



Shire Innovation Fund for IBD Nurses Newsletter

ISSUE 3 / WINTER 2010

Welcome to the winter 2010 issue of the Shire Innovation Fund for Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Nurses Newsletter. Now in its second year, the Shire Innovation Fund for IBD Nurses has awarded 20 grants to support a wide range of projects.

The Shire Innovation Fund is an ongoing initiative sponsored by Shire Pharmaceuticals as part of its continued commitment to improving the outcomes of patients with IBD. The next round will be open for applications on 28th February 2011 and will close on the 2nd May 2011, and we would very much like to encourage you to apply.

In this newsletter you will not only find details of how to apply for the next round of grants (page 2) but also some specific points on what the judges are looking for so that you can increase your chances of success (page 3). Also included in this newsletter is a review of the successful applicants and their projects from the first 2010 round of awards, announced in June (pages 4-7). We also catch up with the winners from the last round in 2009 to see how their projects are progressing (page 8).

**SEE INSIDE FOR
DETAILS OF
SUCCESSFUL
APPLICANTS AND
HOW TO APPLY...**

WHAT IS THE AIM OF THE INITIATIVE?

The Shire Innovation Fund for IBD Nurses was set up to support nurses working in IBD who want to develop their services further. A minimum of 10 grants of up to £1,500 per year each will be made available for nurse-led projects that further medical care for patients with IBD.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR FUNDING?

The Fund is open to any nurse providing care to IBD patients and any proposal that furthers development of local IBD patient services. This can include providing resources for a nurse's own professional development, purchasing equipment, participation in congresses or educational programmes or auditing and research activities.



Presentation of award to Mark Sephton (right) by Shire Innovation Fund for IBD Nurses Judge, Jane Povey (Left), and Senior Product Manager at Shire Pharmaceuticals, Mike Nedham (centre)

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

The grants are awarded twice a year (a minimum of five grants for each round of applications) and all entrants are adjudicated by an independent judging panel consisting of three IBD specialist nurses from IBD centres across the UK.

An application pack can be requested by email from ShireInnovation@synergymedical.co.uk. The next round will be open for applications on 28th February 2011, and will close on the 2nd May 2011.

Top tips on how to make your application successful

Once all the applications have been received and made anonymous, the judging panel meet to assess the projects and determine those applicants who should be awarded grants. Here are some of the key things the judges look for when analysing the applications:

INDICATE HOW YOU INTEND TO EVALUATE THE SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT

Applicants are encouraged to include full details on how they are going to monitor or analyse the success of their project, either through auditing the results or gaining feedback from other staff members and/or patients.

HIGHLIGHT THE BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT FOR PATIENT CARE

Through the implementation of successful projects, the Shire Innovation Fund for IBD Nurses aims to help improve patient care and outcomes. Therefore, when developing your application it is important to describe the positive effect your project will have on your IBD patients.

SET ACHIEVABLE TIMELINES

It is important to show that you have a clear and realistic understanding of how much time will be required to develop and complete the project.

INCLUDE A BREAKDOWN OF COSTS

Providing a comprehensive list of the costs required shows the judges that you have researched your project and have a clear understanding of what is involved. For example an application for a training course may include the following costs:

- Training course fees: **£850**
- Travel costs (e.g. standard class return train ticket from London to Liverpool): **£100**
- Accommodation (e.g. 4 nights in a standard hotel for 5 day course): **£400**

TOTAL: £1,350

THINK ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

Making sure your application is clearly laid out and easy to read to facilitate the judges in making their decision.

The spring 2010 awards: successful projects

There was an enthusiastic response to the last round of funding with applications received for many interesting and innovative projects. A total of six projects were successful, and here is an overview of them:

ISOBEL MASON

GASTROENTEROLOGY NURSE CONSULTANT,
ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, LONDON

Isobel leads a specialist interest group at the Royal Free Hospital comprising of gastroenterology, colorectal, stoma care and nutrition specialist nurses. One of the aims of the group is to ensure the education and support for nurses across the trust who aren't specialist nurses but who are working with patients who have gastrointestinal problems.

Currently, the group issues a newsletter across the hospital every other month on the important topics within gastrointestinal nursing. Each issue focuses on a different topic and provides information on the important things to do and consider when treating patients with these conditions.

To develop this further, the group would like to bring all the information together into a small, printed booklet on the key aspects of basic care for inpatients with gastrointestinal problems. This booklet will have a wider distribution than the current newsletter and should reach more nurses. It will help to ensure that IBD patients are managed better in hospital so that the amount of time that they have to stay in hospital is reduced.

On behalf of the specialist interest group, Isobel applied to the Shire Innovation Fund for a grant to pay for the illustration and printing of the booklet.

Once developed, the booklet will be personally delivered to different wards in the hospital by the gastrointestinal nurses. The booklet will

“Whilst we were not looking for a lot of funding, it would have been difficult to find. The Shire Innovation Fund will enable us to finance the booklet, which should have a substantial benefit for patients, and applying to the Fund was very straight forward.”



Gastroenterology Specialist Interest Group,
Royal Free Hospital, London

also be distributed at training sessions run by Isobel and her colleagues. Every 12 months the specialist gastroenterology nurses run a bowel audit to assess patient management across the hospital. This will determine how the booklet has helped improve patient care.

MARK SEPHTON

LEAD IBD SPECIALIST NURSE,
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL OF SOUTH MANCHESTER

Since winning his first Shire Innovation Fund award for a Clinical Examination course, Mark has started a new post at the University Hospital of South Manchester. This is a large teaching hospital that has previously never had an IBD nurse specialist.

Mark aims to set up a new IBD nursing service at the hospital and decided to apply for funding through the Shire Innovation Fund. He is keen for the service to meet the IBD Standards, so he will have to put a number of resources in place to get the service established.

This will involve developing an IBD helpline, providing patient information leaflets, installing a patient database, setting up a GP awareness programme as well as facilitating patient input through patient panels.

The grant awarded by the Shire Innovation Fund will be put towards developing some of these key areas thereby improving the quality of patient care, safety and experience within the hospital on a quicker timescale than applying for funding through the health authorities.

Mark also believes that education is a part of the IBD nurse's role and hopes to be able to contribute to the education of ward nurses and medical staff through a variety of different forums in order to further improve the IBD patient experience at the hospital.

As it is set against the IBD standards, Mark feels that the project will be extremely measurable and looks forward to evaluating the progress the service has made next year.



‘The great thing about the Shire Innovation Fund is the scope of what can be applied for, and this makes it special.’



LOUANNE MCCABE

CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST IBD, THE ROYAL HAMPSHIRE COUNTY HOSPITAL, WINCHESTER

Louanne worked for many years as a senior nurse/sister in colorectal surgery/critical care prior to her undertaking the post as an IBD sister. Louanne has set this service up in its entirety and therefore, in parallel, has gained a wealth of knowledge. Her learning has been hugely experimental as well as academically self-directed. However, although she has confidence in the care that she gives, its success being evident in the feedback from the gastroenterology team and patients/families, she has always been keen to undertake a more formalised, structured learning, consolidating everything to date, to ensure the absolute best-practice and standards for her patients.

For many years Louanne has wished to undertake the IBD Advanced Practice course at St Mark's Hospital Burdett Institute. Unfortunately, a lack of funding has not made this possible, therefore she decided to apply to the Shire Innovation Fund to attend the course.

'When I first heard about the Fund I never actually believed it could happen; it sounded so simple! I was delighted to hear that I had been successful!'

Once the course is completed, Louanne aims to move forward with a number of projects that she and her dedicated gastroenterology consultant have planned for the future development of the IBD service at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital. This is to include setting up a new IBD database and the creation of integrated care pathways in line with the IBD Standards, both of which will greatly benefit patients.

LIN MEAR

IBD CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST, YEOVIL DISTRICT HOSPITAL

As the only specialist IBD nurse at Yeovil District Hospital, Lin wanted to attend the IBD Advanced Practice course at St Mark's Hospital to help her evaluate the service she set up almost three years ago and identify how it could be improved.

The course only runs every two years so Lin decided to attend the course this year and applied for the Shire Innovation Fund hoping that she would receive funding towards the fees. Lin finished the course in July and found it a valuable opportunity to network and share best practice with others attending.

For her assignment, Lin presented a plan on holding routine follow-up appointments with suitable patients over the telephone and she is now looking to implement this into her service. Lin hopes that this will benefit patients as they will not need to take time off work or to travel to the hospital. Additionally, this should free up some of the appointment slots, reducing waiting times for other patients who require more face to face treatment support.

'I would definitely recommend the Shire Innovation Fund to others as I am confident that the new skills I learnt on the course, which the Fund enabled me to attend, will help me improve our service to our patients'



VIRGINIA OVERTON

STAFF NURSE, BROOMFIELD HOSPITAL, CHELMSFORD

Virginia has been awarded a Shire Innovation Fund to cover her course fees to attend the IBD course at King's College. Virginia has worked in the gastroenterology department at Mid Essex Hospitals NHS Trust for the past three years, and although the ward treats many IBD patients, they do not have a specialist IBD nurse. Therefore, Virginia hopes that by attending the course, she will be able to greatly improve the care given to these patients.

JAN WATSON

SPECIALIST NURSE IN GASTROENTEROLOGY, GREAT WESTERN HOSPITAL, SWINDON

With increasing pressure to provide more nurse-led clinics, Jan decided to apply to the Shire Innovation Fund to support her attendance at a Clinical History Taking and Physical Examination Course.

She feels that attending the course will optimise her clinical expertise and improve confidence in her practice, in particular with complicated cases that may also have co-existing diseases. This should facilitate a more considered clinical assessment of patients and subsequently allow more decisions to be made. This in turn would avoid the need for a doctor's assessment, ensuring the smooth running of clinics by avoiding interruptions to both her own and the doctor's clinics. She feels that this will improve the overall quality of the service for the patients.

Jan is also involved in teaching other healthcare staff including training nurses and some medical students and she hopes that the skills and knowledge she gains from the course will also benefit these groups.



Looking to the future, especially with recently proposed Government changes to the delivery of health care, clinics nearer to patients may be planned. These will be a great benefit to patients that currently travel a long way to the hospital clinic, having to take time off work or studies to do so. Jan believes that the course will place her in a better position to do the regional clinics.

'Our ongoing learning and professional development is mandatory and vastly important to us. Without the Shire Innovation Fund I would not have been able to do this course as there is presently no funding within the Trust to support it.'

Winter 2009 successful applicants:



There were a total of eight successful applicants in the winter 2009 round of the Shire Innovation Fund. We have been in touch with some of them to see how their projects are progressing.

JULIE DUNCAN

ST THOMAS' HOSPITAL, LONDON

Julie set out to undertake some research into faecal incontinence in IBD patients. Since winning the award, Julie has developed her research method and has applied for approval from the ethical committee at her trust. Once approval has been granted, all of the 600 patients attending Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust will be sent a questionnaire. This aims to investigate how many IBD patients experience faecal incontinence, whether their clinicians ask about these symptoms and if they have been offered any treatments. Julie hopes to receive 400 completed questionnaires which she will then analyse to assess the prevalence of faecal incontinence and its impact on a patient's quality of life. Overall, the project is expected to take a year to complete.

LYNN GRAY

THE COUNTESS OF CHESTER HOSPITAL

Lynn has completed her IBD Advanced Practice Course at Kings College, and is awaiting her results. The course provided an excellent forum for sharing best practice as it was attended by nurses with a wide variety of expertise from many different geographical areas.

Lynn felt that it provided an opportunity to reflect on her practice and that she learnt a lot personally. Following the course, Lynn made use of the weekly journal club held by her department to discuss her thoughts on how they could improve certain elements of their IBD service.

The second Fund Lynn was awarded was to set up a patient panel. Lynn has selected ten patients with different experiences and so far they have held two meetings. Lynn and her team have already started implementing changes discussed in the meetings, such as improving the patient information leaflets which were reviewed by the patients on the panel. The feedback Lynn has received from the panel has been very positive and all the patients involved have enjoyed taking part. Looking to the future, Lynn hopes to continue holding a panel meeting every three months.



Wendi Harrison (far left) and Lynn Gray (far right) with Jane Povey and Dr Rehan Gomez (Shire)

WENDI HARRISON

FURNESS GENERAL HOSPITAL

Originally, Wendi applied for funding to attend an IBD Advanced Practice Course. However, not only has she attended the course, but Wendi has used the remaining money on a number of smaller projects to help achieve her ultimate goal of becoming a fully trained IBD nurse specialist. The course provided an opportunity for Wendi to network with other nurses, sharing tips on best practice and gaining information on patient care.

Following this, Wendi has attended local clinics in her area to meet IBD patients and to offer support and advice. She also hopes to visit other IBD nurses in the north to see how they have developed their role.

In addition, Wendi has used some of the Fund to set up a patient panel and has been able to use the feedback gained to strengthen her business plan for a dedicated IBD nurse-run clinic and telephone support line.

'The Shire Innovation Fund I received has been so valuable for my professional development and to patients within the Furness area. I can't thank you enough'

TRACEY TYRRELL

ST MARK'S HOSPITAL, HARROW

The Link Nurse Programme, for which Tracey applied to the Shire Innovation Fund for support, has been up and running for the past nine months. Six nurses from the wards (dedicated gastroenterology, endoscopy and general medical) and outpatient settings have been identified as IBD link nurses. As part of this programme, the nurses have been attending a one-hour study session once a month on various aspects of managing IBD. The nurses have also been asked to set up an information board on their wards, which provides IBD related information for both patients, their relatives and staff members. The Shire Innovation Fund has helped cover these costs. On completion of each information board, each link nurse will receive an IBD text book and the nurse responsible for the best board will be awarded a trip to an IBD study day. The aim is for the link nurses to share best practice with other ward nurses in the hospital.

'The Shire Innovation Fund has helped enormously'