SCTS Bulletin Article

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SCTS Nursing & Allied Health Professionals Representative

• Cardiothoracic Forum @ the SCTS Annual Meeting – Manchester March 2015

The 2015 annual meeting is planned to be held at the Manchester Conference Centre. This will be the second combined meeting with ACTA (Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthetists), and will once again give all Cardiothoracic Forum participants the opportunity to network with nurses and allied health practitioners from all aspects of cardiothoracic care, including those working in theatres and on cardiothoracic intensive care and high dependency units. This year’s forum will look at aspects of work across the entire spectrum of cardiothoracic care as they relate to the patient’s journey. As this is a joint meeting we are planning again to offer one free registration for every five booked.

This year’s meeting is planned to run over the entire three days in March; starting with a Nursing and Allied Health Professional stream at the joint SCTS University and ACTA Academy. This will be the first time we have had a stream at the University and we have a full practical day planned. The University will be split into a half cardiac / half thoracic day, which will enable participants to either take part in the entire day, or join for either the morning or afternoon session and then attend another University stream session with other delegates. Kevin and his team from WetLabs are working alongside us to provide an exciting and educational session for all participants; and we have an international faculty planned with professionals from Nursing and Allied Health backgrounds attending from the United States, Europe and the UK.

We have been working hard selecting the papers for this year’s CT forum presentations during the main meeting. We had a record number of abstracts submitted this year, from a wide group of participants ranging from advanced nurse practitioners and SCP’s to theatre nurses and critical care practitioners. This will enable us to examine in-depth all aspects of care related to cardiothoracic patients and will give us an enhanced breadth of knowledge from all nursing and allied health specialities as we link with the anaesthetists throughout the meeting.

We have a number of fascinating plenary sessions planned for March 2015. The President of the RCN, Andrea Spyropoulos will again be attending to give us an up-to-date nursing perspective, and with her will be Cecilia Anim, who is taking over from Andrea as the new RCN President as of January 2015. We also have a session planned which has been requested from a number of delegates at last year’s conference. The 2015 joint SCTS/ACTA meeting is the prime time to listen to the
patient’s perspective of undertaking cardiothoracic surgery, detailing their pathway to surgery and their experiences. We have previously had extremely interesting, entertaining and insightful patients attending our previous meetings, and we hope next years’ patients will continue to provide an excellent experience.

Each CT Forum we have held has been a big success. We have gained a network of core nurses and allied health professionals across the country that have in interest in progressing training, development and service provision with cardiothoracic surgery, from a wide range of backgrounds; from nurses, medical staff, surgical care practitioners, physiotherapists, physician assistants and other allied health professionals across the country. I would like to take this opportunity to thank in advance all the plenary speakers, chairs, presenters and participants without whom the CT Forum could not exist. Not only do we all learn from others at the Forum but the networking and shared working practice information that we all get is invaluable. We look forward to a large number of participants attending the CT Forum in Manchester and I urge you all to encourage your colleagues in nursing and allied health professional specialities to attend also.

• Surgical Care Practitioner Update

Consultations with the Surgical Care Practitioners remain ongoing, currently there are many streams of work progressing.

The Ethicon Master Class in Conduit Vein Harvesting in collaboration with SCTS/ACSA education took place on the 3rd of November 2014 at the Manchester Surgical Simulation Centre, Manchester. 28 delegates attended the course which covered computer endoscopic skills, ultrasound teaching, and cadaveric experience of vein and radial artery harvesting. Present at the course were Simon Kendall, Mike Lewis and Rajesh Shah from SCTS and key members from ACSA. Clinical international trainers from Maquet, Sorin, Terumo, Sonasite and Karl Storz also attended the day to train the delegates and to give support to the faculty. We thank all the companies for putting so much effort into the training, and we also thank Ethicon for sponsoring the course. Feedback from the course was excellent with almost 95% of delegates very satisfied and 5% of delegates satisfied with the course. The full details from the course feedback will be presented at SCTS/ACSA meeting in Manchester in 2015.
Following consultations with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, the SCP exam will be held in December 2014, based upon the current SCP exam structure and questions. There will also be a revision course held prior to the exam. Work is ongoing to update the SCP course for the 2015 exam, with a rigorous QA process being developed. Thanks go to the RCS, Edinburgh for all their help, support and backing for this process.

- **Advanced Cardiothoracic Course**

This year’s Advanced Cardiothoracic Course was held on October 19th and 20th 2014 in Heartlands Hospital. Again this course was extremely well attended and feedback was excellent. We thank Sorin for their ongoing support for this course, and all the members of the faculty who took time to teach the delegates and share their experiences.
The postgraduate nurses’ day at EACTS was once again run by nurses and allied health professionals from the UK and the Netherlands. This was held in Milan on Sunday 12th October 2014. The SCTS CT Forum top marking presentations were invited to present at this meeting, and Joel Dunning gave a fascinating and entertaining lecture on up-to-date advances within the CALS course. There was attendance from nurses and health care professionals across Europe and it was a great opportunity to link and network with them.

The EACTS Quality Improvement Programme (QUIP) programme still continues – looking in-depth at quality standards across Europe with the concept to bring together common aspects and setting a benchmark for establishing quality improvement. This involves a review of current nursing quality outcomes; the implementation of a quality pathway for patients, and a review of outcome measures, examining established protocols and practice guidelines.

For any nurses and allied health professionals that would be prepared to share good practice with our colleagues around Europe and get involved with the QUIP programme please contact Tara Bartley, Lead Nurse for QUIP at Tara.Bartley@uhb.nhs.uk

Wider nursing issues

Cecilia Anim has been elected as RCN President. Cecilia said: “I am delighted to have been elected President of the RCN and it is a great honour to serve the RCN members. I’m immensely grateful for the support I’ve received. The nursing profession is going through tough times. I’m determined to be a vocal campaigner on behalf of the RCN members and will work tirelessly as President to secure a better future for nursing staff and their patients.” In her RCN election statement she said; “I am proud to be a nurse with over thirty years experience of serving diverse communities—as a practising frontline nurse, steward, safety rep, and RCN Deputy President. In building a better future for nursing and for patients, I continue to be driven by the belief that a decent salary, job security and a working environment that does not compromise your safety or professional integrity is absolutely vital. The nursing family is facing increasingly tough times and I pledge to lead the RCN through these to restore pride and confidence in our profession. I promise to work tirelessly to contest government policies that assault the dignity of the hard-working and dedicated nursing staff across all sectors who deliver the best in patient care. I will work hard to protect special duty payments and will fight against any attempts to erode terms and conditions for the nursing family.”

We thank the past RCN President, Andrea Spyropoulos for all her support to the CT forum over the past two years and we look forward to meeting Cecilia, and extending our welcome and congratulations to her.
SCTS CT Forum Contacts

The SCTS CT Forum Facebook and Twitter page continue. The CT Forum is for all nurses and allied health professionals to belong to and I encourage you all to sign up to these pages and help us to communicate between all health care professionals working in the field of cardiothoracics, whether it be in outpatient departments, wards, intensive care, theatres or the community. We would like as many nurses and allied health professionals to join, to show that cardiothoracic health professionals have a voice and want to work together to improve the care provided for all patients.

The links for the pages are as follows, please pass these details on to as many nurses and allied health professionals that you all know and encourage everyone to participate.

Follow us at Twitter - @SCTS_CTForum
Join the Facebook Group - SCTS CT Forum

If any of your colleagues would like to become an associate member of the Society or would like to add their names to the SCTS Allied Health Professionals database so they can receive the emails that are sent out then please forward their name, address and title to me at Christina.Bannister@uhs.nhs.uk or chrissiebannister71@gmail.com or direct to Tilly Mitchell at tilly@scts.org

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Nursing & Allied Health Professional Representative