

POGP BURSARIES AND AWARDS

Anne Bird Award



Background

This award was launched in 1990 in memory of Anne Bird, who was chairman of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ACPOG) from 1985 to 1988 (Fig. 1).

Anne's interest in obstetrics began in 1961, when she took antenatal classes in Bristol City clinics. In 1971, she then took a part-time physiotherapy post in the old Bristol Maternity Hospital until St Michael's Hospital was built in 1974. The later was where she took on a senior I role. In 1984, she became a superintendent physiotherapist, and remained in this post until her death in 1990.

Anne is remembered for being a great innovator. She created what was considered at the time to be a centre of excellence for obstetric and gynaecological physiotherapy within her own department. Among her achievements were: a trial of electrotherapy; the production of an educational film on the role of the physiotherapist in obstetrics and gynaecology; and developing antenatal classes designed specifically for Asian women at the Charlotte Keel Health Centre. Anne was a great educator, devoting time to delivering lectures on the role of obstetric and gynaecological physiotherapy to other healthcare professionals, as well as being a clinical supervisor for physiotherapists taking the ACPOG Foundation Course.

She became a full member of the association in 1969, was elected to the Executive Committee in 1978 and took on the role of journal editor. In 1985, Anne became chairman, and it was during her term that ACPOG launched its first award, the Bristol Bursary. This was created using funds presumably raised after the ACPOG annual study weekend was held in Bristol. The Bristol Bursary later became the Dame Josephine Barnes Bursary, and was originally established in order to encourage younger physiotherapists to train in obstetrics.

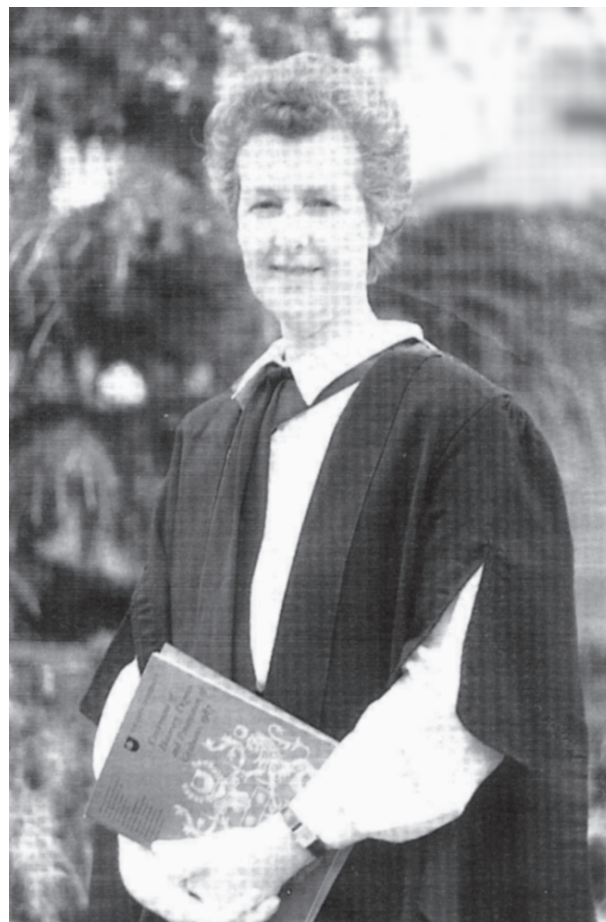


Figure 1. Anne Bird, 1934–1990.

In 1987, she was awarded a BA degree by the Open University.

On a personal note, I remember meeting Anne at my first ACPOG Annual Conference after I was awarded full membership in 1988. It is her signature that I have on my membership certificate. Anne was extremely approachable and encouraging, and despite her illness making her feel very unwell, she still carried out all her duties as chairman at Conference before handing over to Margaret Bartaby. She died in February 1990, having remained in her superintendent post in Bristol until 2 weeks before her death.

Table 1. Winners of the Anne Bird Award from 1990 to 2017*

Year	Winner(s)
1990	Debbie Shannon
1991	Mary Bray and Doreen Isherwood
1992	Jane Brown and Liz Crothers
1993	Shirley Bustard and Pauline Walsh
1994	Dr Jo Laycock
1995	Georgina Evans
1996–1997	Clare Jouanny
1998	Jill Mantle and Margie Polden (posthumously)
1999	Jeanette Haslam and Pauline Walsh
2000	Arline Ashton
2001	Deborah Fry
2002	Ola Lawal
2003	Tamsin Brooks
2004–2005	Avril Hillyard
2006	Ann Johnson
2007	Gail Stephens, Amanda Savage, Tamsin Brooks and Shernaz Screwvala
2008	Andrea Oduro-Yeboah
2009	Not listed
2010	Not listed
2011	Not listed
2012	Roberta Sales
2013	Sylvia Craine and Clare Holden
2014	Not listed
2015	Julie Ellis
2016	Rebecca Bennett
2017	Myra Robson

*Apologies if we have missed anyone; please let us know if this is the case.

The citation for the Anne Bird Award (POGP 2018) reads:

“The Anne Bird Prize commemorates the life of Anne Bird by encouraging and recognising in others those qualities which she valued.

“The Anne Bird Award will normally be awarded annually to an individual, or individuals, who show overall excellence, professionalism and empathy in their educational development within the POGP. The successful nominee will also have made a special contribution to an POGP post-registration

course or to physiotherapy in women’s health.”

How to nominate a member of POGP

This annual award is by nomination by three people, at least one of whom must be a member of POGP. The nominee must be an affiliate or full member of POGP. There have been occasions in the past when the award has been shared with other fellow POGP members, and occasionally, it has jointly recognized another healthcare professional’s role in the nominee’s achievement (Table 1). The nomination is kept confidential, and the decision is made by the executive and announced at the POGP Annual Conference. The prize is usually in the form of a voucher and includes the presentation of a certificate.

It remains the only award that POGP owns itself and can bestow on a member. Our motto is “Excellence Matters”, and there is no better way to recognize a colleague’s accomplishments and, at the same time, honour the memory of Anne Bird. She always recognized the potential in others and celebrated their achievements, both in her students and colleagues, and believed in the need to strive for excellence in our profession.

Please take the time to nominate a fellow POGP member. The nomination form is downloadable from the POGP website (POGP 2018).

Ruth Hawkes FCSP

Education Subcommittee Chairman

Reference

Pelvic, Obstetric and Gynaecological Physiotherapy (POGP) (2018) *POGP Bursaries and Awards*. [WWW document.] URL <https://pogp.csp.org.uk/content/pogp-bursaries-and-awards>