



## SCOTTISH PATIENT SAFETY RESEARCH NETWORK QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

### SPSRN

Scottish Patient Safety Research Network (SPSRN) is a collaboration between research teams from the Universities of Aberdeen, Dundee, and St Andrews. The aim of the Network is to enhance capacity in patient safety research in Scotland, building on two existing academic centres. In 2003, the [Patient Safety Research Group](#) was established at the University of Aberdeen. Research focuses on a wide range of issues related to patient safety (e.g. adverse event rates, non-technical skills, and safety climate) within acute as well as primary care medical environments. The [Social Dimensions of Health Institute \(SDHI\)](#), also established in 2003, is a collaborative venture between the Universities of St Andrews and Dundee. Their patient safety research focuses on clinician engagement in quality improvement; different models of quality improvement adopted in the UK, and the initiation, spread and sustainability of change. More information about the Network can be found at [www.spsrn.ac.uk](http://www.spsrn.ac.uk)

### February 2012

#### Contents:

- Featured SPSRN projects
  - Project Update
  - Recent and in-press publications
  - SPSRN news
  - Upcoming SPSRN meetings
  - External conferences of interest
- Follow us on [facebook](#)

This section provides details on select SPSRN research projects that are currently being conducted.

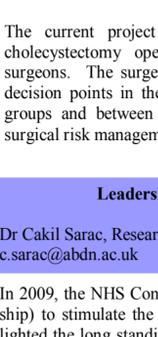
This week the topics featured are Surgeon decision-making

and Leadership behaviours of senior charge nurses

### SPOTLIGHT ON:

#### Surgeon decision-making

Dr Lucy Mitchell, Research Fellow, University of Aberdeen.  
[l.mitchell@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:l.mitchell@abdn.ac.uk)



Decision-making is an important aspect of minimising error in high risk domains such as surgery. Previous research indicates that judgement and decision-making are considered important skills for surgeons at each stage of a patient's surgery (pre-operative, intra-operative and post-operative). However, at present the literature has tended to focus on decisions made prior to an operation, such as diagnosing an illness or injury and making the decision on whether to operate. Consequently, there is a lack of research examining decisions made in the operating room whilst the surgery is taking place.

The aim of the research currently underway is to examine surgeon risk assessment and decision-making during the intra-operative period.

The current project involves showing videos (n=3) of laparoscopic cholecystectomy operations to consultant (n=15) and trainee (n=15) surgeons. The surgeons will be asked a series of questions at identified decision points in the videos. Comparisons will be made among the two groups and between consultants and trainees to understand more about surgical risk management and decision making.

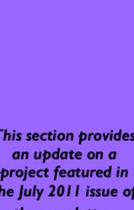
#### Leadership behaviours of senior charge nurses

Dr Cakil Sarac, Research Fellow, University of Aberdeen.  
[c.sarac@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:c.sarac@abdn.ac.uk)

In 2009, the NHS Confederation published a series of papers (Future leadership) to stimulate the discussion on NHS leadership. The key points highlighted the long standing focus on the senior managers and called for a shift to leaders at all levels of the organizations. Especially, the need to establish leadership development as a core part of the line managers' role was emphasized (The NHS Confederation, 2009). However, the recent patient safety literature has not drawn specific attention to the leadership behaviours of senior charge nurses and safety-related outcomes. The focus of this project is on ward leaders and safety. The principal aim of this study is to identify the leadership behaviours of the front-line leaders (senior charge nurses) at the unit level (i.e. ward) and the secondary aim is to describe these behaviours and if possible to determine the extent to which they relate to the wards' safety and other performance metrics (e.g. safety-related behaviours, incident reports, infection rates).

Interviews were conducted (n=15) with senior charge nurses within acute hospitals in Scotland to identify the leadership behaviours they use in their role. The identified behaviours were categorized using an established leadership taxonomy (Yukl, Gordon & Taber 2002). In the second phase, clinical staff at the ward, i.e. staff nurses, auxiliaries, and the senior charge nurses anonymously rated the leadership behaviours of ward leaders using a standardised leadership questionnaire (Managerial Practices Survey, Yukl et al., 2002).

By systematically outlining these behaviours and linking these to safety outcome measures, this study will form a foundation for future studies to examine the influence of nursing leadership behaviours at the ward level. The findings of this project will provide data that could form the basis of a training programme targeting safety leadership skills based on the most effective leadership behaviours of senior charge nurses.



### PROJECT UPDATE

#### Tayside Insightful Practice Project (TIPP). Measuring Professionalism: A System for Quality Improvement.

Dr Virginia Hernandez Santiago, Prof Peter Davey and Dr Douglas Murphy  
University of Dundee

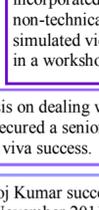
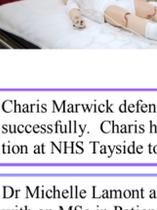
TIPP is an innovative piece of research to measure professionalism in the undergraduate medical context.

The pilot work for TIPP was the Tayside In-Practice Portfolio: a research project to inform systems of clinical governance, appraisal and professional revalidation in General Practice. This original work was part funded through SPSRN.

The success of this postgraduate project in General Practice led to the current funding by NHS Education for Scotland for the further development and testing of the concept of *insightful practice* in undergraduate medical education

A secure and personalised e-portfolio has been developed to collate all existing forms of assessment of medical students in year 4 at University of Dundee Medical School and participating students have been busy accessing the TIPP website and viewing electronic copies of their end of block feedback forms and reflecting on them. Novel patient safety exercises looking at prescribing errors have also been developed. After each block students are presented with 2 relevant TPARs to check for errors and aggregated scores are provided, along with stats, to show common missed errors.

It is intended that students will receive a bespoke bookmark at the end of the year reminding them of any identified missed prescribing errors as an aide memoire for their future.



This section provides an update on a project featured in the July 2011 issue of the newsletter.

To see the initial report on this project click [here](#)

### A SELECTION OF SPSRN NEW AND 'IN PRESS' PUBLICATIONS

- Irwin, A. Laing, C. & Mearns, K. (*in press*) Dealing with aggressive methadone patients in community pharmacy: a critical incident study. *Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy*.
- Mitchell, L., Flin, R., Yule, S., Mitchell, J., Coutts, K., & Youngson, G. (*in press*) Development of a behavioural marker system for scrub practitioners. *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*.
- Hogg, G., Stewart, F. & Ker, J. (*in press*). Over the counter clinical skills: enhancing the profile of the pharmacists' role through safe acquisition of clinical assessment skills. *Clinical Teacher*.



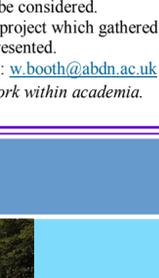
### SPSRN NEWS



Dr Lucy Mitchell was invited to an event at the Nottingham University Hospitals Trust, Simulation Centre on 27th January 2012. The event was designed to bring operating theatre patient safety champions from two large hospitals in the Trust together to share learning and discuss ideas to promote the safety agenda across clinical areas. Dr Mitchell ran the morning session which incorporated background to human factors and the importance of non-technical skills in the operating theatre before using simulated video scenarios to encourage discussion and reflection in a workshop for attendees.

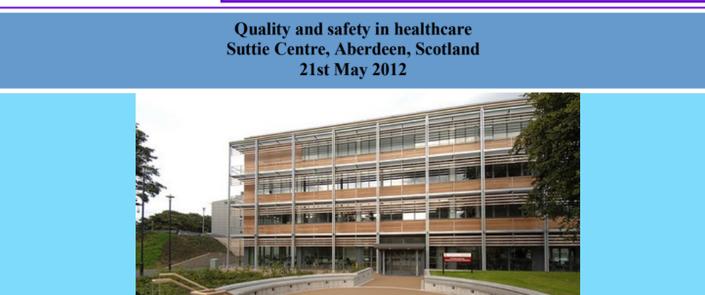
Charis Marwick defended her thesis on dealing with sepsis successfully. Charis has already secured a senior clinical fellow position at NHS Tayside to follow her viva success.

Dr Michelle Lamont and Mr Manoj Kumar successfully graduated with an MSc in Patient Safety in November 2011.



### UPCOMING SPSRN MEETINGS

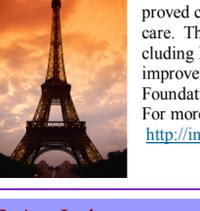
#### Making healthcare safer: learning from social and organisational research University of St Andrews, Scotland 25th—26th June 2012



A two day conference designed to explore the key questions facing researchers, healthcare practitioners and policy makers. This will include discussion centred around how to improve collective learning, ways in which sustainable quality improvement can be assured and how to insure patient safety throughout healthcare.

For further information contact: Alison Powell: [aep2@st-and.ac.uk](mailto:aep2@st-and.ac.uk)  
Or visit: <http://sdhipsconf2012.wordpress.com>

#### Safety Culture in Healthcare Workshop University of Aberdeen, 22nd March 2012



A one day conference designed to examine safety culture in healthcare. The aim of the workshop is to simulate discussion around factors influencing safety culture. The impact of safety culture on other high risk industries will also be considered. Feedback from a comprehensive safety culture project which gathered data from 7 Scottish acute hospitals will be presented.

For further information contact Wendy Booth: [w.booth@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:w.booth@abdn.ac.uk)  
*Attendees must be an NHS staff member or work within academia.*

#### Quality and safety in healthcare Suttie Centre, Aberdeen, Scotland 21st May 2012



A one day event co-organised by the University of Aberdeen, NHS Grampian and the Scottish Patient Safety Research Network, which aims to cover four key themes related to healthcare: person centred approaches to care, safety, effective care and quality of care.

The call for abstracts is currently open, with authors invited to submit posters which deal with one of the four main themes of the event. The deadline for submission is 26th March 2012. Contact [grampian.riskadmin@nhs.net](mailto:grampian.riskadmin@nhs.net) for more information.

### EXTERNAL CONFERENCES OF INTEREST

#### International forum on quality and safety in healthcare Paris, France 17—20th April 2012



A four day event which aims to address the challenge of how safe and improved care can be delivered whilst still reducing the financial cost of healthcare. The event will include presentations from several keynote speakers, including Dr Peter Van Manen among others. There will also be an international improvement science symposium, hosted by the BMJ group and the Health Foundation.

For more details go to: <http://internationalforum.bmj.com/>

Dr Amy Irwin  
Research Fellow, University of Aberdeen  
[a.irwin@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:a.irwin@abdn.ac.uk)