Surgical Site Infections - a 21st Century Challenge

Monday 22 November 2010
Royal College of Surgeons of England, London

Organised by the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy

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Kamal M. F. Itani, MD
Professor, Boston University and Harvard Medical School
Chief of Surgery, VA Boston Health Care System
Associate Chief of Surgery, Boston Medical Center and The Brigham and Women’s Hospital

Kamal M. F. Itani, MD, joined the faculty at Boston University and Harvard Medical School in 2004 as Chief of surgery at the VA Boston Health Care System. He is a Professor of Surgery at Boston University and the Associate Chief of Surgery at The Boston Medical Center and The Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Dr Itani attended medical school at the American University of Beirut, residency in surgery at Baylor College of Medicine and a research fellowship in the Department of Surgery at Duke University. Prior to his move to Boston, Dr. Itani was an Associate Professor in the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery and The Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education at Baylor College of Medicine. He was also Chief of General Surgery at the Houston VA Medical Center and a staff surgeon at The Ben Taub General Hospital.

Dr Itani is a member of various surgical organizations and has served in various leadership positions in these organizations. He currently sits on several National committees including NSQIP and the Research Committee of The American College of Surgeons, the editorial board of the American Journal of Surgery, Surgical Infections, Hospital Physician, and is a reviewer for several medical and surgical journals. He is past President of The Association of VA Surgeons.

Dr. Itani’s primary clinical research interest is in surgical infections, health services research including surgical outcomes and clinical trials. He is the author and co-author of more than 150 peer-reviewed journal articles, editorials, and book chapters and is the lead investigator on several clinical trials.

David Leaper MD ChM FRCS FACS FLS

Professor Leaper qualified from Leeds Medical School in 1970 MB ChB (with honours). Since then he trained in general surgery in Leeds, Scarborough, King’s College and Westminster Hospitals in London (which involved two years at the Royal Victoria in Bournemouth!), including research periods as a Cancer Research Campaign Fellow and Medical Research Council Fellow. He has the Fellowship in Surgery of the Royal Colleges of Edinburgh (1974), England (1975) and Glasgow (1999) and gained the CCST in 1980. He has two higher degrees by thesis; MD (1979) and ChM (1982) and was awarded the Fellowship of the American College of Surgeons in 1998.

He was appointed Senior Lecturer in Surgery at the University of Bristol (1981-1995) with Honorary Consultant status at the Bristol Royal Infirmary and Southmead Hospital in Bristol. He was Professor of Surgery at the University of Hong Kong (1988-1990) and at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (1995-2004), now Emeritus Professor, with Visiting Chair status at Cardiff University, where he works with Keith Harding in the Wound Healing Research Unit. He also has visiting Chair status at Imperial College, London.
Professor Leaper's research interests include surgical infection and sepsis, wound healing, breast and colorectal cancer, computer-aided diagnosis and education and training. He has served as an editor for several journals and currently referees manuscripts for several more. He is a past president of the Surgical Infection Society of Europe and of the European Wound Management Association. He is a past Hunterian Professor and a Zachary Cope lecturer at the Royal College of Surgeons of England. He has published over 10 books, 50 chapters and 300 original research and review papers (over 150 on Medline). He has been an invited speaker to many societies as well as being co-author in several hundred free papers given to peer-reviewed scientific meetings.

Professor Leaper has had managerial experience as lead in general surgery at Trust level, was a day case champion for the Modernisation Agency and has served on and chaired many hospital and university committees. He has chaired and organised several committees and meetings at national and international level as well as being a speaker for several companies in the Pharmaceutical Industry with whom he has a medical advisory role.

Professor Leaper has examined at all the Royal Colleges of Surgeons and is a past member of the Court of Examiners (1992-1998) and has examined for the Intercollegiate Fellowship (2000-2004). He was an instigator of the Care of the Critically Ill Surgical Patient course (CCrISP) and regularly teaches for the Royal Colleges and several UK and overseas universities where he is also an external examiner for undergraduate and postgraduate examinations (senior examiner Imperial College, London 2007). He is a past programme director (Northern Deanery 2000-2004) and served on the Specialist Advisory Board in general surgery (2000-2005). He chaired the Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Subgroup of the steering committee on Healthcare Associated Infection, following which he has been appointed as an expert member of the Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection Advisory Panel (2007-2010). He was appointed as Chair of the NICE GPG on SSI (2007-2008) and a Fellow of the Linnaean Society in 2010.

Massimo Sartelli MD

Dr Massimo Sartelli MD was born in Bergamo on 30th June 1969 and now he is consultant at the department of surgery in Macerata hospital (Italy). He is specialized in general surgery. His scientific activity is documented by publications in national and international scientific magazines. He is author and co-author of manuals of emergency surgery. In the last years he has devoted his updating to the study of intra-abdominal sepsis.

In 2004 he won a national prize of research on the post-operating infections, organized by the “Società Italiana di Chirurgia” with the manuscript “Surgical Infections: preventive measures and criteria of treatment”.

He is deputy editor of the “World Journal of Emergency Surgery” and member of the Board of Directors of the “World Society of Emergency Surgery”.

Pranav Somaiya

Pranav is a Surgical registrar with special interest in Vascular Surgery on the North East Thames Rotation of the London deanery. His primary area of research since 2004 has been translational proteomics and is the developmental lead for Proteomics at NPIMR-UCL.

His PhD has led to the development of a rapid diagnostic test for MRSA using MS proteomics, which has since been patented and the patent published. He is also involved in a number of other funded areas of research such as development of a rapid diagnostic test for C difficile using MS proteomics (£100,000 grant by the BUPA foundation) and a clinical evaluation of the MS proteomics test for MRSA (£50,000 grant from the Pfizer Anti Infective Research Programme).

In addition work is currently underway at our laboratories for a translational programme in cardiovascular proteomics looking at diagnostic biomarkers for heart disease and stroke from the samples collected for the Ealing study in 2001-02 (successful supervision of a MSc student from Cranfield University completed in Aug.’10). A planned programme of work is due to be implemented in June 2011 to identify biomarkers of ischemia in peripheral vascular disease with collaborators from Royal Free Hospital NHS Trust.

His other passion is teaching. He has been a tutor/examiner at the medical schools of the University of Sheffield and Kings College, London and the Charles Clifford Dental School, Sheffield. He also teaches on the Basic Surgical Skills (BSS) Course and the Care of the Critically Ill Surgical Patient (CCrISP) at the Royal College of Surgeons, London.

In his spare time Pranav loves to go to the gym, run long distances (done the London and Edinburgh Marathons), read books, listen to music, is not averse to a good pint of pale ale in the pub and loves to cook curries for his friends.

Institutional Support Systems:

The proteomics suite at NPIMR-UCL is one of the largest laboratories for translational proteomics research in the city of London with direct access to NHS facilities in London, Manchester and Leeds through its research collaborations. In addition it is the only facility within UCL that is led by a clinician scientist, which will have a significant impact on planning, development and outcomes in translational research programmes.

Gerard Stansby

Professor Gerard Stansby qualified from Cambridge University and Addenbrooke’s Hospital in 1982. He carried out many junior training posts in Cambridge and the East Anglian area before moving to the Royal Free Hospital as Registrar and subsequently Lecturer in Surgery. In 1993, he went to St Mary’s Hospital in London as a Senior Clinical Vascular Fellow and, in 1994, became Senior Lecturer in General & Vascular Surgery at St Mary’s Hospital and Imperial College, London. In January 2000, he obtained his current position of Professor of Vascular Surgery at the University of Newcastle and the Freeman Hospital.

Professor Stansby is the author of more than 200 scientific articles and several books on venous and arterial diseases. He is a council member of the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland, council member of the Venous Forum and coordinating editor for the Cochrane Peripheral Vascular Diseases group and several medical journals. He is Chair of the NICE
Quality Standards group for venous thromboembolism, Chair of the Venous Thromboembolism clinical guideline group for NICE and was a member of group which produced the recent NICE Clinical Guideline on VTE prevention. He is Chair of the North of England Cardiovascular network group for Vascular Surgery and director of the North East aneurysm screening project. His other interests include undergraduate medical education and he is the author of a best selling surgical text book for undergraduates.

Mark Wilcox

Professor Mark Wilcox is a Consultant Microbiologist, Head of Microbiology, and Clinical Director of Pathology, at the Leeds Teaching Hospitals, Professor of Medical Microbiology at the University of Leeds, and is the Lead on Clostridium difficile for the Health Protection Agency in England.

He was the Scientific Chairman of the 2002 Hospital Infection Society International Conference and is a former Secretary of the Hospital Infection Society, Assistant Editor of the Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, member of Council of the British Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy and advisor to the UK Healthcare Commission.

Professor Wilcox is a member of the UK Department of Health’s Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) Committee and the HPA’s Programme Board on Healthcare Associated Infection & Antimicrobial Resistance. He is an advisor to the Department of Health in England on healthcare associated infections (HCAIs), the Technology Strategy Board on HCAI diagnostics, the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, the EPIC project, the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) programme on Healthcare Associated Infection, the Wellcome Trust and the European Centre for Disease Control. He is a member of UK, European and US working groups on Clostridium difficile infection.

Professor Wilcox’s research team’s projects include several areas of healthcare associated infection, in particular Clostridium difficile infection, staphylococcal infection, and the clinical development of new antimicrobial agents. He has authored more than 250 papers and published a number of books and chapters. He is co-editor of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (5th Ed, 2007).

Peter Wilson

Dr Peter Wilson has been consultant microbiologist at University College London Hospitals since 1990. His main responsibility is for microbiological advice and infection control in critical care and surgery. His MD thesis was on cardiac wound infection and he originated the ASEPSIS wound scoring method. He has run a wound surveillance service at UCLH for the last 10 years and has served on the surveillance committee of ARHAI at the Department of Health.