

members matters

The newsletter for all public and staff members of Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital Issue 1 2022



LHCH is one of the TOP hospitals in the country for Overall Patient Care



Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2022 for staff and public members of LHCH.

We are pleased to announce that an appointment has been made for the new Chair of Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital. Val Davies has been appointed as the successor to Neil Large who will retire from the role on 31st March 2022. Val will therefore take up post from 1st April 2022. You can read more about Val and her experience within this newsletter.

Also within this newsletter you will see that our patients have again rated us as one of the best hospitals in the country, and the best in the North West, in the Care Quality Commission's National Inpatient Survey. We are tremendously proud of our staff and our volunteers who have made this achievement possible.

The pandemic has brought challenging times for the NHS and sadly this winter continues to be tough for our healthcare system. However, we are pleased to have been able to support patients and staff with our LHCH Vaccine Centre which we have opened for the third time to offer first, second and booster doses of the Covid 19 vaccine. We have also expanded our covid testing offer to support other local health and social care workers.

Our teams have also been proud to open a new treatment hub offering neutralising monoclonal antibody (nMAb) treatment to extremely vulnerable patients. There is increasing evidence that these treatments are effective in reducing the impact of Covid 19 and the number of people who need to be hospitalised. We continue to regularly monitor the situation and respond

wherever we can to support our NHS partners. The best protection we can all have over the winter is to receive the booster vaccination, maintain good hand hygiene, mask wearing and to practise social distancing.

May we take this opportunity to wish you and your families all the best for a healthy and happy 2022.

Best wishes



Neil Large MBE Chair

Tomkinson OBE, **Chief Executive**

LHCH welcomes new Chair

LHCH is delighted to announce the appointment of Val Davies, as its new Chair.

Val will take up her new role as Chair from 1st April 2022 following the retirement of Neil Large MBE.

Val brings with her a long-standing career in business development, consultancy and strategic planning, alongside extensive board-level NHS experience as Deputy Chair at St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

As Deputy Chair, Val worked closely with colleagues to ensure the Trust delivered the highest standards of patient care and played a lead role in

developing strong system partnerships to improve health pathways and reduce local health inequalities.

Val said: "I am extremely proud to be joining one of the country's outstanding hospitals.

"I'm also looking forward to meeting staff and using my experience as we move forward together beyond the challenges of the pandemic."

Neil Large, LHCH Chair, added: "I'm delighted to welcome Val to LHCH and have no doubts she will use her considerable expertise to help us



continue delivering outstanding care for our patients and families.

"We know the last two years have been challenging and there are more challenges ahead, but with Val's experience, leadership, strategic thinking and passion for patient care, these qualities will be of huge benefit to everyone at LHCH.

Jane Tomkinson, LHCH Chief Executive, said: "Throughout the recruitment process, it was evident that Val had a genuine passion for We look forward to working together and outcomes, collaborating with our partners and improving the health of our populations."

LHCH rated one of the top hospitals in the country for inpatient experience

LHCH has once again been named one of the best hospitals in the country, and the best in the North West, for inpatient experience.

This is according to the **Care Quality Commission's** 2020 Adult Inpatient Survey, which also recognised LHCH as the TOP trust in Cheshire and Merseyside.

The report summarises the experiences of more than 73.000 patients from 137 NHS trusts who spent at least one night in hospital during November 2020.

Patients were asked for their views on various aspects of their care, with trusts then listed in one of seven categories from 'much better than expected' down to 'much worse than expected' - based on the proportion of patients who responded positively compared to the average.

LHCH has been awarded the highest rating by the CQC of 'much better than expected' compared to the national average, with an 'overall experience' score of 9.07 out of 10.

The hospital scored particularly well for 'having confidence in doctors and nurses', 'being treated with dignity, respect and privacy', as well as 'cleanliness'.

Sue Pemberton, Director of Nursing, Safety and Quality at LHCH, said: "We

are so grateful to all our patients who took the time to share their feedback about their care at LHCH. It's important that we listen to our patients and know how we are doing and where we can improve their care and treatment. We are continually looking to improve our services, and therefore every piece of feedback is invaluable".

"Every single member of the team at LHCH strives to provide the very best care for our patients and families, and

and overall ranking reflect this. Despite the challenges of the past 18 months, our team has continued to work tirelessly to deliver outstanding and

"Everyone at Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital can be proud of these results." added Jane Tomkinson. Chief Executive.

"Knowing that our patients rate their experience at LHCH so highly and that they have such confidence in our teams providing their care, makes us all very proud. It's also testament to the outstanding teamwork that we have here at LHCH."





Congratulations Jane

Team LHCH were proud to see that Jane Tomkinson OBE, Chief Executive Officer was recently selected and featured in the recent Health Business Top 50 NHS Professionals List.

The list reflects those that have made an impact on the health system in England. The top 50 list can be viewed on the Health Business UK website.

patients, families, staff and governors. to further develop our world class care



We are always on the lookout for new stories and experiences from our patients, staff and volunteers.

If you have a story which we could share with others then please get in touch by emailing communications@lhch.nhs.uk.

You may just want to say thank you to our dedicated team at LHCH or let us know what you have got up to following your treatment here at LHCH. If you're a member of staff you may have a story about the achievements of your team or colleague. We would love to hear from you and share the good news.



World first at LHCH

LHCH recently became the first heart centre in the UK and EU to acquire the world's first and only fully autonomous artificial intelligence (AI) driven robotic transcranial doppler (TCD) ultrasound system for use in open aortic arch surgery.

Thanks to the support of LHCH Charity, LHCH has been able to purchase NovaGuide – a fully autonomous robotic TCD system that monitors blood flow velocities during aortic surgery.

Professor Mark Field, Consultant Aortic and Cardiac Surgeon at LHCH, said:

"Robotic TCD has the potential to inject a level of sophistication

and nuance to neuromonitoring, resulting in patient specific neuroprotective strategies. "What this

means in practice is that this new system will ensure even better and safer patient care for those individuals undergoing highly specialised aortic arch surgery at

LHCH."

You can watch Professor Field talk about this new system on the LHCH Charity website or via www.lhchcharity.org.uk





LHCH achieves HIMSS Stage 6 rating

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the HIMSS Analytics Electronic Medical Record Adoption Model (EMRAM) Stage 6 rating.

LHCH has a long history of development and investment in digital technology and earlier this year launched a new five year digital strategy.

The HIMSS EMRAM rating system is an international quality standard which measures the adoption and maturity of a health facility's inpatient EMR capabilities from 0 to 7, with Stage 7 being the highest possible rating.

According to HIMSS criteria, Stage 6 means that LHCH has established clear goals for improving safety, minimising errors, and recognising the importance of healthcare IT.

In March 2021, LHCH was chosen as one of 7 trusts in the second wave of the NHSX Digital Aspirant Programme. This national digital scheme aims to support NHS trusts to improve their digital maturity and in turn help enable

better health, better care, financial sustainability and better experiences for staff and patients.

Kate Warriner, Chief Digital and Information Officer, said: "Digital Excellence must be the cornerstone if we are to continually improve the care that we provide for our patients in the years ahead. Therefore, whilst we are rightly proud of this achievement, we have ambitions for further pioneering innovation and advancing our use of technology to become a Stage 7 hospital."

Since becoming one of the first trusts nationally to implement an Electronic Patient Record in 2013, LHCH has continued its digital journey. Through the integration of clinical systems, embedding information sharing across care services, and investing in digital infrastructure, cyber security and intelligence-led care, staff have been enabled to deliver even better, safer and more efficient patient care.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, digital technology has also played a fundamental role.

Kate added: "Digital technology has been instrumental in keeping our patients and staff safe in the past two years, although has meant doing things very differently. For example, the adoption of tools such as Microsoft Teams has enabled mass agile working, equipping staff to communicate with one another remotely, while enabling our clinical teams to meet patients virtually, via Attend Anywhere, has been invaluable."

Mark's milestone birthday

LHCH Patient and Public Governor for Cheshire, Mark Allen, has recently celebrated his 50th birthday.

This is particularly poignant for Mark, who had been born with cystic fibrosis, and was not expected to live past his teens. Cystic Fibrosis is an inherited condition that causes sticky mucus to build up in the lungs and digestive system.

Defying the odds, Mark received a lung transplant in 2005 and nine months later his body sadly started to reject his new lungs reducing his lung capacity to 20%.

In 2021, Mark escaped a nasty car accident which had left Mark unconscious in intensive care. Mark is recovering well from the accident and has returned to work. Unfortunately Mark's challenges have grown as he is awaiting a kidney transplant because daily anti-rejection drugs have now taken their toll.

Despite this Mark, who also won a number of gold medals in the British, European and World Transplant Games for table tennis, celebrated his 50th birthday in style by attending a gig, small gathering at home and lunch out! He said:

"It's been hard work but by keeping myself as fit as possible I have been able to enjoy life to the extent I have. It is important given my current lung capacity that I continue to be disciplined to keep active. I enjoy walks, use my indoor bike and follow a strict kidney diet. I'd love to win some more European medals at table tennis but I need to build up my stamina."

Neil Large MBE, Chair said: "Mark has been a valued member of our LHCH Council of Governors since 2017. We are all tremendously proud of Mark and how he has overcome his countless health challenges and he continues to do this with a smile on his face. On behalf of all at LHCH, we thank Mark for his commitment to the hospital and offer our very best wishes for his 50th birthday!"





Mark is pictured with his Mum, Maureen (left) and girlfriend, Ela (right).

LHCH nurse providing lifeline for colleagues who are unpaid carers wins award

LHCH nurse Joanne Shaw, has been recognised nationally for setting up a support group for colleagues who are unpaid carers outside of work.

Joanne, Head of Nursing for Clinical Services and Safeguarding, won the prestigious NHS Englandsponsored Commitment to Carers category at the RCN Nursing Awards 2021 on 12th October 2021.

When she became a carer to her young son, Joanne gained a better understanding of the challenges faced by colleagues with caring responsibilities outside of work, whether for an elderly parent, unwell relative, partner or child.

"Caring can be extremely demanding and tiring, and talking to someone in a similar situation can help," she says. "It is difficult coping with that role while managing work as well."

Her network provides a safe environment for staff to meet with others, discuss issues or just take time out from their caring responsibilities. Lunchtime meetings – with lunch provided by local charities – have guest speakers and while representatives of the local carers' centre visit to



register staff as carers.

Meeting topics include caring for a child with an illness or long-term disability, coping strategies, caring for an elderly relative and how carers can look after themselves while juggling work and home responsibilities.

New faces at LHCH Research Unit



Jenny Crooks joined the team in April 2021, from Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, and is now the Assistant Director of Research and Innovation at LHCH.

"I first wanted to become involved in research to play my part in making a difference in improvements to patient care. LHCH is renowned as a research centre and this was something I absolutely wanted to be part of. Going forward, we are working hard as a team to continue to grow our research portfolio and to exceed the numbers recruited for our clinical trials. LHCH is a research active hospital and together we can make a real difference for the patients of tomorrow."

Dr David Gent has also recently joined LHCH as the cardio-oncology research fellow to undertake a period of research out of his training programme.

David will be supervised by Dr Dobson, Professor Jay Wright and Professor Lip. He will be researching the mechanisms behind cancer related cardiotoxicity with a focus on improving cardiovascular risk prediction prior to stem cell transplantation. This will help us to understand the cellular mechanisms behind chemotherapy induced cardiotoxicity.

Dr Peter Calvert is a Research Fellow in electrophysiology.

Pete was born and raised in the Merseyside area.

He trained in medicine at Lancaster University before moving back to the Liverpool area to pursue higher speciality training in cardiology. He has a keen interest in ECG interpretation and catheter lab procedures, which led to a desire to subspecialise in electrophysiology and devices. Now at ST6 registrar level, he will be working with the research team for the next two years to complete his MD (postgraduate research degree in medicine). Pete will be working on several clinical trials in electrophysiology and will be a valuable new member of the Research Unit here in LHCH.



Siji and Magenta, Research Nurses, working on this study are pictured with their certificate in recognition of recruiting 20 patients to the SPORT trial so far.

SPORT – detecting cancer early

It's encouraging to hear that long-term survival from non-small cell lung cancer in England has nearly doubled over the last fifteen years.

This is mainly due to more operations being performed for early stage lung cancer. Further improvements in survival will require new approaches to help diagnose patients at an even earlier stage than at present. The aim of this SPORT study is to find out whether new blood tests can be developed measuring 'circulating tumour DNA' and other factors, which will tell us in advance who is at highest risk of developing another cancer. If we can develop a new test, we hope to be able to use this in the future to try and prevent lung cancer survivors from getting further cancers. Additional blood tests are taken during routine clinic visits and data obtained for routine x-rays and scans. Any tissue available following surgery will also be used. The five-year study is going well with the team recently being named the third highest recruiting team!

New way to conduct research



The ARCH trial is a completely new way to conduct research in LHCH!

The standard approach is to collect clinical data is in a bespoke database. This often involves a specialist research nurse collecting data on paper, transferring it to a database and the data is then exported for analysis at the end of the trial. With the ARCH trial the existing Trust Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system was used and no separate database was needed. Each day a file of

relevant cases was exported from EPR and checked for completeness. At the end of the recruitment period this file would be used for analysis. This faster approach has enabled a record 2000 patients to be randomised in around 18 months, which may be the highest accrual for a single centre trial in cardiology anywhere in the world! This has been a fantastic effort from a range of LHCH staff in the Catheter Labs and the Research Unit!

Fish and Chips

A ground-breaking new clinical trial is being run by LHCH. The trial has the catchy name 'Fish and Chips' and is being led by Dr Tim Fairbairn, a Consultant Cardiologist and Cardiac Imaging Lead (pictured).

Coronary computed tomography angiography (CCTA) is a test that takes images of the heart blood vessels. It is the main test for patients presenting with angina, as it is excellent at saying when the heart blood vessels are normal and can be reassuring for patients. However, when narrowings are present CCTA lacks the ability to tell whether they are causing the patient's symptoms.

A new technology, CTderived fractional flow reserve (FFRCT) uses the CCTA images to make a 3D model of the heart blood vessels that shows whether there is a limitation in the blood flow to the heart which is causing the symptoms. This study aims to determine the extent to which the new FFRCT technology is safe and reliable, provides a quicker time to diagnosis for the patient, reduces the

need for further tests and thus does the investment in the test represent good value to the NHS.

This project is a major development for LHCH, involving close working relationships from several departments and NHS Digital, and is certainly one that the team are particularly excited about.

TIGHT K

The LHCH Research team are currently working on the TIGHT K study.

This is looking at the maintenance dose of potassium levels on patients post isolated coronary artery bypass graft and in considering the effect this has on new Atrial Fibrillation occurring. Patients are randomised to one of two potassium doses and a monitor is used to observe for any arrythmias. Our LHCH team was the quickest recruiter in the country within a week of starting the trial and at the time of writing had brought in just shy of a third of the patients in the whole country.

Employee of the Month Awards

We are always delighted to recognise our colleagues who go 'above and beyond' by presenting our 'Best of the Best' Employee of the Month Awards. Congratulations to our most recent winners who impressed the judging panel with their outstanding work:

Princey Santhosh, International
Nurse Facilitator – September 2021
"Princey went above and beyond
in ensuring that new nurses were
supported from the moment
they set foot in the country.
She kept in touch with them
every day, whilst they were
in quarantine in London,
and made them feel so
welcome when they arrived in
Liverpool. Princey even looked
after them when a few of the
party fell ill by making them home

cooked food to help aid their recovery. Nothing has been too much trouble for Princey and she has done it all with a great sense of enthusiasm and humour."

Walid Jarad, Healthcare Assistant

- November 2021

"Walid is always keen to help around the ward and always maintains a positive attitude during these uncertain and difficult times. Walid is central to high staff morale and is passionate about developing his English. Walid is a valuable staff member and is





Nikita Duong, Senior Exercise Physiologist – October 2021

"Nikita is hard working, driven, passionate and knowledgeable about exercise and healthy living. She manages to deliver hard to hear messages to patients with empathy, understanding and with a smile on her face. Nikita has noticed a gap within the service around mental health and decided that she needs to fix it! Outside of her

usual daily work within cardiac rehabilitation, she has performed a scoping exercise to see what the state of play within the community services is around mental health. She has developed a plan of action, arranged team training, networked within local community facilities and even worked on a PHE bid to secure monies to the trust to deliver her vision of the new service. Nikita is the future of our hospital and I see big things for her!" Nikita is pictured with Sue Pemberton, Director of Nursing & Quality at the presentation.

Amer Harky, Doctor ST5 Cardiothoracic Surgery – December 2021

"Amer is a great part of the team, he supports staff and can

boost morale on the unit. He teaches others to help further understanding for colleagues and is not afraid to have a laugh. Amer always comes in with a smile on his face and nothing is too much for him

nothing is too much for him during difficult situations. He is cool, calm and collected. He is sincere in his work and caring to our patients. A valuable part of the team!" Amer is pictured with Chief Executive Officer Jane Tomkinson OBE, who presented his award.



Life saving CPR session at football club

At the end of November 2021, we were delighted to support Marine Football Club staff, stewards and other community volunteers with some life-saving CPR and Defibrillator training.

Sharon Faulkner and Karen Dickman from our Knowsley Community Cardiovascular Disease Team delivered a clear account of what to do in the event of a cardiac arrest. If you think your community group could benefit

from our LHCH knowledge and expertise on CPR or another topic then please email **communications@lhch.nhs.uk**. We would love to hear from you.



Creating a 'green' and 'sustainable' LHCH

We're delighted to be supporting the Queen's Green Canopy tree planting initiative at LHCH to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee this year.

Neil Large, Chair and Jonathan Develing, Executive Lead for Sustainability, were really pleased to take a look at some of the new trees planted on site at LHCH – all in keeping with our tree-themed ward names. A big thank you to all the volunteers who supported us with the planting of these beautiful trees.



SAVE THE DATE Coming soon... World Sleep Day – Friday 18th March, 2-3pm via Zoom



To mark World Sleep Day, join Jennifer Furlong, Advanced Clinical Physiologist, Sleep Service Lead and Deputy Manager of Respiratory Diagnostics explain the symptoms, diagnosis and treatments of Obstructive Sleep Apnoea.

Jenny will also discuss living with the condition

along with her own top tips for a good night's sleep! The presentation will be followed by the opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have. Please note this session will be recorded and made available on the membership section of the LHCH

website following the event. To receive the link to join this free virtual session please email membership. office@lhch.nhs.uk



Thank you for your feedback

Thank you to our public members who completed the members' survey last autumn and provided feedback on Members Matters, our programme of events and your patient experiences at LHCH.

Your comments will help us to shape

your membership communications and events going forward. We were also delighted that so many of you would like to share your patient stories with us and we will be in touch with some of you to discuss this further.

Thank you!

Charity news update



Lady Dodd opens new education centre

A brand new education centre that will help to train and provide ongoing learning to cardiothoracic healthcare staff, has been officially opened at LHCH.

The new Sir Ken Dodd Knowledge and Education Centre, named after the world-famous Liverpool entertainer, was formally opened by Lady Anne Dodd on Monday 1st November, thanks to their generous ongoing support of the hospital over many years.

Featuring brand new library facilities where staff and students can study, undertake research and stay up to date with the latest clinical knowledge, as well as dedicated training areas, the new centre will be an invaluable space for medical and nursing students and other trainees, clinical staff as well as education partners.

Dr James Greenwood, Director of Medical Education and Consultant Respiratory and Critical Care Physician at LHCH, said: "We are delighted to open our new knowledge and education centre. "Thanks to the very generous support of Lady Dodd, as well as LHCH Charity, current and future generations of staff and students now have access to the very best knowledge, learning and training facilities."

Jane Tomkinson, Chief Executive at LHCH, said: "Sir Ken was muchloved by the people

of Liverpool, and brought happiness, laughter and smiles wherever he went, even as a patient in hospital – including here at LHCH.

"We also know how much Lady Dodd and Sir Ken have valued the work of the NHS and hospital staff. It is therefore fitting to be able to name this new education and training facility, which



will be a place of learning and great support to so many staff and students, in memory of him."

Thanks to the provision of charitable funding from LHCH Charity, the new centre will be key to ensuring that colleagues develop their knowledge and skills to remain as leaders in the field of cardiothoracic care for years to come.



Charity Golf Day success

We were delighted to hear from Paul Thomas, from Solvay S.A, when he got in touch to let us know they wanted to support LHCH Charity at their annual Charity Golf Day after we were nominated by one of their technicians.

Paul said "For at least the last 5 years we have held an annual Solvay Charity Golf Day and normally we would have a work's designated charity for that year. However, due to the pandemic all that stopped. After a year of no functions

due to COVID, we decided to hold a Golf Day and nominate a new charity to support. One of our technicians nominated LHCH Charity after he had supported us in the past and also a couple of our colleagues have suffered heart attacks in the last five to ten years so it was a popular choice. The day itself was brilliant and the weather was glorious, yet only 24hrs earlier in Warrington, it was like monsoon

season, so we weren't expecting a dry day. The turnout was fantastic with over 30 golfers turning up, the golf not so good for some of us, but we were well looked after by Antrobus Golf Club".

Paul and his team also held a series of competitions throughout the day as well as a raffle, with all proceeds going to LHCH Charity. In total over £1,800 was raised and we cannot thank everyone enough for all of their support at this fantastic event!



Paul's run for Diane

Paul Burrows recently ran the Yorkshire 10 mile run challenge to support LHCH Charity after the hospital saved his partner Diane's life.

Paul said "My loving partner Diane suffered a cardiac arrest on Saturday the 21st of August. Thankfully a wonderful lady jumped out of her car and performed CPR on her whilst the paramedics and air ambulance arrived and took her to the Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital.

So as a thank you to every single person at LHCH I decided to support LHCH Charity by running The Yorkshire 10 mile run in York on Sunday the 17th of October.

Words can't describe what they do every day for so many people so this is for them and all they do".

Paul completed his challenge and so far has raised an incredible £680 for LHCH – we cannot thank you enough Paul for all you have done and we wish Diane a safe and speedy recovery!



LHCH Charity join Marine FC for match day fun

In the autumn, our LHCH Charity team and volunteers were kindly invited to join the team at Marine FC on match day to help raise awareness and funds for LHCH Charity.

It was a fantastic day which saw many people contribute and support LHCH, and there was even a press up challenge with fans from our very own volunteer Michelle Beaver! A great day was had by all and we managed to raise an impressive £350 with the help of all of our volunteers. Thank you to everyone who donated and we look forward to seeing you again soon!

Can you spare a few hours and help us by volunteering for future events? If so, please let us know by emailing **enquiries@lhchcharity.org** or by calling **0151 600 1409.**

Pictured is (left) Michelle Beaver, Staff Nurse – Acute Cardiac Unit, who was one of our dedicated team of volunteers on the day with Robyn Sefton, Community and Events Officer at LHCH Charity.



Privacy notice for our Members

We collect and hold public and staff member information for the purposes of the Trust to meet the legal requirements set out in UK law, or exercise the official authority established for a Foundation Trust as a public body.

Personal information will only be used to fulfil the requirements in relation to the individual's membership of Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and not shared elsewhere.

Staff and Public Members can opt out at any time by contacting the Membership Office on **0151 600 1410** or by emailing **membership.office@lhch.nhs.uk**

For more information please visit the LHCH Privacy Notice on our website http://www.lhch.nhs.uk/about-lhch/information-governance/data-protection-and-confidentiality/privacy-notice/

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