to ensure the continued validity of the national machine check auditing process and the maintenance of a national machine check standard against which all trainees are assessed. The meeting was successful and agreement obtained on key issues. A set of guidelines have been written for all interested parties to promote a good standard of administration and fair examining.

### **Machine Check Guidelines**

The original 'Aestiva Made Easy' document, upon which so many trainees depend for learning their machine check, was first released in 2003. In recent years, feedback from biomedical engineers, the manufacturer and the NZATS registration examiners has generated a review of this set of guidelines. The resulting machine check guidelines for both the Aestiva and Aespire have a number of minor but significant changes. These documents have now been formally incorporated into the standards of practice by the NZATS with the approval of both the ANZCA and NZSA representatives. Agreement on a national standard for ADUs and Aisys machines is in progress. The new guidelines will be in use from 2011 onwards.

As a result of these changes, the NZATS has also produced a video of a trainee performing the new machine check on an Aestiva (currently 80% of training hospitals use the Aestiva). This can be accessed on the NZATS website and should prove to be an invaluable teaching tool for hospitals. NZATS would like to thank Nicola Smith-Guerin for leading this block of work and the trainee - Kina Gustavsson - for her very professional contribution to the training video.

### **Anaesthesia III**

The final updates to the pharmacology section were completed in June this year with the support of Consultant Anaesthetists from three major teaching hospitals. Similarly, the addition of the co-existing diseases section was ready in time for the 2010 run. Thank you to Daneby Liddell and Vince Ellis for their input into this section. Informal feedback to AUT has been positive to date on both sections. We look forward to getting more formal feedback in due course when AUT complete their end-of-year report.

### **New appointment – Diploma Administrator, AUT**

AUT have trialled a new administrative position this year which was taken by Kirsten Hansen. Kirsten is an NZ trained AT and we are fortunate that she brings this expertise to her role. Her impact has been significant particularly in improving communication between AUT and training hospitals. Many of you will have noticed that she has sought your feedback on a number of issues which are important to you. Kirsten also has plans to review the Work Place Assessor's course next year ensuring that WPAs are taught appropriate clinical assessment skills.

### **Other issues**

Trainees are continuing to feel the pressure of producing a high standard of written academic work. The leniency shown in the past is disappearing due in part to the impact that has been seen with electronic media and the ease of 'copy and paste'. Training hospitals can expect to see a much harder line taken by AUT in the future – especially with regard to referencing of work. NZATS recommend that all training hospitals make provision for teaching academic writing skills as part of their study programmes, if they have not already done so. Information to assist with this is available on AUT Online.

### **Future Plans**

AUT are still hopeful that our qualification will be delivered at degree level. Diploma courses are becoming a rare breed in universities with a number of courses being culled this year. AUT will watch with interest as we discuss our scope of practice in the light of our pending registration. They wish to continue to work with the NZATS in the generation of a new, higher level qualification if it is deemed necessary.

**Finally**

As I am now handing over this role, I wish to acknowledge my employer Auckland District Health Board and my manager Wendy Guthrie. The commitment to carry out the duties of this role is not insignificant I thank them for their support of the NZATS in allowing me work on some of these projects on ADHB time.