

University of Warwick

8 – 9 August 2025



FRIDAY 8 AUGUST		
Session details:	Overview	Learning Objectives
Opening Keynote Ed Gillespie 09:40 – 10:40 Molnlycke Theatre	From the escalating climate emergency and accelerating biodiversity loss to the double-edged sword of emerging technologies, we find ourselves entangled in a web of complex, overlapping challenges. In this talk, Ed will confront the urgency of these intertwined issues, unpack how we arrived at such precarious crossroads, often propelled by good intentions, and offer a provocative yet hopeful exploration of how we might navigate our way forward, together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the common threads of major sustainability challenges and their interdependence. • Provide a historical context and explanation for how the 'polycrisis' has arisen. • Demonstrate the attitudes, values and leadership actions and behaviours to get through this.
Sustainable Surgery: The Intercollegiate Green Theatre Checklist Andrew Stevenson 11:10 – 12:00 Molnlycke Theatre	This session will introduce the concept of sustainability in healthcare, exploring why it is a critical priority and how it can be meaningfully integrated into clinical practice. Attendees will learn how the Green Theatre Checklist can be used as both a benchmarking and improvement tool. The session concludes with a discussion on the opportunities and challenges of implementing sustainable change across the NHS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss what sustainability is and why it's important. • Understand how to use the Green Theatre Checklist. • Understand how to implement sustainable change.
Intraosseous Vascular Access Workshop 11:10 – 12:00 12:10 – 13:00 Ensemble Room	In this practical hands-on workshop, you will master the essentials of intraosseous (IO) needle insertion. Learn when and why to use an IO needle, identify key contraindications, and understand the best anatomical sites for placement. Participants will engage in hands-on practice, followed by access to ongoing learning resources to reinforce and enhance your expertise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain a clear understanding of the role of IO. • Master correct landmarking techniques for accurate placement. • Safely perform needle insertion on a manikin, ensuring effective and precise application.
The Organisational Management of Traumatic Stress Prof. Neil Greenberg 11:10 – 12:00 Helen Martin Studio	The session will focus on the impact of traumatic stress on healthcare professionals and other trauma-exposed staff. The session will cover the impact of working with trauma and provide practical strategies to prevent the onset of mental health difficulties, as well as techniques for effectively managing them at an early stage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the impact on mental health when working in trauma-prone environments. • Outline evidence-based approaches to safeguarding the mental health of trauma-exposed staff. • Identify effective treatment interventions for staff who develop mental health conditions due to trauma exposure.

Oliver's Story: Avoidable deaths and the Importance of Reasonable Adjustments Paula McGowan OBE 11:10 – 12:00 Wood Scawen Room (Virtual)	Explore the story of Oliver McGowan and how his preventable death led to the development of statutory training in learning disability and autism. This session highlights the clinical and legal importance of The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training and its role in improving safety, understanding, and outcomes across healthcare.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ask •Listen •Do
Immersive Simulation - Enhancing Perioperative Performance Workshop 11:10 - 13:00 14:00 - 15:50 Studio Room	This workshop introduces how immersive simulation can be integrated into the perioperative environment to enhance staff response to human factors, emotional resilience, and time-critical emergencies. Through the use of virtual reality, spontaneous simulated scenarios and guided discussions, participants will engage in realistic experiences that challenge decision-making, teamwork, and crisis management. High fidelity manikins and immersive spaces will be deployed to enhance the experience amongst participants. The session ensures that learning outcomes are directly applicable to participants' individual departments, fostering improved preparedness and patient safety in high-pressure surgical settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the importance of simulation within the perioperative environment. • Explore the link between human factors in the clinical setting and simulation. • Identify challenges and advances within simulating perioperative scenarios.
The Impact of Incivility in the Perioperative Environment: A Call to Action 12:10 - 13:00 Molnlycke Theatre	<p>This dynamic panel session will explore the vital role that civility and a positive workplace culture play within the perioperative environment. Panellists will share personal reflections and insights on how a poor culture and incivility can undermine staff well-being, teamwork, and ultimately compromise patient safety.</p> <p>In addition, the session will feature the launch of the AfPP Behaviour Charter, showcasing its purpose and practical application to foster respect, professionalism, and a culture of kindness in perioperative settings.</p>	
Turning Adversity into a Positive Carol Jordan 12:10 - 13:00 Helen Martin Studio	This session will share a personal lived experience, focusing on how adversity can be turned into a positive force. It will cover the development of resilience, the promotion of mental well-being, and the power of surviving with a smile. Reflecting on personal initiatives, the session will provide practical guidance for practitioners to implement change in practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand that it's easier to get angry than to remain positive and explore ways to cultivate positivity. • Provide an insight into using personal experience to influence care delivery • Learn practical strategies for fostering resilience and kindness and enhancing personal well-being.
Accreditation: A quality improvement initiative Matthew Ashman 12:10 - 13:00 Wood Scawen Room	<i>More information coming soon</i>	<i>More information coming soon</i>

Perioperative Futures: Evolving Roles, Career Progression, and Workforce Innovation Craig Griffiths, Sarah Massey, Lisa Tierney 14:00 - 14:50 Molnlycke Theatre	This panel will explore the future of the perioperative workforce, with a focus on career progression, role development, and innovative pathways that respond to evolving surgical services and workforce pressures. Bringing together voices from clinical leadership, advanced practice, and education - including representatives from Anaesthesia Associates, Surgical Care Practitioners, and AfPP trustees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine emerging roles and their impact on perioperative care. • Discuss career progression opportunities. • Highlight the importance of educational pathways. • Explore how organisations can future-proof the perioperative workforce through development strategies.
Ultrasound Guided IV Access Workshop 14:00 – 14:50 15:00 – 15:50 Ensemble Room	This dynamic workshop blends brief expert-led discussions with extensive hands-on practice, offering a comprehensive approach to mastering ultrasound-guided IV cannulation. You will learn how to use ultrasound to accurately identify suitable vessels for cannulation and refine your cannula placement technique on our specially developed models. With close supervision and expert tips and tricks from our experienced faculty, you'll gain the skills and confidence to successfully perform this advanced technique.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the basic ultrasound anatomy relevant to peripheral IV cannulation. • Gain practical experience with ultrasound probe handling and image optimisation. • Learn ultrasound guided IV cannulation techniques through hands-on practice on specially designed models.
The 5-Minute Reset: EFT for Stress and Resilience Workshop 14:00 – 14:50 Helen Martin Studio	Discover evidence-based EFT “Tapping” (Emotional Freedom Techniques) - a remarkable, easy-to-use stress relief tool ideal for high-pressure environments. One study showed that just 10-minute EFT sessions significantly reduced stress in paediatric emergency staff; in this experiential workshop we show how to release tension and restore calm - anytime, anywhere.	
Causative Factors Leading into Perioperative Never Events Paul Wheeler 14:00 – 14:50 Wood Scawen Room	This interactive session will engage the audience in a rich discussion focused on the causative factors leading to perioperative never events. The session will explore three key themes: human factors and communication, the influence of department, surgery type and specialty, and compliance with policies and guidelines. Insights gathered from this discussion will be used to promote ideas of how systems could be put in place to minimise the chances of future never events occurring. “Prevention is better than cure”.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore factors that lead to perioperative never events. • Compare methods of investigation to drive improvements. • Discuss imbedding a culture of safety within the perioperative Department.
Healthcare 3.0 Ryan Kerstein 15:00 – 15:50 Molnlycke Theatre	Healthcare 3.0 explores the future of medicine through emerging technologies such as AI, robotics, wearables, and big data. The session will highlight the role of clinical innovators, the ethical challenges involved, and the importance of cross-sector collaboration. A thought-provoking talk combining real-world case studies and insights to drive meaningful, tech-enabled transformation in healthcare delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand Healthcare 3.0 – Explore how emerging technologies like AI, robotics, and big data are reshaping clinical care and decision-making. • Empower Clinical Innovators – Learn how healthcare professionals can develop innovation skills, drive change, and collaborate across sectors. • Navigate Ethical & Practical Challenges – Recognise key considerations around patient safety, data security, and equitable access in tech-driven healthcare.

More information coming soon 15:00 – 15:50 Helen Martin Studio	<i>More information coming soon</i>	<i>More information coming soon</i>
The Education Café: Innovating Specialist Perioperative CPD Jasper Ballecer 15:00 – 15:50 Wood Scawen Room	<p>Discover a fresh, cost-effective way to empower perioperative practitioners with CPD tailored to their needs - without stretching budgets. This session introduces an innovative “CPD café menu” concept: a carefully curated selection of free, high-quality online CPD programmes offered to theatre staff during quieter times, such as industrial action days.</p> <p>Jasper, a key team member and proud winner of the AfPP Perioperative Care Team of the Year 2024 Award, will share the inspiring story behind this initiative, detailing how it was brought to life and the positive ripple effects on staff engagement, learning, and professional growth.</p> <p>Jasper will discuss how this flexible, staff-centered approach can adapt to evolving clinical demands while delivering meaningful development opportunities and strengthening your team - without extra cost.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss a proposed way of in-budget in-service support for theatre practitioners to access relevant CPD. • Describe an initiative which entails a flexible approach in supporting professional development for staff, while responding to the dynamic staffing and skill-mix needs of the clinical service. • Outline the financial and staff engagement impact of the initiative.
Perioperative International Recruitment Panel Pete Chell, Mike Donnellon, Christine Elliot, Maricar Gaspar Chair - Oliver Tierney 16:10 - 17:10	<p>This panel discussion will explore the challenges, opportunities, and responsibilities surrounding international recruitment in the perioperative setting. With a focus on Operating Department Practitioners (ODPs) and perioperative nurses, the session will examine how professional bodies, regulators, and frontline practitioners can ensure ethical recruitment, effective onboarding, and sustained support for international recruits.</p>	
SATURDAY 9 AUGUST		
Session details:	Overview	Learning Objectives
Beth's Story: The Importance of Speaking Up and Challenging in Teams Clare Bowen 08:40 - 09:30 Molnlycke Theatre	<p>Clare will share the story of what she and a surgeon experienced as the worst day of their lives. Clare will discuss how we health care professionals can work together to ensure that no one else has to face such a situation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on a situation similar to Beth's and consider how your response would differ now after hearing her story. • Identify ways to support colleagues in learning about Human Factors and its importance in clinical practice. • Explore how you can further your own understanding of Human Factors to improve patient safety and care.

<p>Daisy Ayris Lecture: Fixing Theatre Culture and Behaviours Scarlett McNally 9:30 - 10:20 Molnlycke Theatre</p>	<p>This session will explore how behaviours impact theatre culture, staff wellbeing, and patient outcomes. Negative behaviours contribute to poor patient care and staff distress, while positive teamwork is life-enhancing. We will discuss the reasons behind different behaviours and how change can occur - both at the institutional and individual levels. Practical tips will be provided for perpetrators, managers, policy-makers, allies, patients, bystanders, and more.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand why it is crucial to stop poor behaviours and foster good behaviours, considering their impact on both the team and patient outcomes. • Gain confidence in how to change behaviours, both as individuals and within organisations. • Gain practical tips and suggestions, such as "cup of coffee" conversations, the "Declare, Distract, Delegate or Delay" strategy, team briefs, promoting positive behaviours, and acknowledging diversity.
<p>Sustainability in Practice – Greener Theatres 10:50 - 11:40 Molnlycke Theatre</p>	<p>A thought-provoking and practical panel discussion exploring how we can deliver safe surgery while reducing our environmental impact. With the NHS committed to becoming the world's first net-zero health system, theatres, known for high energy use and waste generation, has a critical role to play. Whether you're already involved in green initiatives or just starting to think about sustainability in your practice, this session will offer inspiration, practical ideas, and honest insights into what it takes to build a greener future in perioperative care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical strategies for sustainable change without compromising patient safety or clinical standards. • Inspiration from peers leading change on the ground. • Ideas for getting involved and influencing change in your own department.
<p>AfPP Surgical Fires & Skin Prep Workshop: Best Practices for Perioperative Safety 10:50 - 11:40 11.50 – 12:40 Ensemble Room</p>	<p>Discover essential strategies to prevent surgical fires and gain the skills to respond effectively if one occurs</p> <p>Surgical fires, while rare, pose significant risks to patient safety and require a proactive approach to prevention. Proper skin preparation plays a critical role in reducing the risk by ensuring the safe use of alcohol-based skin antiseptics, by managing ignition sources, and adhering to best practices in perioperative environments. This hands-on workshop will equip perioperative practitioners with practical strategies for minimising fire hazards associated with alcohol-based skin preparation and associated ignition sources. Through interactive scenarios, participants will explore real-world challenges, applying evidence-based techniques to reduce risks while ensuring safe and effective surgical skin prep techniques, risk assessment, and adherence to AfPP best practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise and Identify key Risk Factors: Understand the fire triangle, recognise the key elements contributing to surgical fires, including ignition sources, fuel agents, oxidisers within the perioperative environment and your role in a surgical fire incident. • Implement Best Practices: Apply safe skin prep techniques to minimise fire risks, focusing on product selection, drying times, patient positioning to mitigate fire hazards and proper handling of flammable antiseptics. • Enhance Team Communication: Implement structured communication and emergency protocols to improve team coordination in fire prevention and response. Mandatory annual education, including ion induction is key here. • Develop Emergency Response Strategies: By engaging in simulated scenarios to refine communication, teamwork and rapid response protocols in the event of a fire-related incident for fire prevention, emphasising the role of preoperative briefings, teamwork, and compliance with AfPP guidelines.

Preventing Burnout and Promoting Wellbeing Danielle Grant 10:50 - 11:40 Helen Martin Studio	This session will provide valuable information on identifying the symptoms of burnout, understanding the common contributors to burnout, and exploring effective strategies for prevention. Danielle will discuss practical ways to reduce or eliminate burnout triggers and share simple yet impactful ideas for promoting overall wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise the signs and symptoms of burnout. • Identify the main contributors to burnout. • Learn strategies to reduce burnout and promote wellbeing.
Practical Steps To Strengthen Patient Safety Catherine Okonkwo 10:50 - 11:40 Wood Scawen Room	Explore actionable strategies to enhance patient safety in perioperative settings. Drawing from experience as an NHS NEL Patient Safety Partner, former CQC inspector, and Director at COMI, this session offers practical tools to foster safety culture, implement effective interventions, and drive continuous improvement towards outstanding care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise key components of a strong patient safety culture and how leadership and team behaviours directly impact outcomes in perioperative care. • Apply practical tools and frameworks, including learning from incidents and proactive risk identification, to enhance safety and compliance in everyday practice. • Understand the evolving regulatory and improvement landscape (e.g. PSIRF, CQC expectations) and how to embed sustainable change across healthcare settings.
Learning Surgical Safety with the Virtual Operating Theatre: The NatSSIPs 2 Workshop 10:50 - 11:40 11.50 – 12:40 13.45 – 14:35 Studio Room	Experience an immersive and interactive learning experience using the Virtual Reality Operating Theatre (VOT) to enhance your understanding of the National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures (NatSSIPs2). During this fun and engaging VOT workshop, participants will watch, interact, and then take turns to use the VR simulator. Learning Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain a better understanding of NatSSIPs 2 and how it helps to promote safe practice. • Enumerate and explain each of the sequential steps of NatSSIPs 2. • Demonstrate and self-evaluate the application of NatSSIPs 2 within the Virtual Reality Operating Theatre.
More information coming soon 11.50 – 12:40 Molnlycke Theatre	<i>More information coming soon</i>	<i>More information coming soon</i>
Let's Start a Conversation... Oliver Tierney 11.50 – 12:40 Helen Martin Studio	In this presentation Oliver will discuss the impact and prevalence of mental health in the workplace and our wider lives. The presentation will look to start a conversation to help demonstrate that it is "Ok to not be Ok" and how if we tell our own personal stories around mental health, we can help to remove the stigma and enact positive change in our departments. This session will also demonstrate how to set up a Health and Wellbeing Team within your department and the positive impact it can have.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain an understanding of the impact and prevalence of Mental health • Understand how Stigma can effect people suffering from mental health issues and prevent them seeking help • Demonstrate the important of Mental Health First Aiders and Health and Wellbeing team in the Theatre Department • Discuss the launch of the AfPP Behavioural Charter and "Sign-up to Civility"

NatSSIPs: Practical Approaches to Implementing National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures Scarlett McNally 11.50 – 12:40 Wood Scawen Room	This session will discuss how to improve processes to ensure that NatSSIPs (National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures) are used for all invasive procedures. This includes how organisations can embed NatSSIPs and how each step should work for every patient. The session will also offer practical suggestions on encouraging colleagues to use NatSSIPs efficiently and effectively, promoting a culture of safety in healthcare settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline of NatSSIPs – including what the safety standards are for organisations and for each patient. • Provide suggestions on how to implement NatSSIPs in practice. • Provide practicalities to encourage co-workers to use NatSSIPs efficiently and effectively.
Theatres of the Future: AI in Perioperative Care Kevin Cairns 13.45 – 14:35 Molnlycke Theatre	<p>Understanding the Promise, Pitfalls, and Purpose of Artificial Intelligence in Theatre Practice.</p> <p>Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer science fiction - it's already reshaping perioperative care. From predicting which patients are at risk of cancellation to alerting surgeons to intraoperative bleeding in real time, AI has growing potential to improve safety, efficiency, and decision-making in theatre.</p> <p>This session is designed specifically for perioperative professionals - including ODPs, anaesthetists, surgical nurses, and digital health champions - who want to understand how AI models work, how their outputs are evaluated, and where they can add value in real-world practice. Using real use cases and current NHS challenges, we'll demystify machine learning, large language models, and the metrics that determine whether an AI system is safe or biased.</p> <p>Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of how to evaluate AI tools, ask critical questions about fairness and risk, and confidently engage in the future of digital surgery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe key artificial intelligence models and their potential role in perioperative settings. • Discuss current perioperative challenges that AI tools can help address, including list optimization and stock management. • Identify legal, ethical, and safety considerations for implementing AI in surgical environments.
Leadership: from Aspiring to Inspiring Maxine Page, Lisa Tierney 13.45 – 14:35 Ensemble Room	<i>More information coming soon</i>	<i>More information coming soon</i>
Schwartz Rounds Christine Johnson, Suzy Plows 13.45 – 14:35 Helen Martin Studio	<i>More information coming soon</i>	<i>More information coming soon</i>

<p>International Voices: Shaping NHS Recruitment and Retention Mayflor Bernal 13.45 – 14:35 Wood Scawen Room</p>	<p>This session offers valuable insights into the journey and lived experiences of Mayflor, an internationally educated nurse working within the NHS and social care. The session highlights the challenges faced as an international recruit, particularly those affecting workforce retention and the delivery of safe, effective patient care in both acute and community settings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise awareness of the challenges that internationally educated nurses encounter when working abroad, and to emphasise the importance of comprehensive pastoral support. • To strengthen the support systems that enable internationally educated nurses to thrive personally and professionally as they navigate their chosen career paths. • To identify and promote opportunities that empower staff from the global majority to confidently advocate for themselves and their peers.
<p>Cadence: the Key to High Performance Leanne Spencer 14.50 - 15:50 Molnlycke Theatre</p>	<p>Leanne will equip you with the skills to minimise risk of burnout, manage your energy and have more fun by following a four-step process. This interactive, fun keynote is brought to life by Leanne through the power of storytelling. This interactive session brings the Cadence Approach to life. A method that helps professionals align effort with recovery to enhance performance, sustain wellbeing, and build long-term resilience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the Cadence Approach and Its Relevance to Theatre Practitioners. Discover how aligning effort with recovery supports optimal performance, reduces fatigue, and promotes wellbeing in demanding clinical settings. • Develop Strategies to Sustain Energy and Focus. Learn practical tools to manage workload, shifts, and emotional demands using cadence principles to maintain resilience and effectiveness. • Recognise and Respond to Signs of Overload. Identify early warning signs of stress and imbalance, and implement proactive strategies to restore rhythm and prevent burnout.