Lister Critical Care Unit Opens in August

The new £3 million state-of-the-art Critical Care Unit opens its doors in just a few weeks time, the culmination of a four year programme of development, expansion and renewal of The Lister Hospital.

One of London’s most distinguished consultant intensivists and ITU planners, Dr Craig Carr, who will be the Clinical Lead of the unit, has helped plan the unit and its nursing structure.

The Critical Care Unit will have a team of four consultant intensivists including Dr Carr, four senior intensivist research fellows and around 40 experienced and highly qualified intensive care nurses.

The unit will meet all the recommendations of the Intensive Care Society and will cater for the Level 2 and Level 3 needs of our patients and doctors. Hospital Chief Executive Officer Mr James Barr said the project stemmed from talks with GPs and consultants several years ago.

“GPs told us The Lister should cater for a wider range of patients, many of whom had co-morbidities and needed both planned critical back-up as well as having Level 3 facilities available if an emergency did arise,” he said.

“All of us believed that this unit should be consultant led and we are very fortunate that one of the most distinguished experts in the field of critical care, Dr Craig Carr, agreed to be Clinical Lead and to gather a team of highly respected consultants to join him. He and his colleagues have also recruited a team of intensivist research fellows to work with the team.”

“Secondly we agreed at an early stage that our nursing staff would be permanent members of staff and that using temporary or bank staff was simply not good enough. All our decisions have been made with the best interest of patients in mind,” said Mr Barr.

“The opening of the Critical Care Unit will mark the culmination of a £20 million plus programme of investment and expansion in The Lister. Five years ago we had just one facility - the main hospital. Now we have the Chelsea Outpatient Centre with 70 consultants at 280 Kings Road; our first private GP centre at Lower Sloane Street and now, another private GP building about to open at 272 Kings Road, all offering the highest standard of care for our patients.”
The Lister Critical Care Care Unit - a unique model for the private sector

Dr Craig Carr, consultant intensivist at The Royal Marsden and Clinical Lead of The Lister Critical Care Unit, is one the most distinguished experts in the design and functioning of intensive care units, their patient services and systems.

Having led the design of a number of major units, and following The Royal Marsden fire, he designed the cancer hospital’s new replacement intensive care unit.

“It seemed to me that with an ageing population with more co-morbidity there would be a need for greater patient safety. At the same time with budget cut-backs in the NHS, there was likelihood of more non-emergency surgery moving into the private sector – in other words there was a need for The Lister to have better facilities and in a way, to ‘future proof’ itself,” said Dr Carr.

“I think the new Critical Care Unit is a very wise investment looking forward and enables us to focus on what we do well and enhance the service we provide. What we have is I believe, a unique model in the private sector which will help build up confidence in the capabilities of the hospital,” he said.

“We have recruited some very experienced nurses and we will have continuous training programmes including simulation exercises. It will be evolutionary and for the first six months as we gradually build and develop the team we will have three Level 3 beds and then move to utilise all six for both Level 2 and Level 3 patients. We will also have an outreach service for patients on the wards of the hospital.”

“There is a huge capital cost in setting up a Critical Care Unit and we are developing a proper intensive care service at The Lister with intensivists at the hospital all the time - in line with national guidelines,” said Dr Carr.

Consultants and GPs welcome the new Critical Care Unit

With just a few weeks to go before the opening of the Critical Care Unit, both surgeons and GPs are welcoming the development.

Richard Smith whose pioneering work in the area of fertility sparing gynaecological surgery has been recognised internationally, has already booked in his first patient for Critical Care Unit post-op recovery and care.

“We have always had superb operating facilities and very good diagnostics at The Lister and the nursing standards are very good too but patients with complex conditions and potentially serious co-morbidities such as cardiac problems, I have had to take to The Hammersmith in the past,” he said.

“It is far better for the patient to be diagnosed and treated under one roof and the patient safety benefits of having a highly skilled Critical Care Unit team at The Lister are enormous. I am a great believer in enhanced and the patient safety benefits of having a highly skilled Critical Care Unit team at The Lister are enormous. I am a great believer in enhanced and care.

A leading Chelsea private GP said she knew the new Critical Care Unit would make a big difference giving patients and their doctors piece of mind that in the event of something going wrong, an experienced team of intensivists and nurses would be on hand 24 hours a day. She said GPs would be able to send a wider range of patients to the hospital. “Patient safety is everything,” she said.

One of London’s leading spinal surgeons, Colin Natali, said that having level three facilities led clinically by such senior consultant intensivists was absolutely vital for the more complex of his cases.

“The theatre staff and the nursing care at The Lister are fantastic but until now, our more complex cases have been referred to the NHS. This new Critical Care Unit will be very good for patient care; patients will not have to travel and both consultants and GPs will have piece of mind,” he said.

“At the moment we operate on low risk patients at The Lister only. But in the future we’ll be able to operate on spinal tumours and other complex procedures which may, for example, have difficult approaches and vascular implications that may need a much higher level of post operative monitoring and care. At the end of the day, it’s all about patient care and The Lister having a Critical Care Unit is very good news!” Mr Natali said.

The new Critical Care Unit team...

The Critical Care Unit will be manned by a highly experienced team of Intensive Care Consultants, Intensive Care Research Fellows acting as RMOs, and highly qualified and experienced critical care nurses and critical care nurse managers.

The team will consist of four of London’s leading Consultant Intensivists; Dr Craig Carr and Dr Tim Wigmore from The Royal Marsden Hospital; Dr Jonathon Handy from Chelsea and Westminster Hospital; Dr Umeer Waheed from Hammersmith Hospital, four intensivist research fellows and 40 critical care nurses.

This chart shows the management structure of the new Critical Care Unit.
Christine Etherington - Acute Services Manager

Christine Etherington has led the process of setting up the Critical Care Unit at The Lister working closely with clinical lead, Dr Craig Carr.

One of the Capital’s most experienced critical care managers, Christine is responsible for all critical care and support services at The Lister. She began her nursing career in Scotland and moved south, first to Addenbrooke’s. She worked at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore, Harefield and Northwick Park.

At the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore she developed the hospital’s critical care unit and then later she audited critical care facilities for the NHS in London.

Christine said that despite some sleepless nights she has particularly enjoyed working at The Lister and running the Critical Care Unit project.

Richard Goatman - Critical Care Lead

The Critical Care nurse manager for the Critical Care Unit is Richard Goatman who has spent most of his nursing career, both in the UK and abroad, working in this field.

He trained at Southampton University School of Nursing and Midwifery and has worked in the North of England, in London and for a time for P & O as a Senior Nurse at Sea on cruise ships operating out of Australia.

One of his main roles since joining The Lister last May, has been to recruit the first dozen nurses for the unit with more joining in the Autumn.

Dolores Pickersgill - Chief Nursing Officer; Building a new Critical Care Unit: the nursing perspective

Dolores Pickersgill, joined the Lister Hospital from London Bridge Hospital which has always had level 3 facilities as well as isolation bays.

“There’s a big difference between a level 2 HDU and level 3 and we wanted to ensure we had the highest level of care available for both planned admissions and unexpected events,” said Dolores. “It is very rare that we transfer a patient to one of our sister hospitals but as a nurse I am always concerned with patient safety and reducing risk and with a level 3 facility there will be no need to transfer patients.”

“I wanted to have a unit with the highest clinical standards and that’s why we asked Dr Craig Carr, who has very considerable experience in designing and running ITUs to lead the clinical team and help us design and run this new service. Dr Carr and his three consultant colleagues who will be leading the clinical team have also recruited an outstanding team of intensivist research fellows to assist us.”

“We have taken a lot of care and a long time to plan and build this unit and recruit the very well qualified nurses who are joining us. We are going to build up the team steadily over time and our recruitment will continue in a phased manner as we begin to use more beds,” she said.

So for me, the decision to apply for funding to build a Critical Care Unit at The Lister was an easy one. Firstly, it would mean greater patient safety and secondly, it would meet a growing demand for this level of care from doctors and for patients wanting to be treated at the hospital.

“At present we want to concentrate on those areas of medicine where we already have a strong track record and reputation. In time we will bring in a wider range of clinical conditions which will benefit from Critical Care,” said Dolores.
The Lister Hospital Acute Care Masterclass
Saturday 15th October 2011, Cadogan Hall

The Acute Care Masterclass is the third session organised by The Lister Hospital's GP Liaison and Marketing department exclusively for General Practitioners. The Acute Care Masterclass aims to provide GPs with an introduction to the critical care services now available at The Lister Hospital as well as provide an educational update on acute care problems across a wide variety of specialties.

To register your interest and to receive further details on this event please email marketing.lister@hcahealthcare.co.uk

Welcome to our new consultants!

The Lister Hospital has welcomed the following consultants in recent months

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<th>Consultant</th>
<th>Specialty</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Rahim Nadeem Ahmed</td>
<td>Anaesthesia</td>
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<td>Dr Jacqueline Gilbert</td>
<td>Endocrinology</td>
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<td>Mr Jason Harvey</td>
<td>Orthopaedics</td>
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<td>Mrs Maleha Khan</td>
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<td>Mr Ian Loftus</td>
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<td>Dr Juliet Morel</td>
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<td>Dr Prakash Naik</td>
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<td>Mr Ali Narvani</td>
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<td>Dr Serge Nikolic</td>
<td>Anaesthesia</td>
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<td>Mr Julian Norman-Taylor</td>
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<td>Dr Rosalind Ranson</td>
<td>GP at Chelsea Consulting Rooms</td>
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<td>Dr Francesca Rubulotta</td>
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<td>Miss Ali Todd</td>
<td>Nutrition Consultant &amp; Dietitian</td>
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All of our consultants with practice privileges are listed at www.thelisterhospital.com. On the homepage click ‘Consultant Search’ located at the bottom right of the page and find consultants using their name or specialty.