

# GP LINK

## DECEMBER 2012

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### PERMISSION GAINED

Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (MCHFT) is pleased to announce that it has now received planning permission from Cheshire East Council for the building of new operating theatres and a critical care unit at Leighton Hospital.

Preparatory works have already begun on the surrounding areas, with building work scheduled to start in early 2013.

### NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

GP Link is designed to keep you, as Primary Care colleagues, up-to-date with news and improvements within MCHFT.

If there are any topics which you would like to see covered in future editions, have any feedback on how we can improve this newsletter or would simply like more copies, please contact Rob Meadows, Communications and Marketing Officer, on 01270 273827 or email [rob.meadows@mcht.nhs.uk](mailto:rob.meadows@mcht.nhs.uk).

## CHANGES IN VASCULAR SERVICES

As of December 1, 2012, the way that vascular surgical services are delivered at MCHFT has changed.

The Trust has joined forces with the teams at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust (UHNS) and Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust to form the Staffordshire, South Cheshire and Vale Royal Strategic Vascular Alliance which will have its network hub at UHNS.

This is the local expression of a national change in the commissioning and delivery of vascular surgical services with the aims of improving access to increasingly complex modern treatment techniques at the same time as aiming to deliver the best possible outcomes.

In summary, all vascular surgical clinics, investigations and day-case procedures will continue to be delivered at Leighton Hospital and all inpatient surgery and all emergency admissions will be at UHNS.

To facilitate this, MCHFT and UHNS have jointly appointed two new full-time Vascular Surgical Consultants, **Miss Lorraine Corfield** and **Mr Sriram Rajagopalan**, who will be taking over the vascular surgical components of the work presently done by Mr Guy and Mr

Hanafy. Mr Guy and Mr Hanafy will be continuing the general surgery aspects of their work at Leighton Hospital, including their contribution to the emergency service, and will be able to devote more time to the other aspects of their work – thyroid and endocrine surgery (Mr Guy) and paediatric surgery (Mr Hanafy).

### What will this mean for Outpatient referrals?

Vascular outpatient referrals will continue to be seen at Leighton and Victoria Infirmary, Northwich, but by the new Consultants. Because these Consultants will not have other general surgical commitments, it is anticipated that access times for clinics will be improved. Investigations and follow-up appointments will continue to occur locally. All routine referrals should continue to be referred to MCHFT.

### What if patients require surgery?

If day-case surgery is required then it will continue to occur at Leighton Hospital. If inpatient surgery is required the Consultant will book them into their planned lists at UHNS.

Further information, including profiles of the new Consultants, is available overleaf.

## VASCULAR SERVICES (CONTINUED)

### What about emergency admissions?

As all the inpatient aspects of the Vascular Strategic Alliance service will be provided from UHNS, Leighton Hospital will no longer be admitting patients with vascular surgical problems. Patients presenting at Leighton Hospital's Emergency Department with acute vascular surgical conditions will be transferred to UHNS surgical admissions. The two new appointments will bring the complement of Vascular Surgical Consultants at UHNS to ten, who will now be providing a consultant of the week emergency service free from other elective commitments.

### What about vascular problems that arise in patients who are already in Leighton?

During the working day there will continue to

be a Vascular Surgical Consultant presence at Leighton, as before the changeover, and the new Consultants will be available to assess and review cases - for example, ward referrals with chronic ischaemia, referrals for carotid endarterectomy from the Stroke Unit, and so on. In the rare event of major blood vessel injury occurring in the operating theatre of another specialty, the on-site Vascular Consultant will be able to respond, as would be the case previously, or the Vascular Consultant on call for emergencies at UHNS will be contacted for advice and help.

### Question or concerns?

For further information, please contact Mr Andrew Guy, on 01270 612357, 01270 612370 or via emailing [andrew.guy@mcht.nhs.uk](mailto:andrew.guy@mcht.nhs.uk).

### Lorraine Corfield, Consultant Vascular Surgeon, MB.BS, BSc, MA, FRCS

Lorraine became a Consultant Vascular Surgeon at MCHFT on December 3, 2012, as part of a joint appointment with the University Hospital of North Staffordshire. Lorraine's specialities are Vascular Surgery, Endovascular Surgery and Renal Access, with sub specialty interest in diabetic foot, endovascular aneurysm repair and proximal deep vein thrombosis.



Lorraine attended St Mary's Hospital Medical School before conducting her surgical training in South East England and a fellowship and locum consultant post in Perth, Australia.

Lorraine has an MA in Medical Law and Ethics, and has had multiple papers published in this area as well as surgical topics and medical education. She also edited and co-authored 'The ABC of Medical Law'. In her spare time she enjoys playing the cello, planting trees and scuba diving.

### Sriram Rajagopalan, Consultant Vascular Surgeon, MD, FRCS



Sriram joined MCHFT on December 3, 2012, working alongside Lorraine Corfield as part of the Trust's partnership with the University Hospital of North Staffordshire. He specialises in Open and Endovascular surgery, with sub specialty

interests in Renal Access and endovascular procedures.

Sriram has undertaken training at the North of Scotland Deanery in Aberdeen, St Georges, London, and Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals. His research has included platelet activation and biomarkers in vascular surgery patients for risk assessment and risk factor management.

He is a father of two boys and is married to an academic Paediatrician. In his spare time he enjoys cycling and playing badminton.

## AUDIOLOGY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

**Service Improvements** - To improve current waiting times and efficiency, the Audiology Department has increased staff numbers and have been offering out of hours appointments. They have also been offering group fitting appointments to those who are happy to attend. A satisfaction survey was issued to those attending, with all respondents rating their experience as positive.

**Bone Anchored Hearing Aids** - The department provides a well-established service for the provision of bone anchored hearing aids (BAHAs). A BAHA may be suitable for those patients with hearing loss and chronic middle ear conditions. The pathway begins with a referral to ENT for their medical opinion, followed by MCHFT's Audiologists

working in conjunction with the ENT Consultant to provide and maintain the BAHA for the patient.

**Deafness Support Network** - The department is working in conjunction with the Deafness Support Network (DSN) to provide access to a range of assistive listening devices to those with hearing impairment. Staff from the DSN now attend the department at Leighton Hospital once a month for an afternoon to provide their support and expertise to MCHFT patients.

For further information about the Audiology services available at MCHFT, please contact the Audiology Reception on 01270 612197 or fax 01270 273409.

## CONSULTANTS - LEAVERS AND STARTERS

MCHFT has seen a number of Consultants join the organisation over the past 12 months, and the following list gives a brief overview of these new starters alongside those who have left the Trust.

### Leavers (Permanent Staff):

- Miss J Edhouse - Emergency Department
- Dr S Satchithananda - Emergency Department
- Miss M Hennon - Obstetrics
- Mr R Gillies - Orthopaedics
- Mr DM Ganeshan - Radiology
- Mr S Maddineni - Urology

### New Starters (Permanent Staff):

- Dr A De - Radiology
- Dr JP Golding - Anaesthetics
- Dr MD Greene - Anaesthetics
- Mr JG Hardman - General Surgery
- Mr D Nguyen - Ophthalmology
- Dr SK Pyper - Paediatrics
- Dr R Rajendran - Microbiology/Infection Control

The Trust's Consultant Directory is now available online - just visit [www.mcht.nhs.uk/consultants](http://www.mcht.nhs.uk/consultants) for further information.

## PHLEBOTOMY PATIENT SURVEY

The Trust's Phlebotomy Department has recently undertaken a patient survey to gain an insight into the experience that patients have of the service.

Whilst the majority of the results were positive, it was noted that some patients were not being given either enough information or the correct information by their GP regarding having their bloods taken at Leighton Hospital. To view the survey results, please visit [www.mcht.nhs.uk/pathology](http://www.mcht.nhs.uk/pathology).

As a result of the survey, the department would like to encourage local GPs to fully inform patients that they must have an appointment to attend at Leighton Hospital for blood tests. Additionally, please can GPs be advised that the service at Leighton is primarily for patients attending outpatient clinics or cancer treatments. All direct access Phlebotomy should be undertaken in the community wherever possible. We thank you for your support in this matter. For further information, please contact the department on 01270 273568.

## X-RAY REFURBISHMENT AT VIN

As part of our commitment to continually improving the quality of care provided to our patients, areas of the medical imaging (X-Ray) facilities at the Victoria Infirmary, Northwich, will be undergoing refurbishment works from Monday, February 4, 2013, for a period of six weeks.

Patients attending the Minor Injuries Unit, as well as those attending Clinic, will be prioritised during this period, and measures will be taken to ensure that any delays will be kept to a minimum.

Weekday access for GP-referred patients will continue as normal (9.30am-4.30pm), while there will be GP-only access on Saturdays from 9am-12.30pm. A wipe board will be placed outside the department to display current waiting times.

We apologise for any inconvenience that these refurbishment works may cause, and thank you for your patience and understanding. For further information, please contact the department on 01606 564052 or David Stokes, Service Manager, on 01270 612060.

## £1.5MILLION DONATION TO NICU APPEAL

The One in Eleven Appeal was delighted to announce recently that, thanks to a substantial donation from the Frank Hockenhull Trust, the appeal is now only a short distance from its goal.

In the biggest single donation ever received by MCHFT's charitable fund, the Frank Hockenhull Trust has given £1.5m to the appeal to create a new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Leighton Hospital. The donation means that the project can now be brought forward, with preparatory work likely to start in spring 2013.

However, the appeal is still £20,000 from its goal and supporters are asked to keep going with their vital fundraising. The One in Eleven Appeal aimed to raise £1m to fund the renovation works

for the new unit. A further significant amount was to be injected by MCHFT as part of its planned capital investment programme to supplement the development work.

Around £280,000 had already been raised thanks to the fantastic work and endless dedication of local supporters. Now, thanks to this donation, the appeal has taken a further huge leap forward, taking it just under the total £1.8m needed.

As work on the unit can now go ahead much earlier than planned, the funds from MCHFT are not yet available and will instead go to benefit future hospital projects.



## ELMHURST REOPENS FOLLOWING WORK

Elmhurst Intermediate Care Centre in Winsford has now reopened to patients, following works to the ground surrounding the building.

The Centre had been closed for around five months to allow for the works to take place, with patients relocated to alternative centres in the local area. After re-opening in mid-November, Elmhurst is now able to offer 30 intermediate care beds for the local community and surrounding areas.

MCHFT and Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT, along with the Community Intermediate Care Team from East Cheshire NHS Trust, is committed to providing Intermediate Care in Winsford, and would like to thank patients and visitors for their understanding and patience whilst the remedial works took place. The ground works to repair the drains and foundations were essential in order to continue using the premises as a rehabilitation centre for the benefit of the local community.