

Your Guide to **SWeET** **S**trategic **W**orkforce **E**ducation and **T**raining

This edition of the 'Keeping You Informed' bulletin focusses on Keith Roberts who is now the first person at the Royal to complete his training to become a fully qualified Advanced Clinical Practitioner.

Divisional Director for Medicine and Emergency Care – Mansur Reza



As Divisional Director for Medicine and Emergency Care I am delighted to announce Keith Roberts as our first graduate from the Chesterfield Royal Hospital internal cohort of trainee Advanced Clinical Practitioners (ACPs). Keith will be starting as an ACP in Emergency Medicine from the 1st August 2019 adding to the existing Emergency Department Workforce

Our ACP training programme has been a key strategy in developing and growing a blended Medical Workforce to help overcome the chronic shortages in the Emergency Department and will help increase the numbers and increase access to quality care for patients. ACPs will offer continuity and stability both for patients and for the team in which they work. Our ACPs will work within a defined scope of practice and limits of competence and will be able to take histories, carry out examinations, see patients with undifferentiated diagnoses, perform diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, develop and deliver appropriate treatment and management plans, prescribe, request and interpret diagnostic tests and request imaging.

ACPs ability to practice medicine is enabled by collaboration and supportive working relationships with their clinical (Medical) supervisors; this will allow ACPs to discuss cases, give advice and call upon them to see their patients if necessary but most importantly work autonomously as independent clinicians.

Future ACP graduates will see further integration into our Medical Workforce benefiting many other Medical Specialties across Medicine and Emergency Care.

Keith Roberts – Advanced Clinical Practitioner

"I'm delighted to have achieved this qualification after three years of hard work. It's been a tough journey but I've learnt a lot and very proud of what I've achieved.

"I know the hospital has been introducing a number of new roles to help support our nursing and consultant teams, with this being one of the first. The idea behind it was to offer a different route towards career progression that involved training and education to a Masters level whilst working alongside Junior Doctors to see and treat patients.

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Keith Roberts – Advanced Clinical Practitioner

“It was essentially a three year Masters programme alongside three years working across rotational specialties. The learning was based around day release for modules and university lectures with a number of clinical placements across different disciplines. The qualification covers the broad spectrum of this hospital from front door in ED to acute care and care of the elderly with a view towards being able to support teams clinically.



“For me it’s been a real eye-opener; I have a paramedic background so my experience of the Royal ended at the ED pit stop in terms of patient care. What I wanted from this qualification was the chance to be more involved in the care of the patient and broaden my scope of practice but, as my background was clinical rather than academic, there didn’t seem to be a straightforward road into that until I came across the ACP qualification.

“In terms of the rotation, we spent six months each in four different locations to give us the experience of working across a range of clinical areas. For me it involved time on EMU, critical care and care of the elderly alongside ED, which was where I wanted to base myself at the end of the three years. This was always my intention, to base myself in ED, and that became the focus of my final year when you spend the entire twelve months in the area where you will perform the ACP role.

“I was under no illusions that it was going to be a tough three years but there is a lot to think about that goes above and beyond the learning and coursework. The shifts you’re used to change, you have to do all of this whilst working full time and still having to manage your family life. Getting your head around the academic side can be quite an adjustment when you’re used to working shifts. There is a lot to juggle and try to balance which I did achieve thanks to some robust time management and making sure I made the most of any time to rest.

“But it’s all done now and, as of the beginning of August 2019, I’m a fully qualified Advanced Clinical Practitioner. I’ve been performing a lot of my duties for the past year as part of my final placement so I’ve hit the ground running, but I’ve now got more autonomy over what I do. I know the shift patterns and how people work; I feel like I’m nicely bedded into the role and where I fit into the team.

“What it’s given me is a new insight into how all of our clinical teams operate and how the hospital system works. I have a much broader sense of how to treat and care for patients who present to ED with complex health needs and the challenges that this brings to their care pathway further down the line. Compared to when I worked as a paramedic, where our involvement and clinical interest in the patient ended where mine now starts, I can see that I’ve come a long way and appreciate what goes into planning a patient’s journey. To that end, it’s met my expectations as to what I wanted to get out of this qualification and I look forward to developing the role and seeing where it takes me.

“My advice to anyone who is part way through the course is to keep going and finish it, it is certainly worth it. It can be difficult but make sure your work plan includes what you do outside of work because it’s important to set aside time for you, your family and friends and to relax. To anyone thinking of taking up the course, the best advice I can give is to talk to someone who is already on the course or has already completed it. There’s a lot to consider before deciding if it’s for you as it will involve different ways of working, different time commitments, possibly even a cut in pay to start with. Find out what’s involved, do your research and if it sounds like it’s for you then it will definitely be worth your while.

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