Responsibility, insight and sharing...

March’s media was peppered with the published verdict of why hundreds of Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust’s patients had died unnecessarily during 2005 and 2008. Staff shortages, attitudes and training were among areas of scrutiny; the inquiry led by Barrister Robert Francis confirmed the Healthcare Commission’s report was accurate and the cause was simply due to the Trust’s objective to save finance.

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The words of Dame Chris Beasley, England’s Chief Nursing Officer remind us of how important it is to provide the correct staffing levels (including correct skills) for patient care. ‘I think Mid Staffs will be a salutary reminder to organisations when they look at their staffing levels’.

All health care organisations have a responsibility to provide the correct staffing levels; it is equally important that we, as responsible perioperative practitioners identify when the levels are inadequate. This also applies to ensuring our staff have the correct education to fulfil their role.

Following my last editorial, a number of Health Care Assistants undertaking their Assistant Practitioner studies have been in touch. Furthermore, one nursing colleague has asked if we are planning to run some paediatric articles in the JPP. Firstly, I would like to thank you all for writing in and the kind comments about the quality of our journal.

In response to your questions, the answer is yes!

The Journal of Perioperative Practice is a professional journal that has a rich and diverse membership of Nurses, ODPs, Health Care Assistants and medical colleagues. We do have a twelve-month plan to cover all specialist areas of perioperative practice and some from other critical care areas. We are grateful to all who do contribute to the JPP and welcome any new submission from novice or established authors.

A book review that I undertook last month made a lasting impression upon me, which I thought I would share! Even though Veronica Burton (author of Depression: A nurse’s experience) is not a perioperative practitioner, she is a specialist nurse who describes her difficult life-journey as a depression sufferer. Sharing her experience provided me with an appreciation of how depressive patients might be feeling or thinking as they undergo surgery. Insight is a wonderful thing and we hope this month’s issue does just that.

In this issue, there are articles that span across different perioperative themes: correct patient position, new developments in hip replacement to meeting the standards of proficiency. Thank you to all for caring and sharing.

Best wishes

Brian Smith
Editor
editor@afpp.org.uk
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Manuscripts submitted to the editor for consideration must be the original work of the author(s).

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The Association for Perioperative Practice
Daisy Ayris House
6 Grove Park Court
Harrogate HG1 4DP
United Kingdom

Email: hq@afpp.org.uk
Telephone: 01423 508079
Fax: 01423 531613