

The Cardiothoracic Forum at the Annual Meeting in Bournemouth

The sun shone in Bournemouth, the sea looked fabulous and this years Cardiothoracic Forum was a huge success. Delegate numbers have increased year on year with a diverse audience that gave a lively buzz to the meeting.

This year's theme 'Quality Care: can we deliver' was topical within the speciality and the wider NHS agenda. We welcomed Maura Buchanan back to deliver her opening remarks. She captured the mood perfectly linking current health issues with putting patients first. As part of the NHS agenda and SCTS objective for greater patient involvement, a patient representative group joined the meeting and feedback would suggest that they enjoyed Maura's comments and specifically the presentation from Lisa Ketteridge and the clinical team from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. Lisa's story hit the national press after she developed cardiomyopathy while pregnant with her second child in April 2008. Following an emergency caesarean at thirty five weeks gestation she had an LVAD implanted. Her 60 day stay coincided with the 60 year celebrations of the NHS. Mr Ian Wilson, Cardiothoracic surgeon presented the case accompanied in the background by Bob Dyans 'The Times There Are A Changing', while Judith Derby

and Linda Williams, Senior Sisters from the Critical Care unit eloquently express the challenges of caring for a patient with an LVAD, multi organ failure but not forgetting that Lisa had just had her second child delivered. The microphone was then taken by Lisa who told us what it was really like! The impact of hearing the patient perspectives serves to remind us all of what the patient sees as important and should inform the delivery of care.

Other plenary sessions included the new BTS guidelines on Cancer staging, and a review the impact this will have on surgical decision making process, presented by Mr Eric Lim from Guy's and St Thomas'. This session was clear, concise and demonstrated the positive effect upon patients. It also provoked the audience to contemplate the impact upon surgical units.

Wendy Grey from the Heart Improvement Programme shared the work initiated by the Eighteen Week National Project Sustaining Cardiac Pathways outlining the project and giving examples from pilot sites around the UK. Members of the audience can take the ideas back to their units to review the patient pathway and initiate change.

Dr David Foster, Deputy Chief Nursing Officer, DoH, spoke on the impact of

Modernising Nursing Careers on postgraduate career pathways and Andrew Rundle from the Standards & Qualification, Skills for Health discussed the strategic impact of changing the workforce. This provoked a lively debate around achieving a workforce fit for practice and the dilemma around whether Agenda for Change can meet the challenge of ensuring nurses can have a clinical career structure. Clearly, the way forward is not without hurdles but the presentations can be used to inform us in our progress.

Dr Ann Keogh, Birmingham Heartlands Hospital presented on behalf of the National Patient Safety Project. She gave us a very practical demonstration how some of the areas of the work can impact upon practice to underpin the theme of quality care.

The Cardiothoracic Forum Abstract panel were able to select thirteen papers for presentation in addition to the plenary sessions. Speakers were of a very high standard with sessions encompassing Cardiac, Thoracic and Surgical Care Practitioner themes. All these presentations can be accessed on the nurses' page of the SCTS web site; www.scts.org/sections/nurses/index.html The audience selected this years winner of the Ethicon £200 prize as:

Postoperative Pulmonary Complications Following Thoracic Surgery: Comparison Of Three Scoring Systems
P Agostini

Our congratulations go to Paula who will receive her winners medal during the Annual dinner at next years SCTS meeting to be held in Liverpool 7th March- 9th March 2010. The theme for next year's meeting will be 'Excellence in Practice' where we will hope to encompass the message from the Chief Nursing Officer to engage staff and public involvement that will underpin confidence and trust in delivering high quality care for all. So with this in mind I would encourage you and your colleagues to consider sharing your



Lisa Ketteridge (LVAD recipient, centre), with senior cardiac ITU nurses Linda Williams (left) & Judith Derby (right)

Tara Bartley
Nursing Representative

work and experiences with next year's Cardiothoracic Forum. The call for abstracts will go out early in September and remain open until November. This year all abstracts will need to be submitted on line to enable the abstract committee to carry out the marking procedure efficiently and to ensure that the programme can be put together in good time.

Other News from the Speciality

Congratulations to the West of Scotland Heart and Lung Centre, Golden Jubilee Hospital who celebrated their first anniversary with a one-day conference that looked at Quality and Innovation within the Cardiology and Cardiothoracic Surgical speciality. The day was well attended with an audience that represented the multidisciplinary professions. The programme encompassed a varied of presentations including 'How to set up an European Centre of Excellence' from Professor Hetzer from Berlin who also talked about their LVAD programme. Mr Dalrymple-Hay, Consultant at Plymouth Hospital spoke about Minimally Invasive Conduit Harvest; Dr Grube, chair of Cardiology, Seigburg Heart Centre and Mr Moat, Consultant at the Royal Brompton spoke about their hospital's TAVI programme. I was invited to speak on New Ways of Working and Professor Begg, Associate Dean Primary Health Care, School of Health, University of



Maura Buchanan & Tara Bartley at the President's Dinner

Wolverhampton presented on the Physicians Assistants. This is just some of the areas covered during what proved to be an interesting, thought provoking day that gave all an opportunity to hear about developments throughout the UK and Europe.

For those of you who are not aware of the one day 'Thoracic Surgery Practical Course' that runs twice a year in June and January at the Heartlands Hospital, Birmingham it combines lectures with clinical wet lab sessions enabling delegates to familiarise themselves with chest anatomy, surgical procedures and disease process. The course is open to nurses, doctors, physiotherapists, surgical care practitioners and other members of the multidisciplinary team. For further information contact paula.agostini@heartofengland.nhs.uk

We have updated and tested the data base which is working well. There are now contacts for all nurses who wish to be included; a lead contact in each unit in their critical care, ward and theatres; and thoracic contacts. If any of your colleagues would like to add their names so they can receive the emails then please forward their name, address and title to me at tara.bartley@ntlworld.com

I would also encourage you to take advantage of the greatly reduced Associate Membership of the SCTs. From 2009 the annual fee is £22, with an initial administration fee of £25. Membership ensures that you receive the Bulletin issues, reduced rate to the Annual meeting and other benefits which are on the SCTs web site, including the opportunity to apply for a bursary towards professional development.

It is now two years since the SCTs benchmarked service provision and it is important to follow this work up with collating information about progress that has been made. In the December 2008 Bulletin I mentioned that we would like to review role development throughout the Cardiothoracic Centres. We have identified an online survey tool so will be contacting you in the near future to seek information about how nursing and surgical care practitioner roles are expanding to meet the European Working Time Directive and accounting for the impact of Modernising Medical and Nursing Careers. If you receive a questionnaire please take the time to complete it and return it so we can gather information to inform all about current service delivery provision.

Maura Buchanan
captured the mood of
the Annual Conference
perfectly, linking current
health issues with
putting patients first.