

2012 OTA Conference Report

written by Lorraine Everest, Forbes Operating Theatre, Forbes Health Service.

2012 NSW OTA Conference

Thursday presented the opportunity of meeting fellow Association members who came from various work settings and roles in the peri-operative world. Presentations throughout the day were centred around a similar theme of looking after ourselves so we can remain motivated and find 'Happiness' in our team, workplace and personal life.

One of the invited Guest Speakers – **Adam Frazer** spoke about the “**Art of Flow**” which means individuals learning to be “In the Zone” which translates to being present on the task one is participating in. If an individual can do this it equals “**Happiness**”.

Other speakers who presented and left members with a message included **Karen Cook** from the Council of Australian Government (COAG), which has been established to meet the future challenges and needs in the Australian Community. Karen spoke about ‘**Workforce Planning**’ and encouraged all Nurses to complete the ‘Nurse Workforce Questionnaire’ when completing their annual registration. If every nurse completed this survey it would provide the collection of information needed by this Council.

Judy Willis spoke on **High Volume Short Stays (HVSS)** and Day Only Units. Auburn and Canterbury Hospitals have applied to be Metropolitan HVSS Units who will cater for surgical patients with a 72 hr stay, which will consider possible complications for the types of surgeries performed.

The first session on Friday was presented by **Brett Holmes (Secretary NSW Nurses Association)**. Brett gave an overview of the **changes the NSW Govt. has made to Awards and the removal of Industrial Relations Commission**. Sadly this presentation took the shine away from the positive effect that was delivered on Thursday. Brett reinforced that the Association will do all it can to uphold the work done in the last few years re-staff/patient ratios and encouraged members to keep their ears open to how we as individuals can also support the associations actions.

The concurrent presentations I attended included:

*A case study of **the first adult to adult living donor transplant** at the Australian National Liver Transplant Unit at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney.

*The Australian **Peri-operative Research Landscape 1996-2007**. A Comparative Bibliometric Analysis by Bradley Leeson – ACT. Bradley encouraged nurses to be more involved in Research as his analysis demonstrates how little research nurses have initiated.

*An evidence based approach to Implementation of **Team Time Out (T.T.O.)** process by Judy Romit from Prince of Wales Private Hospital (POW). This demonstrated how a structured implementation within a whole team had such positive outcomes.

*Baby Boomers fronting up: **Priorities for the Peri-operative Geriatric patient** by Bradley Leeson – ACT. This stressed Baby Boomers requiring surgery will increase in the next 1-2 decades and will involve more Risk Management to identify which geriatric pt. will do well at the various stages of the peri-operative journey.

***Resource Recovery in the Operating Theatre** – why and how. This was a **pilot** conducted @ P.O.W. to **recycle plastics No.5 (eg Bottles)**. This involved the separation of these items when discarded and over a 2month period 3 tonnes of plastics were removed and recycled rather than

heading for landfill. The pilot was a success due to staff and management committed and positive feedback was received from all involved.

***How much Brain do we need?** By Hanan Kaleeny. Case study of a 4 yr old with a history of seizures (epilepsy) day and night. Treatment involved half the child's brain being removed. With intense therapies this youngster has grown and is completing his HSC this year.

***Safe Surgery Checklist** by Deborah Hyland. Due to ongoing incidents despite the introduction of Time Out this is currently being reviewed and a new format represented in the future.

'Bollywood' Conference Dinner – what fun, great company and individual initiative to front looking a 'little' Indian. Yes, the two Forbes 'swamp rates' (as categorised by a Country link employee during the recent floods) beat the flood water to attend Conference. Due to the rush out of town to beat rising flood waters the theme 'Bollywood' did not get a rating until we stood in our motel room commenting 'we had nothing Indian to wear'. But we did arrive at Dinner a little 'Indian', thanks to the short satin bed quilts we borrowed for the night from our motel "The Mantra". To Rosehill we taxied, to the toilets we scurried, created our 'Indian look' and sat down at Dinner a little late with our fellow Zone 2 members, with them asking where we got our Head Gear??? Our story created some fun amongst many on the dance floor as we received comments that 'The Mantra had phoned asking for their bed linen to be returned'. The Dinner 'Photo Booth' allowed us to obtain photos to support our tale.

Saturday commenced with

*** a laugh a minute, joyful and comical session by Amanda Gore.** Amanda gave food for thought to everyone, sharing many approaches to deal with many behaviours and emotions experienced in our workplaces. **Message - remember you're 'SPARKLES'**. Feel free to experience her joy on the following websites: www.amandagore.com or www.ourjoyproject.com or Amanda@amandagore.com

Other topics covered on Saturday focused on Anaesthetics, Clinical and Education. I elected to attend the Anaesthetics:

***Malignant Hyperthermia** was presented by Neil Street from Westmead. This was an informative overview to an event one does **NOT** want to experience.

***The curious case of the crashing patient** by Brendan Smith. As always the local Bathurst Anaesthetist presented a thought producing case. Hint: remember 36.6 C is **NOT** a normal temperature for a patient in PACU. In Brendan's case this was the clue to a septic event.

***Post Operative Residual Curarisation (P.O.R.C)** by Paul Stewart. This anaesthetist's research indicates how prevalent this is amongst PACU patients. His research has led to the suggestion of using the drug Sugammadex a new Muscle relaxant antagonist due to its rapid, safe and reliable reversal of Vecuronium and Rocuronium. And.....

***Surgical Plume** a continuing topic that Jenny Cubitt and Penny Smalley are working on from a Workplace, Health and Safety point of view. I wish to thank the Zone 2 members for supporting my attendance at the 2012 OTA Conference through your annual Scholarship. As a first timer at Conference it was a wonderful educational experience and a grand opportunity to network with others. I also had the pleasure of being able to congratulate my travel companion, my Nurse Unit Manager of Forbes Operating Theatre - Janeen Coles on being presented with her 20 year Membership to the NSW Operating Theatre Association. From a new Member to an older member 'Congratulations Janeen'!