

Lloyd 0:00

Hello and welcome to the Royal Marsden online journal. We're joined today by Janet Baker. She's going to give us an insight into a poster that she's recently produced. Welcome, Janet.

Janet 0:16

Thank you, Lloyd.

Lloyd 0:17

Can you tell us a little bit about - well, let's first start with you and who you are and the work you do here at the Marsden.

Janet 0:24

Okay, I've actually got two roles here at the Royal Marsden. So my first role is as lecturer practitioner, and that's the Royal Marsden School. And I support teaching and learning and predominantly nurses who are engaging on stem cell transplant and haemato-oncology courses and my other role is a clinical role and I work in our Sutton branch of the Royal Marsden and I'm a clinical nurse specialist in Haemato-oncology. primarily specialising in Apheresis, supporting our transplant service.

Lloyd 0:52

Okay. Sounds interesting.

Janet 0:54

Yes, it is. It's hopefully the best of both worlds and I find my teaching allows me to inform my clinical practice, and my clinical practice allows me to be very clinically relevant in the classroom.

Lloyd 1:06

So we know that you're going to be presenting a poster at a conference.

Janet 1:11

Yes, I have done.

Lloyd 1:12

Yes. Okay. Tell us a little bit about that.

Janet 1:15

Yeah, so the conference was actually EBMT, which is the European Blood and Marrow Transplant meeting, which runs annually. That's a really big meeting, usually in a very nice city in Europe and this year was in Frankfurt. And the nice thing about EBMT is it's a very, very multidisciplinary meeting. It involves physicians meeting and nurses meeting pharmacists, patients and donors, transplant coordinators, pediatrics, and psychologists. And it's a really good forum, particularly for us the Marsden because they Royal Marsden is a very large Transplant Center. In fact, it's one of the

busiest the most active transplant centers in the UK and Europe. So it's a really good forum for people to come together to share their practice, to find out about the latest developments in transplant and cellular therapy, and to present what we're doing currently here.

Lloyd 2:07

Okay, so real MDT, kind of.

Janet 2:10

I think so, there's often there's also lots of joint meeting sometimes often you'll find a particular topic is presented by a doctor and a nurse giving a perspective from both disciplines. That's really interesting, I think, really useful, something that you can translate to clinical practice.

Lloyd 2:26

Sounds really interesting. So you're going to present a poster, or you've presented it, at this particular conference. Tell us a little bit about the poster and what inspired you to want to present?

Janet 2:39

Yep, so the poster was titled, Preparing the Apheresis Service for Novel Cellular Therapies, including Car-T and really looking at some of the challenges and the solutions around that. And what I really wanted to do is look at our current practice, and whether we're at the moment in a position to be able to accommodate the interest and the development of new cellular therapies that involve us collecting cells, for both diagnostic and therapeutic purposes. So I looked at our current service, what we currently do, and also focused on some of the challenges that these new therapies would present.

Lloyd 3:12

Okay, so tell us a little bit about those challenges. What did you find?

Janet 3:15

So the main issues so, a little bit about the apheresis service, so we primarily are in existence to support the transport service. We collect stem cells from patients so they can have an autologous transplant, and also from donors so patients can have an allogeneic stem cell transplant, very much haemato-oncology transplant focused. And we've been getting a huge amount of interest from other disciplines from solid tumors, and from commercial companies and clinical trials teams to collect cells for other purposes. So this may be the cellular therapy such as Car-T, it may be to collect circulating tumor cells to hopefully make vaccines and liquid biopsies in the future. So very much coming out of our comfort zone and looking beyond transplant and haem-onc into other areas.

Lloyd 3:59

Ok, right. There's been a lot of about CAR-T in the media recently. Does that kind of interest in the media - does that impact on your service at the moment?

Janet 4:10

Not at the moment. I mean, obviously we're getting lots of inquiries from patients: they want more information, they want to know about this new treatment, and whether it's beneficial and applicable to them. At the moment, it hasn't had an impact on our service. But clearly, there's a huge amount of interest from other clinical teams wanting to collect cells for different purposes. And that's allowed us to really look at our current practice. And look at the challenges we foresee and they would include space, capacity, scheduling, staffing, but also the education and training of staff to look at these other indications for cellular collection.

Lloyd 4:46

Right. So when you kind of look at the future, then, which you're kind of doing, I mean, how do you see your service developing?

Janet 4:50

Yeah, so it's definitely going to grow with indications beyond transplant and haemato-oncology. We've already got trials in process with tumor groups. We're about to launch our commercial Car-T therapy delivery at the Royal Marsden. So some of the things that we've done is looking at more collaborative, innovative approach. And that includes setting up a Cellular Therapy Steering Group, which involves many, many disciplines. So that every potential new study or indication for cellular therapy will come through us to see whether we've got the capacity. We've also created a brand new specialist nursing role, Cellular Therapy Specialist Nurse, to really help coordinate the pathway for these patients and supervise a more patient centered approach and really to help lead the service. We're also looking at additional space and looking at satellite areas and trying to have a more novel innovative approach to cellular therapy.

Lloyd 5:49

Ok. So again, you're talking about collaboration and collaboration between different disciplines. Would you say is that key to the way this kind of care is going to take place going forward?

Janet 5:59

I think it has to be and I think Car-T therapies and really good example. The patient pathway is extremely complex and involves haematology and CCU, allied health professionals such as physiotherapy, clinical trial team schedulers, nurses of various grades. So yeah, I think we have to collaborate with our, with our colleagues and have a more joined up approach to this service.

Lloyd 6:25

All of that sounds really interesting.

Janet 6:27

It is, it's really exciting.

Lloyd 6:29

I mean, for those people kind of listening to this, I mean, if they were interested in finding out a bit more about this area, would you recommend doing anything or looking anywhere?

Janet 6:41

They could certainly come and speak to me, I think the Royal Marsden's got a good repertoire now of cellular therapies and we have lots of experience in delivering these therapies. And I think the school at the Royal Marsden is a good place to start. at many the modules would support learning in cellular therapy, such as our Sciences of Cancer programme, Haemato-oncology and Stem Cell Transplant, which are very well aligned to these therapies, and also Systemic Anti Cancer Therapy because basically these cellular therapies will hopefully become the Systemic Anti Cancer Therapies of the future.

Lloyd 7:13

Well, that sounds really interesting. Thank you for talking to us today, Janet.

Janet 7:17

You're very welcome.

Transcribed by YiWen Hon using <https://otter.ai>