

Notes and news

Introducing a new regional representative: Shirley Bustard

Originally from Northern Ireland, I graduated from the 4-year BSc (Hons) degree at North East London Polytechnic and the London Hospital, Whitechapel, in 1986 (Fig. 1). During that time, I had my first introduction to obstetrics and gynaecology on placement with Mrs Jill Mantle at the London. My first job was at Greenwich Hospital on junior rotations, and being interested in paediatrics, I worked as a senior II physiotherapist at Charlton Park School, London. Living in East London, I was lucky to be in an area under Dr Wendy Savage's care, and was offered a home birth for my son. It was this wonderful experience that fired my enthusiasm for childbirth education.

I then moved to Dorchester, where I worked as a senior II in a rotational post including women's health, and a year later, I moved to Durham, where I still live.

My current post in women's health has always been part-time, so I have combined it with other areas, and I am currently working as a university tutor, visiting students on placement.

I work at the University Hospital, North Durham, and also at the more rural Shotley Bridge Hospital. Over the past 17 years, I have developed the post to clinical specialist level. I completed the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (now ACPWH) course at Glasgow in 1993, and was privileged to be awarded the Anne Bird Prize.

I really enjoy clinical work and the positive benefits that it can have on women's lives. I aim to pass this enthusiasm on when I lecture to students at Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, which I do yearly. I am involved in musculoskeletal obstetrics and female continence in both inpatient and outpatient settings. I have a strong commitment to audit and education, and I have been involved in many projects over the years, including a support group for women post-hysterectomy in rural areas and working with Sure Start.

On a personal level, I really enjoy being a mum, being in the countryside and creative photography (I have passed my A-level!). I have



Figure 1. Shirley Bustard.

received great encouragement and support from ACPWH members locally, led recently by Emily Nesbitt, and also my course tutor, Arline Ashton. As area representative for the North East, I look forward to working with members to further develop our networking and support, and to provide excellent continuing professional development opportunities.

Our next meeting will be at University Hospital, North Durham, on Wednesday 28 November 2007 at 12:30 h (programme to follow). I can be contacted on (0191) 333 2591 or <shirleybustard@cddft.nhs.uk>.

Shirley Bustard

Area representative

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Dame Josephine Barnes Bursary

Becky Aston used her bursary to attend the 2007 International Urogynecological Association Annual Meeting in Cancun, Mexico, and her report was published in the previous issue of the Journal (Number 101, Autumn 2007).

The recipients of the Dame Josephine Barnes Bursary from July 2007 are Doreen McClurg, Teresa Cook, Penny Graham, Becky Aston and Michaela Pienaar. Teresa Cook and Penny Graham will report in the next issue of the Journal (Number 103, Autumn 2008).

Report from Michaela Pienaar

The ACPWH kindly awarded me a bursary from the Dame Josephine Barnes Fund that is contributing towards my fees for the Continence for Physiotherapists postgraduate certificate. This qualification interested me because I am working in women's health and want to further my knowledge in this specialist area. The course has made me realize what a necessary and valuable service we provide – and the women I am studying with and learning from have made me understand how special women's health physiotherapists tend to be!

At the time of writing, we are 4 months in and I am already applying my new information to my current practice. Whilst it is reassuring to know that my clinical reasoning and treatments have been correct, now knowing the *best* course of action is even better. The theory module has taught me a lot (mainly about searching and evaluating the literature!) and I am looking forward to the practical component that comes next.

Michaela Pienaar

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Report from Doreen McClurg

I would like to thank the ACPWH for awarding me the Dame Josephine Barnes Bursary. I intend to use this to survey members of the ACPWH using an electronic questionnaire program – Zoomerang (Zoomerang, San Francisco, CA, USA). The aim of this questionnaire is to establish the involvement of physiotherapists in the management of patients who have undergone treatment (surgical and radiotherapy) for gynaecological cancer. At present, development of the questionnaire is near completion, so please watch out for my e-mail and take a few minutes to fill it in. If your e-mail address

has changed recently, please contact Fitwise in order to update the Association database (emma@fitwise.co.uk).

It is hoped that the questionnaire is a precursor to a qualitative study of patients following radical surgical intervention.

Doreen McClurg

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Postgraduate courses

The following students have successfully completed the two core modules (theory and practice) of either the Women's Health or the Continence course at the University of Bradford, Bradford. They are eligible for membership of the ACPWH.

All successful graduates should have received an ACPWH certificate on completion of the theory and practice modules. If you did not receive your certificate, could you please contact the chairman of the Association (contact details on the inside front cover).

Postgraduate Certificate: Continence for Physiotherapists

2005–2006 cohort: Janet Brown, Joanne Dafforn, Melanie de Lacy, Julie Ellis, Fiona Grant, Paula Iguarada-Martinez, Katie Jeitz, Rachel Kerr, Irene Pullar, Shelley Pyrah *née* Dossett, Jocelyn Smith, Amanda Sullivan, Jacqueline Swift, Romy Tudor, Riette Vosloo and Rebecca Yates.

Postgraduate Certificate: Physiotherapy in Women's Health

2005–2006 cohort: Sally Church, Claire-Anne Head, Karen Heaney, Mary Killeen, Charlotte Lion, Isobel McNeil, Karen Radford and Amanda Thornton.

2006–2007 cohort: Jodie Edwards, Beverley King, Emma Lawrence, Gillian McCrossan, Beatrice McGinley, Abnanadevi Manoharan, Andrea Oduro-Yeboah, Catherine Rout and Kelly Turrell.