

RCoA Research, Education & Travel Grants 2015

Award: The Stanley Rowbotham Fund

Applicant: Dr Matthew Morgan

Project Title: The ghost in the machine: anaesthesia software yesterday, today, and tomorrow. To support the research, writing, publication, and presentation of this topic at the World Congress of Anaesthesia in Hong Kong, 2016

Project Description:

As a senior anaesthesia trainee, I have developed a number of “medical apps” for use in anaesthesia, used by over 50,000 people globally. However, regulation of medical apps is quickly becoming a major issue and is likely to have a deep impact on both doctors and patients. This has been recognized by the World Congress in Anaesthesia who have kindly asked me to put these emerging issues in context by presenting an overview of anaesthesia software past, present, and future during the 2016 conference in Hong Kong. Although the conference fees are waived for speakers, I will be unable to cover the costs of travel without support from a grant of this nature.

This opportunity to present at the biggest international anaesthesia conference is hugely important for my personal and professional development. In addition, the process of developing the evidence base used in my talk will be important for the Royal College of Anaesthetists, their members and ultimately patients. Furthermore, delivering this talk will fulfil the vision of the National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia by promoting its academic profile within the global research community through this influential topic in an emerging, unexplored field.

My aims for this project are clear:

1. Research the development of software in anaesthesia through collaboration with medical history experts (including Dr. Wulf Stratling), national bodies (including the Society for Computing and Technology in Anaesthesia), and the global anaesthesia community.
2. Form the basis of research evidence in this topic by production of a review article outlining the past, present and future of anaesthesia software to be published in a peer reviewed journal.
3. Use this research to form the basis for my invited talk at the 2016 World Congress of Anaesthesia in Hong Kong. Subsequently, the topic will be disseminated through free open access medical education routes and I would be delighted to talk at any NIAA/Royal College events in the future.

The one year timescale to this project will allow my final year of anaesthesia training to be completed whilst structuring time to allow the research, writing and preparation of this topic under the supervision of a leading medical history expert, Dr Wulf Stratling.

I hope that the Sargent Fund and the Stanley Rowbotham Fund will be able to support this educational opportunity that will benefit not only my own development but importantly academic innovation in anaesthesia and ultimately promote safe patient care in the future through the use of technology.