

e L A e-Learning Anaesthesia



e-Learning Anaesthesia (e-LA) is a joint initiative undertaken by the Royal College of Anaesthetists and DH e-Learning for Healthcare, intended primarily to provide access to the knowledge base required to support the Specialist Training in Anaesthesia.

e-LA also provides a learning resource for trainers to refer to that can effectively be integrated into local teaching programmes and, ultimately, a mechanism for delivering lifelong learning (CPD) to registered specialists and consultants. The project has been designed as an 'on-line' package comprising interactive e-learning sessions, examination practice sessions, end of module self-assessments and an extensive e-Library archive of 'PDF' (portable document format) articles made available through close co-operation with several of the anaesthetic journals and publishing houses.

The first phase of the project is progressing extremely well under the expert guidance of a team of 20 editors who have in turn recruited over 400 authors drawn from College fellows throughout the UK. Completed e-learning sessions began to appear on the Learning Management System from the beginning of August 2008. By March 2010, over 400 e-learning sessions had been made available on the system together with 50 MCQ sessions aimed at the FRCA exams, and over 800 e-Library articles and associated MCQ tests. These numbers are increasing every week. The first phase of the project (ST 1-2) will comprise over 1000 sessions.



The Royal College of Anaesthetists

Access to e-LA is available to all anaesthetists in the UK through Trust Internet connections or home broadband accounts using conventional web browser software. In the first three months since the project went 'live' (August-October 2008), a total of 2,290 UK anaesthetists had registered with e-LA. 1,424 of these were trainees and 595 registered as non-trainee educational supervisors. By March 2010 there were over 6,000 registered users and the project database had logged over 23,500 hours of usage representing over 57,000 e-session accesses, 12,000 assessment sessions and downloads of a further 3,200 e-Library articles. Registered users have been accessing these sessions during normal working hours, evenings and at weekends suggesting that this platform is flexible enough to match a range of different trainee working patterns.

Following the initial rollout to anaesthetists in basic training, phase 2 of the e-LA project began in 2009 with the appointment of editors to twelve new blocks covering the Intermediate and Higher (ST 3-6) curriculum. These additional blocks of e-learning sessions will bring together the key specialist and general theory required for the Final FRCA fellowship examination and more advanced elements of anaesthetic sub-specialty training.

e-Learning Anaesthesia won the 2009 e-Learning Age Gold Award for Best Online or Distance Learning Project. Further information about the project is available via the Royal College of Anaesthetists website (www.rcoa.ac.uk) or a direct link to e-Learning Anaesthesia at www.e-LA.org.uk.