

Welcome to Connect Forum!

Welcome to the first edition of Connect Forum, the new monthly newsletter from the RCN Nursing Department. The purpose of this newsletter is to share the work of the Nursing Department and the Forums, advertise upcoming events and offer opportunities for promotion and collaborative working.

This month, the Nursing Department team has been working hard to ensure the smooth running of the new appointments process. The response to the appointments has been highly encouraging, and the RCN is fortuitous to be in a position where there is such serious competition for committee vacancies. With so many highly skilled and experienced applicants, the interview panels will have to make some tough decisions about who to appoint.

Older People's Chair Iain McGregor and Learning Disability Chair Michael Brown described the positive response to the appointment process as 'overwhelmingly reassuring' and 'an exciting time to be involved with the RCN and the forums' respectively, while Management and Leadership Chair Angela Thompson declared herself to be 'delighted by the number of nominations', while speaking of the 'vital role' played by committee members.

The results of the appointments process will all be made available online on 08th October 2010. Candidates will also be contacted individually in the days following their interviews.

Commissioning and The White Paper

In response to the government White Paper, *Equity and excellence: liberating the NHS* and the subsequent consultation papers, Nursing Department Management and Leadership adviser [Denise Kelly](#) invited nurse executives to meet and discuss the impact of the paper on Commissioning for patients. The event provided an opportunity for lead nurses to network and to address questions to Dame Christine Beasley, CNO. Feedback from the event will support the RCN response to the White Paper. It is proposed that this event will be followed up by similar events at regional and local level. For more information on the event, please contact Denise or Management and Leadership Coordinator [Sam Manners](#).

Infection Prevention Working Supper

Infection Control Adviser Rose Gallagher hosted an Infection Prevention supper, attended by key influencers and contributors within the speciality, in order to debate current challenges and opportunities in this fundamental patient safety area.

Representatives from the Dept of Health (England), WHO and London SHA joined a Microbiologist, Infection Prevention Nurses, Directors of Infection Control, a Professor of Healthcare Research and members of the RCN Nursing Department for this important event.

The evening provoked lively conversation and allowed Rose to explore the RCN's vision for Infection Prevention over the next

Last call for the bus!

This month, the RCN Bus completed its tour of the South West region with visits to Truro, Plymouth, Dorchester and Salisbury. There are just a few weeks of the project remaining and all the Celtic countries and many of the regions could benefit from visits between now and the 13th November. Any staff who are interested in spending a day shadowing the team on the bus are encouraged to contact [Gill Robertson](#) before the tour is over.

Perioperative Forum- New standards and resources coming soon

Created in collaboration with the Critical Care and In-flight Nursing Forum, the Perioperative Forum has created the new *Standards for Contingency Management and Delivery of Critical Care in a Post Anaesthetic Care Unit or Recovery* which are due to be launched in October and will be used by Nurses UK-wide. Details of where to find these new standards will be provided in next month's issue. In the meantime, why not go [here](#) for a selection of useful resources.

New RCN Dementia Manager

We are delighted to announce that [Rachel Thompson](#) has been appointed as the RCN Dementia Manager based in the Nursing Department. Rachel has previously worked as a Consultant Nurse in Dementia care and also with Admiral Nursing as a

few years. A number of key themes arose from discussions which will be influential in developing the next two years of the RCN's strategy for patient safety and infection prevention.

For more information on this event and the RCN's vision for Infection Prevention, please contact [Rose](#), or to join the Infection Control network, please email your details to IPC@rcn.org.uk

Public Health Working Supper

Public Health Adviser Jan Maw hosted a working supper to explore and reflect on key Public Health challenges and opportunities ahead of the launch of the Public Health White Paper.

Guests included Richard Parish (Chief Executive Royal Society for Public Health), Angela Mawle (Chief Executive, UK Public Health Association), Dr Lindsey Davies (President, Faculty of Public Health) and Public Health Forum member (and NHS Barking and Dagenham Public Health Consultant) Linda Bailey.

Topics included Michael Marmot's *Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post 2010*, preventable disease, and how to encourage the public to become leaders of Public Health. The experience and enthusiasm of the guests led to a productive evening, with opportunities for collaborative working between the RCN and the respective attendees identified.

Assistant Head of Nursing Department Tim Curry praised the ability of the RCN to lead debate as well as reacting to it, while emphasising the importance of the RCN's networks in shaping the work of the college.

For more information on the work the RCN is undertaking on Public Health, please contact [Jan](#). Alternatively, the [RCN website](#) contains a large collection of useful Public Health materials.

New RCN guidance on dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia

The RCN has published new guidance on dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia, available exclusively on the RCN website. This guidance gives practical information on these conditions and their potential impact on individuals, for managers, human resources and nursing staff. The toolkit also includes a guide with a focus on practical strategies, and sets out to raise awareness of our legal and professional responsibilities in respect of these conditions. More information and the guides themselves can be found [here](#)

The Value of Learning Disabilities Nursing

The RCN Learning Disabilities Nursing forum committee have enjoyed a busy summer. In June, they held an LD Nursing summit in London where the forum debated the top priorities for the future of LD Nursing. Healthy discussion was also supported by expert input from LD practitioners, where three key themes emerged around workforce, education and leadership. An RCN position paper is now being developed with

Lead Practice Development Nurse.

Rachel is well-known in the world of Dementia nursing and will bring an enormous amount of clinical and academic experience to the post. This two-year post has been funded by the Department of Health England and will look at the developmental needs of nurses working in acute care settings. Rachel will be working with us 3 days per week and will also develop collaborative working with the Older People's Forum.

Recently, Rachel co-authored an article in Nursing Standard (vol 24, no. 4) entitled *Promoting positive approaches to dementia care in nursing*, which provides an overview of factors relevant to dementia care today. If you are registered with Nursing Standard online, or to register and read Rachel's article, please go [here](#).

HCA Update

The HCA Team is currently working on several projects, all aimed at improving our resources and support for Health Care Assistants and Assistant Practitioners (APs). One of these is the RCN HCA/AP network which they are hoping to launch in October. This will be the first of its kind and will provide HCA and AP members with the opportunity to contact colleagues and to have a voice.

Each region will have an HCA lead, an RCN officer based in the regional office, and one member of each network will attend the HCA/AP National Project Group which meets at RCN HQ. Once the network has been launched, HCA Adviser [Tanis Hand](#) and HCA Coordinator [Lisa Cork](#) will be sending out a quarterly e-update to their HCA and AP members in order to keep them up to date and involved. More information on HCAs and APs can be found [here](#)

Preparing Nurses to Excel in the Community

Primary Care Adviser [Lynn Young](#) and Education Adviser [Betty Kershaw](#) recently facilitated the event *Preparing Nurses to Excel in the Community*, where attendees included Community Nurse Directors, Nurse Lecturers and PCT Commissioning Nurse Directors. Lynn described the discussions as 'thought-provoking and stimulating' while speaking of the need for 'a nursing workforce equipped to work in the community and able to meet the challenges of Public Health and the reduction of health inequalities'.

In order to support these nurses, the RCN has recently launched the publication *Pillars of the Community*, the RCN's UK position on the development of the registered nursing workforce in the community. This invaluable resource can be found [here](#) and looks to guide the development of community nursing across the UK.

For more information on community nursing or the *Preparing Nurses* event, please contact [Lynn](#) or go to the [RCN website](#) and search for resources.

Submissions, opinions and feedback

expert input from the UK consultant nurses group and will be made available soon.

The forum has also been asking members for their views via a questionnaire entitled *The Value of LD Nursing*, which was widely distributed throughout the LD nursing networks in order to provide examples of the wide range of roles and activities undertaken by LD nurses.

The LD forum is committed to supporting this valuable group of nurses and healthcare assistants who work not only within the NHS, but also in the independent and private sector, to ensure that there is a strong LD voice present in all areas of nursing. For more information on *The Value of LD Nursing* or the work of forthcoming position paper, please contact LD Adviser [Ann Norman](#) or LD Membership Coordinator [Nikki Mills](#).

Steve Jamieson on Task and Finish Groups

Over the past few months, the RCN has been inviting members with relevant experience to apply to sit on key task and finish groups. Task and finish groups consist of RCN staff, members and external advisers who work together over a set period of time in order to deliver on specific projects. The Nursing Department has been leading on some of these groups, one of which is called Spirituality in Nursing. This group is chaired by Professor Wilf McSherry, Professor in Dignity of Care for Older People at Stafford University.

The Spirituality Group has already undertaken a survey amongst RCN members (one of the largest ever undertaken by the RCN), the products of which will be launched at RCN Congress in April 2011. If you are interested in becoming a member of any of the commissioned task and finish groups, please keep an eye on the [appointments](#) section of the RCN website!

Connect Forum is written by the Nursing Department and is here to promote the work of the department and the forums. Has your forum produced some new guidelines? Ran a successful workshop? Planning an event? Starting work on a new project and looking for collaboration? Or just keen to share what you've been up to? We'd all love to hear about it, so why not [email us](#) and use Connect Forum to advertise your forum today!

New RCN Long Term Conditions Adviser

We are delighted to announce that Amanda Cheesely will be joining the Nursing Department on 18th October 2010 as our new Long Term Conditions Adviser. Amanda will be based at the RCN Cardiff Gate office, but she will also be travelling extensively throughout the UK.

Amanda brings with her a wealth of experience in LTC practice and policy at local, regional and national level, and we look forward to welcoming her to the Nursing Department.

RCN Forums- Spread the word

The RCN [Communications Department](#) has produced a new communications guide for forum activists, which has been designed to help forums talk to their members and to increase the profile of the forums through the media and policy makers. The guidance can be found [here](#) and will also be included in the packs at Forum Chairs Day on Tuesday 12th October 2010.

Student Advisor Interview

RCN Student Advisor [Gill Robertson](#) recently took part in a video interview with Nursing Standard in which she discussed the challenges of training to be a nurse, as well as some of the common concerns faced by students. Gill also provided advice on managing finance, how to act if you witness poor practice, and balancing academic studies. The interview in full can be found [here](#)

Supporting the essence of nursing care - an RCN conference on spirituality in nursing today

29th October 2010

Taking place at the Barcelo Carlton Hotel, Edinburgh, topics will include the meaning of spirituality and its contribution to health care and nurses' perceptions of spirituality and spiritual care. Chief Nursing Officer Ros Moore and Professor Wilf McSherry are amongst the speakers.

Due to anticipated high levels of interest, anybody who is interested in attending is encouraged to book early to avoid

Learning from the past, looking to the future

25th November 2010

Facilitated by the Nursing Department, delegates at this conference will hear from a number of Public Health leaders and will have time to explore the ways in which nurses must adapt in order to prevent disease, encourage self care and promote improved community health. The RCN wants nurses to be a strong part of a new public health movement, one which will inspire others to strive towards a major reduction in health inequalities and one which will embrace 'health for all'. Workshops and keynote speakers will encourage delegates to consider how they and their

disappointment. Please email [Mirka Ferdosian](#) or call 0207 647 3583. Alternatively, additional information on this unique event can be found [here](#).

The Nursing Department Team

List of staff and job titles

[Steve Jamieson](#)- Head of Nursing Department
[Tim Curry](#)- Assistant Head of Nursing Department
[Michael Reilly](#)- Business Support Manager
[Danielle Boyle](#)- PA to Head of Nursing

[Yvonne Guthrie](#)- Project Manager
[Rachel Thompson](#)- Dementia Project Manager

[Lynn Young](#)- Primary Care Adviser
[Ann Norman](#)- LD and CJS Adviser
[Jan Maw](#)- Public Health Adviser
[Amanda Cheesley](#)- LTC Adviser
[Sandra Hall](#)- Membership Coordinator
[Nikki Mills](#)- Membership Coordinator
[Anne Elliott](#)- Membership Coordinator
[Marilyn Ramsey](#)- Admin Secretary
[Nik Payne](#)- Stakeholder Coordinator

[Ian Hulatt](#)- Mental Health Adviser
[Alan Dobson](#)- Emergency Care Adviser
[Rose Gallagher](#)- Infection Control Adviser
[Denise Kelly](#)- Management and Leadership Adviser
[Ana Champou](#)- Membership Coordinator/ Admin Secretary
[Karen Piddington](#)- Membership Coordinator
[Sam Manners](#)- Membership Coordinator/ Admin Secretary
[Bhav Sireer](#)- Admin Secretary

[Gill Robertson](#)- Student Adviser
[Tegan Davies](#)- Student Coordinator
[Betty Kershaw](#)- Education Adviser
[Tanis Hand](#)- HCA Adviser
[Lisa Cork](#)- HCA Coordinator

[Fiona Smith](#)- CYP Adviser
[Jane Denton](#)- Midwifery and Fertility Adviser
[Shirley Foster](#)- Membership Coordinator
[Natalie May](#)- Admin Secretary
[Jessica Frazer](#)- Admin Secretary

colleagues can best promote the 'cultivation of health', and work towards the ambition, 'health for all by the year 2020'.

For further information on this conference and to be added to the mailing list, please contact [Louise Walczak](#), Conference and Events Organiser on 020 7647 3579

The RCN Fellows 'Facing the Care Challenge' conference

17th November 2010

This conference is an RCN accredited one-day programme, aimed at delegates from all care settings. Recent high profile reports of poor patient experiences have led to media headlines and allegations that nurses:

- Are too posh to wash
- Leave patients unfed
- Treat patients with a lack of dignity and privacy

With increasing incidences of dementia, an ageing population living with chronic diseases and a fast moving finance-driven healthcare environment, nurses have been challenged to prove that they can still deliver high quality, fundamental nursing care with empathy and skill.

Following on from the success of the RCN Fellows' fringe events at RCN Congress, we are pleased to announce the first RCN Fellows' one-day conference. The conference will face these challenges, examining and debating the issues of nurse education, leadership and practice using case studies to seek solutions supporting the delivery of care in all settings.

Speakers and delegates will come from all care settings: acute, primary and voluntary sector, and from all levels 'ward to board' to share and discuss ideas and thoughts. For more information on the event programme and the speakers, or, to register your attendance, please go [here](#).