

**Research, Education & Travel Grants 2011**  
**Winner of the SEA UK (Kumar Award)**  
**Dr Liang-Kim Ong**

**Project Title:**

Can Nursing Staff Identify Airway Equipment On The Resuscitation Trolley? Implications For Patient Safety At Resuscitation Attempts. (Airway Equipment Survey)

Accepted as an abstract, poster presentation at the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine Conference, Berlin, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011.

**Project Description**

Poorly functioning or missing equipment on cardiac arrest trolleys has previously been highlighted by the National Patient Safety Agency as a contributing factor to deaths relating to resuscitation attempts<sup>1</sup>. Staff who attend arrest calls or check equipment on the ward should be able to instantly identify items on the resuscitation trolley and have a basic understanding of their use in order for adequate checks to be carried out.

I designed and led a survey of nursing staff in 2 district general hospitals which aimed to assess nursing staff knowledge of airway equipment on the resuscitation trolley. A face-to face survey was conducted with nursing staff at each hospital, covering medical, surgical and acute care areas. They were asked to identify the name and use of ten airway items present on the resuscitation trolley. A score of one was given for each correct answer thereby giving a total score out of 20. A total of 53 staff members from District General Hospital One and 50 staff members from District General Hospital Two took part in the survey.

The findings of our survey may have wider implications on the training of nursing staff. So far, the work has been presented in local departmental audit meetings in both hospitals and as a poster at the Southend University Hospital Annual Research Day, where I received the Southend Medical and Dental Society (SMDS) Poster Prize for the SHO category. It is not clear if similar results would be obtained in other institutions, but our findings may benefit from a wider audience by serving as a useful prompt for other centres to examine their own practice.

My colleagues and I have submitted our work to the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM) where it has been accepted as an abstract. This is due to be presented as a poster at the ESICM conference to be held in Berlin in October 2011.

I look forward to attending my first international conference where there are ample educational opportunities. There are a range of lectures, presentations, debates, round table discussions, tutorials and interactive educational sessions available, delivered by international experts from all over Europe and beyond. There will also be plenty of oral and poster presentations of original research that I look forward to learning more about. I hope that this will inspire me to look into doing further research and projects.

1: National Patient Safety Agency. Patient Safety Bulletin 1. Rapid learning from reported incidents. NPSA, London July 2005.