



national association of
medical device educators & trainers

Annual Report 2019

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Introduction	Page 2
NAMDET up to 2019	Page 3 - 4
Financial update	Page 4 - 5
Conference update	Page 5
Website and IT systems	Page 6
Summary	Page 7

Thank you for taking time out to read our annual report for 2019. Please feel free to circulate to all NAMDET members, and share with your colleagues at work. NAMDET is a unique association that is made up of NHS, industry, private sector, academia and volunteers and membership is free. Membership includes; access to a free website, our own journal (MDET), regional group meetings, national network of educators and trainers and our own annual conference all geared towards helping each other and sharing ideas around education and training for medical devices.

Introduction

Well, here we are nearing the end of a tumultuous 2019 with almost 3 years of that ‘B’ word (that I can’t bring myself to say) but despite the ongoing wranglings in parliament we have all still just about managed to keep our sanity and continue to tackle the ever-growing pressures within (and outside) the NHS, and continue to deliver exemplary patient care and continuity of services.

My own experiences of attending ‘B’ meetings since January 2019, planning contingencies for stock and disaster planning takes me back to the era of the ‘Y2K’ meetings that took weeks out of my busy schedule. The impending ‘doom and gloom’ of the clocks changing from 1999 to the year 2000 were thought to lead to a disabling of central station monitors in critical care areas such as ITU, CCU and SCBU, infusion pumps would crash, cardiocographs would no longer detect foetal movements and any computers with Microsoft operating systems of 3.1 (that were only a few year’s old) would simply try to re-boot and probably never start up again.

Our engineers were all on call that night, waiting with bated breath to be called in at a moment’s notice, the intensive care units, special care baby units and departments with ECG telemetries and time-sensitive devices simply rolled on through midnight, with no alarms and seamless transition from one century to the next.

The NHS, it’s staff and its supporters (industry included) seems to have a relentless ability to cope, to manage and to face adversity and whether its ‘B’ or new government initiatives, wholesale changes and re-organisations, financial pressures, cash-flow or funding issues we all still manage, and manage to deliver a first-class service that remains the envy of the rest of the world, and will continue in that way for centuries to come.



status & standing

Raise the status and standing of Medical Device Trainers and Educators



mutual support

Provide a forum for mutual support and assistance between members



represent

Represent the consensus views and opinions of members at regional and national level



inform & improve

Inform and improve national policy and the regulatory landscape by communicating NAMDET member positions on issues of importance



contribute

Positively contribute to reducing adverse medical device incidents



NAMDET up to 2019

NAMDET is 8 years old now, and our regional groups continue to grow, with continued interest from Ireland and central England to establish new regional groups for 2020. Our website membership has this week reached the 1,000 target and we have been invited to a number of high-level meetings, contribute to reports and committees and we should all be very proud of what we have achieved, in such a very small timeframe compared to most organisations that have been going for many decades.

Our 5 key objectives now play a part in regional meetings and we ask each regional chair to focus on what they (locally) are doing to meet them, how they link into the national agenda and to paraphrase the words of 'JF Kennedy' not just *what can NAMDET do for you, but what you can do for NAMDET?* A number of new regional chairs have been appointed throughout 2019 and our industry colleagues now chair some of these groups including; West Midlands, London & South East and Wales. All members are pleased to see a fresh perspective and new way of managing our regions with our industry partners at the helm.

NAMDET is now represented on the MHRA editorial group for the Medical Device Safety Officers (MDSO) network and this continues to be an excellent conduit for safety officers, trainers and educators that meet and present via monthly webex to review what's new in medical device safety.

On a national level, we are also members of the National Patient Safety Response Advisory Panel (NatRAP) <https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/patient-safety-alerts/>. This group is part of NHS Improvement and regularly reviews and develops national patient safety alerts and actions. NAMDET also inputs to reports and feedback from the MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) and all of this helps us to; *positively contribute to reducing adverse medical devices incidents, and inform and improve national policy and the regulatory landscape by communicating NAMDET member positions on issues of importance;* and meet 2 of our 5 main objectives.

In 2019, NAMDET was asked by Medtronic Ltd. to be involved in the development of training material to support the NHSI patient safety alert around '*safe use of pulse oximeter probes*' and we helped review their training posters and computerised video, and this was eventually shared across the UK and free to use by medical device trainers and educators.

NAMDET is leading on a national project around DERS (Dose Error Reduction Software) for infusion pumps) where five key infusion devices companies (Baxter, Smiths, Hospira/ICU Medical, BD, and B Braun) are supporting this unique initiative. Data has been collected and a definitive list of high-risk medications is currently being analysed and the potential that DERS can offer is being closely monitored by this special project group. NAMDET has been invited to attend parliamentary meetings, present progress at national and international events throughout 2019 including; MDSO & MSO (Medication Safety Officer) conference in London, the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM) in Paris and most recently at the BJA Infusion Therapy Safety Conference in Birmingham (November 2019).

A national ‘DERS and Smart Infusion Pump’ event in early 2020 is hoping to consolidate the UK position and provide an empirical, evidenced-based report to share with industry, regulators and the NHS.

Our small group of volunteers put in an enormous amount of time and effort and have great support from their employers, friends and families and do all of this without payment or favour. We are extremely grateful for their ongoing support and commitment. Our new Management Group continue to plan our 5-year rolling strategy (available via the website) , our MDET journal, newsletters, website updates (news and posts) and link in with regional, national and international project meetings and events. In 2019, NAMDET were invited to the Clinical Human Factors Group conference and this has been reciprocated for our 2019 conference in York (Nov 14th). In addition, Philips Medical has invited NAMDET to the National Biomedical Engineering Conference in 2020, and they will also be attending our conference in a partnership agreement in 2020.

I want to thank again our ever decreasing small board of Directors (John, Rose and Jean), our Management Board (Andy, Robert, Mary, Marie, Tammy and Michelle) our regional chairs and their secretaries, co-opted colleagues and our industry partners. We could not have achieved so much without such massive input from these passionate people and the support of their employers. Not just for their time, but their expertise, background knowledge, understanding and continued commitment.

Financial Update

We end 2019 in a healthy financial position and have secured funding for 2 new projects. Funding has been achieved for the national DERS (Dose Error Reduction Software) position paper project and in 2019 NAMDET was asked by HEE (Health Education England) to bid for project funding to help review the medical devices e-learning modules, and develop new and innovative training content, including the safe use of medical gases and oxygen safety.

We were successful in winning the bid and have already developed a series of training booklets, supportive power-points, safety notices, check-lists and patient/staff information leaflets too. These are now ready for final review and we are looking to establish a UK-wide group to finalise and develop this into a national training initiative for medical gas safety training. The funding means that we are well placed to financially support these projects and cover costs for members to attend these meetings, and continue to lead and support these 2 national projects.

We are ever grateful for the continued support of our industry partners that sponsor the national website (www.namdet.org) and during 2020 are planning an overhaul and upgrade which will include; a streamlined newsletter service, members area, news and posts via social media, medical devices news section, additional training resources and links to nationally agreed training materials.



At the NAMDET Management Board meetings in Birmingham during 2019, our 5-year strategy was revised with a re-focus on developing regional groups and national agenda (available via the website). We updated our internal finance plans and policies and intend to invite the regional chairs to future national board meetings and this will be further rolled out during 2020. We continually look at cost-effective ways of reducing overheads and meeting costs and have signed up for a free telephone conference meeting service (whypay.net) to help keep the management board members up to date with projects and activities.

NAMDET Conference Update.

The NAMDET board helps to plan, manage and deliver an excellent conference each year and 2019 (our 9th event) is re-located to the North East of England (York) in an attempt to link in with regional groups, further develop links and offer alternative venue for our '*jewel in the crown*' annual event.

Our conference team take on this role (in addition to all other projects) and if you've ever tried to organise an event with up to 10 invited speakers, 20 exhibitors, visit and decide a suitable venue, plan accommodation, evening gala dinner (which this year is expected to reach over 60 delegates, with menu choices too) then this is like planning an annual wedding and the stresses and strains are no different. So it's a massive thank you to conference planning team, our finance lead and colleagues, as they continue to put on an excellent event that continues to go from strength to strength.

Our finances allow us to keep costs down for conference and we aim to maintain the delegate rate at a cost-effective price. Our current use of 'PayPal' and manual invoices adds an extra cost to NAMDET and in 2020 we are looking to develop a new conference booking and invoices software programme that will automatically reserve places, issue receipts with QR codes and automatic links to the evening networking dinner.






Each year NAMDET will look at membership and joining fees and this will be voted for at each AGM event (as part of conference agenda) as agreed in our 5 year strategy plan.

Running any small business is expensive and the Management Board (now 10 members) has grown significantly over the past 3 years and we need to invest in new web design, new projects and general running costs. Our MDET journal is still fully funded by one supplier (BD Ltd.) and is a great way to reach out to members and those with an interest in medical devices, risk and governance. Without their support we would not be in such an advantageous position to share what we know, and what we learn. NAMDET is always keen to learn about any local, national or international events, initiatives and device developments. We can share these via our MDET journal and if you have any local stories of interest then please let us know and we will put you in touch with the medical writers and publisher and help get your stories into print and shared with all members.

Website and IT systems www.namdet.org

The NAMDET website continues to be updated (as often as I can) and we have a newsletter link via ‘mail-chimp’, which is linked to the website for new posts and news to ensure secure communications. The mail-chimp service sends automatic emails to listed members, tracks activity and help us to engage with members from outside the UK. The United Kingdom continues to be our most common access point with USA and Ireland too. As mail-chimp can be accessed from anywhere in the world then international members, and those on holidays, can always access their news and receive their free updates. Unfortunately, there are still some NHS organisations that continue to block external newsletter services so please remember to check the NAMDET website to see all of the updates, news and feeds.

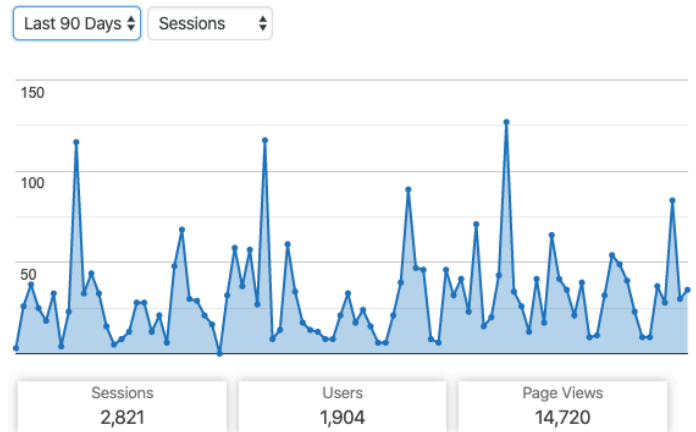
Top locations by opens

 United Kingdom	793	82.9%
 USA	97	10.1%
 Ireland	56	5.9%
 France	3	0.3%
 Germany	2	0.2%



The main website is still managed by Topline Ltd. and now has a more secure (*https*) domain location. Our on-line membership has reached 1,000 with more coming on line each month. We continue to receive thousands of page hits per month and activity continues to grow. We have increased our website sponsorship to 8 sponsors, with our education partner Healthcare Skills Ltd. helping to take forward our training and learning initiatives for 2020.

Google Analytics Dashboard



Our new closer links to HEE and eLearning for Health (eL4H) mean that the existing link to the Medical Device Driving Licence (MDDL), and link from the NAMDET website, will soon be removed. Apologies for any inconveniences, but some of the MDDL modules are out of date and no longer relevant and we don't have the original software ‘source codes’ to change the content.

Being actively involved in meetings, professional associations, reading articles and news items all help contribute to ongoing continual professional development (CPD). We will look again in 2020 at issuing membership certificates that can be used in annual job appraisals, HCPC records, NMC revalidation evidence as well as your own training portfolios.

Summary.

In less than 10 years we have gone from a small band of volunteers, a few local groups to the UK’s ‘go-to’ organisation for medical device education and training. We now have 1,000 website members, our own journal (MDET) and regional groups across the UK, with two more planned for 2020. We have helped CQC, NHSI and the MHRA and more recently have linked in with the newly formed HSIB (Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch) looking at ways in which we can all learn from errors, events and incidents with medical devices. We continue to work closely with the ALBs (Arms Length Bodies) and focus on training, safety and support to continually raise our ‘status and standing’.

We still have a long way to go and there are people and organisations who still haven’t heard of us. I encourage you to share the message, get involved and help take NAMDET even further in 2020. Our management board are always on the lookout for new volunteers, those with an interest and enthusiasm to maintain our momentum and help to represent our profession.

Our membership continues to grow and represent many areas of NHS and Industry and regulators. Please encourage your colleagues, involved in medical device education and training, safety and risk and/or device skills training to join us.

I look forward to meeting some of you in York at Conference 2019. A massive thank you from me to all our members and supporters and good luck, and very best wishes for 2020.

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