



# Transplant Natters

The Voice of Nursing in the British Transplantation Society

May 2018

We are delighted to share this British Transplantation Society Nursing newsletter with you – a regular update aimed at all nurses involved in organ donation and transplantation.

This is your forum – we want to share practice and experiences from round the UK. In this issue we welcome some thoughts on the benefits of being a BTS member from Lisa Burnapp, outgoing General Secretary BTS and introduce you to some of the committee of the Chapter of Nurses.

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#### BTS Membership fees from 2017

Reduced Member: £25, student, NHS Band 7 or below or clinical scientist.

Ordinary Member: £80, SPR, Lecturer or NHS Band 8a, 8b or 8c

Consultant Member: £115, Consultant, Senior Reader, Professor or NHS Band 8d or above

## Training and Development Opportunity for Transplant Co-ordinators



BTS and NHSBT are delighted to announce a new joint training opportunity for recipient and living donor transplant co-ordinators. This pilot course will commence in June and transplant co-ordinators will join the well established Specialist Nurse for Organ Donation (SNOD) Cohort training for an initial 2 days; covering topics such as the role of the ODT Hub; microbiology; medical and social history training and communication, together with specific breakaway sessions. Part 2 will be a one day specialised course in September focused on Influencing Behaviours.

Places for this course in June 2018 are now available for a limited numbers; NHSBT are supporting this pilot course with delegates expected to cover travel costs. If you have new recipient or living donor co-ordinator colleagues, or have recently started recipient on-call, please contact:

Maria Kelly: [maria.kelly@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:maria.kelly@nhsbt.nhs.uk) quoting 'BTS/ NHSBT Training and Development: SNODs and TCs'



## Congratulations

**Irene Russell has been the transplant co-ordinator at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee for many years and has worked in organ donation, renal recipient and living donation roles.**

She was recently honoured with the Ronnie McIntosh Award for promoting and raising awareness of organ donation and supporting transplant patients. Everyone who knows Irene and her dedication to the role will agree how well deserved this was.

Photo courtesy of NHS Tayside

**Please forward all 'good news' stories to**  
[jen.lumsdaine@nhs.net](mailto:jen.lumsdaine@nhs.net)  
[mark.roberts@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:mark.roberts@nhsbt.nhs.uk)



## Meet the Chapter of Nurses

**This issue: Diane Evans**

Diane, Renal Recipient Co-ordinator from Bristol, shares her thoughts on her role and BTS.

### Within your role what special interests do you have?

My key area of special interest is education and training. I am passionate about inspiring others to consider transplant and or donation as exciting specialist nursing roles to get their teeth into.

We are an ageing population of nurses (sorry – but it's true!!) and a key part is succession planning for our replacements in XX number of years. Through training, education, support and inspiration you can coax those movers and shakers into transplant and donation – attracting the cream of the crop with vision, desire, ambition and passion to continually improve as necessary

I am completing my Masters in Education (Teaching and Learning for Health Care Professionals) at the University of Bristol. This focuses on the key principles of teaching and reviews embracing AV and alternative teaching methods and styles; curriculum planning and appreciating diversity of learners and learning. I am loving it because I am using the knowledge and skills learnt throughout all aspects of my role and in supporting others with their learning.

## Suggest one change nurses can make to improve practice in your field?

Rationalise paperwork – don't know about you but I feel as if I complete the same piece of information in several formats for different people – because "that is the way so and so likes it".

Communicate better. In the world of increasing efficiencies where staffing becomes tighter and tighter and time management becomes a logistical skill we truly need to embrace (rather than some vague concept in a leadership/management book) we need to learn to work better (more efficiently) not harder!!

## What advice would you give a nurse thinking about submitting an abstract to BTS Congress?

DO it!! Have a think about an innovation; special project or something you are proud of – either as an instigator or a lead. Collaborate with your

team about a joint submission or a surgeon/medic who is happy to support you.

There are some good resources out there which advise how to write/construct an abstract to make it more desirable to markers.

Go for it – the BTS Congress is an excellent place to present- with your peers and others – a friendly amenable non- threatening place where people want to be interested Keep it punchy and relevant!

## Best about BTS?

Welcoming. Group is the voice of transplant in UK – able to get advice and support re issues related to transplantation and donation.

**Diane Evans, Transplant Co-ordinator, Bristol**



**Lisa Burnapp**  
Consultant Nurse RN,  
MA (Medical Law  
and Ethics)

## What could the BTS do for you?

**I am delighted to be writing to you in this first edition of the Chapter of Nurses' newsletter and to introduce you to what the Society has to offer.**

I have been a member of BTS for almost 15 years and in that time, I have seen the Society evolve into a multi-organ, multi-professional Society that truly reflects the professional voice of transplantation. My BTS story really started in 2004. Prior to that I had attended a couple of Annual Congresses and become a member but soon realised that this was a Society that I wanted to be more involved with. The chance to do that came when I was elected to Council in 2004. It is hard to believe now but, at that time, there were no dedicated representatives on Council for transplant nursing or organ donation unless they were elected from the membership by serendipity.

I was immediately charged with two tasks:

1. To find out if nurses would be interested in the Society, as part of a wider 'BTS Constituency Review' and
2. To establish a multi-disciplinary living donor kidney forum within the Society, to which liver was later added.

It was a privilege to Co-Chair the now 'BTS Living Donor Forum' through an evolutionary decade in living donation and, thanks to the leadership of the current Co-Chairs, it has retained its multi-disciplinary focus and remains a popular fixture in the BTS calendar.

In terms of the Constituency Review, a questionnaire survey was sent to as many nurses from different organ groups and clinical areas as possible and, from the survey, we concluded that nurses who were committed to a career in transplantation (generally Band 6 and above) felt that the Society could be relevant to them and would be interested in becoming members. As a result, Council agreed to a dedicated representative for transplant nursing and, subsequently, an additional position for specialist nurses in organ donation was established, both of which are embedded in the BTS constitution today. From there, the concept of a dedicated Chapter for Nurses to appeal to a wider constituency of nurses working in all aspects of donation and transplantation and to raise the profile of nursing within the Society followed and was successfully established in 2013.

In 2015, I was elected as BTS General Secretary, one of four Executive positions and the first time that nursing had been represented on the Executive Team in the Society. This gave me scope to support the development and activities of the Chapter of Nurses and to work with my Executive which, amongst other things, makes a strong commitment to enhancing the profile of all the professions allied to medicine within in BTS to create an integrated and inclusive Society.

## So, what's in it for you?

If you are working as a Band 6 or above and committed to a career in donation and transplantation, the BTS could be the Society for you. It is incredibly cheap to become a member because the fees are aligned with grade and salary- Consultant members pay more so that trainees, nurses and scientists benefit from lower membership and Congress fees (see on page 1).

Membership gives you access to all sorts of benefits too as well as a network of hundreds of new colleagues. We all know that study leave and funding are difficult to negotiate in the modern NHS but you may not know that BTS offers 10 bursaries a year to support individual non-consultant members to attend meetings or to pursue educational projects. The application process is simple and turnaround time for a decision is short.

## Chapter of Nurses

Further membership details are on the [BTS website](#), however here are the current committee, with contact emails for the co-chairs for your comments, views and submissions:

Mark Roberts: [mark.roberts@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:mark.roberts@nhsbt.nhs.uk)  
Jen Lumsdaine: [jen.lumsdaine@nhs.net](mailto:jen.lumsdaine@nhs.net)

Members automatically become members of the Chapter of Nurses and are eligible to receive 'Transplant Natters' on a regular basis as well as the President's newsletter, which is sent to all BTS members throughout the year. The Chapter of Nurses has an exciting agenda planned and is committed to encouraging nurses to prepare abstracts and present presentations at Congress so that the meeting content lives up to its promise of being multi-professional, multi-organ and multi-educational!

The BTS is a real community and I have been proud and privileged to be part of it and to represent my profession within it for so many years. If you think that you have a contribution to make, then you probably have so become a member and start to get involved now. Access this website for further information [www.bts.org.uk](http://www.bts.org.uk) and start your BTS story... sooner rather than later.

Julie Glen (Living Donation)  
Diane Evans (Renal)  
Sally Holmes (Education)  
Lisa Burnapp (Living Donation Lead, NHSBT)  
  
Nicola Johnson (Research)  
Sandra Dix (Living Donation)  
Wendy Littlejohn (Liver)  
Katie Morley (Heart and lung)  
Laura Ramsay (Recipient lead, NHSBT)

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## NEXT ISSUE

In the next issue we would like to highlight some ethical topics - does anyone have any views or experiences of altruistic donors under the age of 25 that they would like to share?