Dear BANCC members,

Welcome to the Spring Edition of the BANCC newsletter, and I’m happy to see that winter finally appears to be over!

It has been a busy time for Council, most recently with the planning of sessions for the British Cardiovascular Society Annual Conference and Exhibition (ACE) to be held 7 - 9 June 2010. I’d like to remind members to register on-line at http://www.bcs.com/registration/default.asp?navcatid=30. Those of you who are joint BANCC-BCS members, please remember your registration is FREE as long as you apply before 31 March! BANCC’s input is to be concentrated on the second day of the conference, Tuesday 8th June, and I am delighted to confirm we have been able to collaborate with SCST (the Society for Cardiological Science and Technology) for the morning session, and BACR (British Association for Cardiac Rehabilitation) and PCCS (Primary Care Cardiovascular Society) for the later morning session in order to provide and support the development of some exciting and topical sessions.

Continues on Page 2
For those of you able to attend, we will also be holding the BANCC Annual General Meeting during the ACE, and will send details to the membership nearer the time; we look forward to meeting you there. BANCC will be sharing a stand once again with the British Journal of Cardiac Nursing; so do visit the stand and meet your Council members.

A second reminder – the deadline for applications to the BANCC Professional Development Support Fund is fast approaching (the original deadline was 31 March 2010 but we have decided to extend this by a further week to 7 April 2010). BANCC are very keen to see applications for funding from members seeking support for attendance at conferences in particular. It is possible to apply for up to £500 for an international conference or £250 for a UK conference to cover the cost of conference registration and expenses – see pages 5 - 6 for further details.

We have been inundated recently by opportunities for our members to become involved in the development of NICE guidance. Sadly when we approach members to become involved, we only occasionally manage to identify members who are willing to represent the Association. Please bear in mind that when we ask for a contribution, ALL our members are eligible to represent us and opportunities to contribute to the development of guidance or policy are great learning opportunities – and look great on a CV. These are also excellent opportunities and one of the few ways that we can truly bring a nursing voice to guidance development. We are frequently approached by national agencies to contribute our expertise – these are approaches not just to Council but to the membership of the Association - do consider when you see that e-mail, whether you might like to get involved more in the work of the Association.

The next few months will see BANCC, amongst other activities, promoting collaborative working with other agencies such as the Royal College of Nursing, British Heart Foundation and British Cardiovascular Society to further develop our political influence and develop our research profile. We are in particular keen to support the RCN’s pre-election campaign [http://generalelection.rcn.org.uk/] to protect the role of Specialist Nurses, something that will be a crucial in the coming months, and we urge members to engage in any local debate – more information in this copy of the newsletter.

Please do keep an eye on our website, and look out for updates about the annual conference and exhibition over the coming weeks. We look forward to meeting you there!

We also have an election coming up. Jacqueline Hunt is coming to the end of her first term on council. Nomination papers to follow very shortly.

…and finally, please remember that this is Your newsletter – your news: You will be aware we will put links for information relating to conferences and study days in the newsletter and on the BANCC web site. If you would like to use your newsletter to advertise local events then please let us know (please email bancc@bcs.com) and we can include details (if appropriate and relevant to members). We are also very keen to hear about local developments and successes, so please do let us know and we can include information and reports in your newsletter.

Best wishes,

Jan Keenan
Acting President/Honorary Secretary, BANCC
Jan Keenan  
Acting President/Honorary Secretary  
June 2009 – Interim Period

Current Role: Consultant Nurse in Cardiac Medicine, John Radcliffe Hospital
Areas of special interest: Cardiac nursing

Scott McLean  
President Elect  
June 2009 – June 2011

Current Role: Nurse Consultant in Acute Cardiology, The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
Areas of specialist interest: Acute Coronary Syndromes and chest pain management

Imelda Sotto  
Treasurer  
June 2009 – June 2011

Current Role: Senior Clinical Nurse Specialist, London Chest Hospital
Areas of special interest: Heart failure

Catriona Jennings  
Junior Secretary  
June 2009 – June 2011

Current Role: Cardiovascular Specialist Research Nurse, Department of Cardiovascular Medicine, Imperial College London
Areas of special interest: Preventive Cardiology, smoking cessation, behaviour change and psycho-social health

Andrea Manley  
Junior Treasurer  
June 2009 – June 2011

Current Role: Clinical Nurse Specialist, Heart Failure Service, London Chest Hospital
Areas of special interest: Cardiology

Ordinary Members

Helen Cox  
June 2009 – June 2011 (second term)

Current Role: Senior Lecturer in Cardiac and Critical Care Nursing; University of the West of England
Areas of special interest: Predominately specialised in cardiac care over the last 20 years, teaching and research interests include cardiac and pre-hospital care, telemedicine and heart failure. Other areas of interest which have developed are managing critically ill patients both in high dependency and general ward settings.

Jacqueline Hunt  
June 2008 – June 2010 (first term)

Current Role: Community Heart Failure Specialist Nurse, South Downs Health NHS Trust. (Also part time Cardiac Research Nurse at Eastbourne District General Hospital).
Areas of special interest: Heart failure with a specific interest in developing the care of cardiac patients on general medical wards and ECG interpretation.

Kathy Marshall  
June 2009 – June 2011 (first term)

Current Role: Consultant Nurse in Cardiology, University Hospital Lewisham
Areas of special interest: Chest pain assessment, acute coronary syndrome, cardiac rehabilitation and prevention

Sheena Vernon  
June 2009 – June 2011 (first term)

Current Role: Adult Congenital Heart Disease Nurse, Bristol Royal Infirmary
Areas of special interest: Adult congenital heart disease
Non voting Members

Jenny Tagney  Past President  June 2009 – June 2010

Current Role: Consultant Nurse in Cardiology, Bristol Royal Infirmary

Susie May

Current Role: British Heart Foundation representative. Nurse Project Manager for the British Heart Foundation.
Areas of special interest: Setting up innovative specialist nurse and allied healthcare professional services across primary and secondary care. The skills, knowledge and education of cardiac nurses.

Department of Health representative to be confirmed

Honorary Member

Professor David R. Thompson

Current Role: Professor of Cardiovascular Nursing, Department of Health Sciences & Department of Cardiovascular Sciences, University of Leicester, Lead for BANCC research network
Areas of Special Interest: Cardiac rehabilitation, quality of life

HOW TO CONTACT BANCC:

All council members can be contacted by email: bancc@bcs.com

For any administrative queries or information requests, please contact:

Azeem Ahmad
Affiliates Coordinator
BANCC
c/o The British Cardiovascular Society
9 Fitzroy Square
London
W1T 5HW

Direct Tel: 020 7380 1918
General Tel: 020 7383 3887
Email: bancc@bcs.com
This fund has been set up to assist with the professional development of our members. Applications are welcome from those considering attending an educational meeting, for example:


The BANCC Council will now review submitted applications twice a year during their first council meetings immediately after the deadlines of 7 April 2010 (this was previously 31 March 2010, but we have decided on this occasion to extend this by a week) and 30 September 2010.

In the past, we have previously only reviewed applications once a year after the 31 March deadline and prior to the BANCC AGM held during the BCS Annual Conference and Exhibition. In light of the increasing difficulty for nurse members to gain access to funding for educational events and furthermore, to try and encourage more members to apply for funding, Council formally agreed at its most recent council meeting on 24 November 2009, to extend the application deadline to twice yearly.

Following discussion at BANCC council meeting on 24 November 2009, Council also agreed that its own council members could apply for funding, BUT they are NOT eligible to apply for funding to attend the BCS Annual Conference and Exhibition and will also be excluded from all discussions if their own application is one of those under consideration. The issue of council members’ eligibility to apply is stated here to be as openly transparent as possible to you all as members of BANCC.

Successful applicants will be notified in writing of the result of their funding application and successful applications will also be mentioned in the next available issue of the BANCC newsletter. If an application is approved, the applicant will be required to submit a receipt as proof of payment for their chosen conference prior to BANCC Council allocating funds to them.

The total amount that can be offered per application is up to £500 for international conferences, and £250 for those held in the United Kingdom. The applicant must be aware that BANCC will not cover the entire cost of a meeting and expenses if this comes to a total of more than £500 for international or £250 for UK conferences, and in these circumstances additional funding should be sought.

The application will also be attached with each future edition of the BANCC newsletter. We will send out reminders in advance of deadlines, which will now be both in March and September. Do consider applying to the fund.

The member sponsored will be required to write an article for the BANCC newsletter following the sponsored meeting/conference. This is a mandatory condition of the sponsorship and will be explained in further detail following a successful application. To summarise, the report of approximately 500 words should include a summary of sessions attended and how it relates to the applicant’s practice in their day to job activities.

The successful applicant(s) will be issued with a cheque covering 50% of funding allocated on approval and the remaining 50% once written feedback has been submitted for inclusion in the BANCC newsletter within 4 weeks of attending the conference. If this 4 week deadline cannot be met, the applicant must inform the Treasurer and Honorary Secretary at bancc@bcs.com as soon as possible.

The revised deadline for applications for the current 2009-2010 membership year is 7 April 2010 and then 30 September 2010 for applications received later on during 2010.

Imelda Sotto Jan Keenan
BANCC Treasurer BANCC Acting President / Honorary Secretary
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TOTAL COST OF CONFERENCE:

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AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM BANCC: (up to £500 for international conference, or £250 for UK conference)

WHY DO YOU WANT TO ATTEND:

HOW WILL YOU UTILISE THE NEW KNOWLEDGE IN YOUR WORK PLACE:

(please continue on additional sheets if necessary)

I agree that following my attendance at the aforementioned conference I will produce a written report (maximum of 500 words) for the BANCC Newsletter **within 4 weeks of attending the conference** [unless otherwise agreed with BANCC Council].

Signed: Date:

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**Part 2: TO BE COMPLETED BY BANCC COUNCIL**

CONFERENCE:

AMOUNT FUNDED BY BANCC:

50% OF THE AMOUNT TO BE PAID PRE-CONFERENCE ON RECEIPT OF PROOF OF PAYMENT:

50% OF THE AMOUNT TO BE PAID POST CONFERENCE ON RECEIPT OF ARTICLE FOR NEWSLETTER

RECOMMENDED:.................................................................

APPROVED:................................................................. BANCC President or Appropriate deputy.
NICE Hypertension Clinical Guideline (Update) 2010

I attended as the BANCC representative, the Scoping Workshop for NICE Hypertension Clinical Guideline (Update) on 17th February. This year the Guideline Development Group, part of the National Clinical Guidelines Centre for Acute and Chronic Conditions, will review the research for updating hypertension guidelines for use in the NHS in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. They will be supported in this by health professionals and lay people.

As a result of this meeting a draft scope, defining what aspects of care the guideline will cover and to whom it will apply, was developed. Key clinical areas to be covered in the draft scoping are identified as: Ambulatory monitoring, home blood pressure monitoring, thresholds for intervention and targets for treatment, medication, adherence to medication, provision of information and support, resistant hypertension.

Registered stakeholders for the Hypertension (update) guideline are invited to submit comments on the scope and may suggest clinical questions that could be answered in the guideline. BANCC is a registered stakeholder and I will be happy to collate any individual responses and comments.

The collective proforma has to be sent in by the 8th April 2010 so please take a look on the following web link: [http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=folder&o=47826](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=folder&o=47826) then email me at s.kennedy@clinmed.gla.ac.uk if you have anything you wish to highlight.

Susan Kennedy
BHF Cardiovascular Care Lecturer
University of Glasgow

PS. Editors Note: Chronic heart failure update from Wendy Churchouse/Annie MacCallum to follow in a future newsletter.

NHS Evidence cardiovascular 2010 Evidence Update on Chest Pain


The 2010 Evidence Update on Chest Pain seeks to identify key new systematic reviews and related documents published since the 2009 update and so identify the latest high quality evidence on this topic. The evidence will be accompanied by summaries from experts providing a commentary on the new evidence and whether this challenges current guidance/practice or identifies uncertainties in our knowledge on this topic.

Published online on 22nd February 2010.

Topics covered include: Diagnosis and risk, Angina, Acute Coronary Syndromes, Surgery and Interventions and Other.

Expert reviewers include:
- Professor Steve Goodacre, Professor of Emergency Medicine, University of Sheffield.
- Dr Kathryn E Griffith, GP, University Health Centre, University of York.
- Dr Sunil Nadar, Consultant Interventional Cardiologist, Heart of England NHS Trust.
- Alison Pottle, Consultant Nurse in Cardiology, Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust.
- Professor Tom Quinn, Clinical Lead, NHS Evidence –cardiovascular and Professor of Clinical Practice, University of Surrey.
NHS could save millions by investing in specialist nurses - RCN

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) today joined forces with almost 40 of the UK’s leading health organisations to warn that cutting specialist nurse services for people with long term conditions would be a “false economy”, as they began a campaign for guaranteed access to specialist nursing care for all patients with long term conditions.

Specialist nurse posts, many of which were lost during the deficits crisis of 2006, save millions of pounds from health budgets through reduced complications, fewer hospital re-admissions and the expert long term management of conditions. They also provide many patients and families with a lifeline which no other service can offer.

The RCN has conducted a survey of 60 of the leading health organisations, and almost 300 of the specialist nurses they represent in order to assess the value and availability of specialist nursing to patients with a wide range of long term conditions.

Only 36% of respondents felt that everyone who needed specialist nursing currently received it.

Of those who identified problems accessing specialist care (48.8%), the overwhelming majority (69.1%) reported that specialist nurse services are already overloaded and do not have capacity for new referrals.

More than a third of respondents have seen cuts in services over the last 12 months, and 57% are concerned that posts will be threatened in the near future. 95% of the respondents who have seen cuts in services say it is the NHS who have cut or reduced funding for specialist nurses. This raises significant concerns that posts and services could be lost altogether as funding streams dry up.

Examples of savings which can be delivered by specialist nurses include –

£56 million a year on care for people with Parkinson’s
£180 million could be saved by treating Multiple Sclerosis flare ups at home rather than in hospital
£84 million could be saved by using nurse specialists for epilepsy rather than GPs to manage the condition

Ahead of the general election, the RCN is calling for every patient with a long term condition to have guaranteed access to specialist nursing care. In addition, the RCN is calling for specialist posts to be supported by guaranteed funding, underwritten by the NHS, to ensure that short term cutbacks do not jeopardise these valuable skills in the long term. Specialist nurses also need to be given the time they need to treat patients, provide expertise and lead teams in delivering the best care.

Specialist nurses are dedicated clinical experts who are able to spend time with patients with a particular condition, and help them with everything from drug treatments to exercise plans, and help to ensure that patients have the highest possible quality of life. The RCN, along with many of the UK’s leading health organisations, value the role of the specialist nurse as crucial to saving money and preventing complications, and also urges employers not to lose their unparalleled skills and experience.

Dr Peter Carter, RCN Chief Executive & General Secretary, said:

“Nurses realise that whoever wins the next election will be looking to make savings and to deliver more for less. While the temptation may be to cut or downgrade specialist nursing roles, this would be a false economy which would only add to the growing cost of treating long term conditions. In fact, specialist nurses save money through the better management of conditions, keeping patients out of hospital, and advising on the best drug and other treatments.

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1 Parkinson’s Disease Society, 2006.
2 Based on a saving of £1797 per patient from a scheme to treat patients at home, developed by the University College London Hospital Foundation Trust.
3 Based on a saving of £184 per patient per year from correct specialist diagnosis and reduced GP visits.
“Specialist nurses are a unique lifeline for patients and families, who are unequivocal in saying that the specialist nurse is the key factor in preserving their quality of life. It would be disastrous if these posts were put at risk, not just for these patients but for the health service as a whole. Helping with everything from accessing the most appropriate drugs to giving advice on maintaining good health and wellbeing, specialist nurses are always there for the patients they care for. For example, if community based care for people with Parkinson’s Disease alone could save the government £56 million a year, not to mention reducing the distress to patients and families, then it cannot be right to cut or freeze these posts as a short term fix.

“Whoever wins the next election will need to demonstrate a commitment to save not just these posts, but the skills and experience of the people who fill them. The RCN is calling on government, policy makers and employers to commit to preserving and expanding these roles so that all patients have access and all specialist nurses have the time to use their skills.”

The RCN is concerned that during the deficits crisis in 2006, many specialist roles were lost, frozen or downgraded, breaking a vital link for patients and in many cases losing skills from the health service permanently. An RCN survey has revealed that –

- More than a third of specialist nurses reported their organisations had a vacancy freeze in place
- 47% reported that their roles were at risk of being downgraded
- 68% reported having to see more patients

The Parkinson’s Disease Society is one of the organisations backing the RCN’s recommendations. Lesley Carter, Head of Influence and Service Development, said: “Parkinson’s Disease Nurse Specialists are critical to the care of people living with the condition, but the current postcode lottery of care means that many people with Parkinson's are missing out. At the Parkinson’s Disease Society we are passionate about making sure that everyone with Parkinson's has access to a Nurse Specialist wherever they live in the UK. Specialist nurses help people manage their medication, offer advice and information about living with Parkinson’s and give emotional support to both the patient and their carer. They also offer the local health organisation opportunities to innovate how care is delivered.”

Linda McGuinness, who has Multiple Sclerosis and receives care from MS Nurse Specialist Carrie Dobson said: “Unless you’re going through it you don’t know how it will affect you. When you’re sitting there and suddenly your feet don’t work or your legs don’t work it’s very frightening and you want help there and then. You can’t always get the doctor, although he’s very good, you need to have somebody there you can ring up and say ‘help, this is happening, what should I do about it?’ It’s like a safety rope, like a life belt to know there is somebody there.”

The RCN has also produced a film setting out the value of specialist nurses and featuring interviews with nurses and patients. You can view the film from Wednesday February 24th via the Nursing Counts website – www.rcn.org.uk/generalelection

-end-

Notes to editors

Organisations who have signed up to the RCN’s policy recommendations include the Parkinson’s Disease Society, Macmillan Cancer Support, Epilepsy Action, Breakthrough Breast Cancer, Terrence Higgins Trust, MS Society and The Roy Castle Lung Cancer foundation.

The Parkinson’s Society estimates that by developing and funding community-based treatment services the savings in health costs could be around £56 million, or 30% of the money spent on supporting people in care homes.

For further information, interviews or illustrations please contact the RCN Media Office on 020 7647 3633, press.office@rcn.org.uk or visit http://www.rcn.org.uk/news/mediacentre.php

Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is the voice of nursing across the UK and is the largest professional union of nursing staff in the world. The RCN promotes the interest of nurses and patients on a wide range of issues and helps shape healthcare policy by working closely with the UK Government and other national and international institutions, trade unions and professional bodies and voluntary organisations.

4 http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/press_releases/uk/specialist_nurses_still_under_threat_despite_nhs_surplus
The Nursing in Practice Annual Awards will award best practice in a variety of clinical areas, and are designed to recognise excellence and innovation in the primary care setting. Applications are invited from individuals or teams of primary healthcare professionals who have undertaken projects to improve the quality of care for groups of patients in a number of clinical areas including Cardiac Care.

Cardiac Care: Cardiac nurses play a significant role in helping people with heart conditions to live fuller, longer lives. This award seeks to recognise the work of community nurses who excel in helping patients to manage heart conditions or recover from cardiac events such as stroke or heart attack.

There is also a Team Of The Year Award: This award seeks to recognise teamwork in primary care. It will go to a team working in a primary care or community setting that has created the most innovative approach to healthcare delivery. Applications should give examples of effective team working and staff motivation within the project and provide evidence of delivering high quality patient services through a multidisciplinary team effort.

Clinical projects will be evaluated on the following key criteria:

- Clearly defined objectives for quality improvement within the project
- Clearly described interventions
- Innovation and new ways of working
- Clarity of leadership and how the qualities have affected the team
- Robust data collection and analysis, showing measured improvements in patient care, including clinical outcomes
- The sustainability of the changes observed
- The ability to be replicated across other practices

Applicants will need to submit an application form and cover sheet (available online at: http://www.nursinginpractice.com/default.asp?page=event.instancehome&event.id=3&event.locationid=11&event.instanceid=54) outlining their work.

Applications should be submitted to rebeccapegg@campden.com before 5.30pm on 21st May 2010. The top 4 shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview in person or by conference call with the panel judges. The top 3 candidates will then be invited to the Awards ceremony and lunch on the 16th November 2010 at the NEC Birmingham.

Top nominees will also be given the opportunity to write up and/or present work in Nursing in Practice magazine and on www.nursinginpractice.com and the winner will be invited to talk about their work at a future Nursing in Practice event of their choice, as well as receiving £250 prize money and a trophy.

Projects will need to have been completed/implemented during the past 18 months. The panel will review the final four nominations for each award on the following dates:

Cardiac care award: 21 July 2010
Team Of The Year Award: 2 August 2010

Timelines for Awards

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<tr>
<td>Jan 2010</td>
<td>Launch of awards, call for papers – continuing promotion through events, website, bulletins and magazine – plus PR campaign</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 May 2010</td>
<td>Closing date for nominations</td>
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<td>End May - End June 2010</td>
<td>Marking the papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>July - Aug 2010</td>
<td>Panel interviews at our London offices with top 4 presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 November 2010</td>
<td>Awards lunch during the Nursing in Practice Event Birmingham</td>
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For further information, please contact: Rebecca Pegg on rebeccapegg@campden.com or 020 7214 0598
Why we would like you to take part?
One of the main aims of NHS Evidence is to engage with users and stakeholders to understand their information needs and experiences. It is very important that we involve users in the development of the service and give them the opportunity to provide comments - that way the service will reflect their needs, which is our ultimate goal.

We are currently planning a series of workshops to develop a better understanding of users’ views about the Specialist Collections and to generate ideas for the future development of these resources. We want to speak to a variety of users who work in different clinical settings and who currently use Specialist Collections, in order to gauge their views across the different resources.

What will be expected of you?
You are invited to take part in several workshops and activities, which will take place over a four month period. The first session took place during the first week in March 2010. This was carried out in the evening and lasted about two hours. The sessions will be held at research facilities in London and Manchester, and volunteers can choose to attend the most appropriate location to them. Participants will be asked about their views and experiences about the current collections as they stand, and their ideas for the future redesign.

The next session will take place during the first week in April 2010 where participants will be asked about their views in prioritising the issues that have been generated. Following this, participants will be asked to reflect and feedback on design ideas and prototypes, through an iterative design process. This will be communicated by email.

Finally, participants will be asked to attend a User Experience Session, to test and feedback on the final design. This is likely to take place during summer 2010. The project requires the participant to commit their time to all of the stages of work, as it is crucial that the same panel is maintained throughout the process.

What are the benefits of taking part?
As a participant you will get the chance to tell us about your views and experiences of Specialist Collections, which will enable the developers to improve the service in accordance with your needs. Participants will be reimbursed for travel and subsistence expenses. Incentives will also be paid for remaining involved with the research and development process, totalling £150 per participant.

Confidentiality & Right to withdraw
All contact details and information supplied by volunteers will be stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. All volunteers will remain anonymous in any reports of findings. All volunteers can withdraw from the research at any time, although we request that volunteers do not offer to take part unless they can commit to the three stage panel process.

If you require further information, or want to sign up to take part, please contact the User Research team:
Jackie Keamey       Email: jackie.keamey@nice.org.uk     Tel: +44 (0)161 219 3790
Katie Adams         Email: katie.adams@nice.org.uk      Tel: +44 (0)161 219 3750

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
Level 1A | City Tower | Piccadilly Plaza | Manchester M1 4BD | United Kingdom
Website: http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/default.aspx
The ‘Know Your Pulse’ campaign launched in 2009 immediately made a strong impact. Over 1100 events were held across the UK, from the Channel Islands to the Orkney Islands. With your help we distributed over 250,000 Pulse Check Cards and thousands of booklets and posters to raise awareness of heart rhythm disorders across the UK. Your contribution helped raise public, patient and medical awareness of the ‘Know Your Pulse’ campaign, and how a simple health check can detect potential cardiac arrhythmias.

Arrhythmia Alliance (A-A) is now planning the seventh annual Arrhythmia Awareness Week (AAAW), 7th - 13th June 2010.

We want to build on the success of the ‘Know Your Pulse’ initiative, with the important message of promoting pulse checks a routine check whenever visiting the GP.

During the week, events will take place to highlight the need for people to be ‘pulse aware’. Your local initiatives are so valuable to raise awareness of the campaign amongst those with no prior knowledge of how important it is to ‘Know Your Pulse’.

A-A is counting on your continued support to promote greater understanding, diagnosis, treatment and quality of life for individuals with cardiac arrhythmias.

What you can do…

**Pulse Check Cards** – For individuals, friends and family. The Pulse Check Card is a public self-educational tool that teaches the reader how to take their pulse, what it means and when they should seek further advice for an irregular heartbeat.

Order Pulse Check Cards from joanna@heartrhythmcharity.org.uk or to view/download a copy [http://www.aaaw.org.uk/files/file/pulse_check.pdf](http://www.aaaw.org.uk/files/file/pulse_check.pdf)

**Posters and Leaflets Pack** – Ideal for distributing information and promotional items, individuals can take this pack to their GP surgery, hospital, medical centre, care home, local school, work place, and community centre.

Order Posters and Leaflets Pack from joanna@heartrhythmcharity.org.uk

**Pulse Check Pack** – With a selection of information and promotional items, this pack is for those holding a Pulse Check Clinic teaching people how to take their pulse. It can also be used for those holding a display stand at your local hospital, shopping centre, GP surgery or community centre. We have Pulse Check Cards, checklists, and promotional materials you can use.

Order your Pulse Check Pack from joanna@heartrhythmcharity.org.uk

We are determined that with your help, AAAW 2010 will be even more successful than in previous years. We want to have greater impact on the key issue of pulse checks in GP surgeries to ensure that more people receive the correct diagnosis and treatment.

For more information about how you can get involved and to order your Awareness Week materials please contact me: email joanna@heartrhythmcharity.org.uk or telephone 01789 451 823. Website: [http://www.aaaw.org.uk/](http://www.aaaw.org.uk/)

**Please note, if you are due to attend any Arrhythmia Alliance Regional Meetings, we can ensure your Awareness Week materials are available to collect on the day! Simply email joanna@heartrhythmcharity.org.uk to arrange this.**
Launch of Healthcare for London’s Case for Change for Cardiovascular Services

Commissioning Support for London has been examining current cardiovascular services alongside best practice and clinical evidence, so that they can be evaluated and measured against the world’s best.

The case for change deals specifically with complex cardiovascular procedures and some conditions that need emergency and urgent treatment; it does not cover all cardiovascular services in London, prevention or rehabilitation.

To download a copy of this review, please go to: http://www.healthcareforlondon.nhs.uk/assets/Cardiovascular/Cardiovascular-case-for-change.pdf

MHRA ECG top tips poster

The MHRA has published a top tips poster to promote safe and more effective use of the equipment used to record an electrocardiogram. This is based on incidents that have been reported to MHRA.

The poster can be viewed by clicking on the link below, which also provides details of how to obtain copies.

You may also wish to be aware that copies of the poster have been distributed to NHS Trusts. Please feel free to forward this link to other colleagues or place it on other websites if you feel this would be appropriate. http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Postersandleaflets/CON062994

On-line educational programmes are also available via this link. http://www.mhra.gov.uk/ConferencesLearningCentre/LearningCentre/index.htm

NHS Evidence Specialist Collections – survey of newsletter/update readers

Following a review of the specialist collections over the summer, there is a move to standardise some of the procedures and products across all the collections. Most of the specialist collections send out a monthly newsletter/update, but they’re all slightly different. To help with planning, please take a few minutes to complete an online survey about what you find useful about the newsletter you receive.

The survey can be found at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XMZ6QHC and should take no more than a few minutes.
Forthcoming events/courses

• **Nurse Clinics, 13 April 2010, 20 Cavendish Square, London**

Whether you're starting up a new clinic or currently running one, this practical one day conference developed following the success of the annual nurse clinics conference and exhibition provides the opportunity to hear from the experts, meet other healthcare professionals facing similar challenges and gain valuable knowledge to set up a clinic and expand your skills and experience.

For further information, tel: 020 8541 1399 or visit the Healthcare Events website: [http://www.healthcare-events.co.uk/conf/booking.php?action=home&id=423](http://www.healthcare-events.co.uk/conf/booking.php?action=home&id=423)

15% discount available to members of the BANCC. Please quote BANCC04/15%

• **Effective Ward Sister, 14 April 2010, 20 Cavendish Square, London**

Through a series of presentations, this one day national conference is chaired by Howard Catton Head of Policy Royal College of Nursing who provides an overview of the finding and recommendations outlined in ‘Breaking down barriers, driving up standards’, learning from the review and implementing systems of support for the Ward Sister and Charge Nurse.

For further information, tel: 020 8541 1399 or visit the Healthcare Events website: [http://www.healthcare-events.co.uk/conf/booking.php?action=home&id=420](http://www.healthcare-events.co.uk/conf/booking.php?action=home&id=420)

15% discount available to members of the BANCC. Please quote BANCC04/15%

• **Acute Coronary Syndromes and Chest Pain Conference, 20 April 2010, Royal College of Physicians, London**

National clinical guidelines on Acute Coronary Syndromes and Chest Pain are being published in Spring 2010 and the Royal College of Physicians has organised this one day conference to facilitate the implementation of these guidelines.

This meeting is aimed at all healthcare professionals who have direct contact with, and make decisions concerning, the care of people who have recent onset chest pain/discomfort of suspected cardiac origin and those caring for patients with unstable angina and non-ST elevation MI.

For further information on how to register, please visit the RCP website at: [http://events.rcplondon.ac.uk/details.aspx?e=1706](http://events.rcplondon.ac.uk/details.aspx?e=1706)

• **Delivering Quality Standards for Stroke, 12 May 2010, 76 Portland Place, London**

Chairman Tim Stokes Co Chairman, Quality Standards Stroke Expert Group, The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), and Consultant Clinical Advisor, Quality Systems, The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) opens the conference with an introduction on quality standards for Stroke and looking forward to measurable statements that identify a high quality Stroke service. Michael Carpenter Stroke Review Lead Care Quality Commission continues with a presentation on implementing and monitoring quality standards for Stroke including the Care Quality Commission Review of services for people who have suffered from a stroke and their carers.

For further information, tel: 020 8541 1399 or visit the Healthcare Events website: [http://www.healthcare-events.co.uk/conf/booking.php?action=home&id=446](http://www.healthcare-events.co.uk/conf/booking.php?action=home&id=446)

15% discount available to members of the BANCC. Please quote BANCC04/15%
• BCS Annual Conference and Exhibition 2010, 7 – 9 June 2010, Manchester Central

For further information, please go to the BCS website: 

N.B BANCC sessions and AGM will take place on Tuesday 8 June 2010. Further details will be provided in due course.

• Uncovering Compassionate Care: the why, what and how of values based care, 9 – 11 June 2010, Edinburgh Napier University, Craiglockhart Campus

For further information, please visit the conference website: 
http://www.napier.ac.uk/fhlls/NMSC/compassionatecare/Pages/Home.aspx

• 1st International Congress on Quality of Life in Cardiovascular Diseases, 11 – 12 June 2010, Wrocław, Poland

For further information, please visit the conference website: 
http://www.qualityoflife.pl/komunikat

• ESC Congress 2010, 28 August – 1 September 2010, Stockholm, Sweden

For further information, please go to the ESC website
http://www.escardio.org/CONGRESSES/ESC-2010/Pages/welcome.aspx

• Heart Rhythm Congress 2010, 3 -6 October 2010, Hilton Birmingham Metropole

For further information and any future updates, please visit the HRC website: 
http://www.heartrhythmcongress.com/

• BACR Annual Conference, 7 -8 October 2010, Crowne Plaza, Liverpool

For further information on the programme, how to register, abstract submission and more, please visit the BACR Conference page: 

• Nurse Clinics 2010, 9 November 2010, Birmingham Motor Museum

For further information and any future updates, please visit the conference website: 
http://www.healthcare-events.co.uk/conf/booking.php?action=home&id=418

• BCCA Annual Meeting 2010, 17 - 18 November 2010, Winchester Guildhall

For further information, please contact CFS Events Ltd, Tel: 01438 751 519, Email: sam@cfsevents.co.uk. Further details will be made available later on in the year.
Website Links

Internal website links:

- British Cardiovascular Society (BCS) http://www.bcs.com/pages/default.asp
- British Association for Nursing in Cardiovascular Care (BANCC)

External website links:

Patient Related
- Arrhythmia Alliance http://heartrhythmcharity.org.uk/
- Cardiac Risk In The Young http://www.c-r-y.org.uk/index.htm

Professional Bodies
- British Heart Foundation http://www.bhf.org.uk/
- Council on Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied Professions
  http://www.escardio.org/communities/councils/CCNAP/Pages/welcome.aspx
- European Society of Cardiology http://www.escardio.org/
- Irish Cardiovascular Nurses Association http://www.incanursing.ie/
- Royal College of Nursing http://www.rcn.org.uk/
- Royal College of Nursing Cardiovascular Nurses' Network
  http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/communities/specialisms/cardiovascular_nurses
- Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery in Great Britain and Ireland - Nurses Page
  http://www.scts.org/sections/nurses/index.html

Government Sites
- Chief Nursing Officer bulletin http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Bulletins/Chiefnursingofficerbulletin/index.htm
- National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence http://www.nice.org.uk/
- National Library for Health - Cardiovascular Diseases Specialist Library
  http://www.library.nhs.uk/cardiovascular/
  - Stroke Specialist Library http://www.library.nhs.uk/stroke/
  - Vascular Specialist Library http://www.library.nhs.uk/vascular/
- National Patient Safety Agency http://www.npsa.nhs.uk/
- National Specialised Commissioning Group http://www.ncg.nhs.uk/
- NHS http://www.nhs.uk/Pages/homepage.aspx

Journals
- British Journal of Cardiac Nursing http://www.cardiac-nursing.co.uk/
- British Journal of Cardiology http://bjcardio.co.uk/
- British Journal of Primary Care Nursing http://www.bjpcn.com/
- European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing
- Heart Online http://heart.bmj.com/

Other Cardiac Related Sites
- Cardio & Vascular Coalition http://www.bhf.org.uk/cvc/
- Her at Heart http://www.heratheart.org.uk/

Disclaimer: The British Association for Nursing in Cardiovascular Care (BANCC) is not responsible for the contents or reliability of any of the above external website links, and do not necessarily endorse the views expressed within them. We can not guarantee that these links will work all of the time and have no control over the availability of any linked sites. A link listing should not be taken as an endorsement of any kind, but is provided to help you find additional information quickly and easily. If you notice that any of the above weblinks (internal or external) are broken, it would be helpful to inform BANCC at bancc@bcs.com and we will make further enquiries.
British Journal of Cardiac Nursing is keen to hear from experienced or aspiring writers with ideas on topics of relevance to nurses in cardiovascular care.

We welcome reviews of clinical practice, discussions of professional development issues and original research.

- Articles are refereed by the Journal’s editorial and review board members
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To discuss your ideas please contact the editor, Vicqui Stuart-Jones: bjcardn@markallengroup.com or phone 020 7501 6769
or the consultant editor, Jenny Tagney: Jenny.Tagney@UHBristol.nhs.uk

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Areas of good practice?

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This is your newsletter and needs your contributions. We welcome features from our readers.

Please email your news to: bancc@bcs.com

Or write to:
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Affiliates Coordinator,
BANCC,
c/o British Cardiovascular Society,
9 Fitzroy Square,
London, W1T 5HW

Direct Tel: 020 7380 1918, General Tel: 020 7383 3887

….and finally!

If you know of a colleague who would like to join BANCC, please contact Azeem Ahmad now at: bancc@bcs.com for further details. Or alternatively, please point them in the direction of the BANCC website: http://www.bcs.com/pages/page_affiliate.asp?PageID=315&NewsCatID=853

Just a reminder, if your contact details have changed (esp. email as most communications from BANCC are carried out electronically), it is important to inform BANCC as soon as possible, so we can amend your records on our central membership database, to ensure that you still receive communications from us.