IPS Spotlight

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IPS Hand Hygiene Torch Tour 2016

The idea of holding a different type of hand hygiene relay to coincide with the annual World Health Organization (WHO) Clean your Hands call to action, was born at the September 2015 meeting between the IPS Board and Consultative Committee. The idea caught the imagination of members and was developed over the next two Consultative Committee meetings. The key aims of the Hand Hygiene Torch Tour (HHTT) are to raise awareness among the general public of the importance of hand hygiene, support the WHO annual call to action for healthcare workers, and to promote the Society both nationally and internationally. The HHTT was launched on 5 May 2016 and will complete its journey at Infection Prevention 2016 in Harrogate on 26 September 2016.

The ‘Torch’ (or flashlight as the Americans like to call them) was sourced from a small design company in Los Angeles, CA, USA, Tayo Design, where Teo and Monica Bernt were delighted to have their Havaleena™ design associated with a campaign of this prominence. It became clear that in reality we would need more than five torches originally envisaged to enable the Torch to wend its way through the country and the Torch Tour to be taken to various International meetings being attended by IPS members. Tayo Design were hugely supportive and donated 10 of the 15 torches that the Society requested.

The Torch Tour planning group, led by Carole Hallam, Deputy Secretary and Yorkshire branch member, allocated dates for each IPS Branch to receive the Torch and promote hand hygiene at local events that would meet the aims of the campaign. Accompanying the torch are a range of promotional materials such as stickers, sashes and postcards to support the local events as well as a comprehensive social media and Twitter strategy. Nobody can suggest that IPS is not part of the modern age!

On 5 May the Hand Hygiene Torch Tour (HHTT) was launched in each of the UK capital cities: London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast, as well as Dublin and Malta to represent the societies’ International members. Here are some highlights of HHTT so far...

HHTT London Launch Event

The HHTT was launched in London by Olympic gold medal winning rower Mark Hunter and IPS President Heather Loveday on the banks of the Thames with some junior rowers who are supported by the charity London Youth Rowing. Mark highlighted the importance of hand hygiene to all athletes but particularly to rowers, as the lakes and rivers they train and compete on may not always be as clean as one would wish: ‘...as elite athletes you really do not want to be sick because you didn’t clean your hands. But we emphasise the importance of keeping your hands clean to all our young athletes as part of their health and wellbeing.’ The Torch then travelled to Guys and St Thomas’ NHS Trust where the Chief Nurse Eileen Sills and Vice President of IPS, Neil Wigglesworth, showed support, posing in front of the Palace of Westminster. Finally, the Torch arrived at Great Ormond Street Hospital, where the IPC team were running a hand hygiene event in the restaurant with activities for children including making finger puppets and drawing posters. Chief Nurse Juliette Greenwood joined in the activities and photo opportunities

HHTT Scotland May 2016

IPS members have had an exciting week or so engaging and tweeting with public, nurseries, schools and universities along with healthcare professionals in helping to raise awareness of the importance of hand hygiene. The Tour started on WHO Hand Hygiene Awareness Day, 5 May, and we carried out our torch launch within our capital city at Edinburgh Castle. The tour also was launched on the same day at the NHS Highland conference, organised by the NHS Highland Infection Control Team and endorsed by IPS. On the same day, the Dumfries and Galloway team engaged with the public in a local shopping centre to help spread the message. Our next event took place Monday 9 May with NHS Tayside ICT where we ran awareness sessions with pupils and staff at the High School of Dundee. This was followed on 10 May when the NHS Tayside antimicrobial team and the Infectious Diseases Unit organised

¹English National Board

an awareness event at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. Events were also carried out with children and staff at Sweetie Brae Nursery, Milnagavie and Hillfoot Nursery Bearsden. The tour of Scotland ended on Monday 16 May with students from the University of Dundee at famous sites across Dundee taking and featuring our local stars such as Dennis the Menace, Minnie the Minx and Oor Wullie who were created by Dundee's publishing company, DC Thomson. All in all, the torches have made an impressive journey across Scotland, lighting the hand hygiene path.

Pamela Davidson
Scottish Branch Coordinator

HHTT Northern Ireland

The Hand Hygiene torch tour arrived in Northern Ireland on the 6th June for two weeks of planned activities and events. All Health and Social Care Trusts participated in the campaign, taking the torch to local nursery schools, High Schools and Universities, thus planting the seed of awareness in our youth education. We also met with local Mayors and politicians who all pledged their support for the campaign and any future events of the IPS. The branch members in NI were also keen to inject a fun side to the Torch Tour and organised visits with the torch to the sea-side of the beautiful North Coast; even daring to go to dizzy heights on the roller coaster. We took the torch to local dog owner clubs with dogs even donning sashes to display their support for The Torch Tour; a 'paws' for thought for hand hygiene. The awareness didn't end there and NI branch members took over the air waves to spread the hand hygiene message in Londonderry. To round off the Tour in Northern Ireland the branch were honoured to be able to take the torch to Stormont to visit the Health Minister Michele O'Neill and the Chief Nursing Officer of NI, Charlotte McArdle. Gaining support from both these leaders in Healthcare was an important milestone for the branch and was a fitting end to the busy two weeks in Northern Ireland.

HHTT North West

Naomi Baldwin
Northern Ireland Branch Coordinator

The torch tour arrived in the North West into the capable hands of our Peter Morgan Lead IPN at the Bridgewater Community NHS Trust who was our brilliant (and very photogenic) lead on the project. The torch travelled around the North West far and wide introducing it initially at the NW Branch conference in May at Ewood Park home of Blackburn Rovers and getting attendees to tweet 'why we do hand hygiene'. In Wigan Pete (Morgan) and the school nurses did the 'hand wash dance' along with teachers and pupils. Manchester City Council Learning Disability Day Centre had

service users and staff having fun learning the Aycliffe hand wash technique and used the light box to help demonstrate how good they were at washing their hands. The torch went on to Warrington and Halton NHS Trust surgical and nursing teams supporting the torch. Gary Thirkell not only took the torch to Romania, but after overseas travel did a grand tour of the Greater Manchester area on behalf of The Christie NHS Foundation Trust. Liverpool is now no longer just famous for the Beatles as Debbie Wright toured the IPS torch around nursing and medical teams at Aintree University Hospital NHS Trust getting the message out via Directors and Quality Teams. Whilst IPS members from the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership and The Countess of Chester Hospital and Cheshire West involved medical centre staff, young cyclists, care home residents, mental health and learning disability service users and staff in making sure the hand hygiene message was shared. Finishing off at the East Lancashire Hospitals Trust where IPS torch tour sashes were proudly worn by IPNs and a number of hand hygiene activities took place with staff and patients. All-in-all a grand tour up-north!

Ode to the IPS Hand Hygiene Torch Tour 2016

(in homage to Victoria Wood)

Pete Morgan (up-north west) sat one night,
His head was clear and thoughts were right
Peter slowly turned to the committee
and sang the North West torch tour ditty.

Let's do it,
Let's do it
Do it now the time is right

We're washing and gelling
Getting our hand hygiene right

Manchester Council day centres
Warrington & Halton staff mentors
Head nurses, chief execs and IPS leaders
Let's do it
Let's do it tonight

The Committee said;

Yes...
Let's do it
Let's do it
Keeping hands clean is a must
At The Christie, The Countess and The Bridgewater Healthcare Trust

East Lancs, Pennine, Aintree, Cheshire West and Chester
Let's do it
Let's do it tonight

Let's do it
Let's do it

North West is the place to be
Torch touring, hand hygiene inspiring
Cleaning hands and saving lives

Bike riders
Care home residents
School kids
CWP hand hygiene champions

Let's do it
Let's do North West IPS hand hygiene right!

Helen Fabrizio
North West Branch Coordinator

International travels

The Torch Tour has even gone international with visits to the USA with Jennie Wilson attending the American Association of Infection Control conference in Charlotte, North Carolina and Heather Loveday the Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPACC) Conference at Niagara Falls, Ontario. Colleagues in Canada were celebrating their 40th year as an association and IPS President Heather Loveday took the opportunity to promote the aims of the HHTT at the annual Run for IFIC very early on the first day of the conference, following up with opportunities with IPS Patron Professor Didier Pittet at the Falls and IPACC President Suzanne Rhodenizer Rose and CEO Gerry Hansen.

HHTT in Romania

The Hand Hygiene Torch Tour reached the heart of Transylvania when Board members Gary Thirkell and Carole Hallam visited Zalau Emergency Hospital. The hand hygiene campaign visited the 7th Sterilizare Conference with 300 delegates on Friday 20 May and the Infection Control training course for 60 nurses on 23 May. On Tuesday 24 May, the Torch Tour visited the main square in the centre of Zalau, where Gary and Carole were met by a crowd of over 200 including student nurses, volunteers from the Red Cross, staff from the hospital, school children and members of the public. Ramona Marincas, Director of Nursing and an IPS member, led the activities, which included over 100 people in a circle practising good hand hygiene technique, balloons for the children made from coloured gloves, UV light box and lots of amazing photos as everyone wanted to have a picture with the IPS torch. Even the torrential rain didn't stop the fun as they headed into a nearby school and joined children in the gymnasium to continue the activities.

Jennie Wilson
Editor, JIP

IPS meets the Infection Control Network of Japan

Fifth Scientific Meeting ICNJ Conference 20–21 May 2016, Beppu, Oita Prefecture, Japan

Following the visit of members of the Board of the Infection Control Network of Japan to Infection Prevention 2015 in Liverpool, we were honoured and privileged to be asked to attend their conference in May of this year. Phil Pugh and I attended on behalf of IPS and delivered a plenary lecture and joined a symposium. The lecture set out the current state of infection prevention in the UK, including the roles and situation of infection prevention nurses and other practitioners and the symposium was focused on the challenges of antimicrobial resistance. Delivering a lecture for an hour while being simultaneously translated in Japanese was a new and interesting challenge! As well as speaking, we had meetings with the Board of ICNJ and discussed mutual support and the possibilities of further collaboration. Infection prevention is still developing in Japan, with most hospitals having, at most, one IPCN. We were flattered to see that ICNJ have modelled their society structures along very similar lines to IPS, including having a Board, Consultative Committee and Branches. We also took the opportunity to spread the IPS Hand Hygiene Torch Tour to the conference, which was greeted with great enthusiasm. Following the conference, we were fortunate to be invited to visit the Toshiba Hospital in Tokyo with IPCN, Mikiyo Sakaguchi. We received the warmest of welcomes from all our Japanese colleagues and we are very grateful to the Board of ICNJ and to the Moraine Corporation of Japan who supported our presence at the conference.

Neil Wigglesworth
Vice President
Phil Pugh
Deputy Treasurer

Photos

London Launch of the Hand Hygiene Torch Tour with Mark Hunter

Scotland – school children enjoying the torch

Romania – Sterilizare Conference, Romania

Scotland – promoting hand hygiene with school children

Canada – Heather Loveday at the run for IFIC at IPACC

North West – using the UV light box

USA – Jennie Wilson promoting appropriate glove use with Deb Burdsall at APIC

Romania – Enjoying a picture with the Torch

Neil Wigglesworth and Phil Pugh at ICNJ, Japan

The history of the Hospital Infection Research Laboratory

Christina Bradley, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2GW, UK. During the 1950s and early 1960s, the number of patients acquiring infection in hospitals was unacceptably high and the Regional Medical Officer of the West Midlands, Dr Christie Gordon, asked Professor Edward Lowbury of the Medical Research Council to investigate the problem. It was decided to appoint a research team and set up a laboratory to carry out this project and to provide a continuing regional and national infection control service.

The Hospital Infection Research Laboratory (HIRL) opened in 1964 at Summerfield Hospital on the Dudley Road site (now the City Hospital, Birmingham). Over the years the role of the laboratory has developed to:

- Investigate the control and prevention of hospital-acquired infection;
- Provide a national source of information and advice on infection prevention and control issues;
- Provide infection prevention and control training for infection control practitioners and other healthcare workers;
- Investigate new and alternative methods of cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation;
- Test disinfectants, antiseptics and other infection control-related products;
- Provide commissioning and validation services for decontamination and ventilation equipment.

In the early days, the work of the laboratory was mainly concerned with investigating outbreaks of infection and locating the source. Two notable outbreaks investigated by HIRL in the mid 1960s were postoperative surgical wound infections with *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* following neuro-surgical and ophthalmic procedures. These were attributable to failures to effectively disinfect/sterilise a shaving brush used to prepare patients' scalps and a batch of saline used to bathe eyes following intraocular surgery respectively.

In addition to these and other investigations, HIRL carried out a series of surveys in general and specialist hospitals within the West Midlands region. A team comprising scientific, medical and nursing staff collected data on the prevalence of infection, ward structure and design, aseptic practices, nasal colonisation, environmental contamination and antibiotic therapy. The information gathered in these early surveys led to the preparation of a guide, *Control of Hospital Infection: A Practical Handbook*, jointly produced by HIRL and a Regional Working Party. It was first published in 1975 and has since become one of the standard works for all those involved in the prevention and control of hospital-acquired infection throughout the world. The fifth edition was published in 2009 and edited by the current

Director and Laboratory Manager. Other notable reference books followed including *Hospital Acquired Infection, Principles and Prevention* (3rd edition, 1999) and *Pocket Reference to Hospital Acquired Infections* (1995).

During the last 30 years, the role of the laboratory has changed its emphasis and staff now spend more time on the prevention of infection rather than the investigation of outbreaks. This is largely due to the instigation of Infection Prevention and Control Teams and Committees responsible for outbreak control and a more proactive approach to infection prevention and control.

Education plays an important part of HIRL's work. The Laboratory is nationally and internationally recognised for teaching all aspects of Infection Control to nursing and medical staff, biomedical scientists, pharmacists, engineers, sterile services, catering and domestic staff. HIRL staff are regularly invited to speak at national and international meetings.

The first Infection Control Nurse was appointed in 1959 and in 1972, the first 2-day training course was organised for Infection Control Nurses, by Edward Lowbury and Graham Ayliffe. In 1977 the Birmingham HIRL team, in collaboration with Marian Reed of the Royal College of Nursing, extended this course to 5 days and it became the ENB 329¹ Course. In subsequent years, other centres offered this and other training opportunities in Infection Control. Many of these were supported by HIRL lecturing staff.

HIRL staff have always been closely associated with Infection Control-related societies including the Central Sterilising Club (founded 1960), Institute of Sterile Services Management (1967) (now Institute of Decontamination Science (2004)), Infection Control Nurses Association (1970) (now Infection Prevention Society (2006)), Hospital Infection Society (1980) (now Healthcare Infection Society (2011)) and the International Federation of Infection Control (1987). The inception of HIRL precedes all these societies with the exception of the Central Sterilising Club. HIRL staff have served as founder members, officers and committee and working party members of all these organisations. Professor Ayliffe (former Director) was the first chairman and editor of the *Journal of Hospital Infection*.

Staff at the laboratory provide advice and information to healthcare professionals nationally and internationally. They work closely with manufacturers in the testing and development of a wide range of infection control related products, including disinfectants, washer disinfectors, sterilisers and ventilation systems. Where possible, advice given is based on experimental work carried out in the laboratory or hospitals. Staff regularly contribute to working parties producing national (BSI), European (EN) and International (ISO) standards and to decontamination guidelines produced by the professional societies. One major piece of work carried out by laboratory technical and nursing staff was an assessment of the areas missed when

Figure 1. Hospital Infection Research Laboratory birthday cake

staff wash their hands and the development of the five-stroke technique (also known as the 'Ayliffe technique'). This was published in 1978 and the technique is now present on posters all around the world.

In 2008, HIRL relocated to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham (QEHB). The attachment of HIRL to a large teaching hospital (previously Dudley Road and now QEHB) has enabled staff to identify and resolve infection control problems and to change focus as the need arises. It remains a highly useful national resource on all infection prevention and control issues. The funding of the laboratory has changed over the years in that it is now self-funding by income generation from industry and other healthcare establishments. HIRL continues to flourish. The success of the laboratory has largely been attributable to the pioneers of infection prevention and control in the UK, i.e. its former Directors Professors Edward Lowbury and Graham Ayliffe, and other members of staff such as Barry Collins, John Babb, Adam Fraise and Christina Bradley.

HIRL prides itself on its impartiality and confidentiality and over the years has worked with many companies testing their products and advising and teaching healthcare practitioners.

In 2014, HIRL celebrated its 50th anniversary by holding a study day with about 80 invited guests and a spectacular themed cake (Figure 1) complete with a liquorice flexible endoscope.

Let's hope that HIRL continues for another 50 years!

References

- Ayliffe GAJ, Babb JR and Quoraishi AH (1978) A test for 'hygienic' hand disinfection. *Journal of Clinical Pathology* 31: 923–928.