

## **NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH, S.C.S.T.**



The SCST NI scientific meeting was held in April at the Clondeboye hotel, Hollywood. The meeting was kindly sponsored by GE systems and was opened by the Chairperson Ms G. McClintock who began by thanking all those involved in the organisation of the evening. She then requested that all members take a more active role in the promotion of our profession within the province.

Our first speaker was Mr. Noel Black a Senior Cardiac Physiologist from the Ulster Hospital, who presented a case study based on a GP direct access referral for an ETT. This patient had a history of previous CABG and over the previous six weeks had complained of sharp pain radiating to her back. Upon examination of her ECG, T wave inversion was noted in the lateral leads, which was a change from her previous ECG, a previously unrecorded murmur was also noted on auscultation. Rather than the ETT test it was felt an echo would be required. An Aortic dissection was discovered and the patient was admitted to CCU to await an Aortic Aneurysm repair. This case highlighted the need to have highly trained practitioners conducting ETT tests.

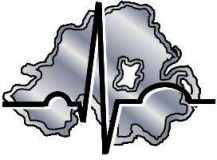
The second case presentation was by Amanda Morton a Senior Chief Cardiac Physiologist from the Royal Victoria Hospital whose case study centred on a 50yr old fit male with no medical history of note. He had experienced one episode of chest



**Noel Black & Amanda Morton.**

discomfort radiating to the left arm lasting for 10-15min, TnT, ECG and Obs normal. A treadmill was ordered and he completed 6min with the test being terminated due to increasing chest pain. During testing the T wave became more peaked and a reduction in the

S wave in the anterior leads was noted. A coronary angiogram was carried out and a >90% lesion in the LCX was found which was stented with a drug eluding stent. The outcome of the procedure was good and the patient is well. This once more highlighted the need for the Cardiac Physiologist to be well versed in the field in which they are currently working



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Our sponsors provided the third talk which was based on T wave alterans as a predictive measure of SCD within the population following the refine trial which was just recently published. The new algorithms were discussed and how compared against trials such as MADIT II and SCDHeft a reduction of implanted ICD's required to save a life at 3 years was greatly reduce and thus had a potential for a more targeted focus for the implantation of ICD's and thus it's impact on cost effectiveness within the health service.

The Final talk was by our keynote speaker, Prof McFarlane, from the University of Glasgow, whose talk was based on the ECG, the fundamental procedure relevant to all Cardiac Physiologists whether they are based in Treadmills, Echo's or the Catheterisation Laboratory. Prof McFarlane discussed the latest investigations and different modalities for the recording of the ECG with reduced lead monitoring and even the cardiac mapping system pioneered in Belfast at the RVH.



**Gwyneth McClintock and our guest speaker Prof. McFarlane**

At this point the AGM for the Society began and presentations were given by Ms V Anderson, our representative on committee and Dr. B. Campbell who holds the chair on the education committee. The closing remarks were given by our president Dr. Troutan from Antrim Area Hospital.

A big thank you for all the help and support from the members who took the time to attend the meeting and for their continued support for the profession.

SCSTNI Committee.