

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

'shared Trust, shared success'

Welcome to this edition of the members newsletter



**John Savage,
Chairman**

I would like to begin by thanking those Governors who will be stepping down in May, after two years of service. As a newly formed

Foundation Trust, we've been learning together and I have been very grateful to the challenge, support and questioning from our Governors on many different issues over the last two years. I look forward to working with the newly elected governors, and our new lead governor as Clive Hamilton will be stepping down, special thanks are due to Clive for his commitment and interest in the Trust and his dedication to ensuring the views of the governors are represented to the Board.

University Hospitals Bristol is the largest research and teaching Trust in the South West, research lies at the heart of our Trust. In March we hosted the inaugural symposium of the BRIG-H group, the Bristol Research and Innovation Group for Health.

Over 150 people from across Bristol and the wider health and research community gathered together for the launch event.

Professor Sir John Tooke from University College London spoke about the importance of involving patients in all areas of research, and Dr Russell Hamilton from the Department of Health congratulated the Bristol community for demonstrating close collaborative working. I was unfortunately not able to attend in person, but I was interested to hear about the many different types of research that are undertaken across the city and to know that participants were given a glimpse into the future of patient care through the eyes of our research community. The importance of collaboration in Bristol is paramount and the appointment of Professor David Wynick as our first joint Director of Research and Development for our Trust and North Bristol Trust is a real demonstration of our partnership working.

I hope many of you saw the extensive coverage of one of our research projects, the world's first use of xenon gas, with cooling, in a bid to prevent brain injury in new born babies

who have been starved of oxygen. This is a major research project led by Professor Marianne Thoresen, in collaboration with Dr John Dingley from Swansea University and funded by Sparks, the children's medical research charity. There is more information on page 3.

And finally, whilst the Board has every confidence in the histopathology services provided here at the Trust, there continues to be media coverage of the alleged diagnostic errors in histopathology at the BRI dating back over a number of years. The recent coverage in the Sunday Telegraph follows a series of others that have been published in Private Eye over the last ten months. The Trust has established a fully Independent Inquiry into these allegations which is currently in progress and is expected to report by late summer. The Trust will publish the findings of this Inquiry.

If you have any questions about anything I or others have written in this newsletter, please do get in touch with Maria Fox (0117 342 3763). We'd like to hear your feedback .

Governor Elections: Make your vote count!

Eligible public and patient members will be receiving ballot papers in early May. Members elect governors to represent their views on the Trust's future plans. Governors bring their ideas, skills and experience as public, patient or carer members to discussions and debates about our hospitals' services.

This type of public involvement helps ensure our services best reflect the needs of the local community. That's what being a Foundation Trust is all about. The contested governor seats are:

✓ Two seats in the Public South Gloucestershire constituency

- ✓ Two seats in the Public Bristol constituency
- ✓ Three seats in the Local Patients constituency
- ✓ Two seats in the Tertiary Patients constituency (patients who live outside of Bristol, North Somerset and South Glos)

Please vote for your governor!

Achievements and disappointments: review of recent Trust activity

Since the last newsletter, positive progress has been made in many areas. We can be proud of the Bristol Heart Institute which offers state-of-the-art life saving facilities. The continued lowering of hospital acquired infection rates in our Trust has been welcomed by governors and the Hospital Standardised Mortality Rate (which is an indicator of clinical effectiveness and patient safety performance) is one of the lowest in the country. The Trust has also achieved its target for the set up of same sex accommodation in wards. All these and notification of successful registration by the Care Quality Commission have set the scene for a promising future.

There have also been problems for our Trust which have been the focus of governor challenges in their role of holding the Board to account for performance failures on behalf of the membership. In recent months, our Trust has failed to meet the 4 hour waiting time

target for emergency treatment, the 18 week referral to treatment deadline for all patients and cancer diagnosis and treatment targets. Whilst there may have been good reasons for the delays and maybe only small numbers of patients were involved, governors believe that these are important standards which benefit patient experience, patient safety and clinical outcomes. Early diagnosis and treatment is a cornerstone of modern healthcare which requires a collaborative effort from all healthcare professionals both inside and outside the Trust.

It is pleasing to report that the situation is now improved with most but not all targets being met. The Trust has met the 4 hour emergency access target, the 18 week referral to treatment time targets and most of the cancer targets for quarter 4 of 2009/10. Work is still necessary to improve waiting times on the 62 day cancer screening target and the

2 week wait for breast patients not initially thought to have cancer. Your governors will continue to monitor the situation closely. Also at this time there has been distracting publicity relating to our Trusts' Histopathology Service which led to the Trust commissioning a wide-ranging independent inquiry covering all aspects of this activity. Your governors are following developments on this and are being kept informed of progress. However financially, our Trust is well placed to face the future in a changing political and economic environment.



Clive Hamilton,
Local Patient
Governor
and
Vice Chair/
Governor
Representative

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Sign up to save others

Late last year a plan was put in place to support the National Organ Donor Campaign by encouraging UH Bristol staff to sign up to the NHS Organ Donor Register. Registration 'road shows' staffed by specialist nurses in donor care, leaflets attached to payslips, features in the staff newsletter and email bulletins and mentions on the staff intranet were all used to make it as easy as possible for staff to understand the benefits of signing up and to add their support to the Campaign.

As a result of this activity, over 200 members of staff responded to the call to sign up, and we'd like to encourage you to join them.

On average three people a day die before they can have a transplant because there are not enough organs available. Although 99% of us would take an organ if we needed one, only 27% of us have taken action and joined the Register.

Anyone can register, and age isn't a barrier to becoming an organ or tissue donor. One donor can save or transform up to nine lives.

You can find out more and register now by visiting

www.organdonation.nhs.uk

Liz Corrigan, Public Governor says, "I registered as an organ donor soon after I joined the Trust's Organ Donation committee. Listening to the experts I also realised how important it is to let your family know your wishes to make it easier for them when the time comes. **Registering is simple, please join today**"



Liz Corrigan
Public, North
Somerset
Governor

World first for St Michael's Hospital



St Michael's Hospital has become the first hospital in the world to successfully deliver xenon gas to a newborn baby in a bid to prevent brain injury following a lack of oxygen at birth. This technique has been developed by Marianne Thoresen, Professor of

Neonatal Neuroscience at the University of Bristol and Dr John Dingley, Consultant Anaesthetist and Reader in Anaesthetics at Swansea University's School of Medicine. This study is being funded by Sparks, the children's medical research charity. Baby Riley Joyce received this treatment alongside cooling, a procedure pioneered by Professor Marianne Thoresen that is already used for newborn babies starved of oxygen at birth in the NHS. In the UK, every year, more than 1,000 otherwise healthy babies born at full term die or suffer brain injury caused by a lack

of oxygen and/or blood supply at birth. This can lead to lifelong problems such as cerebral palsy.

Baby Riley's parents, Dave and Sarah Joyce, say: "We are delighted that Riley is doing so well and we are extremely grateful that we were given this opportunity. We would like to thank all the team at St Michael's Hospital for everything they have done for us."

The delivery device for the xenon gas is now authorised for clinical trials and will be used on at least 12 babies over the coming months. Successful completion of this feasibility trial is the first required step before larger trials on the effectiveness of the treatment can be undertaken in baby units on a larger scale. For the full story please see www.uhbristol.nhs.uk

Raising Awareness



**Jason Edgar,
Public Bristol
Governor**

In 2008, I was diagnosed with testicular cancer, which was life changing, not only for me but for the others in my life. I cannot stress how important it is for us men to examine ourselves regularly, as testicular cancer is a very treatable/curable form of cancer if caught early, mine was and my recovery has been successful. I am grateful to be able to speak about my fundraising and cancer awareness campaigning.

I wanted something positive to come from my experience and to give something back to the hospital and its fantastic staff, so I got involved in the Above & Beyond CaRE appeal. This aims to raise £500,000 (£1.6 million pledged in total) for the refurbishment of the Bristol Haematology & Oncology Centre, (see www.aboveandbeyond.org.uk). I became an ambassador for the appeal as part of its launch

in September 09, appearing in local press and on local radio, which was great! I organised an event, 'Swim a Mile to Raise a Smile' at Keynsham Leisure Centre in April 2010 and enlisted 30 colleagues/friends as swimmers. All of which I am very proud.

I'm a local voluntary leader for the Lance Armstrong Foundation in its cause name of Livestrong, also part of the LiveSTRONG Leaders UK group (on facebook) which aims to fight cancer and support those with cancer. My aim is to set up a local group for: patients, relatives & anyone interested in cancer awareness, thoughts welcome on this. I am involved in a patient support group, focusing on the journey of a testicular cancer patient; part of this group's work is fundraising for the 'It's in the Bag' campaign (headed by Sue Brand and Dr Jeremy Braybrooke).

Passionate about helping people, I've put myself forward to be a buddy for testicular cancer patients, as I feel my experiences can help provide an insight into surviving cancer and how to re-build your life.

Youth Council

The Youth Council has been involved in lots of activities in the hospitals. Find out more on our web page uhbristol.nhs.uk/membership

Members' Events

Membership Council

28 July

Time to be confirmed
UH Bristol Education Centre,
Marlborough Street, Bristol,
BS2 8AE.

Meet Your Governors

20 May, 2 to 4 pm
3 June, 10 to 12 noon

Bristol Heart Institute,
Outpatients, Level 5, BRI,
Upper Maudlin Street, Bristol,
BS2 8AE

*Check event details in
advance on our website
uhbristol.nhs.uk/membership,
or by calling the
Membership Office on
0117 342 3764*

Venous Thromboembolism Prevention Policy

I have been a local patient governor here at University Hospitals Bristol now for two years. I am on many committees which are all committed to improving patient care in all of our hospitals. I was delighted when asked to join the Thrombosis and Anticoagulation Committee, bringing my professional experience as a retired nurse and my personal experience of having had two Venous Thrombemboli (VTE's) in the past.

Venous Thromboembolism is an obstruction in a vein caused by a blood clot: otherwise known as VTE. This is the collective name for two conditions: Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism.

A Deep Vein Thrombosis is commonly known as a DVT. This is a blood clot in the deep veins of the leg. A Pulmonary Embolism is when a small piece of blood clot breaks off in the

deep vein of the leg and travels to the lungs in the chest.

There are an estimated 25,000 deaths related to Venous Thromboembolism every year and the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) has recently issued guidance to help reduce the risk of Venous Thromboembolism.

I see my role as representing patients who have experienced VTE's and making my best contribution as a governor in whatever way I can to prevent as many VTE's as possible. The opportunity to write this article to you as members is one way I can help by raising awareness amongst patients and the public.

It is also important to increase awareness in all staff of the importance of carrying out a VTE risk assessment for all inpatients, that the appropriate preventative measures are

taken and that the patient is reassessed at 24 hours and when their condition changes. It is also essential that measures to prevent blood clots are continued until the patient is no longer considered at risk.

The impact of having a VTE is life changing. I am therefore, very pleased to see the release of the policy on Venous Thromboembolism (blood clot obstruction) prevention. I know that the Trust's aim is that every adult patient will be risk assessed for venous thromboembolism and preventative measures prescribed. This is no easy task, but VTE assessment will not only save lives but it will prevent many patients from



unnecessary long term anxiety and suffering.

Anne Skinner,
Patient Governor

Footage of open heart surgery to be shown at Festival of Ideas

Film footage of open heart surgery performed on the beating hearts of two patients at the Bristol Heart Institute will be shown to an audience as part of this year's **Bristol Festival of Ideas at 7pm on Monday 10 May at St George's Bristol.**

In 'Bristol Heart Surgery', which was filmed earlier this year, cardiac surgeon Gavin Murphy from the Trust will explain on camera the surgical procedures he and the surgical team are carrying out. Beating heart surgery means the surgical team doesn't use a heart/lung machine, nor stop the heart to perform the surgery. The operation is performed using a pressure/suction stabiliser as developed in the 1990s by Professor Gianni Angelini, director of the Cardiac Unit at the Heart Institute.

The stabiliser is similar to the foot on a sewing machine and allows the cardiac surgeon to carry out precision work on the coronaries of the heart.

The beating heart method is now widely used throughout the world and has shown to significantly reduce post-operative complications, hospital stay and costs, with enormous benefits to patients. After the filmed operation, Professor Angelini will be in conversation with Dr Vivienne Nathanson, director of professional activities at the British Medical Association (BMA), and there will be an opportunity for questions from the floor.

Tickets for the Bristol Heart Surgery cost £10 and are available from the box office at St George's Bristol on 0845 402 4001 or online at www.stgeorgesbristol.co.uk

Sign up a friend

A key part of being an NHS Foundation Trust is to involve and represent our local community.

This means everyone, including our staff, patients, volunteers, friends and family, can become members and actively contribute to how our hospitals are run.

If you know somebody who might be interested, why not tell them all about being a member? To register, all they need to do is visit our web site uhbristol.nhs.uk/membership and fill out the electronic form or call our Membership Office on 0117 342 3764.

It's free!