



WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

520 N. Northwest Highway • Park Ridge, Illinois 60068-2573 • Telephone: (847) 825-5586,

Fax: (847) 825-1692,

E-mail: wlm@ASAhq.org

Contact:

Doris K. Cope, M.D.
Chair, Laureate Committee
Wood Library-Museum
520 N. Northwest Highway
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068-2573
USA
Phone: 847-825-5586
Fax: 847-825-1692
E-mail: copek@upmc.edu

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Wood Library-Museum, Park Ridge, Illinois, USA) – The 2008 Wood Library-Museum Laureate Historian of Anesthesia was elected on Tuesday, October 16, 2007. David J. Wilkinson, MB BS, FRCA., was named the 2008 Laureate just prior to the Lewis H. Wright Memorial Lecture at the American Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California. Investiture will occur at the ASA 2008 Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida.

The Laureate of Anesthesia program, established in 1994, has as its purpose increased recognition of the richness and importance of the history of the specialty by recognizing the work of scholars who have made singular contributions to the field. The honor is awarded every four years by the WLM Laureate Committee to an individual who has a demonstrable record of contributing over the years outstanding, original materials related to the history of our specialty as reflected by articles published in peer-reviewed journals, and/or in monographs. The first Laureate, Dr. Gwenifer Wilson of Sydney, Australia, was honored in 1996. The second Co-Laureates were Norman A. Bergman, M.D, FRCA., and Thomas B. Boulton, M.D, Ch. B, FRCA in 2000. The third Laureate was Donald Caton, M.D in 2004.

Dr. David Wilkinson has published two books, 17 book chapters, 43 peer-reviewed articles, 19 non-peer-reviewed articles, as well as nine posters, three booklets on the history of Anesthesia. His book chapter “The History of Trauma Anesthesia” published in Textbook of Trauma Anesthesia and Critical Care in 1993 is the definitive treatise to date on the topic. Dr. Wilkinson has arranged a variety of audiovisual projects focusing on the history of Anesthesia including 38 such presentations. In 1991, he won a British Medical Association film award for his “Some Things Never Change” video.

Dr. David Wilkinson is well known in anesthesia history throughout the world, not only through his numerous publications but also as a speaker. As the 2002 Lewis H. Wright Memorial Lecturer, he spoke on “Bart’s Books, the Blues, and Beyond: The Story of Christopher Langton Hewer”. Dr. Wilkinson has given over 200 presentations including at least six eponymous lectures on the history of Anaesthesia. He has been the organizer of the History sections at the WFSA World Congress for the last 16 years.

The Laureate was elected by an international panel of judges who are known historians and active contributors to the history of medicine.

