

Joanne Straw - Grant Report

Attendance at BACCN Conference Sept 2023, Nottingham

I was lucky enough to receive a BACCN grant to allow me to attend the 38th BACCN 2-day conference in Nottingham on recovery, restoration and sustainability.

Although I have been in critical care for over 20years, I was a first-time attendee. Not sure what to expect, I attended the welcome reception with a little trepidation and a great deal of excitement.

This event gave me the opportunity to chat with some of the company, from faecal management systems, innovations in patient monitoring, to sophisticated bed and patient rehabilitation adjuncts. It also provided opportunities to meet many other critical care nurses not only from the UK but also further afield. The Liberty Singers were also a welcome way to open the conference!

Day 1 kicked off with an interesting and engaging key note from Alison Leary, understanding nursing as a safety critical workforce and ensuring we are protected as such. Sessions of particular interest on day 1 were those on Registered Nursing Associates (RNA), especially that on the prevention of role creep within critical care. This was of great interest to me as we have several RNA and another 8 due to qualify next spring. It was quite apparent that the integration of RNA within the critical care department is quite divisive and a hot topic of debate.

A session within day 1 which provided an area of conflict within me was the playscript which was performed. A short extract of a play written in collaboration with intensive care nurses about their experiences during the covid pandemic. Very well written and performed but was still bit too fresh for me to watch its entirety.

Day 2 launched with an engaging keynote on sustainability in critical care. A topic which could be a bit dry was presented in an engaging and thought-provoking way. The sessions I attended on day 2 were focusing on patient rehabilitation, something we aspire to continually improve. I was specifically interested in the community of practice session discussing the implementation of patient support techniques. This session facilitated the reflection on patient rehabilitation techniques used in other units such as beach ball and bats, pet therapy and patient diaries. To hear what other units manage to implement and how they went about this, was both extremely interesting and inspiring. The passion we hold for improving the experience of patients and families within the department was infectious and thought provoking.

Not only has attending this conference allowed me to meet other critical care nurses, shared experiences and learn from their experiences, it has enabled the observation of a variety of presentation techniques. As an educator I spend a lot of time presenting and teaching. I have really valued the opportunity to observe others and it provided me with the chance to reflect on my own techniques - It helps keep me up to date and allows me to think about what techniques I can use to improve my teaching and presentation style.

I would like to thank BACCN for giving me the opportunity to allow me to attend this conference.