

## Judith Withers, Registered Nurse

Judith Withers, RGN, BA (Hons), MSc, is a Registered General Nurse with extensive neurological and neurosurgical experience.

She came to England from Antigua to train as a general nurse at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, and then went to Hammersmith Hospital for midwifery training. She then moved to Ghana and worked in various nursing positions.

After 10 years in Ghana, she returned to the Radcliffe Infirmary and worked for four years on the Neurology High Dependency Unit gaining valuable experience in caring for patients with a wide range of neurological disorders such as myasthenia gravis, Guillain Barré Syndrome, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, encephalitis and brain injury, including those on long-term ventilation. During this time, she completed the Neurological and Neurosurgical Nursing Course (ENB 148).

Subsequently, Judith worked for five years as Staff Development Sister on the Neurology wards. This involved orientating staff to the wards, working alongside them clinically and arranging and participating in regular teaching for all staff. The patients had a variety of physical and mental disabilities and much discharge planning was necessary with

members of the hospital and Community multidisciplinary teams.

During this time, Judith studied part-time at Oxford Brookes University and gained a Bachelors Degree in Health Care Studies.

Judith then transferred to Neurosurgery as Ward Sister and cared for acutely ill surgical patients following brain haemorrhages, brain and spinal tumours, brain infections, spinal injuries and other brain and spinal conditions. During this time she received a Nursing and Midwifery Special Achievement Award from the Oxford Radcliffe Hospital.

After two years part-time study at Oxford Brookes University, Judith was awarded a Masters Degree; a paper resulting from her study was published in NTRResearch.

Following the introduction of Modern Matrons, Judith was appointed as Matron of Neurosciences. She played a major part in relocating services from the Radcliffe Infirmary to the West Wing at the John Radcliffe Hospital. She had overall nursing management responsibility for the 90-bedded ward for patients with neurological and neurosurgical conditions, the Neurosciences Outpatients Department, Neuroradiology



Nursing and a team of Clinical Nurse Specialists and Nurse Practitioners.

Judith's duties included developing policies and guidelines for patients and staff as well as working clinically in all areas.

As a member of the British Association of Neuroscience Nurses, Judith was a participant in the Neuroblend project from 2005 to 2007, which created competences on line for Neuroscience nurses across Europe.

Judith is also a volunteer counsellor with Cruse Bereavement Care.

Judith joined Bush & Company Ltd in early 2008, undertaking immediate needs assessments and case management for adults and young people with acquired brain injuries. She undertakes work on both a single and joint instruction basis.

Judith is a member of The British Association of Brain Injury Case Managers (BABICM) and is compliant with their guidelines for best practice.



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