

## February 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to our February newsletter. We hope you find the newsletter helpful and informative, please get in touch if you want further information on any of the news items in this edition.

### Professional Council Update

The College of Operating Department Practitioners is delighted to announce that Mike Donnellon has taken up office as the President of the College. Mike succeeds Hannah Abbott who had been in post since 2017.

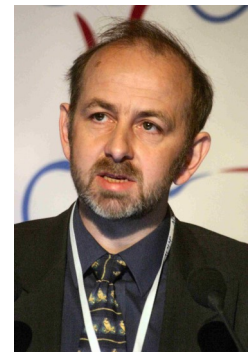


Mike commenced his Operating Department Assistant training in 1983 at Blackpool Victoria Hospital before moving into Higher Education in 2002 at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston. Mike's previous role within the College was Chair of the Education and Standards Committee.



New Professional Council member Karen Amber hails from Kent and is currently a Sustainability and Social Value Manager for NHS Commercial Solutions focussing on workforce, corporate services and estates and facilities. Karen is passionate about promoting the ODP career and led on a Schools project which promoted the profession by enabling children to become an ODP in a 'Operating Theatre' workshop and was featured on BBC Breakfast.

Alan Mount is the Professional Lead for Operating Department Practice at Canterbury Christchurch University and becomes Chair of the Education and Standards Committee. Alan has many years experience of ODP education including numerous External Advisor / Subject Specialist roles. Alan has also served as a HCPC Council Member and HCPC Education and Training Committee member.



### New College of Operating Department Practitioners Website



Our new website (which will feature the member joining portal) is currently in construction. Follow the College social media platforms for updates. Launch due March 2024.

## AHP Critical Care Capability Framework

ODP representation on the Framework project is being led by Giles Farrington. Giles explains that similar to other professional development frameworks, this framework will consist of four pillars: clinical, leadership, education, and research.

The capabilities have been developed across six levels of practice (supportive, assistive, foundation, enhanced, advanced and consultant), to demonstrate how an individual can develop their practice in a critical care context and to align to national training pathways.



Following feedback from Clinical Advisory Panels and Professional Bodies, the capability framework will also undergo a process of public consultation, which is expected to take place in spring.

The clinical pillar is currently being reviewed by the Clinical Advisory Panel (CAP) which consists of ODPS working in or with an interest in critical care and the non-clinical pillars (leadership, education and research) are currently undergoing peer review.

A multi-professional team of advanced/consultant practitioners continue to draft capability statements for advanced and consultant levels of practice across the four pillars and these will be reviewed by the professional leads shortly.

## Separate Pay Spine for Nurses

The Government has published a call for evidence to seek views on a new pay scale for Nurses: [Government seeks views on new pay scale for NHS nurses - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/separate-pay-spine-for-nursing)

To access the survey please visit: [Separate pay spine for nursing - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/separate-pay-spine-for-nursing)

Teamwork is essential within operating theatres, Nurses and Operating Department Practitioners all make equal and invaluable contributions to the care and safety of the patient. This divisive proposal would see the end of the Agenda for Change harmonised terms and conditions and equal pay for equal work concept.

Challenges in terms of recruitment, retention and professional development are not unique to the Nursing profession, Operating Department Practice faces these same challenges, arguably more so.

The College urges all Operating Department Practitioners to complete the Government survey. Our voice on this matter must be heard.

## #PrescribingNow Campaign

The College is delighted to announce that we are now a member of the [#PrescribingNow](https://www.prescribingnow.co.uk/) coalition.

Together with six other Allied Health Professions, the [#PrescribingNow](https://www.prescribingnow.co.uk/) campaign is calling on the UK Government to use the powers it has under the Medicines and Medical Devices Act(2021), to extend independent prescribing responsibilities to those AHPs that form the coalition, where it is safe and appropriate to do so within the scope of their professional practice.

## HCPC Renewal

2024 is a renewal year where Operating Department Practitioners renew their registration with the Health and Care Professions Council by making their professional declaration.

Follow our series on the College social media platforms of CPD Top Tips which will explain the Standards of Continuous Professional Development and how best you can meet them.

## National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (NCEPOD) – Review of Paediatric Emergency Surgery

This study commenced in December 2023 to review clinical pathways and care for children and young people, from birth to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, undergoing emergency surgical procedures. The College is represented on the Study Advisory Group by our Patient Safety Lead Bill Kilvington.

ODPs are asked to be aware in their own hospitals for any survey work being undertaken for this study and to help provide a comprehensive a picture of the experience of children and young people having an emergency procedure.

## New Zealand Anaesthesia Annual Scientific Meeting

Bill Kilvington represented the College in November at the ASM, this being a joint event hosted by the Australia and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists; the New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists; and the New Zealand Anaesthetic Technicians Society (NZATS).

Bill delivered one of the keynote addresses during the opening session and also joint presentation with John Dade from AfPP on Human Factors in a crisis and the real-world impact on a patient following Surgical Never Event.



Anaesthetic Technicians in NZ are regulated by the Medical Sciences Council (MSC) of New Zealand and during the conference the outcome of the consultation on expanding their scope of practice was announced. Expanding the scope of practice to include surgery and post anaesthetic recovery was approved, more closely aligning with the UK ODP role. Bill joined officers of NZATS in discussions with the CEO of the MSC about these important changes and changes to the professional title of Anaesthesia Technicians to better reflect the new perioperative practitioner role.

We are grateful to the organisers of the ASM for their generous financial support which meant that no expenditure was required of CODP.

## NHS England Never Events Framework Consultation

NHSE have launched a consultation on whether the existing Never Events Framework remains an effective mechanism to drive patient safety improvement. The consultation is open until the 5<sup>th</sup> May and ODPs are encouraged to give their views.

The numbers of Surgical Never Events reported remain stubbornly high and this has led some to question the validity of the Never Events concept. The reasons for failure are of course multi-factorial, but underpinning safe surgery must be adequate human and other resources, with practitioners qualified in perioperative practice following a disciplined approach to procedures and protocols, supported by checklists where appropriate.

Access to the consultation is available: [Never event framework consultation - NHS England - Citizen Space](#)