



GILL ELLIS-POW EDITOR/DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

WELCOME to our Spring journal and I am delighted to bring you this packed journal. There are a number of new authors, our regular contributors and one we've not heard from for a while; welcome back!

CSC Autumn Study Day Queen 2016 looked at Decontamination Policy into practice – What are the challenges and are the proposed HTM fit for purpose?

Karen Tweed reflects on the day with her review of the presentations. **Dr Jimmy Walker** presented on the change of Choice Framework for Policy and Procedures (CfPP) back to Health Technical Memorandum (HTM). One of the key aims in reverting to the HTM has been to reverse the divergence of decontamination guidance across the devolved nations following the introduction of “Choice” in the form of the first CFPP (2012) and the four nations were represented to discuss their approaches to the new HTM. It was another very successful CSC Study Day.

Decontamination and Traceability of Medical Devices is explored by

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Andrew Heard. His article discusses the need for tracking and traceability and suggests it should be possible to fully trace the life history of the loan kits from the point of manufacture to the eventual disposal of the instrument ensuring greater patient safety along with reducing costs for loan equipment.

The first of our two papers is *Chemically defined, clinically relevant test soils for cleaning validation of reusable medical devices* by **K.E. Kelly, E.A. Gonzalez, V.M. Hitchins** and **A.D. Lucas**. This paper looks at the test soils used and their efficacy. It proposes that test soils should simulate worst-case conditions for cleaning and allowing the test soils to adequately dry on device surfaces. Developing these test soils and establishing methods to measure them are important first steps for validating cleaning of reusable devices. These steps are essential if we are to protect our patients who are treated with reusable medical devices.

Our second paper asks *Are reusable valves clean?* **Helen Campbell** shares her review of using re-useable valves in the endoscopy department and the evaluation carried out prior to moving over to single-use valves in line with BSG guidance which states 'single-use accessories must be used in preference to reusable accessories whenever a single-use option is available'.

From the Archives looks at the first ten years of our organisation. Our original name was the Association of Sterile Service Administrators. **W.K. Thomson** reminds us how the organisation started and here we are fifty years later, still going strong.

Phil Hadridge provides us with a short blog this time; *Are you involved or committed?* In the workplace, which one are you?

Pawel is back in our Opinions section again and he's *Harnessing the crowd* and suggests that we should consider crowdfunding and crowdsourcing platforms for research, as well as development of practical solutions. Who would like to join Pawel in some blue sky thinking?

In this journal, we have an interview with **Geoffrey L. Ridgway, OBE, MD, BSc, FRCP, FRCPath, MRCS, DipHIC(Hon)**, retired Clinical Microbiologist, Past President IDSC (2001 – 2004) and an Honorary Fellow of IDSc. Geoffrey tells us how he got into decontamination and the impact he made. He also shares his hobbies and greatest achievement with us.

As ever, this is your journal and it is a pleasure to see so many people contributing to it. Please get in touch if you would like to be considered for our next edition in August. New (and old!) authors are always welcome.

