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This month ANNUK celebrate the 2021 Renal Nurse of the Year Award and their Inaugural Virtual Conference

ANN UK were delighted to be asked to judge the Renal Nurse of the Year category as part of the British Journal of Nursing (BJN) Awards 2021.

The judging panel included Karen Jenkins (President ANN UK), Sue Woodcock and Sally Tait (ANN UK Executive Board Members), who have a combined 84 years of experience within Renal Nursing!

As a judging panel we were extremely impressed by the high standard of nominees for this award, highlighting the incredible work being undertaken by Renal Nurses, around the country, during such challenging times.

This years' winner Tricia Sutherland from NHS Ayrshire and Arran implemented advanced care planning in her unit. Paying particular attention to patients' wants and needs, Tricia has helped her teams to consider deterioration and increasing frailty of patients at every stage of the patient journey. She set up a robust pathway of care, using improvement methodology. Since this has been introduced nurses are becoming more confident in recognising the deterioration in patients' health and facilitating comfort measures to improve their care. Tricia shifted the focus of care from treatment orientated to a person-centred approach.

Runners Up

Lyndsey Bibby from Spectrum Community Health CIC, who recognised that HMP Preston had no onsite dialysis facilities. Lyndsey then set up a dialysis service which improved access to care for patients, reduced the need for external hospital visits and provided time and cost savings to the prison.

Anne Elisabeth Grace from Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust who set up an AKI education programme to provide support to patients, GPs and palliative care staff within primary & secondary care. This programme improved prevention, early detection and management of AKI.

Congratulations to you all on your tremendous achievements.

ANNUK Inaugural Conference

On Friday April 16th ANNUK held its inaugural conference 'Best Practice in Kidney care'. Although delivered virtually over 200 people registered to attend.

Here is a brief summary of topics presented. We thank our speakers and sponsors for their support in contributing to an exciting and packed programme covering a wide range of contemporary issues across kidney care.

Dr Andrew Frankel from Imperial College, London opened the meeting with a powerful talk on 'Managing Diabetes in Haemodialysis'. As the number of people diagnosed with diabetes continues to rise understanding the management of these patients having haemodialysis is becoming ever more important. Problems arise because HD patients often have less contact with their diabetes

teams. Dr Frankel suggested we tend to be over-reliant on the use of HbA1C when monitoring diabetes control despite its poor reliability in kidney patients because of shorter red cell life and erythropoietin use.

Treatment option education in a virtual world - A workshop sponsored by Baxter Healthcare presented some great innovations involving virtual sessions and other online formats that could influence the ways we deliver patient education beyond the time of the current pandemic.

Professor Sandip Mitra from Manchester updated us on recent developments in Renal services in England and how changes to the structure of NHS England and service commissioning will affect us all in the coming years.

Sandip's talk preceded an exciting series of short, five-minute presentations from around the country sharing various quality improvement projects and lessons learned through enforced changes to service during the pandemic.

Khallil Johoor and Fiona Sinclair from St Georges Trust, London shared a poster detailing the way their renal and critical care teams worked collaboratively to ensure haemodialysis was available for COVID-19 patients in intensive care units. We heard elsewhere about the large proportion of ventilated COVID-19 patients who required renal support during their times in critical care

Julie Gorton from Salford discussed a variety of innovative ways in which their Trust had changed practice to cope with the pandemic.

Angela Cole from Brighton similarly shared ways in which changes to cope with the pandemic had included a need for some physical restructuring of services in order to cope with social distancing, patient isolation and increased demand from ICU.

Simon Gray from Salford focused on the occupational exposure of the renal workforce to COVID-19 and the development of infection control facilities in haemodialysis facilities.

Karen Nagalingam and Jack Burt from Hertfordshire discussed an interesting Quality Improvement project aimed at improving the management of Acute Kidney Injury in Covid-19 patients.

Other presentations reminded us that although COVID-19 has dominated so much of our lives this past year other things have happened too! Laurie Crosby told us about an exciting project between Salford and colleagues in Nigeria – helping to establish a Peritoneal Dialysis programme in an area where haemodialysis is unaffordable to most of the population. Joanne Martin, also from Salford, told us of a project to develop incremental Peritoneal dialysis prescriptions. The session concluded with a panel discussion during which a large number of delegates contributed questions and discussion on the points raised in the presentations.

How to write abstracts for conferences and another on the progress of the ANNUK Mentorship programme were delivered as to helpful pop-up sessions.

For information on mentorship and future opportunities to become a mentee contact info@annuk.org

Tricia Sutherland, 2021 Renal Nurse of the year presented her work on advance care planning followed by Dr Jonathan Murray from South Tees presenting on Acute Kidney Injury (AKI). It was interesting to hear the extent to which AKI can be a lens for looking at other aspects of acutely unwell patients, and the importance of ensuring that AKI is included in all undergraduate healthcare programmes, including nursing.

Fiona Loud from Kidney Care UK gave an update on the experiences of kidney patients during the pandemic. Many have been fearful and of lived very restricted lives through their need to shield. Information from care providers and Government in particular has not always been as clear and informative as it could have been.

A workshop on Learning together about Cardio-Renal considerations sponsored by AstraZeneca explored how patient care can suffer from silo working from different specialities. The relationships between heart failure and kidney disease are too overlooked. This session was largely driven by many perceptive questions from delegates.

The day concluded with two presentations focused on the important issue of transition from paediatric to adult kidney care. Suzanne Bradley from Great Ormond Street discussed the patient experience of this and Dr Marie Marshall from Royal Manchester Children's Hospital told us about their experience of using a trained youth worker to help patients experiencing this transition.

Initial feedback at the end of the day was extremely positive and I think all of us involved will have learned a lot. Thank you to all at ANN UK who helped make the day run so smoothly and thanks also to our sponsors – Baxter Healthcare, Kidney Care UK and AstraZeneca.

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