

# CLINICAL ESSENTIALS

Innovative **Medical** Technology - **Practically Applied**



**AneticAid®**



## Anetic Aid celebrates its 50th Anniversary!

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Spring/Summer 2023  
Issue 30

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# Welcome to our magazine: CLINICAL ESSENTIALS



**Andrew Curtin**  
Sales Director

We know that Trusts are constantly looking for new ways to reduce waiting lists, so we were particularly interested to hear about the installation of a new £1m elective care hub at Wharfedale Hospital in Otley, just a few miles from our Sales and Marketing headquarters in Baildon.

Two new temporary theatres have been installed on the site by Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust to tackle the backlog of patients waiting for treatment.

Our QA4 surgical trolley – which offers a single platform catering for transport, treatment and recovery - is ideally suited for elective, community-based care hubs like this one, which has been designed to provide additional theatre capacity to care for 15 to 18 patients a week requiring foot, ankle and upper limb procedures.

This constant drive for innovation reflects our own journey – which charts the significant milestone of 50 years in business in 2023. Read more about our remarkable story on pages four and five.

And it's not our only anniversary this year – see opposite for another of our technologically-advanced products – the AT4 Tourniquet System.

If you would like the opportunity to see the QA4, the AT4 or any of our other products, go to our back page for a list of the conferences and exhibitions our team will be attending in the coming months. Or simply call your Regional Account Manager / our Customer Support Team to arrange a demonstration.

Thank you to all our customers – we will continue to support you in any way we can.

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## More operations = more waste: can there be a managed approach to mitigate effects on the environment?

**No one disputes the need to drive down waiting lists - still at unprecedentedly high levels as Trusts across the country work to combat the legacy of the pandemic.**

And inevitably, more procedures mean more waste, particularly the plastics used in a wide variety of operating theatre disposables - from PPE to needles and syringes etc.

But with some products, there can be a 'managed risk' approach to help mitigate the effect and reduce the quantity of plastic waste created.

At Anetic Aid, we have taken this into consideration with our Tourniquet Cuff range – essential equipment in limb surgery, particularly orthopaedics.

We have three options:

### Option 1

When risk of infection is key, perhaps in paediatrics or for procedures such as total knee replacement and ulna nerve decompression, we offer a single-use, Sterile Tourniquet Cuff (complete with stocking sleeve padding). These cuffs can be used in front of sterile drapes, giving the surgeon optimum operating space. If a towel slips or is breached, these cuffs do not compromise the sterile field, giving added security against cross infection.

### Option 2

We also offer a traditional, reusable cuff: manufactured from easy-to-clean, robust, latex free materials with additional safety straps for long-term use, available in a variety of colour-coded sizes up to extra-large adult leg.

### Option 3

And perhaps most significant when addressing the waste v infection control dilemma, we also offer a limited life, Six-use Day Tourniquet Cuff. They are easy to clean between procedures and also cost-effective enough to dispose of after a single day's use.



We hold stock of all of these items, which means they can be despatched immediately in whatever combination suits you best.

And of course, Anetic Aid offers the British-designed and manufactured AT4 Tourniquet System: an ideal choice for single or bi-lateral orthopaedic surgery and pain management.



You'll have seen from our front page that we are marking 50 years of our company this year, but it's not the only anniversary we are celebrating in 2023...For its also **10 years** since we first launched our AT4 Tourniquet System.



Previous models were pneumatic, requiring connection to hospital compressed air supplies or bottled gas: the AT4 was a major change, operating via its own integral air supply.

It was equipped with sensitive leak compensation facilities as well as automatic self diagnostic checks on start-up which meant the AT4 automatically calibrated every time it was switched on.

Particularly ground-breaking was the additional safety feature for Bier's block regional anaesthetic procedures (IVRA), which made it simply impossible to deflate cuffs in the wrong order, thus avoiding the risk of dangerous release of anaesthetic into the rest of the patient's body.

These sound principles continue to make the AT4 the tourniquet of choice – and more recent innovations such as the 'all-day' battery life mean it is better than ever!



## We have plenty of Tourniquet Cuffs in stock!

### Single-use, Sterile Tourniquet Cuffs

**Providing sterility to reduce the risk of infection.**

Because they are sterile, these cuffs can be used in front of sterile drapes, giving the surgeon optimum operating space – particularly useful in paediatrics or for procedures such as total knee replacement or ulna nerve decompression.



### Reusable Tourniquet Cuffs

**More cost effective – high quality and full range of colour-coded sizes including IVRA / Bier's block.**

Manufactured from easy-to-clean, robust, latex free materials with additional safety straps for long-term use.



### Six-use Day Tourniquet Cuffs

**These 'limited life' Cuffs are an ideal alternative to reusable cuffs, offering reduced risk of cross infection.**

Guaranteed for six uses, they are cost effective enough to dispose of as a single use item. Latex free with a slim, low profile design, they are available in a range of colour coded sizes and supplied in boxes of 10.







## Background

**This year, we are celebrating quite a milestone: for it is 50 years since the roots of our company were first established by an enterprising engineer who spotted an opportunity to open a workshop fabricating stainless steel medical furniture in Hampshire on the south coast.**

There were no sophisticated electronics or space-age materials back then – but the principles of good design and high-quality manufacture were there at the outset, just as they are today.

The man behind the great idea was Ivor Schofield, the late father of current Anetic Aid CEO Guy Schofield. Ivor, a Chartered Mechanical Engineer, had experience in aeronautical and naval businesses, latterly as Joint Controller of Engineering. But that wasn't enough for Ivor: he wanted his own business – the chance to realise his potential and use his flair for design, his engineering expertise, drive and determination to overcome obstacles and take an idea from the drawing board through to a practical solution in the real world.

Another major piece of the jigsaw was his relationship with fellow entrepreneur, Tom Brady, who was already selling the medical furniture as part of a range of instruments and other medical supplies.

It was Tom who coined the name 'Anetic Aid' when they forged a business partnership which was to last until Tom passed away in 1993. Like any emerging company, there were good times and tough times in the early days – and the big break came in the early 90s when the company's collaboration with King's College Hospital produced Britain's first dedicated Day Surgery Trolley.

## How the QA4 evolved

Called the 'KCH' after the hospital where it was developed, it was the forerunner of the QA4 Mobile Surgery System, which is seen today in hospitals all over the UK – and increasingly across the world. But back then, same day surgery was very much a new concept: with six specially designated theatres, it was the biggest unit in Europe and visitors from all over the world came to look at the King's College Hospital approach to Day Surgery.

A pioneering group led by surgeon Mr Paul Baskerville was behind the project – as he told Anetic Aid back in 2013: 'I had been Registrar to Mr Paul Jarrett, one of the founders of the British Association of Day Surgery (BADS) and was convinced that Day Surgery was the way forward. Getting funding to build a new unit of this kind was a tremendous opportunity.

'In order to drive efficiency, we looked at two particular aspects – the first was to have all of the nursing staff able to work everywhere in the unit on rotation, which required a specialist training programme.

'The second was to find a way of abolishing the practice of transferring patients from bed to trolley, trolley to operating table etc. – and that is what led to the idea of a piece of equipment that could be both transport trolley and operating table.'

Paul Baskerville and Jill Solly, who was Day Unit Manager at the Trust at the time, were part of a small group tasked with equipping the whole of the unit, so they set out to find a manufacturing partner who had the skills and vision to develop their idea of a dedicated day surgery trolley.

Guy Schofield had recently joined the family business at its manufacturing site in Portsmouth and he led the project –



drawing up the initial brief and working alongside Anetic Aid's designers and engineers to create the first prototypes. In all, it took around 18 months to develop, and in 1991 when the Day Surgery Unit opened, the new equipment was ready – and the rest, as they say, is history.

## Harnessing new technologies

And of course, there have been many other innovative projects too: Anetic Aid started supplying tourniquet systems in the 80s, another item of equipment which has radically changed technologically. Back then they were pneumatic – while now, Anetic Aid's AT4 is a standalone, state-of-the-art electronic tourniquet system with integral air supply, long-life batteries, OLED displays and inbuilt self calibration and safety features. And the company never stands still: some of the most recent innovations have all been about adding powered functions and inbuilt drive to trolley systems.

Designs to reduce work-related musculoskeletal disorders within the healthcare sector. The incidence and impact of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) amongst healthcare staff has been a key concern for NHS managers and practitioners alike for many years.

In fact, it is believed that work related MSDs – which include manual handling injuries – cost the NHS in the UK £400 million each year, and account for as much as 40% of all sickness absences. And with the number of bariatric patients are on the rise, and patient's weights generally increasing, it seems that the problem is here to stay. So, in recent years, Anetic Aid's designers have been focused on evolving products that combine manoeuvrability with powered assistance.

All the latest models of the QA4 now have powered functions as standard, raising and lowering the platform and backrest, as well as traverse and lateral tilt. And in 2016 there was a major advance with the company's flagship product - the QA3 Patient and Emergency Stretcher. Models of the QA3 can be found in more than 90% of NHS hospitals across the UK – and it is known for its manoeuvrability and reliability. But our engineers took this to a new level with the incorporation of an inbuilt motorised drive function, offering controlled, effortless travel up to gradients of 10°. This was in addition to powered functions including KneeFlex and a button to swiftly and automatically return the trolley to a horizontal, optimal height position for CPR treatment.

The most recent addition to the company's portfolio is a dedicated Ophthalmic Stretcher which combines all of the innovations of powered positioning with a specially designed dual-articulating headrest.

Said Anetic Aid's CEO Guy Schofield: 'We are constantly striving to take our products to the next level, and the introduction of powered positioning for trolleys and stretchers was a very natural progression in engineering terms. The integration of the controls and electronics for a 'drive-assisted' function was far more complicated. We had to create a system that was intuitive for the user, offering virtually no effort to move the trolley, while still giving them full control. Add to that, it was important to retain aspects like good ground clearance and excellent manoeuvrability – so a challenge indeed - and I am really proud that we have achieved it!'

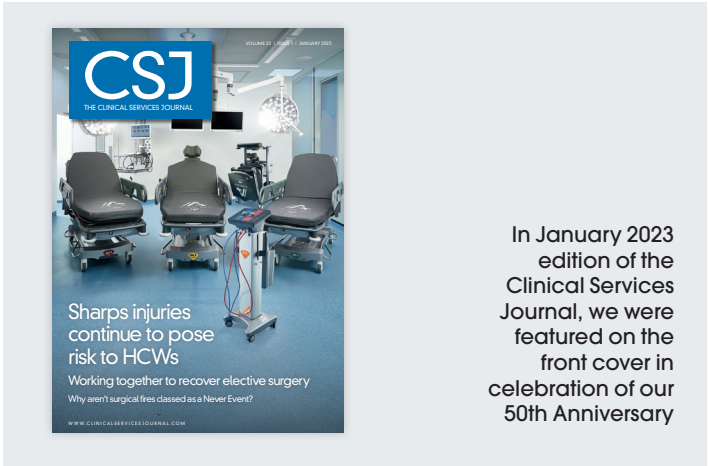
And Sales Director Andrew Curtin (who has been with the company for nearly 40 years) added: 'Adoption of same-day surgery has increased steadily over the past 25 years - from 15% to 70% in the United Kingdom between 1989 and 2003 alone. Although a challenge for some, it is increasingly seen as the way forward, and we like to think we have played our part in that. With the ever-present pressure to reduce waiting times, it is one way Trusts can expand the number of procedures they carry out because of the increased throughput it allows – and of course there are the added benefits of reduced lifting and handling for patients and practitioners alike.

'One recent success story we learned about came from Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust. They use our QA4 Mobile Surgery System, and a recent move to make day case the default approach to many elective procedures – including those in main theatres – has enabled the team to increase the annual number of day cases from 4,000 to 6,000.

'In all, the last 50 years have been quite a journey – both for us and our many clients. Anetic Aid was still the 'new kid on the block' when I joined back in 1983, working out of an old, converted chapel in Guiseley. My colleagues and I have always taken great pride in promoting innovative UK designed and produced products – we've certainly come a long way!'



*Pictured: Ivor Schofield on the QA3 Patient Stretcher*



In January 2023 edition of the Clinical Services Journal, we were featured on the front cover in celebration of our 50th Anniversary



## CASE STUDY

## QA3 PATIENT STRETCHER

### Equipment designed to reduce work-related Musculoskeletal Disorders – the ‘drive assisted’ approach to handling patients on a stretcher

**Raigmore Hospital in Inverness invests in QA3 Patient Stretchers with powered drive as part of their commitment to staff health and wellbeing.**

Raigmore Hospital in Inverness is part of NHS Highland and is the only acute district hospital serving patients in the Highlands.

Senior Charge Practitioner in Anaesthetics & Recovery Angus Riach was already aware of the powered positioning offered by Anetic Aid's QA4 Mobile Surgery System, but it was only when he saw a brochure that he learned that the company was also offering a patient transport stretcher – the QA3 DRIVE – with a powered drive facility.

Following the trials, the hospital decided to purchase 21 QA3 DRIVE Stretchers: it was important to have enough of the same model so that there didn't need to be any scheduling concerns about having the right trolley available at any particular time – all have the DRIVE specification.

Read the full Raigmore case study by scanning the below QR code



Equipment designed to reduce work-related Musculoskeletal Disorders – the ‘drive assisted’ approach to handling patients on a stretcher

Raigmore Hospital in Inverness invests in QA3 Patient Stretchers with powered drive as part of their commitment to staff health and wellbeing

**BACKGROUND**  
Raigmore Hospital in Inverness is part of NHS Highland and is the only acute district hospital serving patients in the Highlands. Based on the 2017 Health Survey 2017, the hospital is the only acute district hospital in the Highlands, with the main base in Inverness. The hospital is the only acute district hospital in the Highlands, with the main base in Inverness. The hospital is the only acute district hospital in the Highlands, with the main base in Inverness.

AneticAid  
Innovative Medical Technology - Practically Applied

### QA3 Ophthalmic

The QA3™ Ophthalmic Stretcher is our hybrid powered patient transport stretcher and surgical platform for ophthalmic surgery.



### QA3 Emergency

The QA3™ Emergency Trolley is perfect for pre-treatment & post-treatment patient transport, a short stay temporary bed, within an emergency department environment.



### QA3 Patient

The QA3™ Patient Stretcher is our flagship solution for patient transport, examination and intubation in operating theatre's and clinical areas.



### Excellent documentary showcasing skill and humanity in Nottinghamshire A&E

**TV audiences have always been fascinated by real-life programmes offering insights into the amazing work of the NHS.**

Perhaps the most dramatic of these feature Emergency Departments – and none more so than Channel 4's series '24 Hours in A&E', the latest of which was filmed at Nottingham's Queen's Medical Centre.

The world-renowned hospital has one of the busiest Emergency departments in Europe, and the day the TV crew arrived to film their programme proved no exception.

Among the blue-light cases arriving at the Derby Road site (the Centre is part of Nottingham University) was a woman with an open dislocation of her ankle following an accident at a charity fun run and a 7-year-old boy who had sprained and bruised his hip falling out of a tree.

The programme captures not only the patients' stories – the real lives of those who are injured or sick – but also the compassion

and humanity (as well as the knowledge and skill) of the hospital team members who care for them.

Incredibly poignant was the case of a 92-year-old man brought in with breathing problems, who was found to have sepsis. His wife of nearly 70 years showed amazing strength and dignity as she learned that he would not be going home with her. The staff reflected on how their job encompassed caring for patients themselves but also for those patients' loved ones, often at some of the worst times in their lives.



## DOCUMENTARY

## CASE STUDY

## QA4 MOBILE SURGERY SYSTEM

### Welsh hospital's key to waiting list reduction 'in the news'

**A hospital in Bridgend has recently been in the spotlight for making changes to hip and knee surgery which it says could halve its waiting lists within a year.**

The article on the BBC website by Wales health correspondent Jenny Rees, features an interview with Consultant orthopaedic surgeon Keshav Singhal where he explains that 'tweaks' to surgeries at the Princess of Wales Hospital have allowed more patients to be sent home on the same day – removing the shortage of hospital beds as a barrier to patient throughput.

The move comes against the background of over 37,000 orthopaedic patients waiting over one year for surgery in Wales.

Mr Singhal explained that the changes to enable these joint replacement procedures to be carried out as day cases included 'fine tuning' anaesthetic and pain medication given to patients to reduce pain and nausea after their operation and spending extra time on pinpointing any potential area of bleeding and cauterising it to 'prevent wound leakage'.

He said that patient reassurance about how quickly they can start to move around after their surgery – that it is a benefit not a risk – was also key.

The change in approach is an ideal pathway for patients who fit a certain criteria (level of fitness etc.) as it frees up capacity on other surgical lists for those with more complex needs who still require a bed on a ward.

*For the full article, visit Bridgend: Surgery changes could halve waiting times - BBC News*



The Princess of Wales Hospital's Day Surgery Unit is equipped with a number of QA4 Mobile Surgery Systems, and units have also been supplied for the hospital's main theatres, eye theatres and other diagnostic departments.

### The Surgical Speciality

**The QA4's surgical access which is superior to any other surgical stretcher on the market.**

With powered functions including a traversing platform and lateral tilt, it can be used for a wide range of specialisms from ophthalmology and ENT to orthopaedics, gynae, urology, vascular and general surgery.

What makes the QA4 so versatile is its unique combination of Build Options, developed to enable purchasers to tailor their QA4 model for different types of procedure, plus an extensive range of Optional Extras and Operating Table Accessories which can be attached to the main platform.

These include Lift-Assist™ Lithotomy Stirrups for gynae procedures, arm supports and tables, the lateral brace and the Hip Fix™ system for orthopaedics.





## Trulife's visit

We welcomed our partner Trulife at our Baildon office to undergo some product training.



## Distributor Training

Our Service and Maintenance team trained our distributors from Malaysia.



# Showcasing our products around the globe

### We have a busy exhibition and conference season coming up in the next few months.

We are a Strategic Alliance and Educational Partner of the British Association of Day Surgery and looking forward to its annual meeting to be held at Glasgow's Caledonian University on the 29th and 30th of June where IAAS President Dr Carlos Magalhães will be the keynote speaker.

Other members of our team will be down in Coventry at the city's Building Society Arena for the EBME Expo on the 28th and 29th of the same month, where the programme will be focused on innovations and advances in medical equipment technology on day one, and medical equipment management on day two.

There is a little longer to wait for the AfPP conference due to take place in York between the 10th to 13th of August where the theme will be 'A Profession To Be Proud Of'. Organisers promise you'll leave feeling informed, challenged and inspired after their programme of education, networking, hands-on workshops and entertainment!

These meetings designed to share new developments and best practice build on events staged earlier this year including the Leeds Teaching Conference (pictured above) and Salford Operating Theatre Show in February and the new Minimally Invasive Surgery Conference held in London in March.



## AORN IN TEXAS

### Global Surgery Conference and Expo

Anetic Aid USA are attending AORN Global Surgery Conference and Expo from the 1st-4th April showcasing our flagship products.



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While we hope you enjoy reading our magazine, if you no longer wish to receive it please email [marketing@aneticaid.com](mailto:marketing@aneticaid.com) with your details and you will be removed from our mailing list.

