

Hello from Belfast

Congress 2017

Here's the news from the last twelve months – 'plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose'

Irene was finally appointed into a substantive position – the wheels grind very slowly. We continue to find ourselves first on call to a Core Trainee every 7th night, which can be daunting. Luckily, we work well together and we know where to track down a consultant colleague – far from ideal.

Our new hospital continues to be 'planned' though the next step is currently in limbo, as the Assembly civil servants (rather than the actual politicians, who are enjoying the break) have identified a problem with the Maternity Wing (also not yet built) and, until the Maternity Hiccup is sorted, the Children's Hospital cannot proceed (a variation on the chicken and egg theme). We continue to be concerned (since we are not architects) that we might be missing something – something big.

We were visited by RQIA in March/April – their aim was to get our view on provision of Paediatric Surgery in the Province. Unfortunately, although we knew they were coming, we had no idea of the agenda and hence no time to formulate a comprehensive plan – it was very much thinking on the hoof and I am not sure what the outcome has been.

We were delighted when two Belfast trainees were appointed via National Recruitment in April and we had a most enjoyable Joint meeting of SIPS and SSPS in May.

BAPS provides the ideal opportunity to find out how others are juggling these hot potatoes and I look forward to hearing/learning from those who find themselves in the same position. I continue to be proud to serve as the link to my colleagues and wish all a very successful joint congress. Slainte.