Visit to European Association of Urology Nurses (EAUN) Conference – Madrid 2025

Anna Wilson – Lead Cancer Nurse Practitioner – Urology

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust

I attended the EAUN conference from 22nd to 24th March 2025. This was my first time attending this conference, having been a member of EAUN for a number of years. This year's conference was held in Madrid and celebrated 25 years of the EAUN meeting.

The decision to try and attend this year's meeting was significant, partly due to it being a celebration of 25 years of the EAUN meeting and therefore, I felt that this would offer an exciting time to attend. However, I was also keen to attend, having been fortunate enough to be named Urology Nurse of the Year in 2024 for my work in developing a same day emergency care (SDEC) service at my trust, to try and share my experience with others. As such, I submitted an abstract for an Expert Guided Poster Presentation for this year's EAUN conference and I was fortunate that this was selected. This also helped to make up for the disappointment at not being able to present at a previous EAUN meeting back in 2020 due to being unable to travel due to the Covid pandemic.

This year's event ran over 3 days, with a number of seminars, lectures and thematic sessions running each day, alongside a wider industry exhibition. The event was well run and the sessions offered covered a variety of topics.

Whilst my role is predominantly cancer focused, it is vital that I have a good understanding of a wide range of urological conditions and that this broader understanding will only enhance my knowledge and experience. I therefore chose to attend a variety of lectures on both benign urology and uro-oncology topics, believing that this would offer me an opportunity to continue to develop my understanding of a range of subjects. As such, I was able to attend lectures covering bladder and prostate cancer treatments, endourology and robotics, benign abnormalities of the penis, urodynamics, uroflowmetry and the emerging impact of ketamine uropathy.

A particularly interesting and pertinent course was one that covered the diagnosis and management of acute urological presentations. This course provided and oversight of the main conditions that might present as an emergency within a urology setting and how these are managed. I felt that this particular course would be especially relevant to my role whilst running SDEC. This course was two hours long and required an additional registration and a pre and post course test to allow you to reflect on your understanding. I found this course incredibly interesting and engaging and relevant to my role within SDEC. I was surprised to realise that I knew more about the urological conditions covered (I think a common theme with nurses is that we have a tendency to underestimate our own knowledge and expertise!) and I came away from this session feeling more confident in being able to recognise some of the more acute urological conditions and how I might better support patients with such conditions.

As part of the conference visit, I was expected to do an Expert guided Poster presentation after having my abstract selected prior to the conference. My abstract and poster detailed how I set up the Urology SDEC service at my trust and the impact this has had in terms of reducing emergency department and ward attendances. The poster presentations were due to be presented at a special,

smaller session on the final day of the conference and I was one of nine participants selected to speak.

Whilst I found the process nerve wracking, I was keen to present the work we had done within our team and for our trust and to share the impact that this new service had. The presentation went well and the engagement from the small audience was good with some interesting questions from the session lead about how the SDEC service was being received.

I found the entire conference engaging and useful with the sessions provided thought provoking and relevant to current practice. The poster presentations provided by other nurses from other countries were also interesting, offering an insight into how many urology teams are developing services to meet the increasing demands of their patient populations whilst also trying to enhance patient experience.

There were a few key takeaways from the conference that I wanted to share with my wider team and am planning to do at our next monthly team education meeting in April:

- Pre-surgery workshop/meeting for patients having major kidney surgery ('Prehab' for renal cancer patients) – we already offer this for prostate patients but should be doing the same for our renal cancer patients (especially as we are a tertiary referral centre)
- Review of our appointment processes for procedures such as urodynamics to improve patient attendance and reduce non-attendance rates
- Focus on data collection of patient experience for new clinics/services we set up/are running (e.g. SDEC, nurse pelvic floor service) to show how our services are improving care for patients

On reflection following the conference, I was struck by how many of the clinics and services provided within my urology department are striving towards or already demonstrating best practice and that as a team, we continue to try and innovate to improve efficiency, but more importantly, maintain

excellent levels of care and experience for our patients. What is clear, however, is how poorly we have done in terms of sharing our practice and talking about areas where we have developed services.

As a result, I am keen to try and encourage my own team to share the work they are doing and to promote any improvements we make in our own department in the hope that they may be useful to others. Next year's EAUN conference is being held in London and so I have already taken steps to promote the conference to the team, encouraging them to attend and suggesting that this may be something we can attend as a department. Furthermore, I have taken steps towards joining one of the Special Interest Groups (SIG's) that EAUN have, in the hope that this may also help me to share my own knowledge whilst also providing an opportunity to help develop pathways and improve experience for patients within urology settings.