

**Society for Airway Management**  
**Special Projects Committee: Airway Leads**  
Inaugural Airway Leads Meeting  
Thursday September 14, 2023  
11:00 am – 13:30 pm  
San Diego California USA

*THE AIRWAY LEADS NETWORK: A GLOBAL PATIENT SAFETY INITIATIVE*

Airway management remains a source of significant morbidity and mortality. A significant knowledge gap exists between the recommendations in published airway management guidelines and clinical practice. The Airway Lead and Airway Lead Network is intended to improve both personal and institutional practice using a coordinated multidisciplinary approach to advanced airway management

The coordination of safe airway management remains an important goal around the globe. Multidisciplinary teamwork is essential for the production, standardization and implementation of published airway management guidelines and checklists regarding safe, coordinated advanced airway management. Other tasks include organization, recommendation, training and access to appropriate equipment and audits. Oversight and coordination of all of these duties falls under the purview of the Airway Lead. The history, evolution and impact of the Airway Lead will be reviewed. The current global initiative for an Airway Lead network will be discussed. The process to broaden the concept of an airway lead network in the United States will be explored.

**Goals:**

- Describe how an airway lead network offers opportunities to improve institutional and personal preparedness in airway management
- Describe the impact of existing airway leads on airway management in different countries
- Review the areas impacted by the airway lead network: coordination of educational programs, adoption of guidelines, standardization and training of equipment, recognition of human factors
- Review the current literature regarding Airway Leads and the Airway Leads Network
- Discuss the process to expand the Airway Lead Network throughout the United States

**PROGRAM:**

11:00-11:05 am: Welcome & Faculty Introductions: **Drs. Baker and Foley**

11:05-11:20 am: What is an Airway Lead?: Roles and Responsibilities. **Dr. P. Baker**

11:20- 11:35 am: A Decade of Airway Leads in the United Kingdom: Background & Impact: **Dr. A. McNarry**

11:35-11:50 am: Initiatives of the Airway Lead in the Republic of Ireland: **Dr. E. O'Sullivan**

11:50 am-12:05 pm: The VHA Airway Lead: A National program of Standardized Airway Management Education: **Dr. J. Feinleib**

12:05-12:20 pm: The Airway Lead in the United States: Future Directions: **Dr. E. Behringer**

12:20 – 13:20 pm: Current Resources to establish an Airway Lead in your Institution:  
**Drs. Baker, Behringer, Feinleib, Foley, McNarry, Mosier, Wali, Roth**

*Roundtable Discussion on available resources for individuals interested in becoming an Airway Lead.*  
20 minutes each:

- A) Equipment: Organization, Acquisition and Maintenance:
- B) Training/Education
- C) Implementation of Guidelines
- D) Audits
- E) Airway Committees and Airway Lead Networks

13:20-13:30 pm: Wrap Up/Adjournment. **Faculty**

#### **REFERENCES:**

Airway Leads and Airway Response Teams: Improving Delivery of Safer Airway Management? Current Anesthesia Rep 2020;Jul 20:1-8.

The Airway Lead: Opportunities to improve institutional and personal preparedness for airway management. Br J Anaesth 2020;125:e22-e24.

The formation of an Airway Lead Network: an essential patient safety initiative 2021 Br J Anaesth (2022) 128:225-229.

Learning, unlearning and relearning. Paediatr Anaesth 2020;30:204-206

**Attendance to the Airway Leads Program is *included* with your *completed* registration for the SAM 2023 Annual Meeting.**

**Attendance to this program is limited and requires separate registration.**

**Register for the Airway Leads Program on Thursday September 14, 2023 here: [Register Now](https://umassmed.ungerboeck.com/prod/emc00/register.aspx?OrgCode=10&EvtID=6193&AppCode=REG&CC=123051050750)**  
**OR copy and paste the link below.**

<https://umassmed.ungerboeck.com/prod/emc00/register.aspx?OrgCode=10&EvtID=6193&AppCode=REG&CC=123051050750>

**Speakers:**

**Paul Baker, MBChB, MD, FANZCA**

Associate Professor  
Department of Anesthesiology  
University of Auckland  
Auckland New Zealand  
*President: Society for Airway Management*

**Elizabeth C. Behringer, M.D.**

Cardiac Surgical Intensivist-Anesthesiologist  
Division of Cardiovascular Surgery & Critical Care  
Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles  
Los Angeles California  
*Past President: Society for Airway Management*

**Jessica L. Feinleib, M.D. PhD. FASA, CHSE**

Staff Anesthesiologist VACTHS  
Faculty, VHA National Simulation Center  
Assistant Professor  
Yale School of Medicine  
Department of Anesthesiology  
New Haven Connecticut

**Lorraine Foley, M.D., MBA**

Medical Director,  
Shields Ambulatory Surgery Center  
Medford Massachusetts  
*Executive Director: Society for Airway Management*

**Alistair F. McNarry**

Consultant Anaesthetist  
NHS Lothian  
Edinburgh UK  
*Royal College of Anaesthetists and Difficult Airway Society Airway Leads Coordinator*

**Ellen P. O'Sullivan, FRCA, FCAI, FCPSP (Hon), FCANECSA(Hon)**

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*Airway Lead Advisor, College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland*

**The SAM Special Projects Committee: Airway Leads**

Paul Baker (Chair).	<i>Auckland New Zealand</i>
Elizabeth Behringer (Secretary)	<i>Los Angeles California</i>
Jessica Feinleib.	<i>New Haven Connecticut</i>
Lorraine Foley.	<i>Winchester Massachusetts</i>
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