Dedication to training wins awards

Consultant colorectal surgeon, Mr Humphrey Scott, has won the prestigious Silver Scalpel award for excellence in surgical training. Given annually by The Association of Surgeons in Training (ASIT), the award is presented to inspirational surgical consultants who go the extra mile for their trainees.

Mr Scott said: “I was surprised but delighted to win the award, especially amongst such stiff competition. The award ceremony was a bit like the Oscars with over 600 people attending and the winner’s name hidden in a special envelope! It was a very special evening for me but the award is not just reflective of my efforts - it’s about the whole team at Ashford and St Peter’s and our dedication to providing excellent training.”

Two other consultants have also won awards from Kent, Surrey and Sussex Deanery specialty medical schools for their achievements in the education and training of doctors in their specialties.

Neonatologist Dr Tracy Lawson won the award from the School of Paediatrics and rheumatologist Dr Rod Hughes’s award was from the School of Medicine.

Congratulations to both of them!

Above, L to R: Dr Charlie Hitchens, Mr Scott, Dr Rachel O’Connell and Dr Mark Bagnell.

Staff taking part in the ‘Good to Great’ leadership programme enjoyed an inspirational talk from Gold medal winning Olympic swimmer, Adrian Moorhouse on 19th April at Ashford. Picture above L to R: Harriet Stephens, John Hadley, Adrian Moorhouse and Raj Bhamber.
Junior doctors champion patient safety

A group of our F1 doctors recently attended the London Deanery Conference to showcase five quality improvement projects. The doctors are all part of DAPS (Doctors Advancing Patient Safety), which is a patient safety movement set up by Dr Qureshi at Ashford and St Peter’s in 2009.

DAPS empowers junior doctors to put right processes that may impact negatively on patient care or patient experience. Dr Keefai Yeong said: “The sheer number of high quality projects that the junior doctors have produced this year highlights their capabilities and enthusiasm to make a change. My colleagues and I are committed to harnessing this energy, which in turn will benefit our patients.”

New menus launched for inpatients

Patients across all wards are enjoying Essential Goodness, our new menus and food, following the mid April launch and rollout by our catering contractor OCS.

The launch was marked with three popular tasting events at St Peter’s and Ashford, with staff, visitors and patients trying a number of different main dishes, vegetables and desserts and giving their feedback.

The new menus have been developed in conjunction with the Trust’s chief dietitian, Sarah Havard, and will offer an increased focus on good nutrition, along with a number of ‘a la carte’ choices for specific requirements, such as Halal, gluten-free, low potassium and puree.

Jurri Christiaans, OCS Contract Manager, said “We are very keen to make sure we are meeting customers’ expectations, so we will be holding regular food forums for staff.”

“Please e mail me if you would like to get involved – I would be delighted to hear your feedback and

The new look Retreat Café in St Peter’s main entrance is now operating seven days a week, from 7.30am - 7pm. Given the Café’s longer hours, the Just Dine Aspects Restaurant behind Chertsey House will now be open from 7.30am-3pm Mon to Fri.

Above, L to R: Duncan Spring from OCS with Deputy Chief Executive Valerie Bartlett, Chief Dietitian Sarah Harvard and Assistant Hotel Services Manager, Maciel Vinagre.
Launch of falls champions

In April, each ward nominated one or two nurses to really champion falls care on their wards. The group attended a special launch event at St Peter’s, where a variety of speakers raised awareness and knowledge of falls. The champions will ensure that assessments are completed correctly and strategies to reduce the risk of falls are used. Falls Specialist Nurse, Debbie Palmer, said: “Reducing inpatient falls is a challenge and the champions have an important job to do. The launch day was educational, enjoyable and

Congratulations

To all our colleagues who have been recently promoted - good luck in your new roles.

To staff on the Day Surgery Unit at St Peter’s who won the April Chief Nurse Award. The team are pictured here receiving their award from Deputy Chief Nurse, Vanessa Avlonitis.

‘DNA’s down 50%’
The number of missed outpatient appointments has dramatically reduced by 50% in the last six months. The introduction of the appointment reminder service, where patients are contacted by phone to remind them of upcoming appointments, has been a great success and saved the Trust around £500,000 in wasted time and resources.

Car parking update

The recent introduction of the new parking arrangements has generally gone smoothly, but whilst most staff are adhering to the new system, there have unfortunately been a number of instances of people parking illegally in the red ambulance routes and on double yellow links. Causing an obstruction can endanger the lives of our patients and from 14th May all offenders will be fined £40.

Our car parking contractor, CP Plus, has also been issuing warning notices and monitoring drivers who do not yet have a permit or who have failed to display the permit or scratch card correctly. From 1st May, persistent offenders will be fined £40 for failing to comply with any element of the new Travel and Car Parking Policy.

Please make sure you park within marked bays and display a valid permit and scratchcard (for red permit holders).
The year ahead...

The Trust Board recently approved the Capital Projects Programme for 2012/13. This is the schedule of works involving construction or investment in equipment that will be carried out over the year to improve our facilities and services for patients. There are over 40 different projects planned, ranging from a rolling programme of replacing our beds to investment in a new electronic prescribing system and self check-in stations for outpatients.

One of the largest and most exciting projects is the refurbishment of the outpatient block at Ashford Hospital, which will cost £2.8 million over two years. Works are due to start in June so keep an eye out for progress reports in future Aspires.

The building of a Midwifery Led Unit, costing £1.5 million over two years, is another important development and will mean we will be the only hospital in the area to offer women a full choice of birthing options. There will also be spending of £2.8 million over two years on a new Hybrid Theatre at St Peter’s, which will provide sophisticated imaging equipment within a sterile theatre environment and enable specialist vascular procedures to be performed.

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Our Priorities for 2012/13

2012/13 will be our second full year as a Foundation Trust, and will be a critical year in which we need to consolidate our position as a successful organisation.

Looking forward and understanding some of the challenges ahead, it’s vital we commit to the right plans now, to build on our achievements and to address those areas where we know there is more to do.

Our two key priorities now are to fix our emergency care pathway so we consistently meet the 4 hour waiting target, and get our finances on track to achieve our £12m savings target. More details are included in our Corporate Business Plan Summary, shortly to be published on TrustNet.