



CURE

CENTRE FOR URGENT AND EMERGENCY CARE RESEARCH



JANETTE TURNER

Janette Turner has been an important part of CURE from its beginning and we decided that it was important to mark her time with us and all of the great things that she has done during her time here. We asked Jon Nicholl to write a few words for us and start the ball rolling.

A FEW WORDS FROM JON NICHOLL

A very long time ago the Medical Care Research Unit was planning an evaluation of regional trauma systems and Brian Williams, then the Director of the MCRU, told me he had met a bright, young researcher from Surrey who might make an excellent study manager. So we interviewed Janette, and appointed her to help me run that mammoth study. She was an instant success, managing both the academic research needs of the study and the practical needs of researchers in offices around the country. She was able to engage with prickly clinicians and anxious junior clerical staff with equal ease. She went on to successfully carry out many other studies such as the trial of IV fluids in bleeding trauma, and studies of priority despatch systems for ambulance services, response time standards, NHS111, and of course the Phoebe study of developing new ways of measuring the quality and impact of ambulance service care.

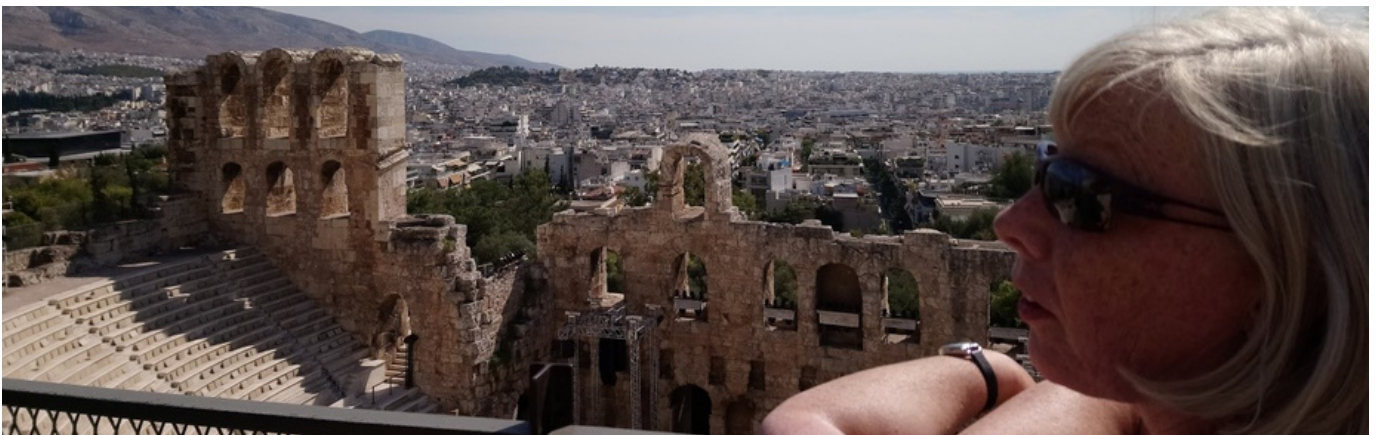
Her knowledge and understanding of what helps make a good pre-hospital care system have been called upon by colleagues around the world, and I know she has friends and admirers everywhere.

Twenty years ago, Janette and I also wrote a 10 year strategy for the whole of the Ambulance service in England which is well worth a read today (if you can find a copy) because of its prescience. This came in large part from Janette's understanding and rapport with the ambulance services, and it is fair to say that together with just one or two others in the whole country she has led the way in developing and promoting a research and evidence-based culture in the ambulance service. It has been a pretty striking achievement to have been instrumental in helping turn that outdated, cumbersome service around.

It may be difficult to imagine but when Janette started to engage with the ambulance service it still saw itself as some sort of quasi-military organisation, and the top brass marched into the annual dinner to martial music with their medals gleaming. Nearly 30 years later the AS is firmly part of the NHS, delivering clinical care underpinned by research programmes like Janette's focused on the development and evaluation of ambulance service innovations. Janette succeeded in this because she could cheerfully engage with the uniformed, ex-military types in the AS, and with DH civil servants and academic colleagues with equal ease.

These are all qualities those of us who have worked with her over the last 30 years will instantly recognise. Her cheerfulness, competence, hard work and ability to get on with everyone, whatever their stripes are assets that ScHARR and our Health Services Research section will miss terribly. For the last few years she has been our section Director, and everyone in the section will want to thank her for carrying out that job so well. I wish her well. We wish her well, good fortune, and hope she can get a vaccine and travel the world reaping at least some of the rewards she so thoroughly deserves for all that she has done for us.

Jon Nicholl



A FEW WORDS FROM JOHN BRAZIER

I too have known Janette for the best part of 30 years. The first time I met her was in the Royal Hallamshire Hospital Canteen for us to get to know her before she decided whether to take the job (I think the HoD was trying to impress her?!?). She seemed rather shy and subdued at the time, not a problem she has had since I have to say. I worked with her back then in the 90s, but more recently I have really valued her as Director of the section of Health Services Research, which required all her qualities others have expressed already – intelligence, pragmatism and an ability to get on with very different types of people. She likes a challenge. I wish her all the best for her new life in retirement and we are all very thankful she won't be cutting us off entirely from her life but will be an honorary and I am sure will keep up her many friendships in the School in the years ahead.

John Brazier



Janette has worked with people all over the world and in all aspects of roles. We asked them for a few memories and comments

Professor Keith Willett –

‘Working with Janette over the last decade and more has been an absolute pleasure. Having been challenged with the national implementation of Major Trauma Systems and reforming Ambulance Response programmes, Janette’s unique experience and sound advice coupled with her ‘can do’ approach and delightful personality has been greatly value. She has directly contributed to saving lives’

Steve Goodacre –

Janette is great to work with. She is pragmatic and gets things done. In doing so, she has accumulated a huge amount of knowledge and experience, which she has always been happy to share. We are now desperately trying to download that knowledge and experience into the institutional memory before she retires! The impact of her research goes way beyond anything we can easily cite or measure, but her REF impact case study will ensure that SchARR will continue to benefit from her hard work for many years.

Helen Snooks –

From the early days of SCHARR, moving into Regent's Court and sharing an office with Janette (c 1994) I have collaborated with her and have appreciated her high quality and task focused input project development, analysis and writing. She has always kept her eye on the ball in terms of policy relevance and need for evidence in areas of clinical and operational uncertainty. Janette has played a key part in the development of research within ambulance services and has chaired the 999 EMS Research forum since 2018. I will miss Janette but wish her well in her retirement and hope that our paths will cross again.



Michelle Hassall –

I have had the pleasure to know Janette as a colleague and friend for over 30 years, and during this time witnessed her dedication and commitment to SchARR through her research and more recently as Section Director. Janette has a wealth of knowledge and expertise delivered through a grounded and honest approach, which has yielded great achievements over the course of her career. It has been a pleasure to work alongside Janette and she will be greatly missed

Marc Chattle –

Having worked with Janette on various projects and in the section over many years, I think the most significant thing to say is the constant support she gave me throughout, for whatever issue presented itself. Janette always took the time to listen and advise on what was needed, when it was needed. From her professional point-of-view, I have no doubt her expertise in her field will be a hard act to follow and will be missed by HSR and SchARR.

Tom Quinn –

Janette has made an enormous contribution to patient care over many years. Her research with ambulance services in particular has been agenda setting, effecting real change in policy and practice – massive impact! Throughout her career Janette has also been a fabulous colleague, collaborator, mentor and friend to many (me included). She leaves big shoes to fill.



Jo Turner –

Thank you for being so supportive over the years! Wishing you a very happy retirement. Enjoy your next chapter in life!

Niro Siriwardena -

I have been fortunate to work with Janette for several years, including as co-lead of an NIHR programme, the first in prehospital research developing new quality measures for ambulance services. Janette, as well as being great fun to work with, is an inspirational leader, full of energy, ideas and enthusiasm, straight to the point and never lost for words, and always able to explain things in a way which everyone could understand. She has been at the forefront of prehospital research, with very few areas that she has not touched in some way or another, a supportive colleague and superb role model for any aspiring researcher in her dedication, commitment and grounded good sense.

Jerry Overton, President International Academies of Emergency Dispatch -

How fortunate it has been for EMS that Janette Turner found a passion for pre-hospital care. Her vision, drive, and commitment to research many of the most difficult and controversial subjects has led to a body of evidence that has changed EMS system design and, more importantly, created a focus on what is most important, our patients. She was relentless in her pursuit of data and uncompromising in providing the only the most objective outcomes. As a result, she changed pre-hospital care forever, not only in the United Kingdom, but worldwide, and because of her, lives will be saved and clinical care can only continue to improve. What a privilege that she has been my colleague. She will be missed!!!

Jonathan Benger, Acting Chief Medical Officer, NHS Digital -

"Janette has made a fundamental contribution to Emergency Care research internationally, particularly in ambulance services. Janette's work to evaluate the Ambulance Response Programme was fundamental to policy change and wholesale revision of the ambulance response time targets in England. It also included an analysis of more than 14 million 999 calls! Janette is always a pleasure to work with; pragmatic, positive, and entirely reliable. We are losing a true leader in pre-hospital research, who will be greatly missed."

Professor Julia Williams -

I have worked with Janette for many years and I can honestly say that she is an absolute diamond! I have learned so much from Janette and truly she is like a 'one-stop shop' for all things research! She has amazing insight and gives so freely of her expertise, knowledge and time that I just know that there is going to be this Janette shaped hole left behind that will not easily be filled - and the impact of your leaving will be felt by staff, other colleagues and students alike. Janette you will be sorely missed and that's the truth of it, but we wish you all the happiness in your next adventures. What you have done for ambulance services research and the development of the Paramedic profession is greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten. Keep up your 'tweets' as you are pure gold on social media too! A massive thank you from all of us.

Professor Emeritus Gerry FitzGerald, Queensland -

It is a terrific honour to write a few words to you Janette on the occasion of your retirement.

I have really enjoyed our occasional meetings mostly at the coffee shops at various conferences and remember fondly my brief interlude at SchARR. I have always enjoyed your sound common sense approach to science and to enriching our understanding of the challenges facing emergency health services. Your contribution is internationally recognised but perhaps more importantly is the warm personal regard that accompanies it.

I can offer some advice on retirement; perhaps how not to do it. Like most of us who have taken the step, I am sure you will puzzle as to how you had time to go to work. I do hope now that you have a little more time, you may take up that offer (COVID permitting) of a visit to us here. Barb and I would be delighted to show you around.

Warm regards and best wishes

Linda Abouzeid -

Janette was kind enough to introduce our newly formed Sheffield Emergency Care Forum at the Injuries and Emergencies Specialist Group Day in 2010 and has been supportive of our group ever since. SECF has had the great privilege of working with her on a number of projects over the years and we will miss doing so. We wish her every happiness in this next stage of her life. She has truly earned a break!