Celebrating our partnership with the Company of Nurses

July 2024

London's Air Ambulance Charity

We would like to thank the Trustees of The Company of Nurse for your kind support of MSc scholar, Tracy Fiddy, as she has undertaken her second year of studies. I am delighted to share an update from Tracy on her experience over the last year as well as an update on developments here at the charity.

An update from Tracy Fiddy, The Company of Nurses Scholar

I have really enjoyed my second year on the MSc Prehospital Emergency Medicine course at QMUL. The course is designed to give practitioners from various backgrounds further knowledge of working in the prehospital environment. Our course is made up of Doctors, Paramedics, and originally other Nurses like me, however, we all come from a wide variety of work settings, with one even flying in from Austria for each learning pod. We all share a goal of improving our practice and working towards helping patients in the prehospital environment. I have made many new friends from the course and also networked with like-minded people with a passion to help others. I would therefore like to thank the Worshipful Company of Nurses for this opportunity. The 2nd year modules comprised of two 30 credit modules, human factors and simulation and moulage. These built on from the topics within the first year which were a broad introduction to working within prehospital emergency medicine (PHEM).

I particularly enjoyed the human factors module and achieved a high grade for the assessment which was a literature review and portfolio of which I focused on the topic of situational awareness. Within this module we learnt about the complexity of optimising performance working within PHEM and how to apply our learning to ensure excellent patient care. Some of the learning topics included non-technical skills, leadership, legal and ethical challenges, and wider organisational factors. Studying this module has led me to improve my practice working prehospitally, whilst also passing on knowledge to a variety of other Health Care Professionals, students and even within my SJA networks. I enjoyed reflecting on my previous experiences within the assessment portfolio and will continue to utilise this knowledge and further develop my understanding of human factors. This has been my favourite module, but I appreciate this is within the context of all the other learning I have achieved on the MSc so far.

The simulation and moulage module allowed me to gain further experience of this topic. Within my job as a Senior Lecturer, I am used to designing and undertaking simulation for healthcare students, and as a youth leader within SJA, I also run these for both adults and our young people. This module content included a variety of simulation environments, resources, and fidelity levels. Throughout the module we were encouraged to design and participate in scenarios with the focus on increasing the learning gained by others from simulation, in turn leading to improvements in patient care. For my literature review-based portfolio I chose to focus on a common presentation of a patient with an acute asthma attack, designing all aspects of the simulation, and focused on the debriefing of participants which is where most learning occurs. From this learning I have shared my knowledge with others both in my paid and SJA roles and utilised this to ensure a better simulation experience for both the participants and the simulation lead. This module also incorporated elements from the human factors module which I particularly enjoyed.

I am looking forward to the final year of the MSc and undertaking the dissertation module. I am still undecided on the topic but I am interested in the role that nurses play in PHEM so this may be a

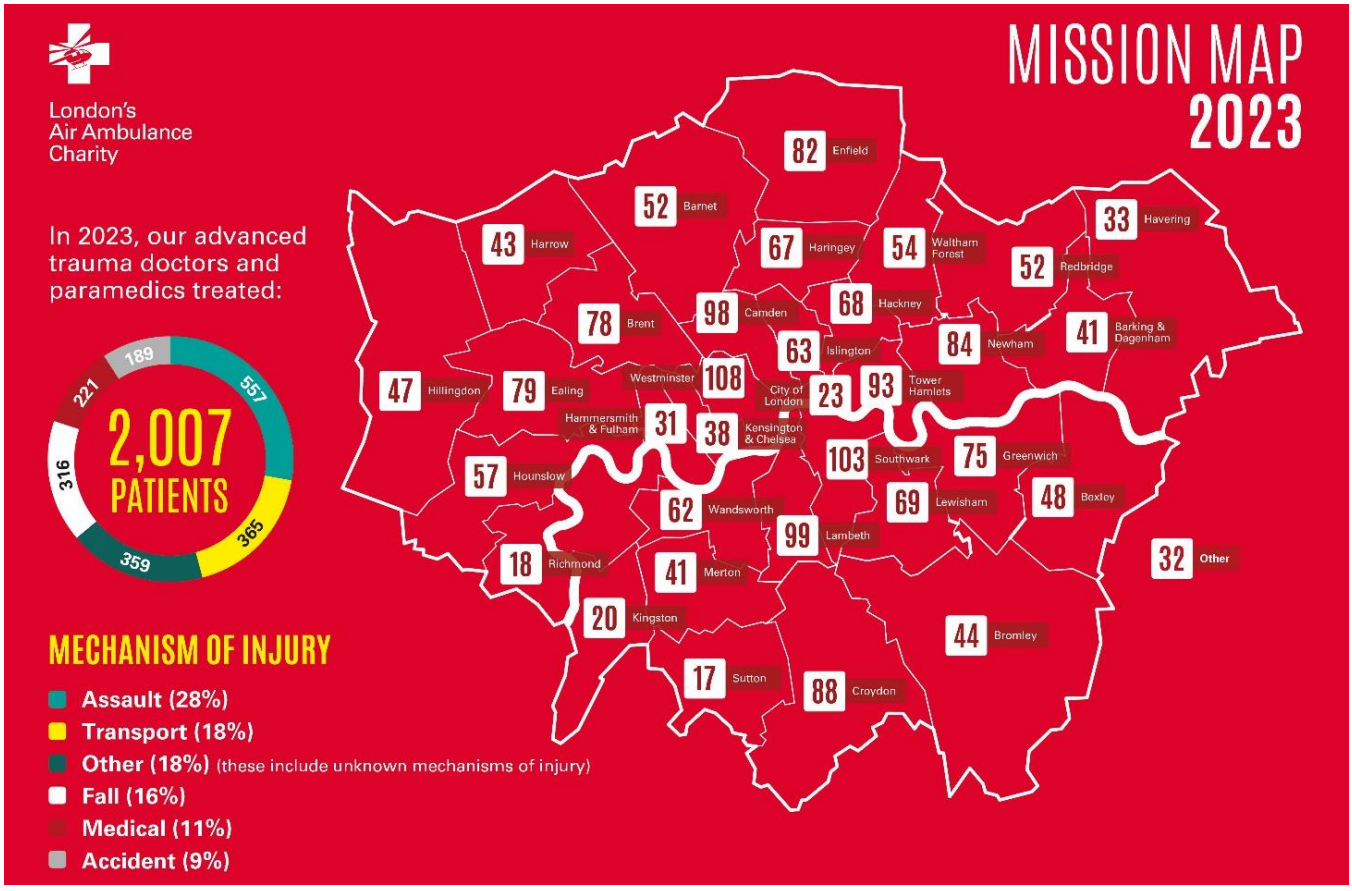
topic that I explore for my dissertation. I have learnt so much not from just the excellent teaching faculty, but also my fellow peers on the course. I am currently now the only Nurse still on the course but we still all share the same values of wanting the best in patient care and outcomes. I am very grateful for all the support from the course team including the admin staff who we all know well, and also want us to succeed and have a good student experience. Again, I would like to thank the Worshipful Company of Nurses for their continued support and for the scholarship opportunity and would like other SJA nurses to be offered this opportunity in the future.

Charity update: The impact of our service over the last year

We rely on public support for 96% of our income and can only save lives with thanks to our supporters. Each day five people across London wake up, never imagining that the day ahead could be the worst day of their lives and the day that they need our help.

2023 was our busiest year on record and we attended to a record 2,007 patients across London. Our busiest boroughs were Westminster (108 patients), Southwark (103 patients) and Lambeth (99 patients). The data shows that the service has never been more needed, in common with previous years, assaults, road-traffic collisions and falls from height were the three main sources of injury. Patients covered the entire age spectrum, sadly including five children under the age of one and eight patients over 90 with a median patient age of 31.

I am pleased to share our 2023 mission map below, your support helped us reach those in need of life-saving medical care – thank you.



Up Against Time appeal

As you know, our existing MD-902 helicopters have served London well and whilst they are still airworthy, they are reaching the end of their lifecycle and are becoming increasingly difficult to maintain. In 2022, we launched the Up Against Time appeal, the largest fundraising appeal in our history, to raise the funds we need to purchase two Airbus H-135 helicopters for the replacement of our fleet in autumn 2024.

➢ Helicopter delivery

Over the course of a year, we have made significant progress with the build of two Airbus H135 helicopters.

The branding and livery have been completed, we have designed the medical interior and cockpit to suit our medical needs, developed a new aviation management of change risk register and updated our operations manuals and management software.

In November 2023, we began conversion training for six pilots to the H135 helicopters and the remaining pilots will be trained throughout 2024. Both H135 helicopters are now in the UK from Germany (pictured) for their bespoke medical fitout and are being used for pilot training. They are on track to be handed over to our service for the launch in October.

➢ Fundraising

I am delighted to share that we have now raised £13 million towards the £15 million needed to bring two new helicopters online and to fund their maintenance over the first five years of operation. As we near the end of the appeal, we are proud to announce that we have partnered with Omaze for their next Million Pound House Draw. This partnership guarantees a minimum donation of £1 million towards our Up Against Time Appeal, and comes at a crucial time as we edge ever closer to our target of £15 million, and the deadline of the end of September to raise the vital funds required to replace our fleet. During the campaign period you are likely to see social media posts, national TV adverts, and messages from a very special headline Ambassador, David Beckham.

Thank you for your support

On behalf of London's Air Ambulance Charity, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone at the Company of Nurses for the generosity and support you have shown through the scholarship programme. Together, we have been able to provide an invaluable educational opportunity and support 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. We look forward to continuing to update you on Tracy's progress.

Please do contact me if you have any questions at all, your support is extremely appreciated by us all.

Phoebe Nicholson, Senior Philanthropy Officer

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