
Central sterilising club

Newsletter
January 2003

The Chairman's Report

First and foremost – best wishes for a peaceful, prosperous and clean 2003!

There are a number of ongoing projects involving decontamination to which the Club is responding.

- The NHS Estates Technical Reference Team is preparing an outline specification for Decontamination Services, and an accompanying step change document of recommendations for local change to improve decontamination practices. Both documents are at an advanced stage.
- The British Dental Association document on Infection Control in Dentistry, colloquially known as “A12”, is due for release imminently. Unlike previous editions, this one will be issued jointly by the BDA and D of H, and go to all registered dentists and interested parties. My understanding is that the document should also become available on the Internet.
- I was asked by NHS Estates to act as one of a Panel to find a prize winner for the Best Innovation in Decontamination Award. The winner was the Blackburn NHS Trust SSD, with a novel tracking system for loan equipment.
- The Sterile Services Business Group are conducting a survey of additives to equipment prior to autoclaving. The Club has expressed support for this survey, and will be interested in the results.

I look forward to meeting all Club members at the annual meeting, which as you will see below has something for all within our field. No doubt the social side will be as fluid as ever!

Please consider offering yourself for election to Council. The Club, which is one of the oldest established “Infection Clubs”, prides itself on the cosmopolitan mix of its members. It is important that this is reflected in our leadership.

Changes to the Club Constitution

The Committee has suggested some amendments to the Club Constitution. They have been outlined in the information on the Annual Scientific Meeting currently being sent to all members and will be considered at the Annual General Meeting in April.

Microbiological Monitoring in Sterile Service Departments

The study day on this subject took place on 2nd October 2002 at the City Hospital, Birmingham. David Hurrell had arranged an excellent programme; lively discussions ensued. It is hoped that a study day will be held in October 2003. The committee welcomes suggestions for a theme. Please send any suggestions through the Club website (csc.org.uk)

Annual Scientific Meeting 2003

The venue will be the University of Warwick 7-9th April 2003. Dr Michelle Alfa is this year's Kelsey lecturer and her subject will be the measurement of cleaning standards. The Sessions will consider the science of cleaning and strategies for local decontamination. Other subjects are bench top sterilisers, laundry standards and washer disinfectors. There will also be the usual showcase session for Industry to present their latest innovations to a critical audience (have you booked your slot with the Treasurer yet?)

It is anticipated that David Hurrell will think of some difficult questions for the Quiz with our Chairman attempting to maintain a semblance of control over the proceedings.

Annual Scientific Meeting 5-7th April 2004

The meeting will take place at the University of Bath.

The Bulletin

The Committee apologizes once again that Club bulletins are not yet available and hopes to issue them by the end of January. They will report on the Annual General Meetings of 2001 & 2002 and include a report on the meetings held on Traceability and Microbiological Monitoring in Sterile Service Departments. The delay is due to difficulties with 'burning' the necessary compact discs.

www.csc.org.uk

The web site is up and running. It is proposed to issue future Club bulletins, Newsletters, reports of the AGM and study days on the site. Details of recent documents relevant to CSC members will be available. The Committee is grateful to Tina Bradley who has managed the site. An honorary appointment of a web-site manager is one of the proposed changes to the Club Constitution. If contact with the committee is required an email may be sent via the website.

We also intend using the Website to alert members to documents and other items that are of interest. If you spot something, please let the Webmaster know.

Committee News

There are six vacancies; Darryn Kerr has completed a first term but is unable to serve second term due to a greatly increased workload, Nigel Cripps has resigned as he takes up a new post. Craig Mackintosh and John Barker are willing to stand for election having completed their first term, Adam Fraise co-opted last year is willing to stand for election and Tim Boswell also was co-opted but does not wish to stand for election. Nomination papers will be circulated by Lynda Taylor. When considering putting forward somebody it is worth considering that engineers and Sterile Service Managers are needed on the Committee. A particular strength of the Club is the multi-disciplinary membership i.e. microbiologists, infection control nurses, engineers and Sterile Services Managers enabling wider exchanges of information.

Membership News

Membership levels continue to grow and nearly all have changed their standing orders to the £10 rate. We have nearly 300 members paying at the full current rate which means we are close to the Club's glory days and, as always, the membership includes all disciplines. The study days have helped to maintain the profile of the Club but we always welcome new members so spread the word.