IPS spotlight

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Obituary: Marian Reed MBE, SRN, SCM, RNT. 1929–2015

By Graham Ayliffe and Lynda Taylor

Honorary Member of the ICNA, pioneer of education for infection control nurses and past trustee of the Brendan Moore Trust

Marian had a distinguished career in nursing and was particularly involved in nurse education. She was born in Smethwick, West Midlands and showed an early interest in infection, which developed (presumably subconsciously) at the age of 6 or 7 years when she was a patient for 3 months in East Birmingham Fever Hospital with either scarlet fever or diphtheria.

She was educated at the King Edward VI Grammar school for Girls in Handsworth, Birmingham between 1941–1947 and became an active life member of the Handsworth Old Edwardians Association. After leaving school, she trained in nursing at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, and after completing the course she became a staff nurse in the same hospital. She then trained as a midwife in Birmingham Maternity Hospital and followed this up as a ward sister at St Chad's Hospital. In 1957–1959 she studied at the University of Hull for the Sister Tutor Diploma. While in Hull she obtained a copy of the book *Microbe Hunters* by Paul de Kruif and found it to be both interesting and exciting. This account of the works of the early bacteriologists, such as Pasteur, Koch, Roux, Behring, Metchnikoff, Bruce, Ehrlich and others, stimulated her interest in the history of medicine and man's desire to conquer disease-carrying microbes.

Marian then returned to Birmingham to teach in the Queen Elizabeth School of Nursing and the General Hospital. In 1964 she was appointed Assistant Matron in the General Hospital and in 1965 became the Senior Assistant Matron. Her next appointment was Education Officer at the Royal College of Nursing Birmingham Centre of Nursing Education where she remained until her retirement in 1990.

The Infection Control Nurses Association was formed at the First Annual Conference in 1970 in Bristol and the training of Infection Control Nurses was one of the main issues discussed by the new association. Initially, short

courses of 2–3 days were run at the Birmingham Regional Training Centre at Lichfield by the Hospital Infection Laboratory (HIRL). These courses were then increased to 5 days and were organised by Marian Reed supported by the HIRL at the RCN Education Centre. Marian became a member of the of the Specialist Panel on Infection Control of the Joint Board of Clinical Nursing Studies (JBCNS) and persuaded the panel to support a short course of 1 week as the initial proposed long course was not viable. The first of these courses (English National Board (ENB) 910) was run in Birmingham in 1978. A course was also run in Manchester by Margaret Worsley and Lewis Parker. A revised more realistic long course (ENB 329) was then introduced. The first course was run by Jane Stronge and Donald Leigh in High Wycombe in 1979. It was followed by a course in Birmingham organised by Marian, Lynda Taylor and HIRL in 1980 which continued there and at other centres for a number of years. The course became very popular and Marian remained a major supporter of ICNA. She was always very accommodating and willing to help students with problems. Her past students were always pleased to see her at conferences.

She was made an Honorary Member of the ICNA, a trustee of the Brendan Moore Trust and a member of the Assessors Panel for the Marian Reed Award for innovation of infection control in the West Midlands Group. In 1981 she was the recipient of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee Award to study various aspects of Nursing Education in the USA. In 2005, she was awarded the MBE for her services to nursing education and for her hospice work. She was on the Board of Trustees of Birmingham St Mary's Hospice during 1980–2004, Chairman of Trustees in 1996–2004, continued as Vice President and became President in 2009. During her career she received many other awards and had many other appointments such as that of external examiner, and membership of various committees.

Marian (known by everyone as Miss Reed) also found time to take part in many outside interests. These included courses at Birmingham University, Member of Friends of the Barber Institute of Fine Art, Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery, Winterbourne Gardens and Life Membership of the National Trust and English Heritage.

Profile: Pat Cattini, Co-ordinator Scientific Programme Committee

How did you become an infection prevention and control nurse (IPCN)?

I first became interested in infection control when I was a student and went to see the ICN (Jennie Wilson) about a project I was doing in my second year. This made me think that this was a job I would like to do in the future! I secured my first IPCN job at Kingston Hospital and was lucky enough to work with a fantastic microbiologist, Jill Leach, who gave me a great grounding in 'common sense' infection control. I did my ENB 329 at Manchester in 1994 with Margaret Worsley and later an MSc at Essex University. I have now been an IPCN for 22 years and love the job – every day is different and you never know what unexpected challenges you will be presented with. Although we are sometimes seen as 'backroom' staff, I believe that we make a huge difference to patient care.

What role are you in now?

I am the lead IPCN at the Royal Marsden, a specialist cancer hospital in London. Having previously worked at the Royal Brompton, I am used to the challenges of specialist hospitals but working at the Marsden has made me very conscious that infection control is not just about exogenous infection. Endogenous infection is a major problem among patients who are often immunocompromised because of their chemotherapy, and they are therefore highly vulnerable to infections from their own flora. Gram negative infections such as *E. coli* bacteraemia, carbapenemase-resistant pathogens are a big priority for us in infection control, and antimicrobial stewardship is a challenge in the face of neutropaenic sepsis. The problem of infection prevention in cancer care is particularly poignant for me as my father died with leukaemia last year.

How did you get involved with IPS?

When I took on the IPCN job at Kingston back in 1993 I really didn't know where to start. Fortunately, there was a

note about the ICNA (now IPS) pinned above my desk and the phone number of a local coordinator (Paul Hatley). Paul was very encouraging and welcomed me into the local London Branch.

How did you get involved with the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) and what does your role entail?

As SPC coordinator I lead the team of IPS members who organise the annual IPS conference and other smaller events that we might run in collaboration with other societies such as the Healthcare Infection Society. We work closely with Fitwise who take care of the day-to-day management and organisation of these meetings, leaving us to focus on developing the scientific programme, identifying topics and speakers that will be of interest to IPCNs and generally deciding how the conference will be run. I first became interested in running educational meetings when I set up the 'Shortening the Odds' study days at Kempton Park Racecourse which I ran with Fran Brooke-Pearce for most of the 2000s. When I met up with Claire Kirkpatrick at an APIC conference she persuaded me to join the SPC, which I did in 2009. I took on the role of SPC coordinator for the London 2013 conference at which we had a record number of 525 delegates. One of the proudest moments of my career was the opening of London 2013 to the sounds of the Clash and *London's Calling!* We followed this with Glasgow, also a big success, and now Liverpool in 2015 which is looking to be our biggest meeting ever.

What do you think you and the SPC have achieved?

In the last few years the IPS annual conference has gone from strength to strength with the leadership of previous SPC coordinators Claire Kirkpatrick and Debbie Wright. Before I joined SPC, conference was a much smaller affair with perhaps two content streams, now we run with three or four streams and a very strong scientific and practice content. Having been to many other meetings on 'fact finding' missions I can confidently say that IPS is one of the best IPC conferences in the world. If you haven't attended for a while I strongly recommend you come along – you don't know what you are missing out on!

What's next for you?

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on SPC, I have learnt so much and met so many fantastic people, and I would recommend anyone interested in getting more involved in IPS to join the SPC. I am stepping down in October but have recently become engaged and so will be moving on to my next challenge – getting married!