

## Report on BACCN 40th Annual Conference – October 7–8, 2025, Blackpool

I had the privilege of attending the 40th Annual BACCN (British Association of Critical Care Nurses) Conference held on October 7th and 8th, 2025, in Blackpool. This was my second consecutive year attending the conference. Last year, I had the wonderful opportunity to present my poster, which was an exciting and inspiring experience. Meeting so many professionals from critical care teams across the country motivated me to become a BACCN member.

This year, I was fortunate to attend the conference through funding from BACCN, for which I am truly grateful. The event was an amazing experience — it provided valuable opportunities to connect with fellow critical care professionals and to learn from their diverse experiences and perspectives.

As it marked the 40th anniversary of BACCN, the conference had a special focus on reflecting on its history — how the association was founded, how it has evolved over the years, and the current challenges faced by critical care teams. There were also discussions about the ongoing financial pressures within NHS trusts and the impact of rapid technological advancements on clinical practice. It was inspiring to see how the community continues to look ahead with optimism and innovation for the future of critical care nursing.

I attended several seminars and panel discussions, which offered valuable insights into current issues and developments in the field. Hearing from the panel members about their personal and professional experiences was particularly thought-provoking.

The exhibition area featured displays from various medical and healthcare companies, which was very informative. It was a great opportunity to explore new medical technologies, equipment, and products relevant to critical care. Representatives from different companies were available to discuss innovations, answer questions, and provide demonstrations. This helped broaden my understanding of how emerging tools and technologies can enhance patient safety, improve efficiency, and support evidence-based practice in critical care settings.

The poster presentations were another highlight of the conference. They provided an excellent opportunity to learn about new research and quality improvement initiatives. I noted two to three QI projects that I believe could be implemented in my own unit to improve practice and patient care.

The ballroom dinner party on the first evening of the conference was a memorable highlight. It was a wonderful opportunity to relax, network, and celebrate with colleagues after a full day of learning and discussions. The atmosphere was lively and festive, and it

was great to share conversations with professionals from different trusts and backgrounds in a more informal setting. The event truly reflected the spirit of the BACCN community — supportive, inspiring, and full of enthusiasm.

The final session, delivered by Kathleen Vollman, was truly inspiring. Her talk was filled with passion and motivation, leaving everyone energized and enthusiastic. It was a perfect conclusion to the conference and has certainly fueled my excitement for the next BACCN conference, which will be held in Belfast in 2026.

Overall, attending the BACCN 40th Anniversary Conference was an enriching and motivating experience that reinforced my commitment to ongoing learning and collaboration within the critical care community.