

## Annie Broom, RGN

Annie Broome is a Registered General Nurse who trained at University College Hospital in London and qualified in 1979. Post-qualification experience at U.C.H. included intensive care and urology, followed by staffing on a general and arterial/thoracic surgery ward where she worked as a Senior Staff Nurse until 1981. Annie has over 20 years experience in spinal cord injury nursing.

In 1982, following a short spell nursing in a private Well Woman Clinic in London, Annie moved to Buckinghamshire where she joined a nursing agency which gave her experience in occupational health nursing, caring for patients in their own homes and general nursing at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in all areas including intensive care, cardiology, orthopaedics and spinal injuries.

In 1992, having developed an interest in nursing patients with spinal cord injury, she was offered a post on the acute unit at the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville as a permanent Staff Nurse. This six-bedded unit received all newly injured patients referred to Stoke Mandeville and also patients, both from within the spinal unit and from other hospitals, who required specialist acute care.

Many patients needed ventilatory support, either temporarily or permanently, due to compromised respiratory function following their injury and Annie has many years experience in the use of invasive and non-invasive ventilation.

A large part of her role on the acute unit involved supervising, teaching and supporting new and junior staff and, in particular, providing psychological support to patients and their families, following a life-changing injury.

In 2004 the acute unit was relocated to a new area where 20 patients are now accommodated, from admission through to the initial stages of rehabilitation. Annie has, therefore, acquired skills in the anticipation of the likely future needs of patients and their families, following eventual discharge from hospital, including patients who may need some form of respiratory support at home.

Annie continues to work at the National Spinal Injuries Centre on a part-time basis in order both to maintain her clinical skills and to keep up to date with all aspects of caring for spinal cord injured patients and preparing them for reintegration into the community.

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Annie joined Bush & Company Rehabilitation LLP in 2008 where she is able to utilise her long experience and interest in the needs of spinal cord injured clients to prepare Immediate Needs Assessment Reports and provide Case Management Services.

Annie is a member of the Royal College of Nursing.



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