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**CODP – the professional body for  
operating department practitioners.**

**News for  
operating  
department  
practitioners**



February 2016

**Welcome to the first edition of the CODP newsletter. This newsletter represents an important part of our drive to raise the profile of the profession and the College across the UK. We plan to produce three editions of the newsletter each year, which will work in conjunction with our social network presence on Facebook and LinkedIn to keep you updated with developments of the interest of the profession and campaigns being run by our host organisation, UNISON.**

**If you are interested in contributing to future editions of this newsletter, please forward any articles to Tim Lewis ([lewist2@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:lewist2@cardiff.ac.uk)) or Jennie West ([j.west@unison.co.uk](mailto:j.west@unison.co.uk)). We are interested in receiving articles relating to recent research, developments in the news or opinion pieces, and in future issues we will be including articles on ODPs who are expanding the profession's scope.**

## **Meet the officers of the College**

In response to requests from you the members, we would like to use this newsletter as an opportunity to introduce the individuals who are currently working on your behalf to take the profession forwards. In this issue we start by introducing Bill Kilvington, the President of the College. Bill Kilvington, President of the College of Operating Department (pictured) qualified at St Thomas's Hospital London in 1980 and has been a member of the Professional Council since 1983. Bill has played a key role in the development of the ODP as a profession, including Registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) in 2004 and the introduction of the BSc in Operating Department Practice as the primary



qualification for Operating Department Practitioners.

He is a passionate advocate of patient safety and was a member of the Surgical Never Events Taskforce. He also chaired one of the writing groups that produced the National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures (NatSSIPs). Bill is the Associate Director for Women and Child Health Services at Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust in Surrey.

## National safety standards for invasive procedures (NatSSIPs)

The College is urging all ODPs to become involved with the implementation of the new Safety Standards. While these are mandatory only in England, the College holds the view that they are relevant to the provision of care during invasive procedures across the UK and, perhaps beyond and has issued the following [guidance](#)

The case for safe staffing has never been important especially in the context of Lord Carter's review of Operational Productivity in the NHS. Carter's interim report identifies the potential to save £5bn from the NHS budget between now and 2020, including £2bn from workforce costs alone. Carter cited "increased productivity through having a stronger management grip on non-productive time (for example annual leave, sickness and training), better management of rosters and improved guidance on appropriate staffing levels and skill range for certain types of wards".

The NatSSIPs provide framework to help establish safe staffing levels and importantly identifies the importance of having sufficient staff who hold a formal qualification in perioperative practice.

## The case for an ePortfolio by Andy Gulley

The introduction of the BSc (Hons) Operating Department Practice curriculum (CODP, 2011) allows our ODP teaching team the opportunity to introduce an ePortfolio as an integrated part of professional practice and clinical skills development.

The historical paper portfolio was very driven by demonstrating learning outcomes. It is hoped the ePortfolio will encourage the students to think more about self-outcomes, generating varied evidences and not rely solely on a competency outcome model. Self-assessment is a skill that the team wish to encourage as the students are required to

develop as reflective practitioners.

Retention and attrition are also considerations in the decision to introduce the ePortfolio. Pre-course activities, supportive communities and increased communication could be facilitated through the use of an ePortfolio.

*Slade et al* (2013) provided a succinct overview of the current array of available software options for an ePortfolio [read more](#)

## Proposed cuts to the NHS student bursaries (England)

The proposal to cut the NHS student bursaries will impact student ODPs as well as other healthcare students starting programmes from September 2017. These changes to student funding are intended to give the majority of students more available funds during their studies than under the current bursary system, due to the range of means-tested loans available to them. Students will however graduate with a student loan.

CODP does recognise however that there are a number of issues which will need to be addressed to support ODP students, particularly those related to placement expenses and those undertaking a second degree. We note the Government's indication that there will be a consultation upon the implementation of these changes and the College will be responding to this to ensure ODPs are represented.

We recognise that there will be challenges as a result of these student funding changes, however we remain committed to working with universities via our Education and Standards Committee and Clinical and University Educators (CUE) Forum to develop effective solutions to ensure the continued provision of a high quality ODP workforce.

## Clinical university educator forum (CUE)

At the CODP CUE Forum held on 3 December at Birmingham City University, attendees considered the impact of the Chancellor's Spending Review Autumn Statement 2015 in relation to replacing grants (NHS Student Bursaries) with maintenance and tuition loans for ODP pre-registration programmes in England.

The attendees of the CUE Forum did a SWOT analysis. [Click here](#) to read the summary of the collated results of the SWOT analysis.

## Student poster competition

Huge congratulations to all the students who entered the Student Poster Competition, we received some excellent entries. The posters were judged on content, design and creativity with a key message of informing/promoting the role of the ODP. The 3 winning entries were:

James Cartwright from Oxford Brookes University  
Marita Kirkham from the University of Central Lancashire  
Thomas Roberts from Birmingham City University

## Drop the Trade Union Bill

The College is concerned about the impact of the Government's Trade Union Bill upon the ability of ODPs and others in the NHS to have easy access to advice and representation from a Trade Union.

We are particularly concerned about the proposal to withdraw the option for public sector employers to deduct subscription payments from trade union members' salaries. It would be illegal for the NHS to make deduction of contributions at source (DOCAS), meaning that staff would have to arrange to pay their subscriptions by direct debit or other means. Apathy or inertia could easily mean that an ODP could find themselves unsupported when facing a professional or disciplinary enquiry by their employer or the HCPC.

For this reason the College supports UNISON's drop the trade union bill week of action (8-14 February 2016). Find out what you can do to [Stop the Bill](#).

## Are your membership details up-to-date?

If you have recently moved or had changes to your personal details [My UNISON](#) allows you to update your personal information. We would also like registered ODPs to update their profiles to include ODP in their job title.

## Join UNISON today

Cuts in public spending are affecting all NHS services. Our union has hard fought to protect national terms and conditions which are threatened by this government. It is now more important than ever to join a trade union. Why not join UNISON today - call us on 0800 171 2193 to register or [join online](#)

Student Operating Department Practitioners can also join UNISON and our professional body for just £10.00 per year. Membership includes the full range of UNISON benefits and access to the College of Operating Department Practitioners.



**UNISON – protecting members and values in the new NHS**

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