

BAUN Annual Conference & Exhibition

3-5th November Edinburgh International Conference Centre

Edinburgh has always proven to be a very popular venue for BAUN members in the past. You can understand why. The conference centre and accommodation on offer is nestled in the heart of the city and just a stone's throw from the magnificent Edinburgh Castle and the famous Princes Street where you can grab a few bargains.

For those that have not had the opportunity to venture further from their own back yard..... seriously you need to get a grip and get yourself up here so that you can not only sample some of the Scottish hospitality but have the opportunity to be part of a fabulous conference where you can network, learn and perhaps share your views and knowledge with like minded people.

The conference organising group have worked hard to offer a medley of interesting themes to satisfy your 'urological' taste buds.

DAY ONE

Our President Tom Ladds will open our conference. The opening speaker Alison Leary will give an inspiring account on how we can all make nursing visible. Her compelling arguments will stir up your desire to want to shout your professional attributes from the rooftops! Our keynote speaker Jeffrey Albaugh will share his experiences from an American perspective, addressing the challenges and the rewards of striving to provide exceptional care to urology patients while keeping financial costs under control.

For those of you who are thinking of writing about a recent audit or piece of research that you have been involved in and you are not sure how to get started, well our ex- President Jerome Marley will be able to take you by the hand and show you the way in his session 'Research - How to get started'. If you are coming along with a colleague then your partner may wish to sit in on the parallel session and listen and support the many free papers we have on offer this year or visit some of the posters on display. Thank you to all those applicants who have taken the time to put pen to paper to share with the urology community what was important to them and new in their workplace.

A lot of discussion today is centred on the essence of care, understanding what our patients feel is important to them. Catheterisation is one of the most common skills a urology nurse will acquire but one which is one of the most intimate procedures a patient will endure. Chris Harris will reflect upon the recently released competencies (skills for health) and examine the risks associated with catheterisation. In conclusion and perhaps a little introduction to the debate session - Chris hopes to encourage debate into who should be deemed appropriate to carry out catheterisation.

As always the debate 'This house believes that competency based nursing practice points to the death of nursing as a profession' is controversial and thought provoking. Those presenting for and against the motion will no doubt have prepared a convincing case. It will be up to you to navigate your way through these arguments and make your decision. I always find this one of the most enjoyable highlights of the conference as sit on the edge of my seat wanting to grab the microphone to put my case forward.

This year the exhibition is full to the brim of eager representatives to spoil and delight you with their new urological products. Please endeavour to make full use of their experience and expertise during the tea/coffee and lunch breaks. The exhibition opens Monday at 5pm with a drinks reception at the BAUN stand for those fledgling attendees who want to meet up with some of the old timers i.e. Tom Ladds. The exhibition closes at 11am Wednesday morning.

DAY TWO

Tuesday is split into two parallel sessions one being the section of oncology programme which runs throughout the day and the others being sexual health and ward programme in the morning then the community programme in the afternoon. This day promises to have something for everyone and will leave you in a catch 22 dilemma as to which session to go to.

Lorraine Grover and Philippa Mathews will provide an overview of sexual health and taking an effective history this section is notoriously left out when nurse and doctors take a medical history. The speakers will offer tips and strategies to overcome those bashful feelings. Mr. Ian Pearce will endeavour to poach some of the well seasoned oncology nurses to provide a light hearted approach to dealing with the problems we all face in managing female incontinence and the dreaded and often problematic catheter related problems. Let's see if we can keep him on his toes, the person who can ask the most obscure question and gets Mr. Pearce to scratch his brow gets a ten pound gift voucher!

I find genetics fascinating and feel it holds the key to the successful screening and treatment options for diseases. Glenn Brice will give an interesting presentation on the importance of genetics and highlight the role of the genetic counsellor with reference to urological conditions like polycystic kidney disease and prostate cancer.

We have introduced a new section with a community focus this year. The boundaries between primary and secondary care are not as distinct as they once were. This is due to the influences of the 18-week targets, payment by results and commissioning health care services which will all pose challenges in trying to work in collaboration with our partners in health care.

Since the publication of the Department of Health White paper 'our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services' in January 2006, Stockport PCT and Stockport NHS Foundation Trust have made steady progress in making services more convenient for patients and provided them closer to home. Mr. Paddy O'Reilly, Linda Martin and Catherine Briggs will each give their own accounts from the Consultant Urologist, Clinical Nurse Specialist and GPwSI of what impact this has made on the urological service and the benefits this has brought for their patients.

Eleri Phillips and Janet Winstanley will discuss how the Integrated Cancer Care Programme as a model of care has been used to provide continuity and coordination of care for people living with cancer in the community.

This year the oncology programme centres on prostate cancer. Again we have some excellent speakers Professor Noel Clarke will be talking on Hormone refractory cancer; and Mr. Alan McNeill will be discussing the pros and cons of open versus laparoscopic radical prostatectomy. Dr Duncan McLaren will talk about the non surgical treatments of early stage prostate cancer. Linda Martin will be talking about supporting patients with treatment choices as part of her role in the 'Informed decision making project' closely followed by Gillian Basnet who gives her account of supporting patients through robotic assisted radical prostatectomy. Macmillan have kindly arranged for a speaker to provide an update/overview of the financial and social help that is available for patients diagnosed with cancer.

The Eileen O'Hagen lecture this year is being given by Rosemary Kennedy, Chief Nursing Officer, National Assembly of Wales.

DAY THREE

I do hope that for those of you that like to burn the midnight oil and dance the night away at the Gala dinner, will be up and ready in time to sample some of what's on offer by the andrology section and in the ward programme which will both run parallel on the final morning.

Dr Kevin Wylie will explore the prevalence of premature and retarded ejaculation and the subsequent management and choice of interventions. Anne Storey will then move onto problem solving approach to answer the question of why don't PDE5 inhibitors work?

Meanwhile Mr. Simon Stubington will give a comprehensive presentation of how prostate surgery has changed over the years. Reducing length of hospital stay, minimising complications are all benefits to the service and the patient. Mr. Stubington talks us through what to consider when setting up a daycase prostate surgery service and explore some of the clinical governance issues we may be faced with. Finally he will examine the Office Urologist and CNS role in managing patients with lower urinary tract symptoms.

To end the conference Mr. Jon Cartledge and Anne Storey go head to head to attract the remaining delegates. Mr. Cartledge will be talking about the management of renal stones and dietary advice in their prevention. Often nurses are not sure what advice to give patients who, once they have passed their stone, don't ever want to get `that pain again`.

For all those nurses who want to know more about how androgen therapy devices work Anne will chair a 'hands on' workshop looking at three androgen therapies including vacuum devices.

If you have not already booked your place I hope I have convinced you otherwise. You have still a few weeks left to get your bag packed and your cocktail dress dry cleaned!

See you there