Neurosurgeons star in TV documentary

Consultant Paediatric Neurosurgeon Jay Jayamohan (pictured) was featured in the BBC series ‘Brain Doctors’ – for more see page 3

Planting trees at the Horton page 5
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Award for smartphone app page 15

News from around the John Radcliffe Hospital, Horton General Hospital, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and Churchill Hospital
Welcome to the newsletter of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

We hope you will continue to contribute your news and articles from your teams, departments and divisions and look forward to publicising them in the newsletter.

All items for publishing should be sent to Kelly Dodgson in the Media and Communications Unit, Level 3, John Radcliffe Hospital 01865 231471.
Alternatively email kelly.dodgson@ouh.nhs.uk

Copies of OUH News are circulated widely throughout the Trust via special news vendor stands. Individual copies can be sent on request.

Designed by Oxford Medical Illustration 01865 220900.

News about the John Radcliffe Hospital, Horton General Hospital, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and Churchill Hospital.


www.ouh.nhs.uk
Neurosurgery highlighted in TV documentary

A new three-part series ‘Brain Doctors’ aired on BBC 2 in February. Viewers were given an insight into the inner workings and daily lives of the medical and surgical teams who look after patients with injuries and diseases of the brain at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

More than 5 million people tuned in to watch the unfolding drama of patients and their families facing life-changing decisions and the trust they put into the hands of our amazing colleagues. The series seems to have hit an emotional chord with members of the public who sent Twitter into a frenzy recommending it to others and filled our Facebook page with overwhelmingly glowing praise and positive comments.

Liberian Nurses visit the JR

In March, two nurses from Liberia visited the John Radcliffe Hospital as part of a Save the Children campaign which saw OUH nurse, Charlie McCulloch, travel to Liberia last December to see what life is like for nurses, midwives and doctors in one of the world’s poorest countries.

Nurse Watta Mamie Borbor and Midwife Rommina Yah met with Charlie and Divisional Head of Nursing, Nettie Dearmun, to talk about the healthcare challenges they face in Liberia, and were given a tour of the Children’s Hospital. The nurses commented that coming to the Children’s Hospital gave them an insight into the workings of a modern, British teaching hospital.
Meet the team –
Maintenance and Operations

Maintenance and Operations is responsible for developing maintenance policy and strategy, ensuring that the estate is maintained in a safe condition and in compliance with statutory regulations and associated approved codes of practice and guidance.

The in-house Maintenance team provides reactive and pre-planned maintenance to both the John Radcliffe and Churchill sites. The team deals with and completes many thousands of maintenance jobs that are processed via the Estates Helpdesk each year with the in-house maintenance team. The in-house staff, are supported by a group of approved contractors when necessary.

The Mechanical Services section is headed by Wayne Dibsdall, Mechanical Supervisor, and is responsible for the operation and maintenance of all mechanical installations and plant within the hospitals. This includes the following services.

- Heating systems
- Heating and hot water boilers
- Hot and cold water distribution systems
- Plumbing
- Ventilation systems
- Fume extract plant
- Compressed air supply
- Specialist steam supply plant

The team aims to ensure that all mechanical services function in a safe, efficient and reliable manner using either own in-house trade staff or outside contractors when necessary to ensure there is continuity in the services that are provided within the hospitals’ environment. The department provides a valuable service while meeting high health and safety and legislative requirements.

Would you recommend our hospital?

As of 28 January, patients treated at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust have been asked whether their treatment passed the ‘Friends and Family’ test when they leave, as part of a national initiative to drive up standards of care.

Patients are given a comment card on discharge with the simple question “How likely are you to recommend our ward/department to friends and family if they needed similar care or treatment?”

There is a scale of response options, ranging from ‘extremely likely’ to ‘extremely unlikely’, with an opportunity for patients for comment further on the care they have received. There will be a display on each ward showing both positive comments and what the issues are and what is being done. Results will be reported nationally, and also in more detail locally.

Elaine Strachan-Hall, Chief Nurse at the Trust, said: “This is a great opportunity to make learning from patient feedback a routine part of service improvement. There will be a comment section for patients to say what was particularly good or what needs to be improved. Positive comments should be displayed publically on the ward, along with what the issues are and what is being done.

“It also enables us to make a statement that we value each patient's opinion. This links to one of the Trust’s strategic goals, to be a leader of NHS trusts, renowned for listening and learning from patients and acting to ensure that patient experience is the best it can be.

“We want to ensure that all patients are confident we will do something if they give us feedback to help us improve.”

Private patient update at the John Radcliffe

Isis ward (5D), has closed to all private activity, as part of a project to devolve private patients’ activity which began in November.

Staff from the Private Patients Unit have been transferred into the Clinical Divisions, where private patient’s will continue to be supported. This includes all of the clinical and administrative processes associated with private practice.

For some Divisions the changes will be minimal, as they already absorb a high proportion of their own private activity. For other Divisions such as CTV, EMTA and Surgery and Oncology (on the John Radcliffe site), beds for elective activity will be booked within those Divisions instead of the Isis ward.

If you have any questions about the arrangements please contact Belinda Boulton or Julie Williamson on 01865 743355.

* This new feature looks at the work of different teams around the Trust.

If you would like your team to be included, contact Richard Maynard, Press & Communications Officer, richard.maynard@ouh.nhs.uk

Steve Ranger and Tracy Fox of the Maintenance team
School children plant trees at the Horton General

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust has joined forces with a national project, the NHS Forest, to highlight the NHS commitment to planting trees on its hospital sites.

In March staff at the Horton General Hospital in Banbury were joined by 14 pupils from Longfields Primary and Bardwell School in Bicester, and the hospital’s tree management company, Nicholsons to plant trees in the woodland area on the hospital site.

The children also took part in a conservation quiz and heard from the Nicholsons team about the importance of planting trees on conservation sites such as the one at the Horton, and children were able to put their own names on individual trees.

Sarah Dandy, NHS Forest Co-ordinator, said: “The NHS Forest is an exciting national project which plants trees on healthcare estates throughout the UK with the aim of supporting sustainability and improving health for staff, patients and communities.”

She added: “The NHS Forest project at the Horton provides the children with a fantastic opportunity to join together and engage in tree planting activities. The project hopes to build on the children’s self-esteem and educate them about the natural environment and the benefits of being outdoors in Oxfordshire.”

Beccy Johnson, one of the teachers at Longfields Primary School in Bicester, said: “We were really excited to have the opportunity to be involved in the NHS Forest project. It was great for the children to take part in planting the trees and we look forward to bringing them back at various points in the coming months to see the progression of the trees as they grow and mature.”
First OUH doctor revalidates successfully

In January of this year Professor Edward Baker, Medical Director, became the first doctor at the Trust to be re-licensed as part of the General Medical Council’s new Medical Revalidation scheme.

The requirement for all doctors to prove that they are fit to practise once every five years became law in December 2012. Since then, key medical leaders have been among the first to go through a robust and regulated appraisal system which satisfies requirements laid down by the GMC.

The revalidation process will happen in phases over the next three years and will see doctors allocated random revalidation dates by the GMC.

Professor Baker is also the Trust’s Responsible Officer for revalidation, meaning that he is required to make a recommendation to the GMC about the fitness to practise of each of the doctors for whom the Trust is responsible for revalidating. He was therefore a natural choice to be the Trust’s first candidate to be put forward for review.

Speaking after receiving notification of his successful recommendation, Professor Baker said “Revalidation is an essential way to reassure patients and the public that we as doctors are fit to practise and I am delighted to have been one of the first doctors in the country to take part in this important process. At the OUH we are justifiably proud of the achievements and commitment of our medical staff and I look forward to providing the GMC with evidence based recommendations highlighting the quality of the exceptional work they do.”

All queries regarding medical revalidation should be directed to the Medical Director’s Office in the first instance on mdo.business@ouh.nhs.uk or 01865 743216.

Thanks to the Horton League of Friends

A special thank you to the Horton League of Friends for their ongoing support and for the recent purchase of the following items for the Horton General Hospital:

- **A&E** – Two Oximeters, one of which was funded by the Banbury Round Tablers when the Chair of the League of Friends at the Horton, Mrs Heather Clelford, attended their ‘Dragon’s Den Evening’ in November 2012.
- **Occupational Therapy** – Items to aid cognitive perceptual and motor deficiencies.
- **Outpatients** – four small wheeled tables for consultants use with laptops – four chairs for the department.
- **General Surgery** – Fridge for staff use (consultants and secretaries)
- **Children’s Ward** – Toaster
- **Cardiac Rehab** – Donation towards ‘recumbent and upright stepper’
- **Physiotherapy** – Treadmill

Expert advice

A doctor from Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust has been appointed to advise the NHS in England on end-of-life care.

Dr Bee Wee, who is based at Sir Michael Sobell House at the Churchill Hospital, is one of a number of practising doctors across England appointed by the NHS Commissioning Board to advise on distinct areas of patient care.

Medical Director Professor Sir Bruce Keogh announced the names of 21 National Clinical Directors (NCDs), including Dr Bee Wee, appointed to provide expert advice and research to the national medical directorate on conditions and services ranging from obesity and diabetes to emergency preparedness and critical care.

Their work will inform national policy and strategy for healthcare, providing in-depth information about care of the individual patient groups they cover.

Dr Bee Wee is Senior Lecturer in Palliative Medicine, Head of the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Palliative Care in Oxford, Associate Director of Clinical Studies and Fellow of Harris Manchester College. She is currently President of the Association for Palliative Medicine of Great Britain and Ireland but will demit office before she takes up her new role.
New suite for JR Radiology

The John Radcliffe Hospital has recently completed work on a new state-of-the-art Interventional Radiology Suite.

Using the latest digital imaging techniques, interventional radiology is able to treat more and more diseases and conditions in a much less invasive manner than open surgery, reducing the length of stays in hospital and the recovery periods for patients.

In addition to its benefits to patients, the new suite strengthens the John Radcliffe Hospital’s position as the hub hospital at the centre of the developing Thames Valley Vascular Network.

Dr Suzie Anthony, Clinical Director for Radiology and Imaging at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, said: “The additional Interventional Radiology Suite allows us to provide more patients from across Oxfordshire and the wider Thames Valley with minimally invasive major surgery. Patients will benefit from knowing they are coming to a centralised specialist unit, whilst remaining under the care of their local clinical teams. This will ensure the best possible outcomes for the patients.”

Pictured above is Consultant Interventional Radiologist Dr Raman Uberoi in the newly fitted suite on Level 1 at the JR.

Supporting people with cancer diagnosis

Building work started on Maggie’s Oxford in the grounds of the Churchill Hospital in March

The centre, which has been designed by Chris Wilkinson of Wilkinson Eyre Architects, will provide free practical, emotional and social support for anyone affected by cancer.

It will replace the existing Maggie’s Oxford temporary building which has provided an interim programme of support for the past eight years.

It is expected the new centre will be open in early 2013, to support the 5,000 people who receive a cancer diagnosis every year in the Thames Valley Cancer Network.

Laura Lee, Maggie’s Chief Executive, said: “It is always a momentous occasion when we are able to start work on a new centre. It is a credit to the support, hard work and determination of people in the area that we are breaking ground. We will soon be in a position to help more people who are living with cancer in Oxfordshire.

“We look forward to sharing the progress of the build with you and welcoming you into our new centre.”

Professor Edward Baker, Medical Director, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, said: “We welcome this exciting new development, which will further complement our services for patients with cancer at the Churchill Hospital.”

Rainer Buhler, General Manager of the Surgery and Oncology Division at the Trust, added: “This is something we have waited for for many years now, and the start of this building has been eagerly anticipated. Once the new building is open it will be ideally situated across from the entrance to the Oncology and Haematology Centre.”
News from Charitable Funds

Mothering Run Day

Despite near arctic conditions the Oxford Mail OX5RUN smashed all previous records this March, with over 1,100 people signing up for the event and 960 taking part this Mother’s Day.

Raymond Blanc was joined by Olympian Hannah England and the Trust’s own neurosurgeon Jay Jayamohan pictured above, to set the runners off on the five mile route through the grounds of Blenheim Palace.

Many of those running were hospital staff and the friends and family of young patients treated at the Children’s Hospital. Over 50 teams took part, including lots from the local business community. Last year’s run raised £60,000 to provide additional medical equipment and the best facilities for youngsters and their families, and it is hoped that this year’s event will match or even top this.

We would like to thank everyone who took part and helped the event to happen, in particular the Oxford Mail and Times and sponsors Allen Associates.

Heart consultant takes on 100 mile Thames trial

One marathon isn’t enough for consultant cardiologist Dr Tim Betts.

In 2010 he ran seven marathons in seven days across England from coast to coast, raising over £7,000 for the Oxford Heart Centre Campaign. This March Tim is running the Thames Path 100 – a non-stop one hundred mile race from Richmond in West London to Queen’s College Oxford. That’s almost four back-to-back marathons, running through the day and night, navigating the Thames Path as it meanders through the countryside.

He is raising money for the Oxford Heartfelt Appeal to deliver world class cardiac diagnosis and treatment facilities at the John Radcliffe Hospital’s Echocardiography Unit.

Will you support Tim in this incredible challenge?

25 people running 26 miles for hospital causes!

We are delighted that this April 25 hospital supporters will be taking part in the London Marathon. We held a little pre-marathon get together for some of them this March, where they shared training stories and picked up some tips from personal trainer Mark Johnson.

They are running for many different causes across our hospitals, including several of our cancer and children’s funds as well as the Eye Hospital.

Hugh Morris, Managing Director of England Cricket, is running his first ever marathon for the Head and Neck research fund Heads Up. He said: “It was lovely to have the opportunity to meet with some of the other runners and hear such a range of hospital funds that are being supported.

“I think everyone I met had a very powerful reason for taking on the challenge of the London Marathon and we are all united in a real desire to get round the course and raise as much as we can for the causes we care about.”

You can read more about our marathon runners on our website www.ouh.nhs.uk/charity and look out for the next OUH News to hear how they got on.

To sponsor Tim visit www.justgiving.com/hundred4heart or call the fundraising team on 01865 743444.
Country’s top nurses see how Trust is ‘Delivering Compassionate Excellence’

Two of the country’s most senior nurses visited the Trust in February, as part of a visit to see ‘How Oxford is Delivering Compassionate Excellence’.

Jane Cummings, who is NHS Commissioning Board Chief Nursing Officer, and Viv Bennett, Director of Nursing at the Department of Health, spent a morning visiting clinical areas at the John Radcliffe Hospital, before attending presentation on the subject of Dignity in Care.

The visit started with a joint informal discussion between OUH, Oxford Brookes University and Oxfordshire Health, followed by a walk-round, with the opportunity to talk to staff and patients on Adams Ward, the Day Hospital and the Post Acute Unit (PAU).

Elaine Strachan-Hall, Chief Nurse, introduced the Trust Vision and Values and spoke about where these align with the core values articulated in the national nursing strategy, the 6Cs.

The afternoon was spent visiting Oxford Brookes University and Boundary Brook House, where they had further opportunities to speak to students and staff.

OUH Quality Priorities

The highest priority for Oxford University Hospital’s NHS Trust is to continue to improve the quality of the services we provide for our patients.

Every year we focus on several priority areas for improving quality. These priorities are based on local feedback we receive from patients and local communities, our staff, our local Clinical Commissioning Group, our partner organisations and national guidance from the Care Quality Commission and the NHS Commissioning Board.

Our Quality Priorities are outlined under the three quality Domains of:

**Patient Safety**

**Patient Experience**

**Outcomes and Effectiveness**

Over the next couple of months local Quality Priorities for our staff in 2013/14 will be displayed publicly in your service areas. These have been developed by your divisional management teams in conjunction with clinicians and are specifically related to your patients’ needs.

Please make yourself familiar with what these priorities are and what they mean for you and your patients.

If you have any questions, please contact your Divisional Clinical Governance Risk Practitioner.
Discover the world-class research tackling conditions including stroke, dementia, diabetes and heart disease.

Teams from the Oxford Biomedical Research Centre will be demonstrating the latest technology set to improve healthcare, including the pioneering ‘electronic retina’ as featured on the BBC’s One Show, at its annual open day on **Wednesday May 15**.

Interactive exhibitions will give staff, patients and the public the chance to get hands-on with technology and techniques, tackle experiments and try their hand at surgery.

Leading researchers will be on hand throughout the day to answer questions on everything, from how genetic sequencing is opening doors to new treatments to how we are using mobile phones and iPads to revolutionise the hospital ward.

Oxford Biomedical Research Centre is a collaboration between Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust and Oxford University to support patient-centred research and accelerate innovation in healthcare.

Research facilities are also set to open their doors for exclusive walking tours including the new £13m Acute Vascular Imaging Centre (AVIC), a unique facility that is supporting world class research into stroke and heart disease, and the Centre for Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Brain.

For more information on the tours and to book a place visit oxfordbrc.nirh.ac.uk.

Oxford Biomedical Research Centre director Professor Keith Channon (pictured above) said: “Research plays a vital role in improving healthcare, and our teams are at the forefront of research both nationally and internationally.

“Our centre combines the expertise of the NHS Trust and Oxford University to pioneer new treatments and technologies that are saving lives, both here and across the NHS.

He added: “Patients and the public are at the heart of what we do. They help shape our research and they participate in trials and studies. Our annual open day is a way of sharing our work in a fun and interactive way and saying thank you for the public support we get.”

The Oxford Biomedical Research Centre annual open day is on **Wednesday May 15**, midday to 4.30pm, West Wing Atrium, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

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### Measuring patient benefit in the NHS

Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) are questionnaires that are fast becoming the most widely accepted way of quantifying patient benefit. PROMs are now of increasing importance as indicators of department performance.

All members of the NHS can now have free access to validated PROMs available from Isis Outcomes. Isis Outcomes is part of Isis Innovation Limited, the Technology Transfer Company for the University of Oxford. Explaining the importance of PROMs, Dr David Churchman, Head of Isis Outcomes, said: “Accurately measuring patient related outcomes is a complex process that involves using questionnaires that have gone through a proper validation process that is recognised by the likes of the FDA. To effectively measure health outcomes requires the use of correctly validated PROMs and their careful application.”

“Oxford has the benefit of combining PROMs development specialists, working with world-class clinical experts, to create PROMs that are readily adopted by healthcare providers and medical product manufacturers. For example, the Oxford Hip and Knee Scores were the result of collaboration between PROMs experts at the Health Services Research Unit at Oxford working with surgeons at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre.”

Isis Outcomes has a portfolio of condition-specific PROMs available for the assessment of outcomes in orthopaedics, diabetes, rheumatology, CNS, cardiology, endometriosis and psychiatry.

For information contact Gayatri Sharma, Patient Benefit and Intellectual Property Manager, gayatri.sharma@ouh.nhs.uk, 01865 280959.
Developing new therapies for Parkinson’s disease

A new brain stimulation therapy could help suppress tremors in people with Parkinson’s disease, according to new research.

The non-invasive technique has been pioneered by researchers supported by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Oxford Biomedical Research Centre, a collaboration between Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust and Oxford University to accelerate healthcare innovation.

The research shows that transcranial alternating current stimulation (TACS) is effective in tremor suppression. TACS works by using an electrical current to cancel out the brain signal causing the tremor.

Physical tremors are a debilitating symptom of Parkinson’s disease, but do not respond well to existing drug treatments. Tremors can be successfully treated with deep brain stimulation, a technique that involves inserting electrodes into the brain itself. But this invasive therapy is expensive and carries some health risks which means it is not suitable for all patients.

TACS does not carry the risks associated with deep brain stimulation as the electrode pads are placed on the surface of the patient’s head.

This preliminary study was conducted with 15 patients at Oxford’s John Radcliffe Hospital. Professor Peter Brown, who led the study, said: “We are very hopeful this research may, in time, lead to a therapy that is both successful and carries reduced medical risks. We have proved the principle, now we have to optimise it and adapt it so it is able to be used in patients.

‘Phantom pain’ linked to retained picture of missing limb

Changes in the brain following amputation have been linked to ‘phantom pain’ arising from the missing limb, in a study supported by the NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre.

The team used MRI to study how the phantom limb pain felt by people who have had an arm amputated is related to changes in the brain.

It is hoped the work will aid treatment approaches.

The Oxford University researchers, along with Dr David Henderson-Slater of the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, report their findings in the journal Nature Communications.

Public talk

New approaches to heart disease –
Dr Rajesh Kharbanda,
Wednesday April 17,
6.30pm to 7.30pm,
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre.

In Oxford, we have developed studies that use state of the art techniques to assess heart patients, and using this information we aim to identify new approaches to treating heart disease. In this talk, Consultant Cardiologist Dr Rajesh Kharbanda describes the areas of study that are currently being undertaken in Oxford, and how these might influence future care.

Talks are free and open to all.

The NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre is a partnership between Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust and the University of Oxford. It is improving healthcare through research and innovation. It is funded by the National Institute for Health Research.

Do you have a great idea to support patient care?

We want to help staff at OUH turn innovative ideas into practical benefits for patients. If you have an idea for an innovation, whether it’s a new medical device, diagnostic tool, equipment, software, mobile phone app, publication, training package or even a questionnaire quantifying outcomes, we can help you make this become a reality.

Staff from the Trust’s research team will be holding drop-in sessions, so please come and talk to us about your idea.

- ‘onthree’ restaurant, Level 3, John Radcliffe: Mon 15th April from 9-5pm
- West Wing Atrium, Level 3, John Radcliffe: Tue 16th April from 9-5pm
- Retreat restaurant, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre: Weds 17th & Thurs 18th April from 9-5pm
- Opposite League of Friends Café, Churchill Hospital: Fri 19th & Mon 22nd April from 9-5pm

If you cannot make these days please feel free to contact:
Gayatri Sharma, Patient Benefit and Intellectual Property Manager, gayatri.sharma@ouh.nhs.uk, 01865 280959

Visit oxfordbrc.nihr.ac.uk or follow @oxfordbrc on Twitter for the latest research news and events.

@ Oxford
NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre
**Are you a carer?**

Carers are people looking after a person who is dependent on them; care is given in an unpaid capacity. Carers have rights and the Trust needs to make sure the needs of carers are met and reasonable adjustments made. One in eight adults in the UK are carers.

All carers who are employees of the Trust should be supported and assisted to maintain a balance between paid work and caring responsibilities to promote their health and well-being. This will include access to flexible working in line with the Flexible Working Policy.

Often, carers see themselves as someone who’s simply looking after a loved one or friend. But if the person you care for couldn’t cope without you and you don’t get paid, then you are a ‘carer’ and you are eligible for support.

Carers Oxfordshire is a free service for adult carers caring for adults. Carers Oxfordshire provides free quarterly newsletters, an emergency careers support service, information and advice, support groups and training opportunities.

If you would like to register with Carers Oxfordshire and have access to this information, advice and support service, please call 0845 050 7666, email carersoxfordshire@oxfordshire.gov.uk or visit www.carersoxfordshire.org.uk

For more information about anything mentioned in this article, or to find out about the different types of support available, please contact Jan Cottle on 01865 222106.

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**Don’t miss out on bowel cancer screening**

**Free test is done at home**

Don’t pass up the invitation to be screened for bowel cancer – that’s the message going out to people aged over 60 in Oxfordshire.

The NHS in Oxfordshire is working together to encourage people to take up the offer of bowel cancer screening, which is run by the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

People in the target age group are urged not to miss out on the opportunity to be tested when they receive their home testing kit. David Munday, the Trust’s Lead Nurse for Bowel Cancer Screening, said that many people in the 60-75 age group, who are now offered routine screening every two years as part of a national scheme, are ignoring their invitation to complete a home testing kit.

Around one in 20 people in the UK will develop bowel cancer – men and women of all ages, cultures and backgrounds. It is the third most common cancer and the second biggest cause of cancer deaths. However, bowel screening can detect bowel cancer in people who have no symptoms, and when diagnosis is made at this early stage, before it has had a chance to spread, bowel cancer can be cured in over 90% of cases. The later a diagnosis is made, the more difficult bowel cancer is to treat.

A Faecal Occult Blood (FOB) test does not diagnose bowel cancer but will identify any possible blood in the faeces (poo). A positive test will trigger an invitation to see the screening nurses and have an investigation to find out what is causing the bleeding.

David Munday said: “Our concern at the moment is that only half of the people we invite to do the test at home actually complete and return it. We know that completing this free and simple test at home reduces the chances of dying from the disease and in many cases (by identifying pre-cancerous polyps) can prevent the disease from developing in the first place.”

The advice not to ignore the test was echoed by recovering bowel cancer patient Adrian Hampshire, from Oxfordshire. Adrian received the kit in the post, ignored it at first, but acted when he was sent a reminder. His test proved positive, and he was quickly and successfully treated in hospital.

He said: “I am very grateful for the fact that the screening process found the problem early and treated it quickly. My strong advice, that I’ve given to all of my friends, is don’t ignore the sample kit when it arrives in the post. Act early and the impact on you may be much less severe than if you leave it later.”

David Munday
This year marks the tenth anniversary of non-medical prescribing (NMP) nationally and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust was at the forefront when Respiratory Nurses, Jo Riley and Lisa Priestly, qualified in 2003.

Non-medical prescribing enables specially trained nurses, optometrists, pharmacists, physiotherapists, podiatrists and radiographers, working within their clinical competence, to prescribe medications to patients.

Consultant Nurse Jan Keenan and Pharmacy Clinical Services Manager Jane Hough are the joint leads for non-medical prescribing at the Trust. They are responsible for ensuring that professional body guidelines for both training of staff wishing to become non-medical prescribers and on going practice as an NMP are adhered to, for example, ensuring staff are registered with the Trust as non-medical prescribers and only prescribe within their clinical competence.

Non-medical prescribing can have a real benefit for patients by ensuring they receive quicker access to required medicines through the initiation of treatment as soon as possible. It also saves both time and money, by allowing non-medical prescribers to alter/stop prescription medications according to the patient’s needs or responses to a specific course of treatment without having to refer the patient to a doctor.

Non-medical prescribing allows staff to prescribe within their clinical area of expertise and has the added benefit of enabling them to complete the patient’s treatment pathway from start to finish, improving overall patient experience.

Oxford University Hospitals currently has around 130 members of staff who are registered as non-medical prescribers, along with approximately 100 nurses and a further 30 staff, made up mainly of pharmacists but also a couple of physiotherapists, and optometrists and a podiatrist.

A recent conference for NMPs across Oxfordshire attracted 120 delegates, with speakers giving presentations and running table-talk sessions with both a national and local perspective.
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust

TAVI procedure reaches 100-operations milestone

Dr Bernard Prendergast, Consultant Cardiologist and Cardiology Clinical Director, and the cardiology team at the John Radcliffe Hospital recently performed their 100th transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI).

Dr Prendergast said, “TAVI is the most significant development in interventional cardiology in the past decade, and has the ability to transform the lives of patients with severe aortic valve disease who are too frail or ill to undergo open heart surgery. In time, it may even replace conventional valve replacement. The success of the Oxford programme depends strongly on the excellence of the whole team and we are very proud to reach this milestone.”

TAVI – a minimally invasive surgical and potentially life-saving procedure – is offered to patients who have been diagnosed with a condition called aortic stenosis – narrowing of the aortic valve which reduces the heart’s output causing symptoms of chest pain, breathlessness, dizziness or blackout. Patients are normally offered TAVI after being identified by both a cardiologist and cardiothoracic surgeon as being at excessive risk for open heart surgery.

The hospital is just one of 25 accredited centres with highly trained, specialist multi disciplinary heart teams, which perform this technique in the United Kingdom. Further information is available from the TAVI team on www.ouh.nhs.uk/services/referrals/cardiothoracic/tavi.aspx.

Security awareness – bike crime

The safety and security of our patients, staff and visitors is very important and we urge people to be security aware.

Bike theft is a high area of crime, particularly in Oxford, and we have come up with a few simple precautions you can take to make your bike less of a target.

Make sure your bike is secured to an immovable object, such as a bike rack, using a combination of good quality locks such as a D-lock. Secure as much of the bike with the locks as you can including the frame and both wheels. Remove any quick release parts and take them with you.

Get your bike security marked either when you buy it, by the local police, or when events are run on site. Also record any frame numbers, and ideally take a photograph of it to be able to identify it if it is stolen.

You can also record all the details of the bike, and any other valuables you have for free on www.immobilise.com. Immobilise helps the police identify the owner of lost and stolen property.

Further security advice can be found on the Security intranet site, via the Estates and Facilities pages, or from Rachel Collins, the Trust Security Manager/Local Security Management Specialist via OUH email or call her on extension 21503.

OUH in national ITV campaign

In February this year, staff and patients from the Oxford Transplant Centre at the Churchill Hospital were filmed as part of a special week of TV and online activity for a national ITV campaign called ‘From the Heart’.

The campaign highlighted the shortage of donated organs in the UK, with the aim of encouraging viewers to volunteer to join the organ donor register, and to talk to their loved ones about their wishes.

Two separate features were filmed at the Churchill Hospital and focused on the advances in technology surrounding organ donation and transplantation, explored new techniques and featured interviews with transplant patients and staff.

The Oxford Transplant Centre is one of 30 units in the UK performing transplant surgery. The centre performs around 100 kidney transplants each year as well as specialising in pancreas and pancreatic islet transplantation.

There are currently around 10,000 people in the UK who need a transplant, and a thousand of them die waiting every year. However, only 31 percent of people have registered as donors – a much lower proportion than some other countries around the world.

To join the organ donor register or for more information about the campaign, please visit: www.itv.com/fromtheheart
A nurse and her team from the Churchill Hospital have developed an award-winning mobile phone application which could help prevent potentially fatal venous thromboembolisms (VTE), more commonly known as blood clots.

The application won first prize for the ‘Best VTE Patient Information Structure’ in the charity Lifebloods’ national VTE awards 2012 for developing the best VTE patient information in content, presentation and delivery.

Penney Clarke is a senior thromboprophylaxis nurse at Oxford University Hospitals and, working with haematology consultant Dr David Keeling and anticoagulant pharmacist Scott Harrison, they received an education grant to develop the app which patients can download onto mobile devices such as smartphones, tablets and android devices.

“This is just one tool to encourage people to think about how to prevent VTE and raise awareness. It is also a helpful visual aid for nurses and healthcare professionals when teaching or demonstrating to others,” said Penney.

The app provides information for patients’ friends and families. It provides simple visual moving images that demonstrate particular exercises that can be carried out while immobile in a hospital bed or at home.

Delivering a cohesive, eye-catching and thought-provoking campaign is essential to the success of the VTE programme. With this in mind, the campaign developers commissioned the Trust’s in-house design team, Oxford Medical Illustration, to design and develop the overall visual identity.

According to statistics, 25,000 people would die each year from blood clots if preventative measures weren’t used.
Counter Fraud:
30 second survey

Please take a few moments to complete a short online survey about Fraud Awareness at the Trust. This will help our Counter Fraud team to work as effectively as they can to prevent and deter fraud. Search for ‘counter fraud’ on the Trust’s intranet and via the Now@OUH section on the home page for a link to the survey.

Fraud Awareness Week 2013 a success

The Trust’s Counter Fraud Specialist, Mish Chauhan, visited wards and departments across the Trust’s four hospital sites in January to talk to staff about fraud risks in their areas and offer advice on how staff can help prevent fraud and bribery in the workplace.

For any advice or to report any fraud related concerns, contact, Mish at mish.chauhan@kpmg.co.uk or call him on 0121 6095893. Alternatively you can report your concerns anonymously to the NHS Fraud and Corruption reporting line on 0800 028 4060.

‘Complete the online survey to prevent fraud’

Former patient celebrates 15 years of supporting Trauma Unit

There were celebrations in the Trauma Unit at the John Radcliffe, after former patient Peter Austin, from Northampton, clocked up 15 years of fundraising for the facility.

During that time, Peter has raised nearly £15,000 through regular quiz nights and other activities. His latest donation, which he brought into the hospital in February, was for £1,100.

Peter’s fundraising started after he spent three months in the Unit, having suffered horrific injuries when he was crushed by a forklift truck at work. As a thank-you he organised a one-off quiz night, which soon became a regular fixture, and they now take place every two months.

The cash has been used for a variety of projects, including equipment designed to reduce the risk of patients suffering injuries as a result of falls, portable SATS monitors, and training for a member of staff to be trained to Gold Standard level in casting and splinting, a requirement for the department’s Major Trauma Unit status.

Peter was also involved in equipping the Unit’s Relatives Room.

Major Trauma Network Nurse Consultant Julie Wright said that Peter’s financial support, and feedback on the patient experience, had proved invaluable to the development of services in the Unit. “For us, it’s not an experience that we have very often – to be able to continue the relationship in a very different way,” she said.

Peter has now produced a volume of poetry, which is available to buy with all proceeds going to the Trauma Unit. The cost is £3 plus £1P+P. For more information email pasacaja@ntlworld.com

HIV Awareness Study Day

In February, the staff from the John Warin Ward at the Churchill hosted a HIV Awareness Study Day attended by staff from a variety of areas across the Trust.

The day began with a welcome from organisers, staff nurses Charlie Wells and Annah Lekau. Then followed sessions from Dr Brian Angus (ID consultant), and Dr Chris Conlon (ID consultant) who covered topics such as immunology and disease progression.

Specialist pharmacists Judith Bailey and Mel Snelling then continued the session by talking about pharmacology and post exposure prophylaxis. In the afternoon the group was joined by a HIV-positive patient, who kindly agreed to answer all questions put to him from the attendees, and was rounded off by a talk from The Terence Higgins Trust. The Terence Higgins Trust is the UK’s leading HIV and sexual health charity which campaigns for greater political and public understanding of the personal, social and medical impact of HIV and sexual ill health.

Anyone interested in attending future sessions should contact Charlie Wells or Annah Lekau via the John Warin Ward on ext: 25214.
The Trust’s Positive Patient Identification (PPID) technology has won a third award.

The EPR-based system, which enables clinicians to identify patients at the bedside by barcode scanning of their wristbands, was ‘Highly Commended’ in the Improved Diagnostic Investigation category of the NHS Innovation Challenge Prizes.

The system has already picked up prizes in the HSJ Awards, and the National Patient Safety Awards.

This award-winning system means that clinicians simply scan the patient’s wristband barcode, with a small hand-held device, which then generates an instant test request label at the bedside.

The overall winner in the category was King’s College Hospital, with a home-video telemetry service which employs a mobile data recording unit to undertake video-EEG telemetry in the patient’s home rather than in hospital.

Volunteers update

A group of dedicated volunteers run a weekly book stall at the John Radcliffe Hospital to raise money for the OUH Volunteers Charitable Fund. In 2012 the volunteers raised a fantastic amount of £9413.76 which went towards a variety of equipment across the hospital including five rota stands that are used to assist patients from their beds into a chair.

You will normally see the group of volunteers every Thursday on Level 2 of the main building from 7.30am - 1.30pm. Please continue to support the book stall by donating your unwanted books and come along to buy some too.

Cath Kramer, Occupational Therapist, who delivered the stands to the medical wards 5A, 7A, 7C, 7D and the Post Acute Unit said: “Everyone was delighted to be in receipt of this new piece of equipment which will be greatly used across all of the medical wards.

Monies from the Volunteers Charitable Fund are also used to purchase the beautiful flower arrangements supplied by Fabulous Flowers each week, that are displayed in the main reception area at the John Radcliffe Hospital on Level 2 and on the reception at the Churchill Hospital as well as the flowers provided every year for the Remembrance Service. Additional arrangements in the West Wing are kindly donated by the League of Friends volunteers.

Successful upgrade in Maternity

In March, a major update for Cerner Millennium was completed in Maternity. As well as the system going live in Maternity, a number of other enhancements were built into the system, so that functions such as blood ordering are now much easier. Enhancements were also made to endorsing results. Downtime was kept to a minimum over a weekend.

Nurses in medical wards are now recording in EPR patient admissions, discharges and transfers in real time.

Audits carried out recently are showing accurate bed boards. As this is additional work that nurses have taken on, and the winter months have been particularly busy, the nurses are to be congratulated for achieving this.

A lot has been built into the clinical functionality of EPR, but currently only a small part of this is being rolled out. The aim is to give clinical staff an introduction to the system, which can be built on in future phases.

Currently, as well as being able to complete admissions, transfers and discharges, ward staff are able to complete forms to record key patient information, and view results and AHP (Allied Health Professionals) documentation.

EPR now allows doctors to order laboratory and radiology investigations, complete VTE assessments, view and endorse results, and view AHP documentation.
Staff recognition at OUH

Staff Recognition Awards 2012

Last year the 2012 Staff Recognition Awards took place where Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust recognised the contribution our staff make to the success of our organisation through Delivering Compassionate Excellence.

In the last issue of OUH News we ran a full list of winners and unfortunately did not include the picture from the event of Phil Street who picked up the gold award along with his colleague, Keith Hicks, for the ‘Team Award’.

We apologise for this and Phil is pictured with Director of Workforce, Sue Donaldson, receiving his certificate. Well done to Phil and Keith.

Over 240 nominations were received from staff for these awards and over the last few months individual Divisions across the Trust have been commending those that were nominated.

Neurosciences Trauma and Specialist Surgery

In February the Division for Neurosciences Trauma and Specialist Surgery held a buffet lunch and awards ceremony for those staff nominated, which was hosted by Divisional Director, Chris Kennard, and General Manager, Neil Cowan.

Those picking up awards for this Division were:

- **Excellence** – Louise Garrett
- **Compassion** – Kat Cane, Hannah Ramsdale nee Parkes, Rebecca Lambert, Sue Fletcher
- **Good Thinking** – Chris Abarno
- **Leader** – Hilary Brown, Neil Cowan, Bernadette Mitchell and David Coleman

Children’s and Women’s Division

Additionally the Children’s and Women’s Division held a similar ceremony for its nominated staff. Pictures from this event are featured below.

- **Excellence** – Dr Janet Craze
- **Compassion** – Bernie Powell
- **Good Thinking** – Erica Watson, Michelle Crawford
- **Leader** – Becky Sadler, Dr Mark Anthony
- **Team** – Newborn Hearing Screening Team

NHS Heroes 2013 – send in your nominations now for your unsung hero!

NHS Heroes is a recognition scheme designed to celebrate the unsung heroes in the NHS family. Anyone can nominate for their NHS Heroes – friends, family, work colleagues – by submitting an online nomination.

If you know someone who goes the extra mile or gives that little bit extra, show them how much you care by nominating them as your NHS Hero today.

Nominate your NHS Hero at [www.nhsheroes.com](http://www.nhsheroes.com) closing date for entries is 19 June 2013.
Staff Survey 2012

Thank you for responding to the 2012 Staff Survey. Around 3,800 members of staff shared their views about working for the Trust. The results have now been published and the Trust has seen improvements in many areas including overall staff engagement.

For full details visit the HR section of the intranet where there are links to the results – http://ouh.oxnet.nhs.uk/HumanResources/Pages/StaffSurvey2012.aspx

Our results at a glance

Have we improved since the 2011 survey?

A total of 79 questions were used in both the 2011 and 2012 surveys.

Compared to the 2011 survey, you have told us our Trust is

- BETTER on 40 questions
- WORSE on 10 questions
- There is no significant difference on 29 questions

Key areas where feedback is more positive than 2011 are:-

- The percentage of staff receiving Statutory and Mandatory training – especially Health and Safety and Equality and Diversity.
- The percentage of staff undertaking appraisals.
- Staff perception about the clarity of their objectives and ability to perform their roles.
- Confidence that the Trust will address concerns raised by staff.
- Managers actively involving staff in team work and decision making.
- Overall staff satisfaction.

Some of the areas where the feedback is less positive than 2011:-

- Health and Wellbeing – staff experiencing work related stress.
- Managers acting on staff feedback.
- Concerns about how staff are dealt with if they report incidents.

Some of the areas where feedback is more positive but you would like us to do even better:-

- The quality of appraisal discussions.
- More patient/service user experience training.
- More recognition for staff contributions.
- Improved communications.

We are currently considering, at a Trust-wide and Directorate level, how best to respond to your feedback. Do take the opportunity to share your views with your line manager. We will share some of these plans in the next edition.
OUH News – your bi-monthly newsletter with news from around the John Radcliffe Hospital,
Horton General Hospital, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and Churchill Hospital.

Look out for the next edition of OUH News which will be out in June 2013. If you have news from your team or department that you would like to be featured please contact Kelly Dodgson in the Media and Communications Unit on 01865 231471 or email kelly.dodgson@ouh.nhs.uk Deadline for copy is end of April 2013.

Cycle to Work initiative at OUH
18 March - 18 April 2013

Cycle to Work is a Government initiative to encourage more people to ‘cycle to work’. Cycling is a low impact activity which improves physical health and emotional and psychological wellbeing. It is free of CO₂ emissions and avoids traffic jams.

This scheme allows employees to purchase cycles and safety accessories for the purposes of cycling to work up to the value of £1,000. The money is paid back over the course of one year via salary sacrifice; for example, if a £600 value is selected, the Trust will deduct £50 per month for 12 months. Deductions are made from the employee salary before calculating tax and National Insurance, creating savings. At the end of the scheme, the Trust will gift the bike to the employee, who will pay a small amount of tax over the course of the following year for this benefit in kind.

The Trust Cycle to Work scheme will be active for one month from Monday 18 March. Please visit www.cycle2work.info to register and include the Trust code: OUHT2013.

For further information, please go to the Trust intranet staff room ‘Cycle @ OUH’ pages.

Trust to run condom distribution service for Oxfordshire

A NEW service aimed at reducing teenage pregnancies and improving young people’s sexual health in the county is to be launched by Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

The Trust has been appointed by Oxfordshire County Council to provide a condom distribution service. There are currently two services in operation and the Trust plans to bring them together into one, improved service. It is aimed at young people who may not otherwise have access to mainstream health services to make healthy choices, by providing sexual health advice and information, and free condoms.

The service will be run by the Oxfordshire Chlamydia Screening Project (OCSP), which is based within GUM (Genito Urinary Medicine) at the Churchill Hospital. OCSP hopes that combining the condom distribution and chlamydia screening services will prove mutually beneficial and contribute to both the teenage pregnancy and chlamydia prevalence strategies county-wide.

Nicotine Replacement Therapy

From January 2013 to the end of March 2013, a new prescribing project to help patients who smoke gain access to Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) took place on certain wards across the Trust.

This project is aimed to increase the prescribing of NRT by allowing all doctors to prescribe NRT without the need for the patient to have been assessed by the Stop Smoking Advisor first. This supports the Smoke Free site policy and supports the patients to achieve successful ‘stop smoking’.

The aims was to ensure that smokers who are admitted to the Trust, and who require NRT, receive their medication promptly. This would then help them to manage without a cigarette while in hospital and ultimately help the Trust to maintain a smoke free site.

If you would like further details about the project please contact Fiona Singleton, Oxford Smoking Advice Service on 0845 408 0300.