



British Association for Nursing in Cardiovascular Care Winter 2025 Newsletter

Dear BANCC Members,

As we begin 2026, I want to recognise the extraordinary pressures faced by cardiology nurses across the UK. Ongoing workforce vacancies, the absence of valued colleagues due to potential vacancy freezes, rising clinical demand, and continued financial constraints within the NHS mean many of you are delivering outstanding care under exceptionally challenging circumstances.

Despite these challenges, cardiology nursing is entering a period of profound transformation. A renewed focus on sustainable cardiovascular care, the responsible integration of artificial intelligence, and the expansion of advanced, nurse led, patient centred technologies are reshaping how we care for our patients. Over the coming months, opportunities to connect, learn, and lead will be central to this journey, including the BANCC Annual Conference on 24th April 2026 register today, [Conference — BANCC](#), focused on sustainability. We also encourage attendees to submit and present abstracts on research, audits, quality improvement projects, service evaluations, literature reviews, and clinical cases, to share their expertise and innovations with the community.

BANCC remains committed to supporting, advocating for, and amplifying the voice of cardiology nurses as we navigate this demanding yet exciting year together. This year, it is also paramount that we grow and sustain our membership. We need your help to share why, how, and the benefits of joining BANCC, please encourage others to join today and they can attend conference for free, ([Membership — BANCC](#)), ensuring our community continues to thrive and lead in cardiovascular nursing.

Warm Regards

Mrs Nicola Bowers

President of BANCC

Education committee update:

BANCC Conference 2026: Sustainability in Cardiovascular Care

24 April 2026 • #BANCC2026 • South of England

Location: Buckinghamshire New University – High Wycombe campus

It's full steam ahead for the Education Sub-committee as we prepare for BANCC Conference 2026 on 24 April 2026. For the first time in several years we're heading to the south of England, and we'd love you to join us. Capacity is limited to 150 places and membership continues to grow, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Registration remains £0 for BANCC members; however, a £20 fee will apply to bookings made after the early-bird deadline of 16 March 2026, and to non-attendance (no-shows) by free-ticket holders.

This year's programme is our most ambitious yet, built around the theme "Sustainability in Cardiovascular Care." We open with a keynote from Dr Emma Blakely, NHS England's Lead Nurse for Sustainability, setting the scene for how greener practice can go hand-in-hand with safer, more efficient cardiovascular care.

Throughout the day, you'll find practical, skills-focused workshops—ranging from how to write a compelling business case that secures investment and service improvement, to refreshers in ECG interpretation that translate directly to bedside decision-making. Our sustainability strand explores what this means in real terms: sustainable dietary advice in collaboration with BACPR, and an eye-opening session on repurposing used pacemakers for low-resource settings. We'll also reprise conference favourites, including "This Year in Cardiovascular Research," distilling the latest evidence for everyday practice, and a moving patient experience talk from Daniela Machado, an inspirational endocarditis survivor, reminding us why this work matters.

In line with the theme, we're going paper-free for the programme and posters and making as many small, sustainable changes as we can. We'd love you to contribute your work—whether an improvement project, clinical case, or research. Please submit a short abstract via the BANCC "Abstracts" page: [Abstracts — BANCC](#).

If you're new to presenting, our recent webinar demystifies the process and shows the support available: <https://members.bancc.org.uk/articles/696f6a512ed781000893cde8>.

Looking ahead, our March webinar will focus on Cardio-Oncology, and we're planning a joint webinar with BACPR later in the year. As always, we welcome your topic ideas and speaker recommendations—and we can't wait to see you at #BANCC2026.

We'd love to hear **your views** on future topics or suggestions for speakers. Email your suggestions to bancc@bcs.com.



At Buckinghamshire New University

Calling all cardiovascular nurses /
cardiovascular healthcare professionals

**Sustainable
Cardiovascular Care
2026**

Join global leaders, innovators, and changemakers for a powerful day of insights,
collaboration, and action toward a more sustainable future.

Stay tuned for registration details and speaker announcements. Let's build a greener
tomorrow—together.

 FREE for BANCC Members – Join BANCC now and attend at no cost!

Sponsors have had no editorial input into the agenda, speaker selection or presentations, with the exception of any promotional sponsored symposium.



British Association
for Nursing in
Cardiovascular Care
Your Voice in Cardiovascular Nursing

CONFERENCE
2026
Friday, April 24, 2026

Join BANCC today:
<https://www.bancc.org.uk/membership>

Research committee update:

Members are invited to submit abstracts for poster presentations at the forthcoming BANCC conference. Submissions are welcomed across a broad range of topics, including empirical research, audits, service evaluations, case studies, literature reviews, and innovations related to clinical practice, service delivery, education, or evolving job roles.

Posters and Abstracts for the 2026 BANCC Annual Conference must be sent to bancc@bcs.com by 5pm Monday 2nd March.

Poster presentations offer an excellent opportunity to share learning, showcase best practice, and contribute to professional discussion across the congenital cardiac community. Submissions from all professional backgrounds and levels of experience are encouraged.

Abstract submission details and guidance can be found on the BANCC website:

<https://www.bancc.org.uk/abstracts>.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR GOOD NEWS STORIES SO WE CAN CELEBRATE YOU OR YOUR COLLEAGUES

Many congratulations from BANCC to:

In our last newsletter we congratulated Dr Karen Higginbotham who was the primary investigator in Liverpool for The Advance Care Planning Study 'Evaluating the efficacy of an Advanced Care Planning Programme for Health Decisions in patients with advanced heart failure'. This study/collaboration was with colleagues in Madrid and was nominated as a finalist in the Spanish 'Premios Enfermeria en Desarrollo' awards and I am delighted to say that the team won this award:

Study Title: Efficacy of an Advance Care Planning Program in Patients with Advanced Heart Failure: The ACaPIC Clinical Trial.

Premios Enfermeria en Desarrollo is a prestigious Spanish Nursing award given to nurses who have excelled in either research or improving quality of patient care. The study was a collaboration between hospitals in Madrid and Liverpool with the aim to investigate if the introduction of an advance care planning programme improves the self-management capability of patients living with advanced heart failure. The award ceremony was held in the Opera House, Madrid on 13th November 2025. We were thrilled to come first in the category 'Quality'. We are in the process of publishing our findings with a view to applying for funding for a larger European study.

Hospital Affiliations

1. Unidad de Medicina Interna, Hospital Universitario Fundación Alcorcón (Spain)
2. Facultad de Enfermería, Fisioterapia y Podología. Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain)
3. Instituto de Ética Clínica Francisco Vallés, Universidad Europea de Madrid (Spain)
4. Servicio de Medicina Interna, Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal, Madrid (Spain)
5. Servicio de Medicina Interna, Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre, Madrid (Spain)
6. Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, UK
7. Aintree University Hospital, Liverpool, UK
8. Royal Liverpool Hospital , UK
9. Departamento de Medicina Legal, Patología y Psiquiatría, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain)





Share your hard work or refer a colleague by writing an article.

Approximately 1000 words for The British Journal of Cardiology Nursing.

BANCC Council can support you. If interested, please get in touch today.

BENEFITS OF BANCC

At BANCC we are proud to have joint agreement with British Journal of Cardiac Nursing and publish our BANCC article each month. Please follow the link for the British Journal of Cardiac Nursing to find previous BANCC contributions to the journal: [British Journal of Cardiac Nursing from MAG Online Library](#)

Call for Editorials and Articles – Share Your Voice in Cardiovascular Nursing!

Have you ever thought about writing an article but weren't sure where to start? Do you have a clinical case study, discussion piece, or service improvement project you'd like to share?

We're inviting nurses to contribute to the **British Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing** and have their work published.

You don't need to be an experienced writer, **guidance and support will be provided** throughout the process. This is a fantastic opportunity to **showcase your practice, share ideas, and help advance cardiovascular nursing**.

Interested? Get in touch with us at bancc@bcs.com to discuss your idea or find out how to get started.

There are joint membership opportunities between BANCC and affiliated cardiac organisations.

Email: bancc@bcs.com

Tel: 020 7380 1919

Fax: 020 7388 0903

Follow us on Instagram and be part of the

conversation: https://www.instagram.com/bancc.official?igsh=MXRubG10bHRvdHUwNg%3D%3D&utm_source=qr

We'll also be launching our new Facebook page shortly, giving members another way to engage with BANCC online. Please find our website and X account details on our linktree <https://linktr.ee/bancc.official>

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR 2025 DIARY AND LINKS TO EDUCATION

ACNAP

The Association of Cardiovascular Nursing & Allied Professions (ACNAP) has launched a program of talks aiming at disseminating the latest science and providing educational content on focus topics of interest to the community of nurses and allied professionals.

[ACNAP Talks](#)



ACNAP Talk Series
Introduction to performing qualitative research
30 January 2026
16:00 to 17:00 CET

Helen Westland
Angela Durante
Anika Schoenmakers
Sara Tavares

ACNAP
Association of Cardiovascular
Nursing & Allied Professions
London, United Kingdom

Free for everyone

Joint UKMCS & BCCA Conference Thursday, 12 February 2026

Thursday, 12 February 2026 09:00 - 17:00

Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Pl, London NW1 4LE, UK.

Joint meeting between UKMCS & BCCA to learn and train together. Medical advancements have improved survival and changed the obstetric landscape for women with congenital heart disease. This meeting will address what is needed to manage complex adult congenital heart disease in pregnancy. It will provide an approach to complex decision-making and highlight key topics including pre-pregnancy counselling, early fetal loss and antenatal considerations.



BHRSessions 2026 - Arrhythmia Nurses Day

We're delighted to share details of **Arrhythmia Nurses Day**, taking place alongside BHRSessions on **Tuesday 3rd March**.



- **Holland House Hotel, Cardiff**

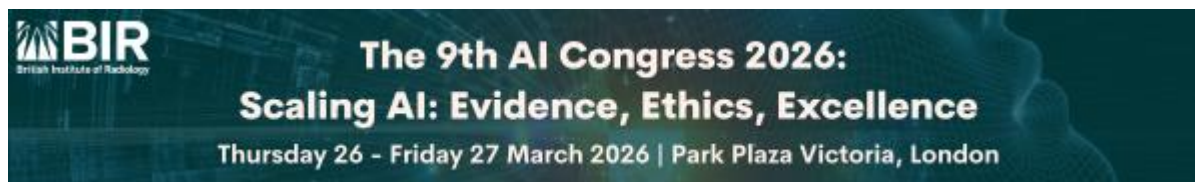
Available as a standalone pass for **£75**, or included at no extra cost when you register for the full BHRSessions programme. Save **10%** by using code **SES10** at checkout.

- Expect case-based panel discussions covering Inherited Cardiac Conditions and 'What Would You Do?' scenarios
- **Nurse accreditation and dedicated networking forum**

View the programme: [Programme - BHRSessions 2026](#)

Register here: [Event Registration - British Heart Rhythm Society](#)

The British Institute of Radiology



As one of the BIR's flagship events dedicated to the future of AI in medical imaging and healthcare, our two-day congress delivers exceptional value through expert-led education, practical implementation insights, and high-level networking.

As in previous years, **Dr Amrita Kumar** and **Prof Gerald Lip** have curated the programme, which promises to be of exceptional quality. [The agenda is now available can be seen HERE](#). You can expect to hear from NHS England, MHRA, MDDUS and many more.



Get your tickets now for the BSH's MDT meeting taking place on 30-31 March 2026 at the ICC, Belfast <https://bshevents.eventsair.com/mdt-2026#25in25> #MDT2026

British Cardiovascular Society Annual Conference 2026

The British Cardiovascular Society Annual Conference is the UK's leading and largest cardiovascular event. It attracts over 2,400 cardiovascular healthcare professionals, predominantly cardiologists, but also including basic and translational scientists, nurses, cardiac physiologists and scientists, and primary care staff. In 2026 our flagship event once again returns to Manchester Central for a face to face conference.



The **Early Bird booking window** is open until 23.59pm on Tuesday 5 May 2026, so take advantage of booking early and save!

[Registration and conference courses - British Cardiovascular Society](#)

Heart Rhythm Congress.

Heart Rhythm Congress (HRC) is the education platform for anyone interested in heart rhythm conditions, including nurses, physiologists, fellows, trainees, pharmacists, primary care, cardiologists, researchers, NHS teams and electrophysiologists.

<https://www.heartrhythmcongress.org/>

HRC2026, taking place in Birmingham, UK, from Sunday 11 – Tuesday 13 October 2026.



International Cardio-Oncology Nursing Education Programme

The first international Cardio-Oncology Nursing Education (CONE) Programme has officially launched, marking an important milestone in Cardio-Oncology nursing education.

We are proud that Ms Priya Reehal, Cardio-Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) and Dr Maria Sol Andres from Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals are part of this inaugural programme, showcasing UK specialist expertise on an international platform.

This global programme aims to equip nurses and healthcare professionals with the skills to manage cardiovascular care in patients living with and beyond cancer.



Scan the QR Code to
Access the Course Overview



Ms Priya Reehal
CNS cardio-oncology

Dr Sol Andres
Clinical research fellow cardio-oncology

Launching the first international
Cardio-Oncology nursing
education programme



British Association for Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation (BACPR)

BACPR Education coordinates both the BACPR Specialist Exercise Instructor qualification and a range of short courses for health and exercise professionals involved in cardiovascular prevention and rehabilitation: [Education & Training — BACPR](#)

Next year's BACPR conference will be in Birmingham 8th and 9th October 2026



Current BANCC Council:

President: Nicola Bowers - Term: October 2024 - October 2026

Current Role: Director of Research and Innovation Buckinghamshire, Healthcare NHS Trust

Areas of Special Interest: For research nurses, midwives and AHP's to be an integral member of every healthcare division. Introducing, supporting and completing clinical trials and individual researchers, to increase national research activity and promote evidence-based practice. Through collaborative working and dissemination of information, reduce cardiovascular disease locally, nationally and globally.

President Elect: Dr Clare Lawson - Term: October 2024 - October 2026

Current Role: Associate Professor and Cardiovascular Clinical Epidemiologist, University of Leicester

Areas of special interest: The collection, linkage and analysis of routine data to investigate heart failure and comorbidity epidemiology, patient-centred outcomes and health informatics and education. Provision of mentorship and support for nurse academic careers.

Education lead: Charles Spencer - Term: September 2023 - September 2026

Current Role: Associate Chief for Advanced Practice at South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust, visiting lecturer at Birmingham City and Warwickshire Universities

Areas of special interest: Echocardiology and point of care ultrasound, ECG interpretation, general cardiology, advanced life support, free open access medical education (FOAMed), [Facebook Cardiology Nurse Forum](#).

Research Forum Lead: Dr Robyn Lotto - Term: October 2024 - October 2026

Current Role: Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health at Liverpool John Moores University.

Areas of special interest: Research, Heart failure, Congenital Heart Disease in the paediatric and adult populations, Cardiac Surgery, CVD risk reduction.

Deputy Research Forum Officer: Dr Hannah Waterhouse - Term: October 2024 - October 2026

Current Role: Lecturer in Nursing, University of Leicester

Areas of interest: Heart failure, Frailty, Cardiac Rehabilitation, EBP, Research

Treasurer: Dr Karen Higginbotham - Term: October 2024 - October 2026

Current Role: Senior Lecturer Adult Nursing in the School of Nursing and Allied Health at Liverpool John Moore University.

Junior Treasurer: Priya Reehal - 1st Term: October 2024 - October 2026

Current Role Title: Lead Cardio-oncology/Heart Failure Clinical Nurse Specialist

Area of expertise: Cardio-Oncology and Heart Failure

Secretary: Position Vacant

Junior secretary: Esther Arnold - Term: October 2024 - October 2026

Current Role: Cardiac Nurse Specialist at Medway NHS Foundation Trust and Senior Lecturer for the Advanced Clinical Practice Programme at Canterbury Christ Church University.

Areas of special interest: Acute Coronary Syndromes and stable angina, ECG interpretation and advanced clinical practice. I am particularly interested in career progression and development of nurses in cardiology.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer: Fang Feng Ting - Term: October 2024 - October 2026

Current Role: Arrhythmia Specialist Nurse at Watford General Hospital-West Hertfordshire NHS Trust.

Areas of special interest: Arrhythmia related topic: palpitations; Atrial Fibrillation, supraventricular tachycardia, syncope, pacemaker, defibrillator, Cardiac-synchronised therapy; digital health; self-management; life-style modification; cardiac research; gender inequality in health, menopause and cardiovascular disease. I am particularly interested in promoting professional nurse's advocator and support the cardiac nurses in their carer progression.

Ordinary Council Members:

David Burnett

1st Term: October 2024 - October 2026

Current Role: Nurse Consultant in Cardiology

Area of expertise: Chest Pain and Acute Coronary Syndromes, Secondary Prevention and Lipid Management.

Janine O'Rourke

Ordinary Officer and BACPR Representative,

1st Term: October 2024 - October 2026

Current Role: Cardiac Rehabilitation Specialist Nurse Lead

Area of expertise: Cardiac Rehabilitation, Heart Failure, Secondary Prevention Management and Angina

Lyndsey McCunnell

1st Term: September 2025 – September 2027

Current Role: Senior Lecturer in Post Graduate Nursing.

Areas of special interest: Cardiovascular Health, Adult Congenital Heart Disease/Inherited Cardiac Conditions, Advance Practice and Resuscitation.

Khelvin Jocson

1st Term: September 2025 – September 2027.

Current Role: Cardiology Advanced Nurse Practitioner.

Areas of expertise: Acute and chronic coronary syndromes, Secondary Prevention and Lipid Management, Cardiac Arrhythmias and Heart Failure, Nurse-led and autonomous practice, including DCCV and ILR implantation/explanation, Enhancing and expanding nurse-

led cardiology services, Safe and effective independent prescribing, Driving quality improvement and service transformation in cardiology, Leadership development and strengthening clinical governance, Promoting patient education, engagement, and self-management, Promoting education, research, audit, and innovation in cardiac services.

Co-opted/Non-voting Members:

Chloe Macarthur, British Heart Foundation Health and Care Lead.

Sharlene Hogan, Royal College of Nursing, Contracted Research Organization (CRO), supporting global commercial drug and device clinical studies.

Beverley Bostock, Primary Care Cardiovascular Society (PCCS), Advanced Nurse Practitioner in long-term conditions in general practice in Gloucestershire.

Carys Barton – British Society for Heart Failure Representative.

Thank you for reading!

Editor: Esther Arnold

BANCC Junior secretary

Senior Lecturer Advanced Clinical Practice, Canterbury Christ Church University

Cardiac Nurse Specialist, Medway NHS Foundation Trust

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