

# NZSA New Zealand Anaesthesia Magazine

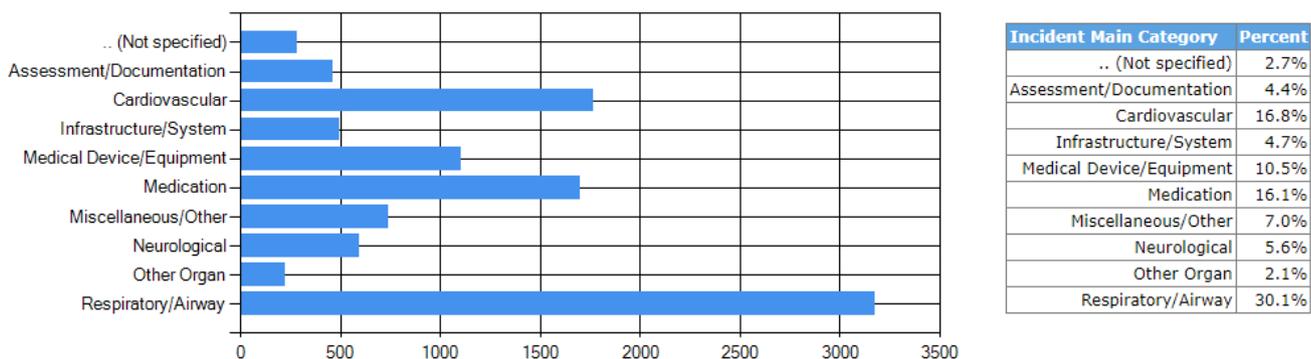
## WebAIRS News – Reflections of 2021

In common with all walks of life, 2021 has posed challenges for webAIRS and ANZTADC. The New Zealand Anaesthesia ASM in Christchurch was changed to a virtual format following a COVID outbreak, due to lockdown restrictions affecting international travel just before the meeting. Unfortunately, the session where webAIRS data was to be presented was cancelled because it was a closed session to the public and involved live questions and answers involving patient data.

Incident reporting continues to be strong, with over 9000 reports submitted.

### WebAIRS Data Dashboard - from 2009 onwards

Numbers of incidents reported by main category



The above screenshot of the webAIRS Dashboard shows the breakdown of the main categories for the 9318 incident reports submitted up to 6 November 2021.

Respiratory and Airway events were the most common types of incidents, forming 30.1% of all reports. This was followed by Cardiovascular (16.8%), Medication (16.1%) and Medical Devices and Equipment (10.5%). As noted in June, we now have many reports relating to topics that have rarely been analysed in the past, such as Assessment and Documentation (4.4%), Infrastructure/System (4.7%), Neurological (5.6%) and Other Organ (2.1%). Although the percentages are low with the latter groups, each 1% now corresponds to approximately 93 reports.

In addition, there are currently 49 incidents reported where the treating anaesthetist mentioned 'COVID'. On a first review, many of these involve issues relating to personal protective equipment (PPE), difficulties with precautions required, or equipment, rather than the patient directly. The analysis team will analyse these incidents in more detail shortly. It is anticipated that the potential opening of interstate borders will increase the number of COVID positive patients requiring anaesthetic care and an increase in reports to webAIRS. WebAIRS has created a COVID specific data collection page, and colleagues across the country are encouraged to report COVID related incidents.

A list of magazine articles published by ANZTADC during 2021, either relating to the main incident categories above, case series, or case reports is available on the webAIRS website in the public area under the green menu button labelled 'News'.

WebAIRS data was presented at the following national and international meetings in 2021: The ANZCA ASM and the Airway SIG meeting in Melbourne, the ASA NSC in Brisbane, the ASA (USA) meeting in San Diego, the All India Difficult Airway Association (AIDAA) meeting in India, and the Difficult Airway Society (DAS) meeting in the UK. Due to the COVID pandemic, webAIRS sessions were by necessity all virtual presentations, even if some of the conferences such as the Aotearoa New Zealand annual meeting 2021 in Christchurch, had some face-to-face sessions for local delegates. Details are available on the webAIRS website under 'Events'.

WebAIRS has published five papers in 2021.

Iatrogenic uvular injury related to airway instrumentation: A report of 13 cases from the webAIRS database and a review of uvular necrosis following inadvertent uvular injury. Bright MR, Concha Blamey SI, Beckmann LA, Culwick MD. *Anaesthesia and Intensive Care*. 2021;49(2):133-139. doi:10.1177/0310057X20982623.

A Proposed System for Standardization of Color-Coding Stages of Escalating Criticality in Clinical Incidents. Stavros Prineas, Martin Culwick, Yasmin Endlich, *Current Opinion in Anesthesiology*, Online First Oct 2021.

Medication errors during Anaesthesia. Jee-Young Kim, Matthew Moore, Martin Culwick, Jacqueline Hannam, Craig Webster and Alan Merry – In press 2021.

The use of Sugammadex in critical events in Anaesthesia – A retrospective review of the webAIRS database. Dr Benjamin L Olesnicky, Dr Rosie Trumper, Dr Vanessa Chen, Dr Martin Culwick – In press 2021.

A cross-sectional overview of the second 4,000 incidents reported to webAIRS, a de-identified web-based anaesthesia incident reporting system in Australia and New Zealand. Neville. M. Gibbs, Martin Culwick, Yasmin Endlich, Alan. F. Merry – In Press 2021

The list of journal publications by webAIRS has grown to 25, with the latest articles listed above. These are available by selecting 'Publications' using the green button on the home page. One of the papers published in 2020, 'Difficult and failed intubation in the first 4000 incidents reported on webAIRS' by Yasmin Endlich, Julie Lee and Martin Culwick, was a joint winner of the Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Jeanette Thirlwell Best Paper Award for 2020.

A new initiative was trialled in late October 2021. This was an online Morbidity and Mortality Workshop using Zoom and hosted by Dr Suzi Nou. It is hoped that these will be run regularly in 2022, with the topics and critical discussion points summarised into magazine articles for the NZSA, ANZCA and the ASA. We thank Suzi for her input as ASA President (2019-21) and welcome her ongoing interest and input into webAIRS and ANZTADC.



Professor Alan Merry (ANZTADC 2006-21, Chair 2006-2014)



Dr Graham Sharpe (2006-7) NZSA President



Dr Michal Kluger (ANZTADC 2006-11) NZSA Representative

Ms Phillipa Bascand (2006-13) NZSA Executive Officer (photograph not available).

At the last ANZTADC meeting for 2021 in November this year, Professor Alan Merry retired from the Committee after 15 years of service. Around 2005, following the findings of the ANZCA Safety and the ANZCA data taskforces, it was decided to form a tripartite committee, which would re-establish an anaesthetic craft group, bi-national incident reporting system in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia. The Committee was named the Australian and New Zealand Tripartite Anaesthetic Data Committee (ANZTADC). The mission of ANZTADC was to improve the safety and quality of anaesthesia for patients in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia by providing an enduring capability to capture, analyse and disseminate information about incidents (de-identified) relative to the safety and quality of anaesthesia in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia. After much negotiation, it was around June 2006 that the three Presidents at the time, the NZSA President Dr Graham Sharpe, Dr Wally Thompson of ANZCA, and Dr Gregory Deacon of the ASA signed a Memorandum of Understanding which was the formation of ANZTADC.

The first meeting was held in September 2006 with Professor Alan Merry as the inaugural Chair, and attended by the NZSA founding members (photos shown above) and founding members from ANZCA and the ASA. Since then Alan and Michal have both contributed substantially to the establishment of webAIRS, presentations that included

webAIRS data, the recent analysis of the data, and publication of the results in peer reviewed journals. Ms Cherie Wilkinson was the inaugural ANZTADC Executive Officer. Dr Martin Culwick was appointed Medical Director of ANZTADC in November 2007 and contributed to the design and programming of the webAIRS website. In May 2010 Dr Heather Reynolds was appointed as the ANZTADC Data Analyst. ANZCA and ASA committee members will be listed in the December 2021 editions of the ANZCA Bulletin and the ASA Australian Anaesthetist magazines, respectively. All of the founding members from all three organisations have worked hard and succeeded in re-establishing a craft group specific anaesthetic incident reporting system in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia.

The other ANZTADC Committee members representing the NZSA, in addition to the founding members listed above, have been Dr Andrew Warmington (2008-9) NZSA President, Dr Nigel Waters (2009-10) NZSA President, Dr Robert Carpenter (2010-13) NZSA President, Dr Russell Rarity (2012-Current) NZSA Representative, Ms Renu Borst (2013-20) NZSA Executive Officer, Dr Ted Hughes (2013-15) NZSA President, Dr David Kibblewhite (2015-18) NZSA President, Dr Kathryn Hagen (2018-20) NZSA President, Dr Sheila Hart (2020-Current) NZSA President and Ms Michele Thomas (2021-Current) NZSA Executive Officer. Dr Yasmin Endlich has been elected as the new Chair of the Publications Group from September 2021, following Professor Alan Merry's retirement. We apologise if we have omitted any members who filled in at various meetings for other members or for members who served for less than a year. We also thank the many guests at our meetings over the years who have provided their expertise and advice.

Under the guidance of Alan, ANZTADC members have made great contributions to incident reporting and patient safety during their time with the Committee. He chaired the Committee from 2006 to 2013 and has chaired the ANZTADC Publications Group from 2013 to 2021. Committee members and webAIRS registered users have strongly contributed to the success of webAIRS with the progression from collecting a substantial number of reports, to the numerous publications which are listed on the website. ANZTADC has published peer reviewed articles since 2011 and currently has 25 publications, three of which are currently in press. These can be viewed from links on the webAIRS website.

Professor Alan Merry has also made significant national and international contributions to patient safety with a focus on medication error. Alan has recently published a book titled Medication Safety during Anesthesia and the Perioperative Period in conjunction with Professor Joyce Wahr (University of Minnesota). Alan has an extensive list of contributions to all facets of Anaesthesia and Medicine that are too sizeable to list in this article. These include the Lifebox Foundation which provides pulse oximeters to lower income regions of the world and contributions to the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists. These achievements and many others, as well as the people who collaborated, were described by Alan in the Inaugural Alan Merry Oration given in 2019 at the AQUA meeting in Queenstown in 2019. This oration will be given annually at the Aotearoa New Zealand Anaesthesia Annual Scientific meeting. An extract was published in the September 2019 edition of the ANZCA Bulletin and is available on the ANZCA website. We wish Alan many pleasurable moments pursuing his hobbies in retirement, which include snow skiing, golf and sailing.

The ANZTADC Committee thanks Alan and all past committee members for their contributions. We thank all of the founding members for setting up ANZTADC and creating webAIRS. We also thank all the webAIRS members and webAIRS sites for submitting over 9000 reports which has made possible the numerous publications and presentations listed above.

ANZTADC Case Report Writing Group

Are you contributing to quality anaesthesia? Login in or register [ANZTADC Home Page for WebAIRS](#)

[For further enquiries contact anztadc@anzca.edu.au](mailto:anztadc@anzca.edu.au)