Welcome to the Spring 2016 Edition of the Branch Newsletter

Election of RCN Council Members
Newly elected members of the London Council are Cynthia Davis and Matthew Hodson.

Branch AGM
The meeting was held on 3rd November 2015 at the Heritage Centre, St George's Hospital. Presentation given by Nora Flanagan on NMC Revalidation.

Election of Branch Officers:
- Chair: Andrew Shum
- Treasurer: Joan Coy
- Secretary: Samantha Spence
- Learning & Developments Officer: Patricia Yiggon
- Communications Officer: Sonia Philips
- Recruitments Officer: Jahmena Wilson

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Autumn of Learning

This event was jointly organised by the RCN Inner and Outer South-West London Branches, at St George's Hospital on 27th November 2015. The agenda included:

- 'Barriers to Ocular Tissue Donation', presented by Maria Prous and Dr Maria Ponto
- 'Putting Technology into Learning', presented by Adele Atkinson and Jo Gregory
- 'Mindfulness', presented by Kevin Acott

There was a very good turnout to the event, excellent presentations from our guest speakers and we managed to secure 3 boardrooms, which gave us a lot more space than originally anticipated.

NMC Annual Renewal/Retention Fee changed from November 2015 that it must be paid on time. It is recommended to register with NMC Online: https://online.nmc-uk.org/Account/Login and also to have direct debit set up and not let it lapse, although, it is advised to check that you have paid your fees. Some Trusts will stop registered nurses when they fail to renew. Also staffs are likely to be under disciplinary and also cannot work on bank or as a HCA. There is no grace period anymore for lapsed payments. It could take approximately a month or two to re-register. For more information, please visit the NMC Weblink: http://www.nmc.org.uk/registration/staying-on-the-register/renewing-your-registration/

Make yourself aware of the NMC Revalidation requirements from April April 2016 which can be found on the NMC website.... Trusts will have plans on how to help their staff, especially during the next few months where the first cohorts have to undergo the Revalidation process. NMC Weblink: http://www.nmc.org.uk/revalidation

Publication on 6th January 2016, RCN London has published a research showing there are over 10,000 vacant nursing posts in the London Region. This has a knock-on effect on safe staffing levels for patient care. RCN Link: https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-
The March’ on 9th January 2016 regarding the NHS bursaries Debate in Parliament on 11th January 2016 tabled when over 100,000 people signed a petition, which indicated very strong feelings about this issue. Hansard link: https://hansard.digiminster.com/Commons/2016-01-11/debates/1601119000001/NHSBursary  

RCN chair and Vice Chair of RCN London Regional Board: Cynthia Davis (chair) and Maria Ponto (vice-chair), both are active members of the branch and also work at Kingston and St George's University of London. They both have been elected to their respective positions on the London Board. Many congratulations to Cynthia and Maria, and very best wishes with helping to shape the future of nursing in London. For more information, please click on the RCN link: https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/new-chair-and-vice-chair-for-the-rcn-london-board

SNAP – Student Nurse Academic Partnership Conference
Nurse Academic Partnership Conference contributes ideas for new curriculum

Student nurses have joined forces with staff from the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education and trust partners to share their passion for the profession at a conference at St George’s, University of London in January 2016.

The Student Nurse Academic Partnership (SNAP) conference was designed to empower nursing students, encouraging them to become teachers for the day and develop into future healthcare leaders. The day-long event, held earlier this year, was the first of its kind to be entirely organised and presented by the University’s nursing students. It was a collaboration between the University’s School of Nursing, run jointly with St George’s, University of London, and the Gibraltar Health Authority.

The stars of the conference were 16 nursing students who delivered presentations on nursing theory and practice. The presentations influenced and informed discussions around changing the shape of a new curriculum, being developed for September 2016. The students had worked in partnership with academic staff to write abstracts, fine tune the content and develop their public speaking skills.

Second year BSc(Hons) Mental Health Nursing student Aurelia Edmiston (above) described the experience as empowering.
“To be given a platform to express an issue I feel so passionate about, with such a wide variety of audience members, was incredible,” she said. “It’s so rare that students faculty staff of all positions and alumni can come together in a forum to share ideas and experiences, and yet it’s so important for us – particularly in nursing – to continue that discourse.”

The event also featured presentations from Heads of Nursing at Kingston and St George’s, and the Gibraltar Health Authority, which emphasised the important of international partnerships. Attendees also heard from Chief Nurses of NHS England and St George’s, NHS Trust, highlighting the value of strong links between universities and practice partners, as well as volunteer support from the RCN Inner South West London Branch.

Associate Professor in Children’s Nursing, Dr Jayne Price, said she was ‘blown away by a very inspirational day’, acting as a session Chair during the event. “The sessions were extremely conducive to learning and embraced the ethos of knowledge development with and from each other in partnership. The questions and debates that arose from the presentations gave students and lecturers an extremely effective opportunity to openly express their views,” she said. “The number of diverse topics covered was notable and enabled integrated learning across fields and patient groups.”

Nursing students will now contribute their work to a journal dedicated to the conference that will be published to coincide with International Nursing Day celebrations in May.
**International Nurses Day with Kingston University Nursing Society**

*Performing The Art of Nursing*

**The Rose Theatre, Kingston Upon Thames**  
Monday 23rd May 2016  
13:00-16:00

The Nursing Society at Kingston University is again working towards a fantastic event for International Nurses Day in May 2016. The previous presidents of the Nursing Society collaborated with a number of faculty staff members to organise an event last year, which has been shortlisted for a national award. Please see link to view video: https://vimeo.com/131046710

The Joint Faculty of Health Social Care and Education of Kingston University and St George’s University of London are hosting an arts event at The Rose Theatre on 23rd May 2016. The event is called ‘Performing the Art of Nursing’; the day will include drama, poetry and art.

Like last year, there is an art exhibition called ‘The Art of Caring’, which will run alongside the International Nurses Day event at the same venue from the 12th-24th May 2016. The theme is Resilience and Caring. Please see link: www.artofcaring.org.uk. They will be opening the exhibition with a private view on International Nurses Day, Thursday 12th May 2016. So please put it in your diary and come along.

If you would like to see some of last year’s submissions and exhibition then have a look in the album of photos: https://picasaweb.google.com/103519518631561147857/ArtOfCaringExhibition02

The purpose of the event is to embed the arts and culture into the health care curriculum, to develop compassion and to increase the horizon of the students in relation to the wider diverse nature of society. It is also our intention to raise the profile of issues related to health, caring and diversity within the wider population.

This year they have two newly commissioned pieces of work which highlight mental health issues and also issues related to an older person with dementia, who is of Asian heritage. The first is written and performed by staff and students and the second is written by a member of the academic staff and performed by Children with learning disability. There is also some art, poetry and a key note address.

It is open to all and is free to attend, no tickets are needed. The link to the Rose Theatre is: http://www.rosetheatrekingston.org/
Branch Meetings

Further branch meeting dates for 2016 are planned as follows:

- 18 May 2016, 12pm to 2pm
- 2 August 2016, 2pm to 4pm
- 3 November 2016 (AGM), 4pm to 6pm

Confirmation will be emailed to members around two weeks before each meeting. Further details are available from your branch secretary.

If you’re an RCN member within the South West of London Region and have done some fantastic work, be it charity work involvement, publication, attendance to events relating to nursing for example, please do get in touch. We’d like to hear your story and share it with other RCN members.

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