

# Newsletter

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## Network office established

The Managed Educational Network for Clinical Skills has now been established at Ninewells Hospital through the University of Dundee. The Clinical Lead, Dr Jean Ker, has been in post for one day a week since October 2007, and from April 2008 has been joined by three Regional Clinical Champions appointed for one session per week: Jerry Morse in the North of Scotland, Dr Anna O'Neill in the West of Scotland, and Dr Janet Skinner in the South and East. The Network office also has a newly appointed Educational Project Manager: Jeanette Stevenson, and a Project Administrator: Felicity Garvie. The first meeting of the network staff was held on 28 April, at which the outcomes for the first year were set and the responsibility for each Health Board, HEI and College was assigned to one of the three regions.

The network has been jointly funded by the Scottish Funding Council and NHS Education for Scotland for three years, during which it shall deliver the pilot study of the mobile clinical skills unit, which shall be co-ordinated through the network office. Development of the unit is underway and the pilot shall begin in Autumn 2008.

Outcomes of the first year of the network include:

- Outcome 1:** Identification of priorities for standard multi-professional skills
- Outcome 2:** Development of an explicit quality assurance system
- Outcome 3:** Establishment of a system of reporting and dissemination
- Outcome 4:** Development of the network
- Outcome 5:** Development and planning of pilot of mobile clinical skills unit to deliver simulation-based education to remote and rural settings in Scotland

The network is: *"A linked group of skills educators and learning organisations from all levels and sectors working in a coordinated manner unconstrained by existing professional and health board boundaries to ensure equitable provision of high quality standards of core skills for the service."*

Adapted from SEHD (1999). The network exists to play a key role in implementing the Clinical Skills Strategy for Scotland and is supported by the Scottish Clinical Skills Alliance.

## The Network in context

Following consultation with all the relevant stakeholders over a two-year period, the Scottish Clinical Skills Strategy was launched by the Minister for Health, Ms Nicola Sturgeon, on 28 September 2007, with the following aims:

*For Scotland to become a leading player in quality assured clinical skills education in both the UK and internationally*

*For consistent standards for clinical skills education to be practised safely to meet clinical diagnostic and governance requirements*

The Scottish Clinical Skills Strategy has the potential to enable Scotland to have a highly skilled NHS workforce that has equal access to skills education. This in turn will enhance patient experience and safety.

There are four key developments within the strategy:

1. Establishment of a Scottish Clinical Skills Alliance, to ensure compliance with high level principles of equity of access and value for money
2. Establishment of a Managed Educational Network. The network operates using core principles adapted from SEHD guidelines (2002) for Managed Clinical Networks, and seeks to provide:
  - Clinical leadership
  - Common quality standards
  - Increased training provision
  - Co-ordination of Research and Development priorities
  - Synergy with the National Patient Safety Alliance
3. Establishment of a Programme Board to performance-manage centrally funded national clinical skills units/services (BASICS, Scottish Clinical Simulation Centre Stirling, and Anatomical Skills Dundee), and prioritising future developments in highly specialised skills
4. A pilot study of a mobile unit, which will be co-ordinated through the Managed Educational Network

# Meet the Network Staff

## Clinical Lead: Dr Jean Ker (one day per week)



Jean Ker is a senior lecturer in medical education at the University of Dundee and is Director of the multiprofessional Clinical Skills Centre based at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee. She is the founding chair of the Scottish Clinical Skills Network, which is committed to ensuring educational standards of skills practice across the healthcare professions. She has had the opportunity to work in medical

education and primary care development in Bangladesh, Moldova and Latvia for the World Health Organisation and the British Council, and was awarded the University's 'Innovations in Teaching' prize in 2005 for the design, implementation and evaluation of the interprofessional ward simulation exercise.

In September 2007 Jean was appointed National Clinical Lead for the Managed Educational Network for clinical skills in Scotland, which is the first country in the world to develop a national strategy for clinical skills. In this role, Jean is responsible for ensuring

consistency in standards of practice in clinical skills across all health care practitioner groups in both primary and secondary care settings. Priorities for skills education and training are closely linked to the National Patient Safety Alliance evidence-based interventions as well as the remote and rural skills agenda.

Jean led a collaboration with NHS Tayside, one of the four UK pilot sites for the Safer Patient Initiative, to develop a programme for junior medical students to learn about improvement methodology and the use of patient safety tools. This led to the development of an integrated patient safety curricular programme which is currently being implemented and evaluated. Initial results were reported at the International Forum on Quality and Safety in Health Care Conference in Barcelona 2007.

Jean is also working with colleagues in the Patient Safety Research Network Scotland to explore the impact of a patient-centred approach on patient safety in the primary care setting which links into her experience as a general practitioner. She practises at a local health centre one day a week.

## Regional Champion (North): Jerry Morse (one session per week)



Jerry has been based at the Clinical Skills Centre at Foresterhill in Aberdeen since August 2004. Prior to this he spent 10 years in the Middle East where he was the Critical Care Trauma and Disaster Co-ordinator for the Military Hospital in Riyadh.

The post was a combination of clinical practice and education provision. Now working for the University of Aberdeen Medical School as the Clinical Skills Manager, as well as assisting in the delivery of clinical skills and core curriculum teaching to medical school undergraduates, he is able to continue his interests in Resuscitation and Trauma and helps direct and instruct on a range of National Resuscitation courses across Scotland and wider in the United Kingdom. With an interest in the use of simulation in clinical skills education, Jerry has been trialling taking mid-fidelity simulators into the work place, be it the ward, operating theatre or outpatient department, thereby providing familiar surroundings for training and maximising the learning experience of the individuals concerned. He is pleased to note that all the initial trials have been highly successful. It is because of his belief that there is an increased educational benefit in taking simulation into the workplace and the need for standard transferable core skills throughout the country that he is committed to the Scottish Clinical Skills Strategy.

As the Regional Champion for the North, Jerry is aware that it is a large and widespread geographical area. However, through the various mediums available he hopes to contact and visit as many of the places that currently train or wish to commence training to discuss needs and formulate a plan to provide / facilitate the education required. Jerry is committed to ensuring that all areas within the North Region have equality of training and transferable accreditation as do those who have easier access to the larger Regional and National centres and he looks forward to working with stakeholders, clinicians and administrators alike to ensure that this really does become a reality.

## Regional Champion (South and East): Dr Janet Skinner (one session per week)



Janet's clinical interests include the management of vulnerable adults in the Emergency Department, including the elderly, frequent attenders and patients with mental health problems. Her educational interests include the transfer of clinical skills from simulated environments into the workplace.

Janet graduated from Edinburgh University Medical School in 1994 and pursued higher training in South East Scotland in Emergency Medicine. Early in her SpR training she developed an interest in medical education and completed the Dundee distance learning masters in medical education. Janet was able to spend a year out of her SpR training as a Fellow at the Medical Teaching Organisation at the University in Edinburgh, during which time she conducted a needs assessment around integrating Complementary and Alternative Medicine into the Edinburgh undergraduate medical curriculum.

In May 2007 Janet was appointed to a joint University of Edinburgh and NHS Lothian consultant post. Half of her time is spent as a consultant in Emergency Medicine at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and half as Director of Clinical Skills at the University of Edinburgh. Janet's clinical skills post has a remit that includes trying to co-ordinate developments in skills teaching across NHS Lothian which is one of the reasons she was interested in becoming a regional champion.

### The Regional Champions can be contacted at:

[jerry.morse@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:jerry.morse@abdn.ac.uk)  
[janet.skinner@ed.ac.uk](mailto:janet.skinner@ed.ac.uk)  
[aonei001@clinmed.gla.ac.uk](mailto:aonei001@clinmed.gla.ac.uk)

or through the MEN office:  
[MENoffice@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:MENoffice@dundee.ac.uk)

## Regional Champion (West): Dr Anna O'Neill (one session per week)



Anna graduated from the University of Glasgow in 1983. She worked in a number of different acute care settings in Glasgow, including the Southern General Hospital and the Royal Infirmary before travelling to London, where

she gained her Certificate in General Intensive Care at the Middlesex Hospital in 1985. On returning to Glasgow, Anna worked in Respiratory Intensive Care at Glasgow Royal Infirmary whilst undertaking a Master's programme at the University of Glasgow. She became a Registered Nurse Teacher at Strathclyde University in 1993 and completed her Doctor of Philosophy at Glasgow Caledonian University in 2001.

Anna is currently Programme Director for the MSc (Med Sci) Health care, which is a multiprofessional programme, and is currently Deputy Head of Department as well as being Deputy Director of Clinical Skills within the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Glasgow.

From 2002 - 2003 Anna was seconded to NHS Education for Scotland and published the report: "Preparation for practice: Clinical Skills Nurse Education" on behalf of NES. From 2004 - 2008 she was an external Examiner at Kingston University/ St George's Hospital Medical School for the BSc in Nursing and from this year will be Examiner for Oxford Brookes University for the Masters/Advanced Practice Programme.

She is a peer reviewer and editorial board member of the journal Nursing in Critical Care, is Secretary of the Scottish Clinical Skills Network and the Nursing Representative on the Management Board of the Scottish Clinical Simulation Centre in Stirling.

Anna's research interests are Clinical skills, Interprofessional learning, Acute Care and Advanced practice. She is currently involved in research with Dr. Phil Cotton and Dr. Pat Smith (General Practice - University of Glasgow), exploring the experiences of the teaching of medical students by Practice Nurses.

**Educational Project Manager:  
Jeanette Stevenson**



Jeanette's work experience includes over six years in Scottish Higher Education: as a school administrator and then as project manager and co-ordinator for a forum across 10 universities and colleges. In these years she managed busy offices and their staff and gained a good understanding of the Scottish Higher Education sector. Then, thinking it important to gain cross-cultural experience and to learn what she could from living and working in a less-developed country she took a 20-month contract to overhaul a small, private language school in Malaysia. As part of that role she managed relationships with clients, including some of the world's most successful companies who are based in Penang's Free Industrial Zone. Since returning to the UK, Jeanette did some temporary work at the University of Dundee for the UNESCO Centre in Water Law, Policy and Science, before taking the post of EPM for the Clinical Skills Managed Educational Network.

Jeanette is currently working towards an MBA at the University of Durham, which she hopes to complete in June 2009. She has a particular interest in project management, organizational behaviour, and management of change.

She is delighted to be part of the team delivering the Scottish Clinical Skills Strategy and looks forward to seeing the benefits the MEN's projects will bring to the wellbeing of staff and for the patient experience across Scotland.

**Project Administrator:  
Felicity Garvie**



Before the MEN office was established in April, Felicity was already working with Jean Ker and Beverley Beasant on the Scottish Clinical Skills Strategy, and had been employed by NHS Education for Scotland, and based at Ninewells Hospital for several months.

Her new role as Project Administrator for the Managed Educational Network therefore provides a certain useful continuity, whilst her direct responsibility for helping to make the project a success is a new and welcome challenge. Felicity comes from a medical family and feels that the Network is a worthwhile project to be involved in.

From 1999 onwards, Felicity worked at the new Scottish Parliament providing administrative support to several high profile politicians. Her particular passion was the Free School Meals campaign which she was parliamentary coordinator of for five years, helping to pilot two such bills through the legislative process.

Felicity has provided executive-level secretarial and marketing support in a variety of sectors including the whisky industry, insurance, publishing and a law firm throughout her career in Scotland and Germany. After gaining an Honours degree in English Literature and German at Sussex University, she moved to Cologne to use her language skills and stayed there for 18 years.

## Clinical skills units review

In 2005/6 a scoping exercise was undertaken with site visits being made to a wide range of clinical skills units throughout Scotland. Information was collated on the accommodation and simulator equipment used, staffing levels, the training courses offered and the way the units were funded. This information informed the development of the Scottish Clinical Skills Strategy.

During her first months as Clinical Lead, Jean undertook a review of these units and has been meeting representatives of all the key stakeholders involved in clinical skills training. This work will inform the way forward for clinical skills training provision and will ensure areas of need across Scotland are identified.

## Building the Network

During her first months in post, Jean has been visiting key stakeholders and has made presentations about the Managed Educational Network to key groups including the Scottish Association of Medical Directors, the Scottish NHS Boards Chief Executives' Group, the Scottish Postgraduate Tutors Group, Universities Scotland, the Child Health MCN, NHS Services Scotland, and the Scottish Government regarding the Patient Experience.

A poster was presented on the Scottish Clinical Skills Strategy at the NHS Highland conference in Aviemore on 12/13 May 2008, at which Nicola Sturgeon launched the *Delivering for Remote and Rural Healthcare* report, which will influence the use of the mobile skills unit.

## Mobile clinical skills training unit



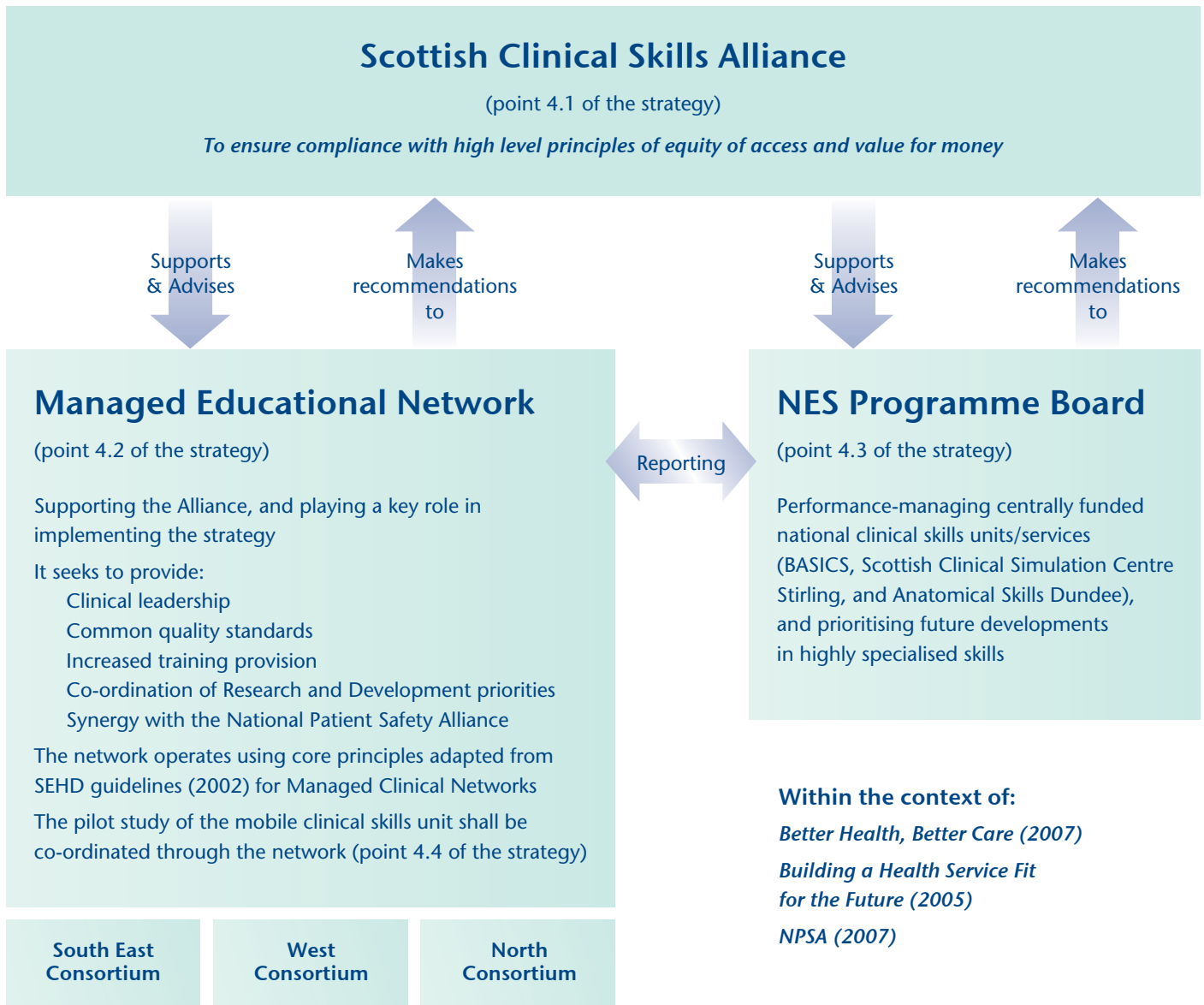
**A key objective for the Scottish Clinical Skills Strategy is to address the inequity of access to high quality multi-professional training across both geographical and professional boundaries. There is a particular challenge to deliver state of the art, simulation-based training to remote and rural areas of Scotland. One option that has been used elsewhere is a mobile unit with equipment to provide training that is otherwise only available in specialised skills centres.**

Following a scoping exercise into the viability of a mobile unit, NES have agreed to fund the purchase of such a facility, which shall offer the flexibility to provide the space and state of the art mid-fidelity simulation equipment (including SimMan and SimBaby) to allow a broad range of clinical skills training to be delivered. The unit will be operated on a pilot basis for two years 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. The unit will enable a range of educational resources to be available, bringing added value to skills training in remote and rural Scotland. The first six months shall be used as a learning exercise to inform the remainder of the pilot.

Development of the mobile unit is underway and the pilot will begin in Autumn 2008. We have been identifying training needs through the network, and have been working with BASICS, RRHEAL and the Scottish Clinical Skills Network to gather data on current practice and training requirements. If you have not had the opportunity to fill out a survey to help us identify and prioritise training needs, and would like to do so, please contact us and we'll send you one. The survey should only take you 10 minutes to complete. So far we've had over 140 responses, and analysis of these shall be used to inform the training made available through the unit.

**For more information about the unit please contact Jeanette Stevenson, Educational Project Manager at [j.k.z.stevenson@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:j.k.z.stevenson@dundee.ac.uk)**

## Structure Diagram



## Quality Assurance

In our first year of operation (October 2007 to October 2008), the Managed Educational Network seeks to establish a process for defining key quality standards for clinical skills training, and to establish a quality assurance process for clinical skills educational resources. We shall develop/collate common educational resources for agreed core clinical skills, shall map current approaches to using simulation in delivering core clinical skills training, and in conjunction with Skills for Health in Scotland, shall begin mapping clinical skills training to appropriate national qualification frameworks.

## Over the next few months:

We shall be gathering data to audit the current skills training available in each geographic area. Currently there is no national database that gives comprehensive data regarding available training and that can therefore be used to identify gaps in provision.

Our Regional Champions will each take forward the identification and development of two skills packs in their area.

We will continue the development of the mobile unit.

For a full list of our outcomes please visit our website which is currently under development but will soon be located in the 'Special initiatives' section of the NES website.

Contact Felicity Garvie, Project Administrator

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