

Patient Representative feedback from Network Annual Conference

October 2020

I thought it was a very interesting conference with excellent speeches. Four things stood out for me.

The first was Dr Buckley's clear exposition that the UK was behind the curve - and, of course, it still is.

The second was the apparent reluctance of ICNARC fully to share information. The same point arose as between hospitals in a meeting I was on recently. To the outsider this just seems self-defeating.

The third arose from Mr Ogunbiyi's speech. My ITU experience was not Covid induced, but many of the points he made - dreaming while sedated, the unpleasantness of being suctioned (and, in my case, also being weaned off the breathing support), the important role of SLTs with the trache, and the long time it takes to get back to strength - struck a chord. What he said I have no doubt carried particular weight with those attending coming as it did from one of their own number. Given the enormous breadth of modern medicine and the consequential specialising, it is not surprising some will have little idea of what it like for the patient. There is so much this covers - the importance of visiting (currently topical, of course), explaining why something is being done, full information, what to do post-discharge etc., etc. Perhaps something for other occasions.

Lastly, what was said reinforced my admiration for the ITU system and its dedicated and concerned staff at all levels.