

**Tara Bartley**  
**Nursing Representative.**

Having completed twelve months as the Nursing Representative and am glad to report that it has been an eventful and interesting year.

I would like to thank the regional reps for their support. They play a key role in disseminating information between their areas and myself. They underpin the work that I do and are instrumental in reviewing papers for the nurses' forum at the Annual SCST meeting.

One of my first duties was to contribute towards writing the Nursing Representative bylaws, thus establishing a formal process of appointment to the position of Nursing Representative on the SCTS Executive.

I have been part of a working group reviewing national guideline and standards for National practice and this is work in progress.

Myself and Steve Livesey, Consultant Cardiac Surgeon at Southampton have produced a document for the Heart Improvement Programme that has updated the original 'Exploring New Ways of Working in Cardiothoracic Surgery', first published by the Workforce Review Team in February 2005. We explored models of practice and in particular those from the National Nurse Practitioner Programme, which has now sadly been disbanded. The Manchester Forum reviewed workforce planning and your comments have been attachment to the document that has been submitted to Roger Boyle' National Director for Heart Disease.

Communication among Cardiothoracic nurses has expanded developing links with other cardiac organisations, specifically the British Association for Nursing in Cardiac Care and The Paediatric Cardiac Nursing Association. I have written an article for the PCNA bulletin and hope that we can share interests and practice. The nurses' web page on the SCTS site remains open access and it my intention to develop the information further with a plethora of protocols, presentations etc.

Reporting on the success of the Nurses' Forum at Manchester;  
Attendance was good and the programme diverse and stimulating. We were delighted to have Maura Buchannan, President of the RCN deliver the Opening Remarks with Sir Bruce Keogh as chair. Maura talked about the unique art of nursing and how we should be proud of our profession. These thoughts were underpinned by the emotional comments from former thoracic and cardiac patients. We were privileged to hear the individual perspectives recounting their experiences of surgery and the hospital stay. Both talks served as a pertinent reminder of what the National Health Service is really about. We could be forgiven for believing that we are driven by Government targets and that we must achieve excellence within increasing economic constraints. Refreshingly both speakers highlighted that to patients service delivery is about just that, the way in which we deliver care. They lamented about the personalised care, the importance of a smile and one reflected on the reality of staff shortages and waiting for a dressing to be done. It speaks volumes that there is no substitute for being a patient to focus the ways in which the NHS should concentrate resources and development.

Manchester also gave you the opportunity to share selected papers with your colleagues. We had our first ever joint presentation session with the surgeons and within the Forum there was a disparate group of interesting papers. Your vote for Best paper went to Helen Munday, Clinical Research Nurse from Papworth Hospital, Cambridge for her paper 'Talc Pleurodesis: doctor versus nurse led procedure. A prospective, randomised, multi-centre, pilot study.' Congratulations to Helen who received £200 from our sponsors Ethicon.

I will put the comments from the 'Membership' session at Manchester to the next Executive meeting as it is our intention to explore ways of increasing the Associate Membership at an affordable rate that delivers for you.

What better foundation to look toward next years SCTS Annual meeting and the Nurses' Forum which will take place in Edinburgh.

The Forum theme will be 'How Broad Changes in the NHS are impacting of the delivery of Cardiothoracic services'. We will call for papers between September and November and presenters will be informed in December. I would encourage you submit an abstract and share your work with a friendly and receptive audience.

During this coming year I intend to conduct a national bench marking survey examining current workforce patterns in the UK & Ireland and the strategic planning that is under way to accommodate the advent of changes that will come about with the European Working Time Directive and Modernising Medical Careers. It is hoped that the data from this survey will answer the many questions that are being asked around the country and provide some direction for development of workforce patterns.

If you would like to submit an abstract for the forum or contact me on any other matter please email me at [tara.bartley@ntlworld.com](mailto:tara.bartley@ntlworld.com)