



## News for UNISON CODP members

June 2017

# CODP NEWSLETTER



## College of Operating Department Practitioners

### President's welcome

I am honoured to be writing this welcome as the new President of the College. I am extremely proud to be an ODP and particularly to have the opportunity to lead our professional body. For me, the reason I love this profession is that it presents us with the opportunity to make a difference every day: holding the hand of a frightened patient, working as part of a team that saves lives, providing dignity at the end of life or inspiring the future of the profession through education and leadership roles. As President it is my goal to make a difference, to drive our profession forward, so that ODPs can continue to deliver high quality, safe and effective care in the contemporary healthcare environment.



Our new AHP status will present new opportunities for ODPs to engage with the wider AHP professions. It is important that while we are looking to the future, we do not forget how far we have come; we have achieved a lot in a relatively short time and I think that is something to be immensely proud of.

I look forward to serving the ODP profession in my new role and I hope that many of you will continue to advance the profession of which we are proud.

## Move to AHP status

Following our integration into the AHP family on the 1<sup>st</sup> April the President and I attended the Chief Allied Health Professions Officer's Conference in London where other AHPs Professional Leads were keen to engage with ODPs and get us involved with the local AHP agenda – which is of course where you come in!

If you haven't already read the AHPs into Action document it's worth doing so. The link can be found in the box below.

AHPs into Action is the response of the professions to the NHS Five Year Forward View and the work of local Sustainability and Transformation Plans, which are sure to be setting the agenda for the NHS for some years to come.

The key messages are that the AHP workforce is the third largest in the health and care system and harnessing the skills and expertise of AHPs is key to transforming the delivery of health, care and wellbeing services in England.

The document also sets out a vision for improvements to patient care. We want our skills and expertise to be fully harnessed and incorporated into new transformation plans, currently in development.

'AHPs into Action' has been developed in partnership with AHPs, other professionals, patients and the public. It demonstrates how this skilled workforce is equipped to meet the challenges of providing health care in the future. Furthermore, it represents the beginning of a journey giving AHPs a greater role within the health, social and wider care system.

Bill Kilvington

### ► AHPs into Action



## Symposium: Events in the regions

UNISON organisers in the Northern region worked hard to ensure that the move to Allied Health Professional status was marked within the region; the regional celebration was held at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Gateshead where ODPs were presented with a 'congratulations' card. Staff and the public had an opportunity to find out more about what ODPs do and enjoy a slice of celebration cake too. Further details of some of the activities to celebrate this landmark event are in the report



below. There was also a high presence on social media with photos and tweets being sent out and re-shared across the day.

### Report from Northern region

Here at Gateshead Health branch we thought it was important to celebrate this long awaited achievement in ODP history.

With the help from UNISON Northern Region a congratulations card was sent to each theatre suite in the region, here at Queen Elizabeth Gateshead, we had a stall which attracted UNISON members from all across the region. The Chair of the governors Julia Hickey and Surgical manager Nick McDonough presented the congratulations card to colleague Angela McPhee and myself.

During the day there was a lot of engagement via social media through the Northern UNISON account. I have received many thanks from around the country from members and ODP's who have seen the card and appreciated that UNISON highlighted the important event.

Since the event I have been working with management within the trust to try and open up opportunities for ODP's and the first job advert within our trust outside of theatre for ODPS has just gone live.

Lucy Knightley  
Operating Department Practitioner  
UNISON Gateshead Health Branch

## **Annual event for ODPs**

Following on from the success of the first ever national symposium for ODPs, we are hoping to make this an annual event, giving ODPs the opportunity to come together to celebrate their unique role and discuss issues of interest to them.

We would love to hear from you with ideas and suggestions for activities we could organise. If you are interested, please email Val Johnston: [v.johnston@unison.co.uk](mailto:v.johnston@unison.co.uk)

## **Clinical University Educators (CUE) Forum**

The Clinical University Educators (CUE) Forum will be held on the 7th July 2017 10:00am – 3:15pm at Hull University Union 2nd Floor Room MR1.

The CUE Forum is designed to promote the sharing of good practice relating to ODP education and is open to all who have an interest in the education of ODP's, including student members.

The programme will cover the following topics:

- Nerve Blocks – Involvement of the ODP
- Career Development Framework for ODPs

- Practice Assessment using PebblePad
- Angela's Story – A Day in the Life of an ODP
- The Significance of Academic Qualifications to the Operating Theatre Workforce
- College Up-Date

The CUE Forum is a free event – please contact Val Johnston [V.Johnston@unison.co.uk](mailto:V.Johnston@unison.co.uk) to confirm attendance.

## **ODP Students - UNISON the union for ODPs**

Are you studying as an ODP? Then UNISON is the only choice of union for you. You are about to enter an amazing career where you will work with dedicated and motivated colleagues in the delivery of excellent patient care.

With UNISON membership you automatically get the benefits of being a part of the College of Operating Department Practice (CODP). As CODP is part of UNISON you get the best of both worlds, from workplace representation and professional and clinical advice to all matters concerning the Health and Care Professional Council (HCPC).

We hope your course and your theatre placements are a positive experience for you. However, we do know that for some, the experience can be daunting and just knowing you have a professional trade union to back you up is reassuring.

With our student cover at just £10 per year for full time students, you get full membership cover when out on your placement or during study time. Whether it is a clinical incident and you are worried about how to approach it, or that there is an issue with social media or question for the HCPC, UNISON and CODP can help you respond, get through the systems and back into practice again.

Our network of representatives and professional officers have helped many students through the rough times making us the main union for ODPs in the NHS. Join today and get all the benefits for just £10 a year for students.

### **Benefits of being in UNISON**

Here are some of the benefits of being a UNISON member:

- Advice, support and help when you need it at work
- Legal services for you at work and your family at home
- Financial assistance and debt advice in times of need
- Helpline open until midnight
- Compensation for accidents and injuries at work
- Member discounts – including up to 50% off holidays
- Education, training and support

## Opportunity to participate in perioperative non-technical skills research

This is an opportunity to support a PhD research project to explore registered perioperative practitioners' non-technical skills and the factors which affect these.

You are invited to participate in this project by answering some questions online (similar to a questionnaire); your answers will be completely anonymous. At the end of the questions, there are also some reflective prompts which you can use to support your own CPD.

Your support with this work would be greatly appreciated and will contribute our wider professional knowledge.

Thank you in advance for your help, more information and the questions can be found in the link below.

► [survey monkey](#)

## Who is the profession?

In 2004 when ODPs first become registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC) there were 7,670 of us. In the 13 years since the profession has grown by 70% and there are now 13,082 of us on the register (as of May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017).

Using the HCPCs publicly available data it is possible to establish some basic demographic information – such as the male/female split and some of the countries in which we are to be found.

When I qualified in 1980 the profession was very predominantly male; today male ODPs are in the minority, making up 40% of current registrants. Indeed there are more women on the register now, over 7,700 - than there were total registrants in 2005.

As to where we are, it probably no surprise that most of the profession is based in England (88% or 11,519 registrants). The next biggest group is in Wales (669), followed by Scotland with 482. Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands account for 24 of us, with 4 in Gibraltar.

I was slightly surprised to find that there are nearly 200 Registered ODPs based in other parts of the EU, with the largest number in Poland (40), followed by 29 in Ireland and 17 in Germany (UK forces perhaps?).

There are 137 ODPs registered where the country isn't specified, so I can only speculate on where in the world these are, although I do know that quite a few will be in Australia and New Zealand and retaining their UK registration. A couple of years ago I analysed the Register of Anaesthetic Technicians in New Zealand and over half of those registered gained their qualification as an ODP in the UK.

Bill Kilvington  
Patient Safety Lead

Keep in touch



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