

SCTS FORUM BULLETIN

Next year's forum will be the most expansive yet.

Building upon the collaboration seen at the Dublin conference, Manchester 2007 will host the first joint surgeon, surgical assistant and nurse's session. We are aiming to explore new ways of working within a team to deliver patient care, and the forum hopes to discuss new approaches that will embrace changes in the workforce resulting from modernising medical careers.

With the advent of patient choice establishing 'book and choose', it is hoped the forum can highlight what is important to individuals undergoing cardiothoracic surgery as well as their families. As health professionals we like to think our service reflects the interests of patients, but what are the key influences that constitute a positive patient experience?

Linking with the growing group of surgical assistants we aim to explore the impact that their role has upon the patient pathway. Moreover, how has their role evolved since its advent in the early 90's?

We are currently expanding contacts for the exhibition, which will increase its relevance for nurses. This will enable delegates to review ideas, equipment and products that they may take back to their centres and use to underpin and enhance the delivery of care.

Having established a nationwide network of regional representatives it is hoped that attendance at the forum will increase so that participants will be inspired to return to their respective units with innovative developments and topical issues that they may disseminate among their colleagues.

We are calling for abstracts to be submitted in September, they will be reviewed by representative a panel, and those selected to contribute will hear in November. This is an excellent opportunity for nurses and surgical assistants to present findings from research that has been undertaken; to share new ways of working that have been established; discuss any strategic developments or projects that may be underway; or share examples of clinical practice. Papers accepted for the Forum for Cardiothoracic Surgical Practice will be allocated as oral presentations (20 minute presentation and 10 minutes discussion); or Clinical Workshops, these will be interactive and 30 to 60 minutes long looking at teaching a specific skill, review of clinical decision making/approach using a case history or discussion of practice development. There will also be an opportunity for submission of posters that will be displayed at the exhibition.

We welcome a variety of applications that will allow us to create an interesting forum reflecting the keys issues in the Cardiothoracic speciality within the current climate. If you are interested then please forward your email to myself and Isabelle Ferner, Society Administrator so we can ensure you receive the additional flyer that we will send out in September. tara.bartley@ntlworld.com sctsadmin@scts.org. Details can also be found on the web site www.scts.org

Manchester will be an attractive venue with diverse accommodation in a cosmopolitan environment and there should be plenty to interest all.

We look forward to seeing you...

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I was appointed as the nursing representative following the resignation of Jacqueline Nicol as she moves to pastures new. The SCTS would like to thank her for all her hard work over the past three years.

I currently work at Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry as a Cardiothoracic Practitioner.

I joined the NHS 24years ago and completed my RGN training at The London Hospital. After qualifying I worked in medicine, surgery and accident and emergency before specialising in Critical Care in 1989. I have worked in general and cardiothoracic critical care, heart/ lung transplantation and liver transplantation. During this time I have been fortunate to work at Addenbrookes Hospital and Papworth Hospital in Cambridgeshire, Warwick District General, The John Radcliffe Oxford, and the Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry. I have also spent three years setting up and running a nurse lead clinic in the community, prior to taking up my current position. Along the way I have completed a BAHons in Health & Social policy at the University of Warwick, an MSc in Health Science and, Specialist and Advanced practice awards at the University of Birmingham. I am an ALS instructor and my specialist interest, the subject of my thesis, is in collaborative working to improve patient care.

I am delighted to have been offered the position as nurse representative, if you have any comments, enquiries or issues you would like to discuss or that I may take to the SCTS on your behalf then please contact me on my email.

Tara Bartley
Nursing Representative