

HAS 2026 Scientific Programme

Wednesday 20th May 2026: The Lincoln Hotel

(Speakers denoted by asterisk *)

0800 - 0825 Registration / tea and coffee

0825 – 0830 President's welcome and opening remarks

Peter Featherstone*

0830 – 1010

Session 1: Chair: Peter Featherstone

0830– 0855

Someone had to stay: Work, vigilance, and the making of anaesthesia

Runil Shah*

0855– 0920

Watching the patient, watching the monitor: The development of monitoring in anaesthesia

Zoe Andrews*

0920 – 0945

The flying death: How the indigenous poison of curare redefined consciousness, paralysis and safety

Imogen Vorley*

0945 – 1010

From pain to progress, suffering to safety and midwives to modern medicine: How anaesthesia transformed childbirth

Suraya Ab Razak*

1010 – 1035 TEA/COFFEE

1035 –1215

Session 2: Chair: Ann Ferguson

1035 – 1100

Animal magnetism to hypnosis, a history of an early competitor to anaesthesia

Chloe Ablett* and Benjamin Kidner*

1100 – 1125

Not a laughing matter: Nitrous oxide, past and present

Manas Soni*

1125 – 1150

Ticknor to Edgeworth: An early letter referring to etherisation sent from Boston, Massachusetts, to Ireland

Declan Warde* and Rajesh Haridas

1150 – 1215

Hedonal: The anaesthetic that time forgot

Andrew Burch*

1215 – 1300 LUNCH

1300 – 1440

Session 3: Chair: John Pring

1300 – 1325

Steel, snow and sedation: Perioperative care in the armies of the ancient world

Tom Kelly*

1325 – 1350

World War I (1914-1918) – a “catalyst” for innovation in medicine?

Reassessing the evidence on reconstructive surgery, its interactions with anaesthesia and the narratives concerning Harold Delf Gillies (1882 – 1960)

Meinolfus Wulf Strätling*

1350 – 1415

From brilliant white to Eyerest Green: A brief history of colour in the operating theatre

Peter Featherstone*

1415 – 1440

Borrowed breaths: Anaesthesia for cross circulation cardiac surgery

Shannon Gawley* and Samuel Besant*

1440 - 1505 TEA/COFFEE

1505 – 1620

Session 4: Chair: Rachel Wood

1505 – 1530

Tracheostomy: A barbaric past now routine lifeline

Safiah Iqbal*

1530 – 1555

Metallurgy in anaesthetic practice

Alessia Pannese*

1555 – 1620

Henry Torrance Thomson (1868 – 1944): Pioneer of intratracheal and continuous flow anaesthesia in Scotland

Alistair McKenzie*

1625 – 1725 HAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1900 – 2300 PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION AND ANNUAL DINNER

Thursday 21st May 2026: The Lincoln Hotel

(Speakers denoted by asterisk *)

0800 - 0830 Registration / tea and coffee

0830 – 1010

Session 5: Chair: Declan Warde

0830– 0855

Something borrowed: 150 years of methylene blue

Myles Woodman* and Paige Mitson

0855– 0920

A forgotten cousin? The discovery and rediscovery of vasopressin

Paige Mitson* and Myles Woodman

0920 – 0945

It's getting hot in here: The history of fever and therapeutic temperature management in medicine

Dawnya Behiyat*

0945 – 1010

Tummy time

Ana Nomani*

1010 – 1035 TEA/COFFEE

1035 –1215

Session 6: Chair: Marten van Wijhe

1035 – 1100

Racism and anaesthesia: Inextricably interlinked from origins to outcomes

Rakhshanda Mackay*

1100 – 1125

The headache that made history: August Bier and the first spinal anaesthetic

Rosy Dunham*

1125 – 1150

Laughter to legislation: Nitrous oxide - no laughing matter

Janet Pickles*

1150 – 1215

The Dublin Anaesthetists Travelling Club, 1958-1995

John McCarthy and Joseph Tracey*

1215 – 1300 LUNCH

1300 – 1440

Session 7: Chair: Neil Adams

1300 – 1325

Taking your breath away: The use of paralytic agents through history

Jessica Foulkes*

1325 – 1350

Reversing anaesthesia: Historical perspectives on emergence and the development of post-operative care

Michael Mak*

1350 – 1415

Her request is sufficient: From witchcraft to autonomy in obstetric anaesthesia

Havish Samudrala*

1415 – 1440

Twilight sleep: a revolutionary dream or a medical nightmare?

Maeve McLaughlin*

1440 - 1505 TEA/COFFEE

1505 – 1620

Session 8: Chair: Duncan Mitchell

1505 – 1530

A lion in Lincolnshire

David Wilkinson*

1530 – 1555

The Dutch anaesthesia literature trail

Marten van Wijhe*

1555 – 1620

Anaesthesia in the Thailand cave rescue

Deborah Roy*

1620 – 1630 Close of meeting and award of prizes

Peter Featherstone*