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WELCOME to our Conference journal, packed with news, views, updates and information, papers and opinions.

As everyone will know, the IDSc 2017 Annual Conference will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Blackpool from Monday 27th to Wednesday 29th November, and you will find our Conference programme on page 43. A copy of the application form can be found on the IDSc website:

<http://www.idsc-uk.co.uk/news.php>

We have an exciting programme on offer, and if you have not already applied for your place at Conference then please do so as soon as possible. Our Conference will open with the Keynote Address given by **Simon Weston**, CBE, followed by **Wayne Spencer** who will take us 'From there to here'. On the Tuesday there will be a panel discussion about the continuing challenge of protein detection methods. There has been much discussion and debate around this hot topic and it will be good to take part in the debate. It will be great to see as many of you there as possible.

In recognition of our 50th anniversary, Warwick Sasco gives an insight into their collaboration with the IDSc and has offered a prize draw for *An evening of Dinner and Drinks in London at Pharmacy 2 restaurant*

to celebrate reaching such a milestone. Please enter, it sounds like fun!

David Bennett, Academy for Healthcare Science Director of Quality, tells us about the *New Directory for Decontamination Science*. The Academy for Healthcare Science and the Institute of Decontamination Sciences are delighted to announce that a directory is now open for individuals who have attained the Institute of Decontamination Sciences Technical Certificate and the Academy will be delighted to welcome new cohorts of Technical Certificate holders in the future.

A new section has been added 'Updates and information'. We have brought you *An overview of washer-disinfector and sterilization standards* by **Richard Bancroft**, Science and Technical Director for STERIS Corporation. Richard is an active member of many standards committees and describes the current and future changes to some of the standards he is involved in.

Jimmy Walker, Graham Stanton, Peter Hoffman et al submitted a paper *Understanding the evidence behind the HTM 01-01 decontamination guidance for the detection of proteins on surfaces of surgical instruments – Part 1* looking at protein detection. This is probably one of the hottest topics at the moment, and fits in nicely with our panel discussion. Part 2 will be published in our February journal.

'From the Archive' has two papers in this edition: the first by **Marie M Lech** *Central Service and Infection Control: What are the Pertinent Issues* published in the August 1976 ASSA journal. This article proposes that to help control hospital infections, sterile service staff should be kept informed and be alert to new developments and concepts to help to institute sound and technically correct processing techniques, and to consistently carry out proper processing techniques.

The second paper is by **Cameron Weymes** from April 1980 *Sterile World A.S.S.M. and the Ward Pack* and discusses codes of practice for sterilizing dressing packs. Sounds very familiar!

Phil Hadridge, Director, Idenk, is back again in our Something Different section with two blogs. This time Phil is looking at *The Four Essential Preconditions for System Transformation* and *The Single Surefire Way to be Happy*. The first blog informs us about CHHH; Curiosity, Holistic (whole-sighted) attention, Honesty and

Hope. This is shared here to help us all make different and better choices. In the second blog there is strong evidence to show the surest way to living a joyful life is giving to others (of your time, money, skills). A short, however, very interesting read.

In our Opinions section, **John Prendergast** explains *Permit to Work Systems – 'Control of engineering activities'*. John is an Authorised Engineer (Decontamination), Senior Decontamination Engineer, NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership/ Specialist Estates Services. John informs us about the general principles and key personnel required for the implementation of the permit to work. A well-managed permit to work system will ensure the equipment used to decontaminate medical devices functions as intended and as commissioned.

Pawel is back with a 2-part article: *The story behind the development of new Process Challenge Devices for evaluation of cleaning efficacy Part 1 – Rising from chaos*, written by **Pawel de Sternberg Stojalowski, Pierre Bonnin and Chanel Cooper**. Aseptium's new technology is born out of the core principle that every innovation must be grounded in evidence and verified by evidence and proposes that with the methodology of protein detection the theory does not always translate well into practice. The initial concept therefore was to create process challenge devices that will be able to be used for testing of the internal and external cleaning that will represent the realistic challenges in cleaning of complex surgical instruments as closely as possible. Part 2 will be published in the February journal.

Our interview for this edition is **Richard Bancroft**. Richard tells us about the biggest impact he has made on medical device decontamination along with his biggest achievement. Read on!

I would welcome feedback from all articles in the form of a Letter to the Editor with your thoughts and opinion. It is always good to generate debate with issues that can be considered controversial.

Please get in touch if you would like to contribute or be considered for our next journal(s) in February and May. We are always happy to welcome new authors. This is YOUR journal!