



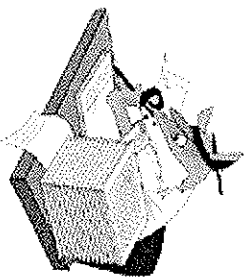
**Central Sterilising Club**  
**The Original Decontamination Forum**

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**Newsletter**  
**December 2008**

**From the Editor**

Greetings for the season (in case you have not noticed the decorations and sales signs that seem to have been up since the end of the summer). With this newsletter you should have also received a CD-ROM with the



presentations from Autumn Study Day that focussed on water quality and its impact on 3rd September 2008 returning to last year's venue the Botanical Gardens, Birmingham. Our thanks to the speaker's for their presentations and allowing us to reproduce them for CSC members. Water quality continues to be a major topic and is a particular emphasis in both the new HTMs as well as new international guidance's. A summary of the study day is provided in the newsletter.

Also in this edition there is an update on the annual meeting to be held for the first time outside of the UK, news from the archives of the CSC and a brief article on the Healthcare Commission audits on instrument decontamination practices in hospitals.

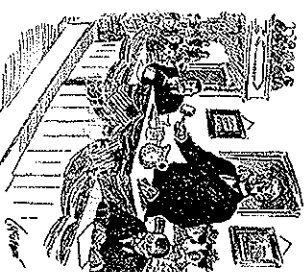
May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Holiday season and the best in the New Year.

*Gerald McDonnell, Editor*



**From the Chair**

Plans for the Dublin Conference are progressing well. You will see some minor changes to the programme that the Committee feels will make your attendance more effective. There will be no Monday afternoon visit as the Conference programme will now start at Monday lunchtime. To your advantage, you will not have to put up with a quiz by yours truly as this year the quiz will have a Dublin flavour with past Editor Dr. Fred Falkner as quizmaster. I am looking forward to testing the Guinness and I hope to see you all in Dublin.



As a final note, our congratulations to Dr Geoffrey RIDGWAY (CSC Chair 2002-2005) on receiving his OBE for his services to microbiology (2009 New Years Honours List).

*Peter Hooper, Chairman*

**The CSC Committee**

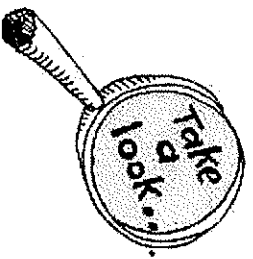
The committee for 2008-2009 are:

Peter Hooper (chair)	Jimmy Walker
Christine Morrow (secretary)	Rosemary Gallagher
Christina Bradley (treasurer)	Robert Kingston
Gerald McDonnell (editor, webmaster)	Gillian Ellis-Pow
Robert Spencer	James Reid
Wayne Spencer	Sheila Nixon

Need more information? Visit the web site at [www.csc.org.uk](http://www.csc.org.uk) or email the editor at [gerry\\_mcdonnell@steris.com](mailto:gerry_mcdonnell@steris.com)

## **Healthcare Commission Audit Findings on Instrument Decontamination Practices**

The Healthcare Commission (HCC) has recently issued a summary of its findings following visits to 51 Trusts in England. Their role is to promote improvements in healthcare and public health in England and Wales, and performance in England is assessed and publicly reported. A process to assess compliance with the *Code of Practice for Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections* has been in place since 2006, however this has been strengthened this year (2008/9) with every acute NHS Trust receiving an unannounced visit to ensure the requirements of the Code are upheld. The Code consists of 11 duties and one, Duty 4, includes responsibilities for ensuring that 'there are effective arrangements for ensuring that appropriate decontamination of instruments and other equipment'.



All of the 51 Trusts to date have been inspected against this sub-duty, which is not confined to decontamination of surgical instruments, and therefore allows the HCC to inspect any procedures relating to decontamination including those for patient equipment/medical devices, endoscopes or dental instruments. This broad requirement means that healthcare organisations need to review their management of all levels of decontamination for low, medium and high risk equipment to ensure they are compliant with national and local policies/guidance. Increasingly the focus is moving away from surgical instruments to low risk reusable patient equipment used and predominantly decontaminated at ward level and with it, the challenges of product design, storage and compliance with cleaning regimes are becoming emerging.

Results from the inspections to date showed breaches to the Code in 11 Trusts, with 3 of the 11 considered major breaches

resulting in improvement notices being issued by the HCC. Whilst breaches indicate non-compliance with the standards required, they do not necessarily imply a serious or immediate risk to patient safety. Major breaches however are considered to put patients at risk and have serious implications for Trusts in terms of public confidence and overall compliance with other quality standards. It is interesting to note that of the 3 duties inspected, duty 4 had the highest number of major breaches. Major breach issues identified included separation of clean and dirty items, poor traceability of equipment, training and poor risk assessment associated with decontamination. For other breaches, the use of dirty equipment (e.g. commodes), lack of effective processes or strategies to manage decontamination were considered sufficient to warrant non-compliance with the requirements of the sub-duty.

The summary of findings to date represent a snapshot in terms of inspections to determine compliance, and highlight the challenges posed by organisations and the increased level of scrutiny in order to assure patients that risks associated with decontamination of equipment are managed.

*Rose Gallagher*

Nurse Advisor Infection Prevention and Control  
Royal College of Nursing

## **CSC Small Research Grants**

The committee would like to highlight to the members that the CSC are accepting applications to support small research grants by SSD staff, microbiologists and Infection Control Nurses as well as others with an interest in decontamination. Call for grants and application forms are available on the web site ([www.csc.org.uk](http://www.csc.org.uk) and click on 'What's Happening?') and we encourage all applications.

## An Update on the 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting

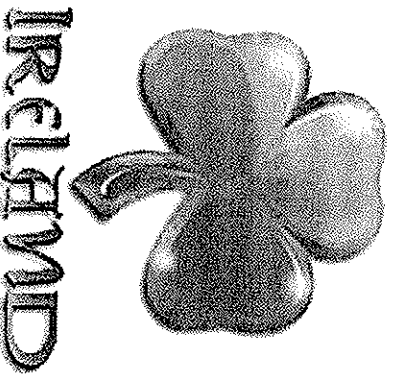
The CSC has decided to leave the shores of Great Britain and venture to more cultured parts for the 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting in Malahide, Dublin, Ireland. Malahide is just north of Dublin, close to the International airport and on a direct train route into the centre of Dublin on the DART train system.

Direct flights to Dublin are available from most UK airports and at reasonable rates. The venue has already been booked and is a beautiful location. The meeting will be 27-29 April, 2009. On the agenda we have:

- Discussions on endoscopy and centralization
- Workshops on endoscopy decontamination facilities and detergents
- The Scottish and Irish approach to decontamination and audits
- The challenges in dentistry

Remember that we will also have our AGM and we welcome all members to attend. This years AGM will be followed by a reception in honour of Mike Emmerson

We hope to see you in Ireland in 2009.



## Study day, 2008

This year's study day was held in Birmingham's Botanical Gardens in September. The day was very well attended (almost 100 delegates) and the venue was up to its usual standard. The subject of the day was "Decontamination and water quality".

After an introduction by the Chairman the meeting was opened with a presentation by Clive Thompson, Chief Scientist at Alcontrol Laboratories. Clive has a long career in the water industry and presented a fine basis for the particular quality issues in decontamination. Pete Hooper then reminded the audience of the development of the current requirements for water and steam quality making reference to current HTMs in the process. Peter Phillips, Director of SMTL, then presented the Welsh approach to these requirements and informed the audience of their interpretation of the necessity for parameter control and their suggestions for acceptability. This presentation created much discussion.

The afternoon session began with a presentation by ELGA Process Water on the current requirements and the abilities of the industry to meet them. The User's point of view was ably presented by Gwen Walker from Poole with particular emphasis on the implications for the decontamination of flexible endoscopes. The day was brought to a close with an SSD Manger's perspective from John Harrison, SSD Manager at North Hampshire Hospital. John took the opportunity to remind the meeting of his 50 year's experience in the field and included some unrecognisable photographs from his Army days.

As the day drew to a close it was clear that the presentations had generated lively discussion and delegates were obviously using the input as a means to better understand the issue of water quality from the point of view of regulators, industry, science testers and users. Clearly the multi-disciplinary remit of the Club was being maintained amidst the exotic blooms of Central Birmingham.

## News from the archives

I am trawling my way through the Club archives as we speak: an interesting and informative process. Unfortunately we do not possess a programme for the very first Conference held in Portsmouth but you may find the content of the second meeting held in December 1960 at Downing College Cambridge and Addenbrooke's Hospital. The meeting was attended by 72 delegates including the following prominent members: Drs Fallon, Bowie, Darmady, Yellowlees, Stark-Murray, Kelsey and Gillespie.

A major part of Day 1 was taken up in an inspection of the then new CSSD at Addenbrooke's. A late-afternoon lecture had the intriguing title of "Methods of cleaning" and there was an evening general discussion with a panel. The programme includes a handwritten note here indicating there was also a "Smith & Nephew film". The morning of the second day included demonstrations in the Hospitals wards regarding distribution. Dr Gillespie presented a paper on the "Steam disinfection of blankets: a CSSD problem?" If only we could tune the clock back! The programme was completed by syndicate discussion where delegates were split into three groups. The final agenda item was the Club dinner in the Hall of Downing College. All lectures were in the lecture hall above the bar! Anyone wishing to stay out after 10pm needed to inform the Head Porter! Plus a change, plus le meme chose.

*Peter Hooper, Chairman*



## Upcoming meetings in 2009

- CSC Annual Scientific Conference 2009.** Malahide, Dublin, Republic of Ireland. 27-29 April 2009.
- Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) Annual Scientific Meeting 2009. San Diego, CA. March 19-22, 2009
- International Association of Healthcare Central Service Material Management (IAHCSSMM) 2009 Annual Meeting. 3-6 May, 2009. Orlando, Florida.
- APIC Pre Conference Workshop Session. Disinfection, Sterilization and Antisepsis. Fort Lauderdale, Florida. June 6, 2009.
- APIC Annual Conference. Fort Lauderdale, Florida. June 7-11, 2009.
- Annual Infection Prevention Society (IPS) Conference 2009. Harrogate, England. 21-23rd 2009 September, 2009.
- Association for Perioperative Practice (AIPP) 45th Annual Congress & Exhibition, 2009. Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate, England. 12-15 October 2009.
- WFHSS - World Forum for Hospital Sterile Supply and GORNA - Greek Operating Room Nurses Association. Annual WFHSS and GORNA Conference 2009. 7-10 October, 2009. Creta & Terra Maris Conference Center, Crete, Greece.
- 10th Annual congress of the International Federation of Infection Control, 2009. 8-11 October, 2009 Vilnius, Lithuania.



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