



Celebrating our partnership with The Company of Nurses



London's  
Air Ambulance  
Charity

### Thank you for your kind support

On behalf of London's Air Ambulance Charity, I would like to take this opportunity to thank The Company of Nurses for the kind support that you have shown over the last year. Together, we have provided invaluable educational opportunities and supported nurses so they can contribute to raising standards of nursing care, encourage health and wellbeing, and ultimately, support the lives of those in their care. I am delighted to share an update that Mariana has written on her experience over the last year, as well as an annual update on our activities here at London's Air Ambulance Charity.

### An update from Mariana Campilho, The Company of Nurses Scholar

**With your support, I joined the Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) Masters Programme in Prehospital Medicine and have developed new knowledge and skills associated with the prehospital setting.**

The first year of the Prehospital Medicine MSc entailed three modules – Human Factors for Prehospital Medicine, Law and Ethics for Prehospital Medicine and Applied Anatomy. The modules were all relevant to the prehospital setting, and the learning targeted to improve our knowledge in the field.

The second year of the master's programme was composed of another three modules - Simulation and Moulage for Prehospital Medicine, Applied Toxicology for Prehospital Medicine, and Applied Resuscitation Science for Prehospital Medicine.

The Simulation module focused on creating and developing moulage and simulation praxis scenarios. The module was divided into two different pods. The first pod was dedicated to theoretical knowledge such as the history of simulation use in the health care setting, the educational theory associated with simulation and methods and processes related to simulation. The second pod allowed the students to apply the knowledge obtained in the first pod by constructing a simulation, delivering it to the group and obtaining feedback in the form of a structured debrief.

This module was also assessed in the form of a portfolio. I wrote about the simulation I had developed for the second pod and discussed the relevant literature regarding simulation in healthcare, its specific and potential applications in the prehospital setting and how it can be used to improve team performance and dynamics.

The Toxicology module focused on the two major headings of Recreational Drug Toxicology and Chemical / Biological deliberate release toxicology. These subjects have a high degree of relevance to working in the prehospital environment. The module was comprised by lectures from various guest speakers, each specialist in their field. The assessment was an exam with questions relevant to prehospital medicine.

I was able to use the knowledge acquired during the toxicology module when looking after a patient involved in a house fire with a potential cyanite poisoning that required treatment with the adequate antidote. I was able to explain to the junior nurses what the rationale was to administer the antidote as well as how it acted. I was also asked to deliver a lecture on toxicology as part of the band 5s in house training.

The Resuscitation module comprised a two-day resuscitation science symposium that addressed the scientific base that underpins the principles underlying practices in resuscitation and the new techniques being developed to optimize resuscitation. The symposium was opened to the public and was delivered by different experts.

After the symposium, a two days pod allowed each student to present a topic related to resuscitation in special circumstances. My topic was drowning. The assessment for this module was an exam.

Shortly after completing the resuscitation module one of our patients was identified as a candidate for urgent ECMO. I was able to use the knowledge obtained during the module to advocate for the patient and to explain to the junior staff what was happening and what the rationale was for the procedure.

I have now successfully completed all modules of the master's programme, and I am focusing on writing my dissertation. I have decided to write about flash teams and what factors contribute to good care being delivered by people that don't often work together.

I have enjoyed and learned a great deal over the last two years. I look forward to continuing to develop my knowledge in prehospital care and applying it to my clinical practice.

**Thank you again for all your support that helped make this a reality!**

### An update on our charity activities

When London calls every second counts for our teams and patients, each day we respond to five patients that are so seriously injured that they need immediate and advanced medical treatment to survive.

#### Charity highlights from the past year

##### ⇒ Dec 2021

We launch an additional medical team, responding in a rapid response car during our busiest periods, allowing us to reach more than 200 additional patients each year.

##### ⇒ Jan 2022

Our new Patient Liaison Nurse starts at Kings College Hospital, supporting more patients & their families on the road to recovery after trauma.

#### Up Against Time Appeal: *replacing our helicopter fleet by 2024*

We operate a fleet of two helicopters. Having two aircraft means we can still reach patients if one helicopter experiences mechanical issues or is undergoing routine maintenance. It also provides greater resilience for London in the event of a major incident, including terror attacks - our crew were first responders to the Westminster Bridge attack of 2017.



As Deirdre and Julia would have heard at our launch event at Drapers Hall, following an extensive selection and contract negotiation process, we have selected two Airbus H135 helicopters for the replacement of our fleet. Backed by experience and a long heritage, the H135 is in service in more than 60 countries. It is known for its endurance, compact build, low noise levels, fuel efficiency, reliability, and cost-competitiveness. It is a market leader in emergency medical services worldwide and can be fitted with a bespoke range of configurations to suit our operational requirements.

We must raise an additional £15m to replace our helicopters and to get them operational.

⇒ **May 2022**

We celebrated the official opening of our new helipad facilities, which will enable our team to reach the aircraft faster and provide space to debrief and decompress, which is vital for our teams' mental health.

⇒ **July 2022**

We launched the Electronic Patient Care Record, to support electronic data capture and analysis of the patient journey: from the moment a 999 call is made, to our arrival and on-scene intervention, and the hospital handover and patient recovery journey.

⇒ **Oct 2022**

We delivered our first Human Factors Symposium, sharing learnings from Olympic sport and humanitarian emergency medicine to help improve clinical outcomes.

⇒ **Nov 2022**

We launched our Up Against Time Appeal at Drapers Hall. We must replace our fleet by 2024 so that we can continue to save the lives of critically injured people in London.

⇒ **Dec 2022**

We received a £300,000 donation pledged by the Barry and Peggy High Foundation towards the replacement of our helicopters, taking us closer to the £15 million target.

## Raising our profile: *working with schools and colleges*

We are proud of the relationships that we have built with schools, colleges and youth groups across London. We deliver talks on our work to primary school students through to college students. Some primary schools students have questions about how we help people, particularly if we have landed in their school playground or at a local park. For college students, we share our unique knowledge about STEM-related careers and working in emergency medicine. In the 2021-22 academic year alone, we reached 4,291 students and teachers across 55 educational institutions.

***"This was a really useful visit following the air ambulance landing in our school playground. The children found it really interesting."***

**- Teacher**



On behalf of The Company of Nurses' Scholars and everyone at London's Air Ambulance Charity, thank you for your kind and continued support. We are delighted to work in partnership and offer educational opportunities that will allow nurses to develop skills in the pre-hospital setting and ultimately, support the lives of those in their care.

***"Your support will enable the charity to do even more in the future to deliver first class care when Londoners need it most."***

**HRH The Prince of Wales, Patron, London's Air Ambulance Charity**



If you have any questions, please do contact me:

Phoebe Nicholson, Senior Philanthropy Officer  
[p.nicholson@londonsairambulance.org.uk](mailto:p.nicholson@londonsairambulance.org.uk)