

Renality

November 2004

The NEWSLETTER of

South West Thames Renal & Transplantation Unit,
Epsom and St Helier
University Hospitals
 NHS Trust

South West Thames Kidney Fund (Registered Charity Number: 800952), supporting the
South West Thames Institute for Renal Research

and

SHAK - St Helier Association for Kidney Patients (Registered Charity Number: 266891)



SHAK has a new Patron ...

Sarah, Duchess of York has consented to be Patron of SHAK. We feel very honoured. The Duchess is involved in a great number of charities as well as leading a full business life and we cannot expect she will be able to help with fundraising. However, in thanking her for her patronage, the Chairman has invited the Duchess to visit the Unit and the Research Institute.

Our thanks go to Dr Kwan for his help in making it happen.

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STOP PRESS!

Four members of our Transplant Games Team have been asked to represent Britain in the World Transplant Games to be held in Canada next year. They are Helen Hayton Helen Philpott, Peter Warren and Cheryl Buxton. Congratulations to you all.

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

We welcome letters, articles and opinions from our readers. If you wish to contribute, all items for inclusion in the next Newsletter must reach us by FRIDAY 8th JANUARY 2005.

SHAK NEWS

A message from your Chairman

I think congratulations are due to the Executive Committee for persuading the Duchess of York to be our Patron. She is a very busy business woman and will not be actively involved with our fundraising but I am hopeful that in due course she will visit the Renal Unit and the Research Institute.

The planned re-configuration of health services in the Epsom and St. Helier catchment area is moving apace. As you know we have 2 critical care hospitals at present with about 5 local hospitals. The plan is to have 10 local care hospitals with one critical care hospital. The local hospitals would take on some of the work presently done at Epsom and St. Helier with the aim of providing "Better Healthcare Closer to Home".

However, this principle has not been applied to renal care. The only provision is for haemodialysis at the critical care hospital. SHAK has written and asked at meetings for at least three HD units throughout the area. It is a big area. We have suggested HD units at St. Helier, Epsom and Dorking although there is also room for units at Cobham and Merton.

The public consultation on this plan started at the beginning of September and continues to the end of November, so by the time you receive this letter there will be little time left if you want to make your views known. Please take advantage of the opportunity and press for additional HD Units. Once the local care hospitals are established without a unit it will prove much more difficult to fit one in.

If you have not seen a copy of the Consultation document, there are a few at the Renal Unit but you can obtain one by telephoning 020 8296 4729. If you have an internet connection, the document is available at www.betterhealthcare.org.uk.

There has been little progress on the setting up of the Renal Network since I last wrote to you. The plans for the Tertiary Centre move forward slowly and I hope that by the next Renality I will be able to give you an idea of how the building will look. The success of the scheme will involve the transfer of all renal in-patient beds from St. Helier to St. George's. This will be the core of a public consultation which will most likely take place next year. I will let you know as soon as a timetable is firmed up.

I had hoped that the SHAK Christmas cards would be on sale at the beginning of October but they should be available well before you read this letter. They will be on sale at the SHAK tea trolley, at the Renal Unit Reception, at the AGM and at the "Cards for Good Causes" shops at Wimbledon and Sutton. We have 7 new designs together with some old favourites..

I hope you will all try and attend our AGM at the end of November. Besides the formal business, we hope to have three excellent speakers. Loraine Clifton, Chief Executive of the Trust, who will be able to answer all your questions about the future of Renal services at Epsom & St. Helier; Bob Dunn, Advocacy Officer at the NKF who with Hong Tan of the London Specialist Commissioners will talk principally about the Expert Patient Programme but again both will try to answer any questions you might have. Do come along for an informative and absorbing afternoon.

There were not many people in the audience for our Extra General meeting on 12 September and you missed a very good event. Paul Colville-Nash gave a very interesting account of how the Research Institute is looking to progress its work and how it links into the work of the Renal Unit. Eric Chemla, spoke on several aspects of renal surgery and gave very persuasive arguments for the prevention of infection by the early placement of fistulas.

I have seen the first draft plans for the HD reception and they look good. It will be a blister on the outside of the Unit with an entrance to HD where Janet Dell's office is at present. There will be another office for Janet!

Peter Simpson

NOTICE TO ALL SHAK MEMBERS

The
Annual General Meeting

will be held on

***Sunday 28th November 2004
at 3.00 pm***

in the
***Whitehall Theatre,
Post Graduate Medical Centre,
St Helier University Hospital***

SPEAKERS:

Mrs Lorraine Clifton, Chief Executive, Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust

Mr Hong Tan, of the London Specialist Commissioners

Mr Bob Dunn, Advocacy Officer, National Kidney Federation

Refreshments

If any member wishes to propose a member for any position on the Committee, including officers, or wishes to make any proposal, then please submit the name or proposal in writing to the Secretary, Mrs Margaret Simpson, (address on back page) giving the name of the proposer and consent of the nominee as soon as possible before the AGM.

Expert Patient Programme is designed to give patients with long term conditions the knowledge, confidence and skills to maintain their health and improve their quality of life. Courses for people with a mixture of illnesses have been held across the country and have proved successful. A special course was devised for AIDS sufferers alone. It was very successful and the London Specialist Commissioners decided to apply the principles to other long term illnesses. SHAK is taking part in talks led by Hong Tan of the London Commissioners to see if we can devise a course for Renal patients. We know that renal patients have to be good at managing their condition but we feel that extra help can only prove beneficial. We hope the course will start in the Spring. Details in the next issue.

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS - £8 per box of 12 (children, adult or mixed) are on sale from the SHAK Trolley. Place your order with Peter Limmer.

£1000 has been donated to SHAK as a tribute to Mrs. Emily Mayes who has died at the age of 76 Her family said "It is because of the care and dedication of staff at the Renal Unit that we asked for donations to this very worthy Charity. We know the amount will be of great comfort to others. "

Our AGM will be held a little later in the year than usual - on Sunday 28th November.

We have invited Bob Dunn, Advocacy Officer for the National Kidney Federation and Hong Tan of the London Specialist Commissioners who will talk mainly about the Expert Patient Programme which will be set up as a pilot scheme in the Renal Unit. Also, we hope to have Lorraine Clifton, Chief Executive, Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust who will talk about the future of renal services in the area.

This should be an interesting event and we do hope you will be able to come along and take the opportunity to ask questions of the speakers.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

SHAK cards are on sale from Peter Limmer at the SHAK Trolley on Mondays and Thursdays. They will also be available at the AGM. They will also be on sale daily at Cards for Good Causes Charity Shops at Sutton and Wimbledon.

GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW

We enclose two books of draw tickets with this publication. Each book contains 4 tickets at a cost of 50p each. We have some excellent prizes this year. We do hope you will be able to sell them.

If you need more tickets please telephone us on 01252 792196

Did you know that there is a scheme whereby patients infected with Hepatitis C as a result of having received NHS blood, blood products or tissue contaminated with the virus, may be eligible for an ex-gratia payment from the Secretary of State for Health? This has not been too widely publicised.

Obviously, doctors at the Renal Unit will contact anyone on their database who they think is eligible. If you think you may be entitled to such a payment, ask your renal consultant for advice.

As you see from the advert opposite, an Informal Buffet Lunch will be held on Saturday 11th December 2004. The last lunch held in June was a resounding success and we hope as many people, if not more, will come to the next one.

This year, we are using the occasion to draw the prize-winners for our Grand Christmas Draw.

SHAK

All patients, carers & staff
are invited to an
Informal Buffet Lunch
to be held in
***The Blue Room,
Renal Unit,
St Helier Hospital***

Saturday 11th
December 2004
from 12 noon un-
til 2.00 pm



*We do hope you
will come!*

**GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW -
Tickets will be drawn during the lunch**



Carolyn (2nd left) and friends enjoying their success

Karaoke - a sell out!

All tickets for Carolyn Joslyn's Karaoke were sold two months prior to the Show - and no wonder. Who could resist being entertained by ABBA, Neil Diamond, Al Jolson, Tom Jones, Nancy Sinatra, Englebert David Gray, Shirley Temple, Buddy Holly and the Spice Girls - all on the same evening.

Carolyn organised the event with such enthusiasm and managed to get the hall, band and the Karaoke free. She had a lot of help from her friends. She said everyone had made such a big effort - with their costumes, the setting up on the night and with the sale of draw tickets. (Prize-winners listed on next page.)

The event was not without its problems - putting up a marquee to accommodate the band in a high wind, making the mistake of having carpet on the stage when 'Shirley Temple' does her tap dance routine (but the audience loved it), and it isn't a good idea to be in Richard Bright Ward 2 days before the show with peritonitis.

Carolyn would like to thank her friends for supporting her in raising £2,700. In addition, her friend Claire, who won the washing machine would like to accept cash for it from MFI (donor) and will add it to the proceeds. Carolyn would like to thank Marks and Spencer who have agreed to double all she makes. Altogether, the proceeds of the evening should come to nearly £6,000.

Many congratulations to Carolyn and her friends on their efforts and thank you. Get well soon!



S W Thames Kidney Fund



There has been plenty of Kidney Fund activity as well as Kidney Unit activity in the last 2 months. We have seen some major sporting achievements and some impressive fundraising activities. You will read elsewhere in this journal of Carolyn Joslyn's exploits. I am sure that Carolyn would be prepared to act as an advisor for anyone who wants to put on a similar karaoke evening in their own area.

Again there were amazing feats of endurance at the Transplant Games and four surprised athletes find themselves representing their country in the next International Transplant Games in Canada. It just shows that there are even some life benefits to come from kidney failure.

The Kidney Fund is working hard to drag itself into the 21st century in terms of income generation and of course Paul Colville-Nash is leading the way as our new Scientific Director. Paul has big plans to broaden the scope of income generation and this will require some modification of the kidney fund constitution which will be placed before you at the next Annual General Meeting in February. We need some careful juggling to preserve the charitable status of the fund, whilst allowing scientific research and development to thrive.

The Annual General Meeting on Sunday, 13th February will again largely comprise a patient's seminar day and we are at present writing to some leading national figures asking them to come and talk to us on that day.

I would, therefore, be very grateful if you could pencil this date in your diary at this early stage and we would be so grateful if many of you could turn up to what should be a very interesting meeting covering some ethical aspects of kidney transplantation and availability of organ donors. Remember – Sunday, 13th February 2005. This time we will make sure the central heating is on full blast!!

GRAND DRAW PRIZE WINNERS (drawn at the Karaoke)

1 st	Washing Machine	00511	CLAIRE
2 nd	Dishwasher	00231	BEN
3 rd	DVD Player	00809	TERRY
4 th	M & S Vouchers	01334	YVONNE
5 th	John Lewis Voucher	01963	ANN-MARIE
6 th	Bucket of Booze	00619	HELEN
7 th	Beauty Vouchers	00710	GERALDINE
8 th	2 Bottles of Booze	01619	CHRISSEY
9 th	Foot spa	01204	WENDY
10 th	Champagne	01259	LORRAINE
11 th	Pingu	01940	MICK
12 th	Pen & Perfume	01926	TRISH
13 th	Somerfield Voucher	00742	RIO
14 th	Lavender Smellies	01175	MARY
15 th	2 Bottles of Wine	01002	STEVE
16 th	Golf Bag	00702	TRICIA
17 th	Decanter	01154	BILL
18 th	Teddy	01017	JAMES
19 th	Handy Vac	00101	JUSTIN

All winners have received their prizes.

T-SHIRTS



**FOR
SALE
£10**

**Good quality T- Shirts
on sale at the Institute.
White, with the South
West Thames Kidney
Fund logo in red.**

**Small/medium/large and ex-
tra large sizes available.
Contact Anne Collard at the
Institute on 020 8296 3698**

Whew! It was hot!

Debbie Frewin (pictured) ran the Flora Light for the S W Thames Kidney Fund on that very hot Sunday - 5th September 2004. Debbie raised £400 in sponsorship and with the gift aid, she will have raised about £500. Amazing! Thank you very much Debbie. Your effort is very much appreciated.



**FLORA
LONDON
MARATHON
2004**

A big "Thank you "...
to all the runners who took part in the Flora London Marathon this year. We have received sponsorship money for the Kidney Fund totalling £10,015.70 and with gift aid, it amounts to £11,349.38. Our thanks and congratulations to all of you.



Warmest congratulations to Christine and Ernest

When Christine Angus and Ernest Beattie decided to marry they asked friends and relations to give a donation to the SW Thames Kidney Fund rather than to give them presents. As a result of their generosity, SWTKF received a total of £400. Thank you both very much.

Christine has been a patient of the Unit for nearly 25 years and both she and Ernest served on the SHAK Committee for a time. We wish you both every happiness.

The picture shows Christine and Ernest following the blessing of their marriage on 31.07.04.

For sale: Electric four wheel buggy - almost new - immaculate condition. Two speeds, suitable for road and pavement. Forward and reverse gear. Battery charger. £800.
Contact: Christine on 020 8941 1555

Proceeds from a Christmas card sale ...

have been donated to SW Thames Kidney Fund by Mrs Glenise Bonner. She sent a cheque to the Fund for £52 which was her share of the proceeds of a charity sale at St Michael's Church, Camberley on 2nd October. We thank Glenise very much for her donation.

Ip for your own bag?

We were delighted to receive a gift of £120.86 from Sainsbury's at Wallington, the proceeds from the collecting box of pennies at the store. The Fund was the named charity for a month.

South West Thames Kidney Fund

(Registered Charity Number: 800952)

announces its
**4th Annual Renal Patients Symposium
and AGM**
Sunday 13th February 2005

In the
**Whitehall Theatre,
Post Graduate Medical Centre,
St Helier Hospital**
**Come and listen to expert medics talk about
their speciality**
Lunch will be provided
(Further details in the next issue of Renality)

SWTKF Branch News:

Sutton Branch -

Tickets are selling fast for the Candlelight Gourmet Evening - to be held at Sutton Bowling Club on 23rd November.

Other events planned :

Family Sunday Lunch at Epsom Golf Club in February.

Singapore Evening at a restaurant in Coulsdon in April/May.

Garden Party in June/July.

Frimley Park & Guildford Branch:

Godalming Christmas Carnival - will be on Saturday 4th December 2004. As usual, Dennis and Helen Amy will be running a stall selling their marmalade and a variety of chutneys - all home-made. Their stall is always popular and they raise a lot of money for SWTKF.

Christmas Fantasia - (advert opposite) will be held on the same day as the Carnival and Branch members will be very busy. All proceeds from the Fayre held in the hall are for SWTKF. Angie Morrow has made a plea for donations of raffle prizes, cakes, tinned food, toiletries and other new saleable items.

Christmas Fantasia South West Thames Kidney Fund

(In aid of research)

and Ash Parish Council

(Raising funds for a Community Project)

in

The Ash Centre, Ash Vale, Surrey

Saturday 4th December 2004

from 2 - 6 pm

Admission 50p (children free)



**Children's amusements
(outside)**

**Christmas Tree Illumination
Ceremony**

starting at 4.30 pm with

Carols round the Tree

followed by

**Mince pies and mulled wine
at the Christmas Fayre**

“A Good Year” says Paul Colville - Nash, Scientific Director of SWTIRR



Hello again from your friendly “Tefal Head”. In the last issue of Renality, I wrote to introduce myself to you all and to explain why I came to work at the Institute for Renal Research attached to the Renal Unit. As I said then, the Institute and Renal Unit is a precious resource and is viewed by many, (to steal a phrase from Dr Jonathan Kwan in the article about the Unit in Hospital Doctor announcing our successful bid for an Innovation Award), “a jewel in the crown” here. The Institute would not exist without the generous support for it from the South West Thames Kidney Fund which provided the funding for the original construction and also funds research in the Institute which you will have read about in previous issues of Renality. I will highlight in this issue some of the achievements of the Institute over the last few months which make this such a worthwhile enterprise.

As well as being the Scientific Director for the Institute, I also have the privilege to have been invited to sit on the Research and Development Executive for Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust. I am happy to report that we have just completed the Renal Research Programme returns to the Department of Health for 2003/2004. Last year, the research programme was rated as

“Strong” by the DoH, the highest rating awarded, with 21 publications in international journals. In particular, they commented on the very strong links within the programme between the basic medical research within the Institute and the patient based research in the Renal Unit and the ways in which this was actually changing the way in which renal care was being delivered and improved.

We have an even stronger programme this year, and again expect to be rated equally highly by the DoH. We have had excellent presentations at the Renal Association and South West and East Kidney Society by Dr's Phanish and Diwakar, Phanish was awarded the meeting Prize for his research and presentation at SWEKS.



Nicky Thomas (who you will recall from Renality in November 2003 joined us to as Research Lead Nurse) has been awarded the first joint British Renal Society/National Kidney Research Fund Research Fellowship to fund research into a new patient education centred programme to empower them to take control of their disease.

Later this month, we will be presenting our work at the American Society of Nephrology meeting in the US, the largest and most prestigious renal meeting in the annual calendar, with 5 presentations there. We also have presentations by Dr Diwakar at the Physiological Society on his work on how protein loss through the kidney affects kidney disease and by Dr Phanish at the International CCN Society on mechanisms of kidney fibrosis.

We are now receiving samples for the LOLIPOP study, examining renal function in the Indo-Asian community to define risk factors for renal disease and to gain better understanding of normal kidney function in this population so that we can recognise earlier when the function goes wrong. Hopefully you will have seen the "LOLIPOP"s on sale at the unit and I would urge you to buy one to help support this study (we'll tell you more about this work in a later issue). Additionally, we have a number of publications in press and several manuscripts in preparation as well as applications for funding from major research charities such as the Medical Research Council.



Once again though I would like to express our gratitude and that we are very much appreciative of your fund raising on our behalf but, as the maxim goes, please remember "No funding means No Research; No Research means No Cure!", so please continue to give your support to the Institute in the KRI CAMPAIGN so that we may find new ways to improve the prospects for renal patients and their families.

A new Consultant appointed to the Unit ...

***Dr Hugh Gallagher,
MB BS MA MSc PhD MRCP***

We were delighted to learn of Dr Gallagher's appointment as he has been closely associated with the Renal Unit for a number of years. Many of you know him well.

Dr Gallagher worked on the South West Thames Renal Unit as a Specialist Registrar in 1997, during which time he gained, with Distinction, an MSc in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He entered into a period of laboratory research at the then newly-opened SW Thames Institute for Renal Research in 1998, and completed his clinical training at Kings College Hospital and Guy's Hospital before his appointment as a Consultant in 2004. He was awarded his PhD in 2004.

He is married to Joanne, a Paediatric trainee in South Thames, and has one child, Aidan (aged 4), with a second baby due in December.



His main clinical interests are strategies to limit the progression of chronic kidney disease, cardiovascular risk in chronic kidney disease, and pulmonary renal syndrome.

Dr Gallagher is actively involved in laboratory research, working with national and international collaborators. His main research interest is in the use of optical biosensor technology to study interactions with the kidney. He has reviewed papers for the American Journal of Kidney Diseases and Laboratory Investigation.



Three months have elapsed since I last penned a piece for Renality. I was amazed by the number of patients I met in my clinics who have read, studied and enjoyed Renality from cover to cover. This is very encouraging indeed and Renality is now a truly established "must-read" for our patients and their carers.

Again, we have been having a very busy time in the last few months. We have finally received a working plan for the Haemodialysis Waiting Area Extension from the Hospital's Estate Department, for which the money raised from the "Buy a Brick" campaign will be used, some £135,000. The work on this project will start hopefully in the New Year and be completed around March 2005. We have also received many donations from you in favour of our "**K**idney **R**esearch **I**nvestment for **H**elp" campaign, for which we are also very grateful.

We welcome our newly appointed Consultant Nephrologist, Dr Hugh Gallagher, who joined us this month, making up a team of 9 consultant nephrologists, 3 transplant surgeons and a urologist serving our renal community. Some of you might have come across Dr Gallagher before when he was a Research Registrar with us a couple of years ago. He will have a special remit in looking after patients living in the Guildford area, as well as jointly supervising the haemodialysis patients receiving treatment in the Farnham Haemodialysis Unit with Dr Peter Andrews.

It has been 10 years since I joined the staff of the Renal Unit. On reflection, there have been quite a few significant changes over this period with the unit more than tripling in size, demonstrating the continuous improvement in renal care we are providing to our patients at St Helier. When I first joined the Unit in November 1994, we only had 15 haemodialysis stations, 14 inpatient beds and no satellite dialysis unit. I was the third consultant after Drs Eisinger and Bending. Today, we have some 35 stations, 36 inpatient beds, 4 satellite dialysis units (between 11 to 20 stations each), 9 consultant nephrologists, 3 consultant transplant surgeons, 160 nursing and other healthcare workers and over 50 consultant-delivered outreach renal clinics outside St Helier!

Our workload continues to increase at a rate of 12 to 15% every year. We are already planning for an additional satellite dialysis unit (in Kingston) and more dialysis stations (expansion of the Mayday Satellite Unit from 12 to 20 dialysis stations), as well as more inpatient beds (we have requested the Trust to allow us to expand onto Beacon Ward adjacent to G-Block next to the Renal Unit). The current Renal Outpatients will also be expanded with up to 7 consultation rooms and an enlarged waiting area. Work on this is programmed for 2005/6.

On 29 September, we had a very successful Renal Service Review meeting at St Helier. Some 80 people including colleagues at St George's, patients, commissioners and other interested parties attended the meeting. There were presentations covering the past, present and future of the Renal Unit, providing the attendees with a sense of the direction of our journey in the furtherance of the development of the Renal services for the people we served. The highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of the "**A**bove and **B**eyond the **C**all of **D**uty" Award to Margaret and Peter Simpson for their unstinting support to the Renal Unit in the service to our patients.

Three members of our team will be attending the Hospital Doctor of the Year Award dinner in Hyde Park Hotel on 25 November when the top awards will be announced, we being one of the three finalists (out of 56 submissions) in the Innovation Team Category. Hopefully, I shall be able to inform you in the next issue of Renality how we got on – the worst will be a third place I suppose. I will end on this positive note.

Jonathan Kwan

For some time now, SHAK has been investigating the possibility of installing Television sets in the HD Unit. We want to have a TV for each HD couch. We asked Patientline who equipped the two wards with TVs but they wanted a guaranteed payment of over £10,000 per year. We have looked at installing 7" TVs on cantilever arms but we cannot obtain satisfactory arms. Trading agreements prohibit us using the same arms as Patientline. We are not going to give up but it is very frustrating. It should be quite easy to obtain TVs for HD but it is fast becoming a long running saga.

Renal Service Review (Past/Present/Future)

Wednesday 29th September 2004

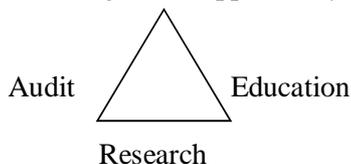
Following a pleasant buffet lunch, Dr Kwan gave a very brief history of the Renal Unit, talking of notable developments and achievements. He acknowledged the contribution made by all the people working in the Unit; the multi-disciplinary teams, including the cleaning staff and some patients and carers.

Nose to the grindstone - Dr Makanjuola spoke of his vision for the future; a comprehensive service for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of renal disease in pleasant surroundings with access to sufficient equipment. Care would be delivered by multi-professional teams who were well trained and committed to quality improvement.

Five years and beyond, the tertiary unit would be opened and local centres would be developed with consultants appointed to them and working locally.

The evolving renal workforce - was described by Sarah Youngman whereby planning would ensure the right people would be in the right place to deliver appropriate care:

The nursing team supported by



Learning Culture—investing in people - Sue Woodcock emphasised the creation of a culture of learning to enhance renal care and enhance patient care.

Interfacing Research and Service Delivery - Paul Colville-Nash focused on the London Life Sciences Population Study (LOLIPOP) - the screening of the Indo-Asian population for renal disease.

The thrust of much of the research at present is trying to understand how most people do not get a chronic disease and to find out how we normally heal ourselves. Then, it may be possible to identify why some people do get a chronic disease and whether those same pathways be explored.



The Renal Network - how will it be achieved - Chris Butler, Chief Exec, Kingston Primary Care Trust, (pictured above) said he was reasoning from a Commissioning view. He wanted to ensure that renal services had their 'fair share' in the context of increased dialysis facilities which would be needed in the

future. He hoped he had laid the foundations for the transfer of transplantation services to St George's Hospital. Another surgeon had been appointed. He hoped a proper infrastructure for the network would be created and to this end, a single senior manager should be appointed.

Renal Failure Surgery - beyond the immediate - Mr Rene Chang spoke of the necessity of the planned tertiary renal unit at St George's being self sufficient with operating theatres and diagnostic equipment.

The Clinical Benefits of a Network - Dr Steve Nelson, Nephrologist at St George's, gave his views on a network.

Renal Centre - evolving from embryo to David Hudson, Healthcare Capital Projects and Don West, Finnamore Management Consultants presented their plans for the proposed tertiary unit to be built at St George's Hospital.

The day finished with Dr Kwan presenting an ABCD Award to Peter & Margaret Simpson. They were surprised, very grateful but very embarrassed.

Dialysis Capacity

The South West Thames Renal & Transplantation Unit has prided itself on consistent delivery of dialysis closer to home with units currently in St. Helier Hospital, Woking, Farnham, Mayday Hospital, Crawley and a brand new development in progress at Kingston. However, the demand for dialysis continues to grow across the region, currently exceeding the 10% national average in many areas, resulting in limited choice of dialysis times throughout the week. In order to meet the physical and social needs of our renal population expert scheduling is applied, however we are unable to please all of the people all of the time.

Until the Kingston project is complete (currently estimated to be Jan/Feb 2005) dialysis space at St. Helier will become premium, and many patients will be approached to move from St. Helier to their local dialysis unit, firstly to ensure journey times are reduced and secondly to allow the Renal Unit to accommodate those new patients in desperate need of dialysis.

Following on from the Kingston Unit the Renal team are pursuing expansion at Mayday and more dialysis in the Guildford area, to accommodate future demand.

Sara Youngman, Nurse Manager

Transport – Patient Representative

The current renal transport provision is going out to tender in the near future.

Transport use at St. Helier Renal Unit and the Satellite Units consists currently of around 45,000 journeys per year (exceeding that of the main hospital by approximately 10,000 journeys). To ensure patients views are heard, I need the help of a couple of patients to attend the presentations from the various transport companies.

Expressions of interest will be gratefully received.

Sara Youngman

Excellence Award for P.E.P.



Julie Dent, Chief Exec of the Strategic Health Authority and James Cochran, Chairman who presented the Award to Sister Maura Pinkney and her team



Augustina Yaa-Pokuua and Beatrice Okoampa receiving their award.

Celebrating Success, Rewarding Excellence....

Health professionals were honoured at an Awards Ceremony recognising the work of all NHS staff across S W London. Sponsored by the local Guardian, the ceremony was held at the Croydon Park Hotel on Wednesday 6 October. Individuals and teams were recognised in eight categories covering areas such as health promotion, hospital care and access to healthcare advice.

Our Patient Education Programme Team took first place in the Patient Information category. It was nominated by Jean Mortimer, a patient on HD a member of the SHAK Committee and now a member of the PEP Team. The Team was established to give existing and new renal patients information and advice about their condition and to attend sessions where patients can alleviate their concerns.

The team was presented with an engraved crystal plaque and a cheque for £500 to be used for equipment or education purposes. It was unfortunate that only five members of the Team could be present at the ceremony when the programme depends on the efforts of all members.

St Helier Hospital was runner-up in the Cleanliness & Food category. Augustina Yaa-Pokuua and Beatrice Okoampa, Wardcare Service Support Assistants on the Gynaecology Ward were described as a true team delivering a first class service.

Many congratulations to both teams on their success.



NKF Annual Conference 2004

Hi, my name is Mike and I'd like to share with you my experience of my first NKF Annual Conference held at Keresley, Coventry. The conference was held from Friday 1st October to Sunday 3rd October. Four hundred delegates attended.

A barrage of information was displayed at the exhibition where you were able to see the latest advances and talk to representatives. On the NKF stand there was every type of leaflet on renal and renal related matters. I attended the conference on Saturday 3rd October. After the opening address by Michael Hill and Gary Lloyd, NKF co-chairman Dr Donal O'Donoghue, Clinical Director of Renal Medicine at Hope Hospital, Salford, spoke on the future shape of Renal Services. He spoke of understanding the patient pathway and the national standard of patient centred care plans. Part of the ideal patient pathway is having the appropriate resources in the right place, at the right time, for the early detection of renal failure. He also suggested that creatinine levels should not be the sole guideline, but should use actual kidney function as a monitor of disease. Additionally, Dr O'Donoghue suggested that there is a need for better communication and information procedures that are shared with other departments e.g. Diabetic clinics and B.P clinics and the use of IT to link with other departments.

Deborah Duval spoke from a patients' perspective. She has had kidney and pancreas failure and has since had a kidney and pancreas transplant. Before her transplant took place she had to travel 300 miles once a week from Sussex to Cornwall to get a 3rd session of dialysis, as her area health authority would only pay for two dialysis sessions per week. Quite rightly she classified herself as an angry patient, and joined a K.P.A, writing letters to MP's hoping she could make a difference. Overall her speech was a very inspiring and thought provoking presentation, which was realised by a long applause from the audience.

Rosie Winterton MP, Minister of State for Health followed on from Deborah Duval by discussing government facts and figures in relation to what is being achieved within the health care arena. She stated that there are more living donors than ever before and there are more HD stations available now. However, she failed to mention that there are more people being diagnosed with kidney disease than ever before.

Gerard Boekhoff, Vice President of the European Kidney Patients Federation (LEAPIR) went on to speak about patients being the experts and that kidney patients are not abnormal – " They are normal people in an abnormal situation".

Simon O'Neill director of care for Diabetes UK also spoke about how to help people with Diabetes, also becoming renal patients.

Dr Michael Wilks, Chair of the medical Ethics Committee from the British Medical Association went on to discuss payment for donor organs. He believed that this could be a way forward if a well managed system were to be put in place as there is a shortage of donor organs. This particular idea caused a lot of conversation and debate for the rest of the day.

Other speakers at the conference were Michelle Harris who gave her view as a patient waiting for a transplant. Christine Gleadell from Freedom Apartments & Travel spoke about the adventures on a group patient holiday. Question time at the end with the speakers and medical advisors rounded up the conference, with the gala dinner on Saturday night and the workshops on Sunday morning. The weekend proved to be a very interesting and thought provoking experience.

Michael Carpenter

Results of the NKF Cash Prize Draw held on Saturday 2nd October 2004

	Name	Ticket No.	Location
1st Prize £2,000	J Morrow	0060975	Gateshead
2nd Prize £1,000	Nicki Begent	0205065	London
3rd prize £500	M Clark	0154335	Essex
4th Prize £200	S Crang	0203407	Darlington
5th Prize £200	A Howland	01357299	London
6th Prize £200	A Gethin	0097159	Preston
7th Prize £200	J Webster	0204645	Bransholme, Hull
8th Prize £200	N B Nolan	0096615	London
9th Prize £100	Mr G Griffiths	0163245	Prestatyn
10th Prize £100	V Pillary	0191081	Oxbridge, Middlesex
11th Prize £100	Mr C Morgan	0023865	Aberdare, Glamorgan
12th Prize £100	D Graham	0035851	Newbiggin by Sea
13th Prize £100	Mr R Clark	0134009	Chatham, Kent

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