

## Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society Presidential Interviews

*Dr. John Cowan,*

*in correspondence with Archives & Artifacts Committee Member Dr. Wesley Rajaleelan*

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### **John**

I was born and educated in England and received my Medical Degree (MBChB) from Manchester University in 1965. I did a rotating internship for a year and in 1967 I came to Canada and completed a residency at Queen's University affiliated hospitals. Subsequent training was pursued at Yale New Haven Hospital and the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

In 1972, I joined the staff of the Ottawa Civic Hospital (now the Civic Campus of The Ottawa Hospital) where I continued the practice of anesthesia and teaching through the University of Ottawa. At the Civic I contributed to many committees, eventually assuming the position of Chief of the Anesthesia Department in 1988, a position held for seven years.

Other positions held were Chair of the Anesthetists of Ottawa, Chair of the Tariff Committee of Ontario Medical Association on Anesthesia (OMA) and member of the Central Tariff Committee.

I have been Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for both the OMA section on Anesthesia annual meeting and the annual meeting of the CAS.

I became a member of the Council of the Society (now Board of Directors) as the Ontario representative and remained for ten years. Later, I served as Chair of Council and then Vice President of the Society in 1995 and President in 1997-1998 and Past President in 1999.

I ended 16 years of service to the society as one of the longest serving members of Council Executive.

In 1993, I was appointed from the CAS to the 12th World Congress of Anaesthesiologists organizing committee until 2003. The World Congress was held in Montreal in 2000. I was Treasurer of the 12th World Congress from 1994 - 2001 and on the Finance Committee from 2000- 2003. This congress was a Scientific, Financial and Social success. During those years, I travelled to many countries to promote the congress and procure major financial support from various International Societies and Exhibitors which was important to the World Federation of Societies of Anesthesia.

During my term as President, the President's Medal was given a new crest and motto. A medal was also given to Past Presidents which was appreciated.

I feel honored to have received the Gold Medal in 2006 and the Emeritus Membership in 2015. I also received the Pask Certificate in 1989 from the Association of Great Britain and Ireland. I am a member of The Academy of Anesthesiologists.

I have been very fortunate in my life to have experienced a profession which has given me great satisfaction both professionally and personally. I have also enjoyed many interests and skills outside of my work which gave me a balance together with the long hours required as an Anesthesiologist and its related commitments.

On a personal note, I have a dedicated wife (a Reg. Nurse), two loving, independent adult children with children of their own who are caring, smart, and enthusiastic.



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