



Thames Valley and Wessex  
**Congenital Heart  
Disease Network**  
Children's and adult services



## Network Nursing Education Update

Cate Smith started in post as the network educator in April and has contacted all our Level 3 centres at a nursing level to carry out a training needs analysis. There is a drop in session on MS Teams every Wednesday from 4pm-5pm in April and May for nursing colleagues across the network to discuss their training needs. Please email [emma.gould@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:emma.gould@uhs.nhs.uk) for the Teams link. Alternatively, email [Catherine.smith@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:Catherine.smith@uhs.nhs.uk) if you would like to talk about your teams learning needs and cardiac training.

Link nurses with an interest in cardiology have been identified in some Level 3 centres and we hope to establish a link nurse forum as their numbers grow. If you know of a nurse who has an interest in cardiology please encourage them to contact [Catherine.smith@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:Catherine.smith@uhs.nhs.uk). We are keen to have a range of nurses from across the Level 3 centres in the network and also from the community nursing teams.

The network team is in the process of building our congenital heart network website which is now live. In the coming months we hope to build a professionals education section on the website with links to upcoming courses and learning resources.

The National Cardiac Nursing Study Day ran in March and April via Teams with a good attendance from the network. There were over 200 delegates on the course and it was a great opportunity for our network nurses to engage with teaching from all the Level 1 cardiac centres nationally. We hope that the virtual format will continue post-covid, to maximise attendance and engagement at a national level.

## Congenital Coronary Artery Anomalies

We are pleased to announce that the next Wessex Congenital Cardiac Series study day will take place virtually! We will run this as a Zoom meeting, which will hopefully enable you to attend from the comfort of wherever you find yourself on THURSDAY JUNE 10th 2021.

Our topic this time will be congenital coronary anomalies, and in one morning, we will cover everything you need to know, from morphology to clinical presentation and imaging through to longterm follow up. We are proud to present Mr Bob Anderson to demonstrate the morphology. Programme attached.

We promise our usual interactive style! This study day will be suitable for anyone involved in the care of patients with congenital heart disease – adult cardiology, paediatric cardiology, nursing staff, allied health care professionals, fetal medicine specialists.

To register, please email Dr Najih Muhammad on [MohammadNajih.LiaqathAli@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:MohammadNajih.LiaqathAli@uhs.nhs.uk)  
We will send you the joining instructions closer to the time.

## Thames Valley & Wessex CHD Website

Our new Congenital Heart Disease website is now live.

Please visit  
[www.congenitalheartnetwork.org.uk](http://www.congenitalheartnetwork.org.uk)

If you are interested in helping us with the development of our network website please get in touch with us.

## Upcoming Courses

24th May 2021: PIER Stabilising the Critically Ill Cardiac Child -<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stabilisation-of-the-critically-ill-child-with-cardiac-disease-tickets-150332230749>

June 2021: The Regional Nursing Paediatric Cardiac Foundation Programme is due to run at Southampton General Hospital in June, there was a fantastic interest shown in the course from across the network, with spaces now fully booked.

The course will be run annually with priority given to those who have not attended before.

## Staffing update

The Southampton ACHD nursing team has successfully appointed Sarah Rood. Sarah has considerable experience of caring for CHD patients, most recently within the Southampton adult cardiac intensive care unit.



## Research

By putting patients first, the Thames Valley Wessex (TVW) Regional Network congenital heart disease (CHD) service is committed to, putting patients first and always improving healthcare delivery for adults and children with CHD and their families. This is achieved through a program of quality improvement, continuous professional development, education and research. Patient care has been shown to be significantly improved through research, innovation and quality improvement; with better outcomes and improved treatment pathways. As such we have spent the last few months developing a TVW CHD research strategy, which we will be launching in due course.

The TVW CHD network builds on the heritage of the Higher Education Institutes within the network, with a considered focus on nutritional and physiological health to improve outcomes and reduce disease burden. In January 2021, we completed an environmental scan via an online survey, to understand stakeholder experiences of stakeholders within the TVW ODN.

Twenty-seven health care professionals and patients participants completed the survey, of which 70% were clinicians, with the remainder split between Nursing, Allied Health Professionals and patient participants. Categorical responses indicate individuals were; interested in research 44% (n=12), could see the value of research 89% (n=24), although the majority of individuals did not have sufficient capacity to complete research 40% (n=11), particularly as backfill for was not always available 55% (n=15). Key themes arising from the open comments related to; backfill, funding, research training including grant writing, statistics and support along with time available to complete research.

A thematic analysis of questions relating to research priorities identified four principle themes:

1. Wellbeing; transition, decision making, patient and staff well-being
2. Nutrition; pre-habilitation, perioperative, rehabilitation
3. Resilience; peri-operative stressors, bench to bedside
4. Health; physical activity, conditioning and imaging

We have identified two initial TVW CHD research projects from the Well-Being and Health themes, which we look forward to sharing with you in due course.

## Transition Update

Following the development of the network transition pathway we are currently writing to all 12 year olds and signposting them to the appropriate information and support necessary for them to begin the transition process.

At Southampton we have continued to invite teenagers to attend nurse and youth worker video transition clinics. The feedback from patient's, parents and clinicians regarding the youth worker involvement has been extremely positive.

We are currently looking into the possibility of funding a network CHD youth worker.

ACHD nurses across the network are making good progress in establishing the nurse presence in the peripheral clinics and we look forward to feeding back our progress in the next newsletter.

We are pleased to announce that Mr Antonio Ravaglioli, congenital cardiac surgeon, joined our team in March 2021.

Antonio hails from Massa in Tuscany, Italy. He completed a congenital fellowship in Southampton 3 years ago before taking up a consultant post in Italy. Antonio knows our team well and is already enjoying working with colleagues in Southampton.

We are expecting Mr Giedrius Baliulis to join our service in May 2021 after being a congenital cardiac surgeon in Grand Rapids, USA. Giedrius will take up his post in Southampton after spending 5 years in the USA.

### How to contact us

Dr Kevin Roman- Clinical Lead  
Email: kevin.roman@uhs.nhs.uk

Dr Liz Orchard- Clinical Lead  
Email: e.orchard@nhs.net

Colette Cochran - Lead Nurse  
Email: colette.cochran@uhs.nhs.uk

Emma Weingart - ACHD Lead Nurse  
Email: emma.weingart@ouh.nhs.uk

Cate Smith- Network Educator  
Email: catherine.smith@uhs.nhs.uk

Emma - Network Administrator  
Email: emma.gould@uhs.nhs.uk