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Dear All,

My name is Mark Burtonwood – I'm one of the Consultant Anaesthetists in Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend and I organise the All Wales Anaesthetic Basic Sciences Teaching programme (AWABS).

This is a teaching programme aimed at Primary FRCA exam preparation. The programme started approximately 10 years ago as the South Wales Anaesthetic Basic Sciences Teaching (SWABS) but has this year become an all-Wales affair via TEAMS. For the foreseeable future the delivery of this teaching will stay as TEAMS only but in the not too distant future we hope to make it a face to face teaching programme for those local to the hosting hospital. The format of the teaching programme is a half-day session every 2 weeks with breaks for Christmas, Easter and the Summer. Each Anaesthetic department in Wales will run 2 sessions over the 12 months covering the bulk of the Primary FRCA syllabus. Invitations for the sessions will be sent out via HEIW to all Core anaesthetics (and to anaesthetic ACCS) trainees well in advance with an attached itinerary. If you are on leave or unable to make the sessions (or for revision purposes further down the line) these talks will be uploaded onto the Welsh School of Anaesthesia website.

We fully appreciate a lot of the content will be new and very theoretical. It is not our intention to make these sessions daunting or to overwhelm you with information but we hope to expose you to the theory and sciences underpinning anaesthesia at an early stage. This will hopefully stand you in good stead for sitting the Primary FRCA during your Stage 1 training. It is also hoped that by delivering this teaching nationally it allows your department to deliver more clinical teaching at a local level.

As you can image, a huge amount of effort is put in by individual consultants and departments to deliver this teaching programme for you. It is something that we enjoy doing and feel is an important part of our role as Consultants. What we would ask in return is that you all take the time to complete the feedback forms after the sessions so that we can continue to deliver high quality teaching!

Should you have queries regarding the teaching programme or wish to get in touch please email me at mark.burtonwood@wales.nhs.uk

I hope you all find these teaching sessions useful and wish you every success in your new Anaesthetic career!

Mark

