



International Nurse's Day

To celebrate International Nurses Day, JETS Workforce interviewed our very own Alison Ball. Alison contributes to the constant improvement of the JETS Workforce programme as a faculty member by presenting at ENDO1 courses throughout the year. She also teaches the ENDO3 course.

Can you tell us about your background in nursing and when you started working in endoscopy?

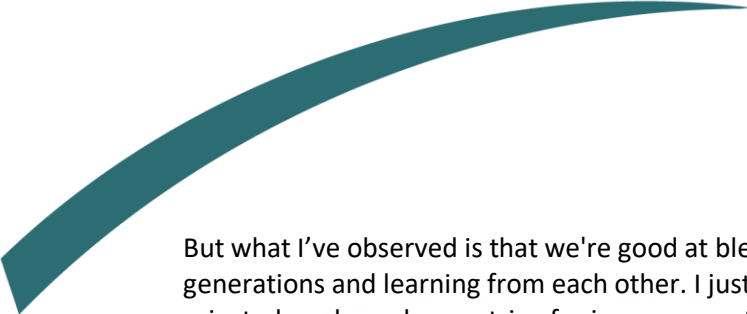
My very first job after I qualified was going to work at summer camp in America which I did for 2 summers and then in between that I came back to the UK and worked on care of the elderly. After this I had a post in gastroenterology which led to a secondment in endoscopy, and that's where I've stayed since 1995.

Since then, I've worked at a couple of Regional Centres such as University Hospitals Birmingham and Nottingham University Hospitals, as well as District General Hospitals in Bedford and Milton Keynes. Now I'm matron for gastroenterology and endoscopy at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust.

In what way do you feel that nursing has changed since you qualified?

Oh wow, that is a big question, isn't it!? Nursing is so much more diverse than it was previously. We have more international nurses which is hugely valuable for the nursing community. We get to interact with people from different cultures and learn from them.

The way nurses are educated has also changed drastically; it is much more academically focused. New nurses get to complete their studies and earn official recognition for their achievements. However, there is less practical experience compared to how it was previously. Whilst the education side has really improved, nurses may not get the opportunity to have as much hands on experience at the start of their careers.



But what I've observed is that we're good at blending the experience of all the different generations and learning from each other. I just think it's important that change isn't rejected, and we always strive for improvements that can help the field of nursing.

What motivated you to join the JETS Workforce faculty?

I have always been interested in teaching, but it all started after I worked on the Gastroenterology Post Graduate Course at De Monfort University and developed when I began working in the JAG Accreditation programme as an assessor. That led me to get involved in the JETS Workforce programme. I am also Chair of a Regional Group, delivering education to Nurses throughout East Anglia.

When JETS Workforce was inceptioned, we were so passionate about the programme it and its potential. With most elements of the programme being held online, it has made the programme easily accessible. The jewel in the crown is knowing that from October 2024 the ENDO1 course and ENDO1 eLearning modules will be mandated for services aiming for JAG accreditation.

I can now say to my workforce; "you must make time for this now, so I will give you a study day and then you can come and wave your eLearning and ENDO1 certificate at me!"

I have been teaching the ENDO1 foundation and decontamination virtual course for a few years now. I know individuals who have recently trained to become ENDO1 teaching faculty. One faculty member I know was initially so nervous but did a great job of delivering the course on the day. Supporting and developing new staff is both important and rewarding to me.

Ultimately, I think what this programme will do is bring the workforce forward and make us realise that there is great value in sharing skills with the junior workforce, because if they don't do it, who will look after us when we're old? Who's going to be delivering endoscopy? We need people to engage with becoming the future of endoscopy.

What do you most enjoy about being ENDO1 faculty and running the ENDO1 course?

The process of teaching the ENDO1 courses is made infinitely easier with the course slides and guidance we are provided with as teaching faculty. The course notes and support we are provided with helps us massively in ensuring each course runs smoothly. The breakout rooms during the course are hugely valuable and allowing us to interact more personally with the delegates. During the pandemic we had to quickly adapt the way the course was taught and it's so much more accessible and convenient for the workforce.

One thing I've valued from running the course is being able to meet people from all around the country and hearing about what they're doing in their endoscopy service.

If you are interested in joining the JETS Workforce faculty please email the office team at AskJAG@rcp.ac.uk.