

IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss

Angela Rippon speaking on dementia

11.15am-12pm BIC, Main Auditorium

Future Congress

4.30-5.30pm BIC, Main Auditorium

Monica Baly Lecture: valuing male nursing

5.45-7.15pm Premier Inn, Connect 1

Seventh Annual Mary Seacole Memorial Lecture

6.45-7.45pm Hermitage Hotel, Hardy Suite

RCN Northern Ireland host Celtic Night

8pm-1am Royal Bath Hotel, De Vere Suite

Up for debate

Children – ward or walk-in?

What are the implications of reducing the status of children's wards?

Putting it right for agency workers

Should we adopt the Temporary Agency Workers Directive and press the government to fully implement it?

0% drink driving

Should there be zero tolerance for alcohol behind the wheel?

Too much, too young

What impact does early sexualisation have on girls?

Who best to be boss?

Should Directors of Nursing be responsible for line managing nurses?

Emergency resolution: Make dementia education fit for purpose

Should we take action to ensure nursing education is fit for purpose in meeting the needs of people living with dementia?

Priority for front-line?

Should health care professionals be given priority?

The RCN wishes to thank

Pledges from politicians

“More power for nursing staff” says Clegg



Liberal Democrat Leader Nick Clegg pledged to give nursing staff greater power to shape the NHS when he addressed Congress yesterday.

Speaking to a packed auditorium he praised delegates for the contribution they make to improving the lives of patients.

“Politicians have the chance to make a difference once in a while. You make a difference every day, if not 20 or 100 times a day.”

He described his family's recent use of NHS services, saying: “The only remarkable thing about my experiences of the NHS is how unremarkable they are. I am just one of millions. Every experience is different – and yet each is the same.”

He conceded it was easy to take the health service for granted and said the key question was how the NHS could be protected and

improved when money was tight. Realities must be faced, he said, but part of the solution was to give NHS staff – and their patients – greater control over health services. “We need to change the way power flows in the NHS. You should be telling us how to run it, not the other way

round.” Nurses rather than bureaucrats knew how best to trim the fat without cutting the services people need, he added.

As well as making local health organisations more democratically accountable, he said he would encourage diversity and flexibility in the NHS, with frontline staff placed in charge of ward or unit budgets. “The idea of devolving power away from Whitehall, away from managers, and to the public servants who are at the heart and soul of the NHS goes to the core of everything we believe in,” Mr Clegg said.

‘You should be telling us how to run the NHS’

Lansley “committed to working with the RCN”



David Cameron and the Conservative party have “a complete commitment” to working with the RCN if they form the elected government next month, Shadow Health Secretary Andrew Lansley told delegates yesterday.

He cited examples of how the College and the Conservatives have worked in partnership on issues including infection control and dignity, and said: “On all those things we still have a way to go but it's important we continue to work together.”

Mr Lansley said nursing is at the heart of high quality care – “and that is not just rhetoric.” He described cases observed during his six years holding the shadow health portfolio where nurses had demonstrated their willingness to embrace opportunities and shape care. “In all those contexts nurses are now taking on new expertise and that's

the way we want to go in the future.”

Outlining a health service light on central political interference, he said: “The thing I have learned most is that we have one million health professionals in this country who know what they should be doing and need to be given the power to do it.”

‘We have to involve you, empower you’

NHS staff surveys showed repeatedly that nurses felt patient safety was not at the top of their employer's agenda.

“That's shameful,” Mr Lansley said. “We have to involve you, empower you, and I know that when we do you will make the safety of patients your priority and therefore the priority of trusts.”

On the financial challenges facing trusts, he said any savings had to be reinvested to improve the quality of care. “We will not let the sick pay for the debt crisis,” he added.

PARTY

Party people



Delegates enjoy the Congress party on Monday night

FRINGE

Spirituality – a major component of care?

Over 4000 members responded to a major survey on nursing and spirituality carried out recently by the RCN.

Find out what they said at a lunchtime fringe meeting hosted by the RCN Nursing Department – **12.45 to 1.45 today**, Connaught Hotel, Connaught Suite.

JOHN GOODLAD LECTURE

Olympic win for construction

Olympic organisers want improved health, safety and wellbeing to be the 2012 legacy for construction staff.

contractor, and facilities like on-site GP surgeries and smoking cessation services.

He was speaking at the 11th lecture in memory of RCN labour relations officer John Goodlad.

Lawrence Waterman, the Olympic Delivery Authority's Head of Health and Safety, said it was important to improve the health and wellbeing of construction staff in line with Olympic ideals.

He also wants the 2012 stadium to be the first built in modern times without a fatality.

To achieve its aims, there are close relationships with safety officers from each



FRINGE

Dignity charter launched

RCN Deputy President Bobbie Chadwick yesterday launched a new charter for RCN members. Building on the theme of dignity, which has been at the heart of RCN work for some time, the new charter outlines the rights and responsibilities of all RCN members in relation to their interaction with each other and with RCN staff.



Pick up a copy from the publications stand in the RCN Lounge.

STUDENTS' DAY



Tuesday saw more than 700 students show their presence in pink, as Congress braced itself for the surge in enthusiasm that's become synonymous with Students' Day.

From the word go, the future nursing staff made themselves known in the main auditorium, welcoming the day with rapturous applause. It wasn't long before students were present at every exhibition stand, fringe event and educational seminar. But it wasn't until the afternoon that the action really began.

Student specific seminars were held at the Pavilion Theatre with lectures on research, assertiveness, learning disability nursing and transition to staff nurse being received well.

FRINGE

Support from CNO

Chief Nursing Officer for Wales Rosemary Kennedy addressed a packed fringe event yesterday where she responded to questions from students regarding the availability of jobs following graduation.

She told the audience about letters that she's received from patients with concerns about standards of care and correspondence from nurses who said they did not have enough time to care for patients. She called for more clinical nurse specialists with an improved and explicit understanding of their roles and why they are essential to patient care.

Mrs Kennedy has attended Congress for the last seven years but this will be her last appearance as she retires later this year.



FRINGE

Get it on the agenda

Every year items are submitted for the Congress agenda – some make it to the debating hall and some don't.

At lunchtime today Chair of Congress Jason Warriner will be telling you more about the process undertaken by the Agenda Committee to select items. Jason will be followed by BJ Waltho from East Dorset branch and RCN communications staff members Stephanie Wilson and Anna Gardner who will give you hints, tips and guidance on how best to choose and draft agenda items which get members and the media buzzing.

12.45 to 2.00pm, Premier Inn, Gallery

FRINGE

Legal and Governance review – next steps

L&G Don't forget to call into the Royal Bath Hotel at lunchtime today for a spot of lunch and to catch up on phase 2 of the RCN's legal and governance review. Phase 2 is looking at what else needs to be done to ensure that RCN has a set of constitutional documents that are truly fit for purpose now, and in the future – addressing some particular issues.

You will also find out more about the RCN's governance structure and new ways of working.

Royal Bath Hotel, Gladstone Suite, **12.45 to 2.00pm**

RESOLUTION

First aid comes first

Members voted overwhelmingly in favour of embedding first aid education in the national curriculum yesterday. "It means the difference between a life lost and a life saved," said Cate Woolley-Brown, Chair of Northern Region Board, as she addressed Congress.

As member after member supported the resolution, the resounding message was "it's just common sense" and that it would prevent tens of thousands of unnecessary deaths each year.

Cate cited the report by St John Ambulance, St Andrew's Ambulance Association and the British Red Cross which highlighted that 53%

of people in the UK would not know what to do if someone was choking. Up to 4000 deaths occur in the household, and many of these are preventable if only family or friends had received first aid training.

The provision of a first aid course for primary school children with a refresher every few years would be a simple, affordable and lifesaving solution.

Chris Brown, Leeds Branch, said "It's about social responsibility. This resolution goes further than saving lives; it will have an impact on knife crime as children will have more respect for each other and staying safe".

Vox pops – highlights of Tuesday

Alex Caldwell
I love the relaxed atmosphere here. There is a real sense of community and it's been great to speak to qualified nurses who feel so passionate about the profession.



Alyson Simm
The session on the transition from student to qualified nurse was really useful. I'll take back what I learnt and grow from it.



Deji Odediron
The debate about learning disability nursing was fascinating. I felt so inspired I wanted to get up and speak.



Kate Onyett
The chance to see Nick Clegg and Andrew Lansley has to be my highlight. It's not every day you get to see them in the flesh and it was great to hear their vision for the future of nursing.



Karen Goodacre
As a student nurse the highlight for me has been talking to those qualified and learning from their experiences.



Charlotte Sansom
The political speakers were my favourite by far. Congress is great for seizing unprecedented opportunities like these.



Vi Moahan
I've absolutely loved the exhibition. There are so many job opportunities being advertised.



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YOUR LETTERS

Got something to say?



A learning disability nurse in every hospital

This was an excellent debate and I would like to broaden it further by highlighting the palliative care needs of people with learning disabilities. These are too frequently unmet, with a lack of proper explanation and insensitive care. Further consideration needs to be given to the needs of people with learning disabilities, who are bereaved or suffer loss. They are a vulnerable group who all too often experience 'disenfranchised grief'.

Dr Susan Reid has published extensively on this, and I commend her work to nurses who are concerned to improve care for people with learning disabilities.

Celia Manson
RCN Palliative Care, Pain and Complementary Therapies Forum



It's up to us!

'How are you going to implement the recommendations of the Prime Minister's Commission on the Future of Nursing and Midwifery in England?' is a question I've often been asked this week. Yes, I spent a year working on the Commission, and I only wish I had a magic wand to turn its vision into reality. But as with all such reports, it's up to every one of us to ensure it doesn't gather dust on the shelf.

At Monday's packed fringe meeting organised by the RCN Fellows, nurses gave many examples of how they are already using the Commission report, 'Front Line Care', as leverage, support and inspiration in their workplaces. The RCN is also planning how to maintain the momentum.

Visit the Commission website at cnm.independent.gov.uk for free downloads of the report and other campaigning tools. Together we can make it happen!

Jane Salvage
Visiting professor, Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery

Up for debate



0% drink driving?

FIRST AID LESSONS



In association with the resolution "First aid training for children?", Gilly Boote from St John Ambulance taught basic first aid to year 6 children from St Katharine's CE Primary School. The children learned how to help when someone is choking and how to bandage a wound.

SNAPSHOTS OF CONGRESS PAST



Congress 1995 really starts to push the buttons when electronic voting is introduced. Don't miss Future Congress today to learn about how you can contribute to the shape of events to come. Delegates will have a chance to look at where we are today and think about what we want to achieve each year at Congress, what we do well, where we can improve and how you can make a difference. Future Congress, 4.30pm Main Auditorium, BIC.

FRINGE



The RCN LGBT Network celebrated its third anniversary at its meeting on Monday night.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE



Students are not only the future of nursing; we are part of the profession's here and now. This was the theme of ANS Chair Harvey Morgan's Students' Day speech, made to the hundreds of pink-shirted students who were everywhere at Congress yesterday.

For me the most inspirational part of the student programme was Billy Dixon's presentation, his energy and enthusiasm for the image of nursing and our own personal image when we are in the clinical setting were infectious.

Speaking on 'The transition from student to staff nurse,' Bethann Siviter delivered an inspiring presentation on making the most of being the fresh pair of eyes on the ward and having the grace to say "I'm new and open to absorb all of the knowledge our more senior colleagues have to offer."

Finishing the day in style, the student party and barbeque were awash with the music of steel drums and flashes of pink.

Today, student involvement moves to the Congress floor, with us making our presence felt in discussions and debates. If you're a student and need help or just want to chat, please find us at the student information point

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