

# Newsletter

ISSUE THREE | DECEMBER 2008

## A word from the Chair of the Scottish Clinical Skills Alliance

**In my role as Chair of the Scottish Clinical Skills Alliance I was delighted to host a National Meeting on 21st November at Stirling Management Centre.**

There were over 100 delegates from all across Scotland, including delegates from Shetland and the Western Isles who were participating by video link.

I opened the conference by outlining the relationship between the Alliance which supports the implementation of the National Clinical Skills Strategy through the Managed Educational Network under the leadership of Jean Ker and the NES Programme Board which advises the Alliance and coordinates its work with the Network.

I emphasised that the purpose of the Meeting was to develop and agree an action plan that the delegates could commit to over the long, medium and short term. I explained that this was a working conference and thanked the delegates in advance for all the hard work they would put into achieving this throughout the day! I stressed that I felt there were real gains to be made by streamlining ways of working, reducing overlaps and working more smoothly.

I then handed over to Jean Ker for her presentation on the challenges and achievements of the Managed Educational Network in its first year. After that, delegates dispersed into their breakout groups and reconvened in plenary session to receive feedback from the groups. It then fell to me to reflect on the outcomes before the Minister's address and launch of the mobile unit.

I was pleased that all the groups had identified key objectives of the strategy. There was a high level of enthusiasm for the bigger picture as well as a commitment to specific aspects of the strategy, e.g. a national, transferable skills passport. For my part, I agreed to commit the Alliance to giving more awareness to the work being done by clinical skills providers and I offered to do a stock-take of resources and front-load activity while enthusiasm was high. Delegates emphasized the importance of non-technical training, such as communications skills, and believed strongly that improving delivery of and access to training would benefit the patient experience and their involvement in the health service. I finished by saying I was pleased to hear them chatting over lunch about the event and not John Sargent's departure from Strictly Come Dancing!

**Fiona Mackenzie**

Chair, Scottish Clinical Skills Alliance

## Images from the Scottish Clinical Skills Alliance National Meeting



*The mobile unit*



*The exhibition area*

## Update from the CS MEN

Since the last newsletter we've focused largely on the preparation for the national meeting of the Clinical Skills Alliance, on the final stages of development of the mobile unit, and in co-ordinating its first tour, in partnership with local hosts at each venue. We have continued with the development of multi-professional skills packs in priority areas, which will be available for use by anyone in Scotland, and will expand on this work in the next year.

Our other main focus has been on Quality Assurance, and we have begun the pilot of a self-assessment questionnaire suitable for use by all skills educators in Scotland. The pilot questionnaire has been completed by the Universities of Edinburgh and Dundee, and has taken each just over an hour to complete. The pilot has revealed we need to develop a second mechanism for individual courses, which we will take forward in January 2009.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you would be willing to take part in the pilot by completing the questionnaire for your University, College or Board, please contact us.



*Delegates had the opportunity to view poster displays at the Scottish Clinical Skills Alliance national meeting.*

The Scottish Clinical Skills Alliance event, chaired by Fiona Mackenzie and hosted by NES on 21 November, saw delegates determine priorities for clinical skills in Scotland over the next year, and in the medium and longer term. The outcomes of the day will form regional action plans that the Clinical Skills Managed Educational Network will facilitate in partnership with educators and Health Boards. A report from the day shall shortly be circulated by the Clinical Skills Alliance to delegates who attended the event, and be available for wider dissemination through the delegates and via the CS MEN website.

## Note from Jerry Morse

(Regional Champion: North)



May I thank all those who attended from the North Region and especially for their comments and thoughts in the workshops, which I hope will be of benefit not only to the North but the whole of the Managed Educational Network. On a personal note it was nice to finally put faces to names and I hope

that in the next twelve months I will be able to get around the region and meet you all again and also those who were unable to attend the event. In regards to the new mobile unit, having now seen it I am convinced that it will be a tremendous success with more and more education possibilities being explored as people see the potential it has to offer.

## Thoughts on the 21st from Anna O'Neill

(Regional Champion: West)



The day was a very useful forum to highlight regional and national priorities as well as the multi-professional agenda. It was pleasing to see the level of engagement of those present and the commitment to driving the agenda forward.

## Comments from Janet Skinner

(Regional Champion: South and East)



It was lovely to meet everyone from the different professional groups within our region. Thank you for engaging so enthusiastically with the workshops and allowing us to generate priorities and outcomes for the Clinical Skills Managed Educational Network within the South and East.



## Launch of the mobile clinical skills unit (well, 'unlocking of', really!)



As part of the Clinical Skills Alliance event, the mobile clinical skills unit was launched by Ms Shona Robison MSP, Minister for Public Health. NHS Education for Scotland have funded the unit for a two-year pilot period to allow full evaluation of the educational potential for such a unit in the longer term and to determine the optimal use of the mobile unit. Read about the facilities available on the unit, the dates and venues for the first tour, and the first skills offered through the unit on our website at: <http://www.csmen.ac.uk>

The launch was more accurately an unlocking... after being introduced by Mrs Ann Markham, NES Chair, and addressing delegates at the conference, Ms Robison unlocked the unit and took part in three skills demonstrations by the Paediatric Outreach and Retrieval team from Yorkhill and Edinburgh Sick Kids,

George Hogg from the University of Dundee, and Jerry Morse from the University of Aberdeen. Skills included a new technical skill, a communication exercise and a skill update, to show some of the uses of the unit. Ms Robison was also interested in the First Person on the Scene and the Heartstart courses that will be delivered through the unit once the basic logistics are in place.

On leaving the unit Ms Robison tried out the driver's seat, and we had to resist offering her a job: the transportation of the unit is one issue we're still working on!

Delegates at the Alliance event then explored the unit for themselves, and some expressed surprise at how large and airy the space inside was, as they had been expecting a bus! The photos overleaf show the mobile unit inside and out.



## Training the trainers at the Scottish Simulation Centre, Stirling

The Scottish Simulation Centre ran a two-day course for seven of the educators from Fort William, Wick, Oban and the Borders, who will be amongst the first to use the mobile unit. The course focused on the practical use of SimMan, SimBaby and the SMOTS system, on developing and running scenarios, and on recording and debriefing participants. At the end of the course, the participants visited the mobile unit, and it was encouraging to see their enthusiasm for using the unit. The course will be repeated early in 2009 for further users of the unit, and a follow-up study day will be developed for those who attended the first course and want to build on that after the first visit of the unit to their area.

### HELP POINT

If you are interested in attending this course, in early 2009 or at a later date, please contact Jeanette Stevenson at [j.k.z.stevenson@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:j.k.z.stevenson@dundee.ac.uk)



*The interior of the mobile unit set up for skills demonstrations.*

One thing identified through the course is that we need to provide some technical support for educators using the unit. We are exploring several options, including the possibility of training local technicians at each venue, and will also be contacting the fixed clinical skills centres across Scotland to try to build a bank of technicians who may be available to help, on a daily rate. Another option would be to second someone from a paramedic/resus background to accompany the unit for the first couple of days at each venue.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please contact Jeanette Stevenson at [j.k.z.stevenson@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:j.k.z.stevenson@dundee.ac.uk) if you think you may be available to help with technical aspects of using the unit.

## Skills packs



*Delegates preview the chest drain skills pack.*

The CS MEN prioritised the development of skills packs in three areas, based on evidence of need from a training needs analysis of 143 R&R healthcare practitioners, and an audit of the skills education already available.

Janet Skinner, Regional Champion for the South and East, wrote the skills pack for chest drains which will be used on the mobile unit, but will also be available for use in fixed settings on request. The pack has been reviewed by a selection of experts with different perspectives from across Scotland, and is currently being mapped to NOS competencies by Skills for Health.

Some of you will have seen a preview of this pack in the exhibition area at the Alliance event.

### HELP POINT

Please contact us if you would like access to this pack.

A pack on intra-osseous needle insertion is underway, led by Jon McCormack of Edinburgh Sick Kids. We are currently seeking additional input into the pack before taking it through external review.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please contact us if you would like to be involved in the writing/review process.

A pack on minor surgery including suturing is being drafted by Professor Ron Keenan in the North region. Again, if you would like to have input into the writing or review of this pack, please contact us.