Tracy Fiddy- MSc Prehospital Emergency Medicine

Year 3 update for The Company of Nurses

I have enjoyed my third 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 3rd year comprises wholly of the dissertation module, which requires we work with our supervisors, to complete either primary research or a literature review. In choosing a topic for the dissertation I wanted to review some of the earlier topics I had undertaken and also consider my research interests. As the only nurse on the course now, I recognised the importance of the patient journey, and as reflected in the course content this is not always about the technical skills we acquire. Therefore, I was most interested in interprofessional collaboration and the language which we use within the prehospital setting. However, due to there being a paucity of research in this area, I chose to look at handover and pre-alert communication and how we can improve this to improve the quality and safety of patient care. Some of the learning from this dissertation can also be shared to improve interprofessional working, as communication is essential to prehospital medicine. I hope to graduate in September with a good grade and I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity.

During the MSc and on completion I hope to use this to improve patient care and education and also share my learning with other colleagues. I believe being a nurse on the course has been valuable, and I have contributed to the wider factors around prehospital medicine rather than just a focus on practical skills. I am very grateful for the support from the course team, including the admin staff who we all know well. 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.