



Central Sterilising Club

Newsletter September 2005

From the Editor

Welcome to the new look Newsletter for the Club. You will see a number of changes from previous Newsletters and your committee are interested in any comments or suggestions for future editions. In this edition, we have an introduction from our new Chairman (Dr. Adam Fraise) and an editorial from our Treasurer (Peter Hooper). I welcome any further volunteers to submit (or suggest) future editorials or short articles that you feel would be of interest to the members. All will be considered and do not hold back on being controversial.



Included with this Newsletter, please find a CD-ROM containing copies of slides from the CSC 2004 conference in Bath and the 2005 conference in Dundee. We thank all presenters for allowing us to reproduce these for your reference.

What are your views on the Club? Do you think the name of the Club should be changed and what do you feel is the image of the society? These and other questions are part of a poll that we are conducting of the membership. You will find a copy of this questionnaire in this Newsletter and I encourage you to take a few minutes to respond by post or by email. Your views are greatly appreciated and will be considered.

Dr. Gerald McDonnell, Editor

Need more information? Visit the web site at www.csc.org.uk or email the editor at gerry_mcdonnell@steris.com

From the Chair

It is a great pleasure to the writing my first contribution to the Club's newsletters. I look to my term as chairman with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. Geoff Ridgway is certainly a hard act to follow, and I feel that I will have difficulty competing with his knowledge of the inside track of Department of Health affairs.

I do, however, hope to help the Club continue its trend for meetings of the highest-quality and trust that it will continue to have its unique mixture of friendliness and science. In line with this aim, we have decided to focus the autumn workshop on the thorny issue of the centralization of sterilisation services with presentations from industry as well as a range of uses. I'm sure this meeting will be stimulating and should provide some excellent discussion about a topic that I'm sure keeps some of us awake at night.



Finally I would like to point out that it is my firm view this is your club and should provide the services that you find most beneficial as members. To further this, we have developed a questionnaire to canvass the members' opinions on a range of topics in this newsletter. Please don't file it in the circular filing cabinet under your desk. We welcome your opinions and support. It will help to produce a club, which you can justifiably be proud of.

Dr. Adam Fraise, Chairman

Editorial- Decontamination and the HTMs

Whatever role you play in decontamination in the UK there are three documents with which I am sure you are very familiar - HTMs 2010, 2030 and 2031. These three seem to have been around for ever and their content has become second nature. However, they have all been with us long enough to come up for their five-yearly review.

Their histories are very different. HTM 2010 has had a long evolution from the very thin versions of HTM10 produced in the 1960's. Its changes have reflected the way sterilisation has changed from purely steam sterilisation to a variety of processes. Even so, it is always a little behind the technical advances that keep decontamination such an exciting business.

HTM 2030 was a precursor to the DH response to TSE contamination in that the washer-disinfector became the main ammunition against possible vCJD contamination. Unlike 2010, the 1997 version of HTM 2030 was a totally new document with no tradition on which to capitalise. Its sheer length and attention to detail created such a stir that its implementation was, in the early days, patchy. Many readers are still realising just how much technical detail can be found in its pages.

HTM 2031 is a different document showing an entirely different heritage. It seems to have been written as a response to concerns about clean steam quality defined in BS EN 285. Not only did it prove an alternative set of criteria from those in the European Standard but also it was an informative and, once again, highly technical document.

When you add to these three HTMs the various Model Engineering Specifications – C14, C15, C30, C31 and C32 – as well as the new version of the Sterile Services Department HBN13 you begin to realise that we are lucky enough to have the strength of these guidance documents behind us. And it is not only us in the UK who benefit. Travel almost anywhere in the world and you will find an awareness, some implementation and even some jealousy surrounding these books that we take for granted. But if only their content was correct!

Many a conference evening has been taken up with discussions on the rights and wrongs of various chapters of the three HTMs. Our Study Day some years ago on biological monitoring touched a few nerves in whether or not to biologically monitor flexible endoscopes. The content of HTM 2030 on water quality has also been the subject of presentations and journals. It has almost become a national hobby to suggest which bits of which HTM need to be re-written, corrected, removed or binned.

Look at this the other way, however, and you will see just how much of the content of all three is just as fresh today as it was when it was written. One would have to have a watertight case to remove portions of 2010, 2030 or 2031. When you remember that changes should be made on evidence rather than opinion it becomes even harder to suggest where NHS Estates need to be prodded into revision mode. The longevity of the HTMs is testimony to the collective wisdom that produced them in the first instance – from the 1960's to the 1990's.



So what is their future? Only NHS Estates can tell. What happens when NHS Estates disappears at the end of this month? Only the Department of Health can tell. A new, streamlined replacement for NHS Estates and their predecessors may have a different approach to the way the NHS is advised and guided. But one thing is clear. The heritage provided by so many people that has made these documents world-famous cannot be taken away. We understand decontamination by reference to many documents but HTMs 2010, 2030 and 2031 are the sources of so much knowledge and education that whilst they may well evolve even further, they will always be the good old friends that we love so much (but like to criticise a little when they're not looking)!

Peter Hooper, Treasurer

Annual Scientific Meeting 2005

The annual scientific meeting was held in Dundee at Apex City Hotel & Spa. This year's Kelsey lecturer was Dr. Dorothy Canter from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, who spoke about her coordinating role in the response to the *Bacillus anthracis* spore bioterrorism events in the USA. This was a great introduction into a timely discussion on the theme '*Decontaminating the Environment*', including different perspectives, new technologies, and the role of the environment in reducing hospital acquired infection. The commercial Open Forum section was again well subscribed and attended. Sessions then focussed on '*What's New*' reviewing revisions on HBN13, the development of infection control auditing tools, EN disinfectant test methods, Pathfinder and prion decontamination. The conference ended with a session on a review of decontamination in the independent sector and HTM2025.

CD-ROMs have been distributed to all members with this newsletter, with copies of presentations from the 2004 meeting held in the University of Bath and the 2005 meeting in Dundee.

Conference 2006 will be held from 10-12th April 2006 in Cardiff, Wales. We look forward to seeing you there.

The committee of the CSC for 2005-2006 are:

Dr. Adam Fraise (Chair)
Mr. Craig Mackintosh (Secretary)
Mr. Peter Hooper (Treasurer)
Dr. Gerald McDonnell (Editor)
Miss Christina Bradley (Web Master)
Mr. John Barker
Dr. Robert Spencer
Mr. Peter Hoffman
Dr. James Reid
Mr. Bill Pratt



Upcoming Decontamination Conferences

- CSC Autumn Study Day on *Centralization of Decontamination*, Birmingham UK, October 26th 2005.
- CSC Annual Scientific Conference 2006, Cardiff Wales. 10-12th April 2006.
- IFIC 2005. Istanbul Turkey, 13 October 2005.
- Federation of Infection Society. Cardiff Wales. 7 November 2005.
- IDSc (previously ISSM) Annual Conference and Exhibition 2005. Blackpool, England. 28-30 November, 2005.
- ICAAC 2005 (rescheduled), Washington DC USA, December 16-19th 2005.
- ABHI. Sterilisation & Related Standards. Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, England. 24 January 2006.
- Healthcare Associated Infections. London England. 30 March 2006.
- Hospital Infection Society 2006, Amsterdam Netherlands, 15-18 October 2006.

Interesting Reading

- <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/publications/2005/endoscope.asp>. Northern Ireland Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (or for those Gaeilge speakers of the newsletter *An Roinn Slainte, Seirbhíse Soisialta agus Sabhalteachta Poiblí*) Report of an Independent Review of Endoscope Contamination in Northern Ireland.
- <http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/11/35/44/04113544.pdf>. An update report from the Department of Health on the Decontamination of surgical instruments in the NHS in England. Also go the DH site ('what's new' section) for good information on *C. difficile*, bird-flu, MRSA and GRE.
- http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/rapid_review/default.htm. The latest recommendations from the Rapid Review Panel of the Health Protection Agency.
- www.nric.org.uk. The National Resource for Infection Control (NRIC) is a project developed by and for professionals, aimed at being a single-access point to existing resources within infection control.
- http://decontaminationtraining.nhsestates.gov.uk/lms/nhs_splash/nhs_splash.asp. Useful training for the decontamination of reusable surgical instruments.

If you have a conference or interesting report you wish to add to the list or wish to submit an article to the newsletter, visit the web site at www.csc.org.uk or email the editor at gerry_mcdonnell@steris.com.



2005 Membership Questionnaire

A copy may be found at our web site www.csc.org.uk

How long (approximately) have you been a member?

2005 Annual Scientific Meeting

Did you attend the 2005 Annual Scientific Meeting?

If Yes:

Did you enjoy the program?

Was the venue suitable?

Was the social times/activities sufficient?

If No:

Was the Conference Program of interest to you?

Do you intend to attend next year?

Comments on the conference?

Do you find the commercial presentation useful? Any comments?

Would you be in favour of a trade exhibition at future conferences? Any comments?



Are there specific topics you would like to have addressed at future meetings?

Do you have any specific suggestions for future meetings?

The Club name

Do you object in any way to the Club name?

If Yes,

Why?

Suggest a change?

Any other comments or suggestions to the committee?

Please return to Dr. Gerald McDonnell, STERIS Ltd,
Jay's Close, Viables, Basingstoke, RG22 4AX, England.

