



Infection Prevention Society
Inform • Promote • Sustain
www.ips.uk.net

Profile in support of application for IPS Deputy Secretary

Mrs Lesley Wharton

Background

I qualified as an RGN in 1987 and worked in medicine, within various specialities, as staff nurse, senior staff nurse and ward manager between 1987 and 2001. I joined the Infection Control Team in 2001 having been inspired to take more of an interest by completing the ENB N26 Infection Control module at my local university. I worked initially as an Infection Control Nurse and became the Lead Nurse in October 2004 and am currently the Assistant Director of Infection Prevention and Control, responsible for the service in an acute trust and a Community Services team. I have recently completed a part time secondment to the North East Strategic Health Authority as HCAI Programme Manager and have also acted as an external reviewer for the DH MRSA Improvement Team where I have participated in reviews of acute and primary care trusts.

I achieved a BA (Hons) Nursing Practice (Infection Control) at Northumbria University and am commencing a Masters Degree in September 2010.

Offices held

I have been an ICNA/IPS member almost continuously since 2001 and recently ended a term as branch secretary for the North East branch (2007- Nov 2009) which I thoroughly enjoyed. Whilst carrying out this role I have always attended branch meetings and provided support to the branch co-ordinator and treasurer. I have attended conference twice to represent the branch and provided feedback to other branch members. I have recently volunteered to chair a collaborative DH/IPS HPS event on the new care home guidance. As part of my personal development I have attended the Consultative Committee to better understand how the IPS is developing as an organisation.

Vision

My vision for this post is to be involved in making the IPS and organisation that influences national opinion to achieve improved patient care, experience and outcomes and to maximise the development opportunities for Infection prevention and control practitioners so that they can in turn lead and develop their colleagues. I have an active interest in how the IPS can work to the greatest advantage with partner organisations and how branches could work together and support each other more fully to ensure the best opportunities for members. I would like to see more members becoming involved with IPS work, either at branch level or as representatives for the IPS on national groups. One of the biggest benefits for me of being branch secretary has been the increased network of contacts I have made and other members could benefit from this too by being involved even if only in a small way. Getting our members involved and engaged is how the IPS will sustain and improve its current momentum. We have come a long way in a short time but there are lots of people out there to influence. In the longer term we will all benefit from being part of a bigger, stronger professional organisation with national and international recognition.

I would look forward to developing this role by working with the new administrator role to support the Honorary Secretary and the Board to develop the IPS even further