



## Nursing Newsletter

### August 2011

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Another year, another newsletter. As your nurse representatives on the executive council we have spent another busy year ensuring that the nursing contribution to acute medicine is recognized and that, as a Society, we promote the ethos of multi-professional team-working in the Acute Medical Unit (AMU).

Last year we highlighted our three main aims:

1. To influence the future vision for nursing in the AMU.
2. To promote opportunities for research in acute medicine.
3. To increase nurse membership and involvement in the Society.

We are delighted that we have been able to go some way to achieving these aims, although we could always do more if we had endless time and energy out with the working day!

**Future vision:** The updated career framework will shortly be uploaded on the website. This will give units a core framework for professional development that can then be customized to local needs. A workforce toolkit to assist in assessing the workforce needs and demonstrating to managers the specialist needs of the AMU has just been finalised. This has been an area of concern for many members, particularly in the current financial climate when reduction of staffing costs is demanded in order to balance the budgets. At this year's International Conference in London (29 - 30 September) we will be co-presenting a session expanding on this work.

**Nursing Research:** We have both been heavily involved in shaping the research agenda through the research sub-committee. Currently the first part of a national survey on nurses' perceptions and experience of AMU is underway, following a pilot piece of work in 2009 (Lees & Myers, 2010). This project has been funded through Professor Bell's department and demonstrates the commitment of the Society to promoting AMU nursing as a distinct specialty. If you have ideas for research projects please email the SAM administrator on [sam@rcpe.ac.uk](mailto:sam@rcpe.ac.uk) to propose these ideas to the research committee.

**Nurse involvement and membership:** It was gratifying to see an increased nurse attendance at the recent conferences despite the problems of accessing funding. There has also been an increase in poster presentation

from nursing and AHP staff. We continue to promote the inclusion of nurse speakers on the main conference programme, so if you know of good nurse speakers please email the SAM administrator with contact details and suggested topics.

The number of nurse members now stands at 16. Please encourage members of your units to join the Society to enjoy reduced fee attendance at the twice yearly conferences. These provide unique opportunities to update your knowledge, share best practice and network professionally (and socially) with all members of the AMU team.

This year's International Conference has two packed parallel sessions, the theme of patient safety and topical issues. Alan Dobson will be taking the main stage and addressing challenges facing nurses in acute medicine.

After saying she would never compile / edit another book, Liz Lees has compiled and edited her second book on discharge planning – **Timely Discharge from Hospital** which will be published during October 2011, available via M&K Publishing.

During 2011/2012 acute medicine quality indicators and standards will be fully developed, seeing a new wave on implementation within acute medical units.

Finally, after nine long years, Liz Myers is hanging up her boots as nurse representative to the council. Liz has seen and worked with the council develop from inception to the society as we know it today. Elections are currently underway and it is heartening to see that there are three extremely able candidates for the post. Good luck to the successful candidate.

Hope to see you all in London.

Liz Myers and Liz Lees  
Nurse representatives to the executive council  
August 2011

Lees, L., Myers, L. (2010) A Profile of Nurses working in Acute Medicine Units: what is the future? *Acute Medicine* 9 (2): 53 – 108; pp. 91 – 96. Rila Publications Ltd.  
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