

<i>Name</i>	Marlis Emery
<i>How long have you been a nurse?</i>	46 years
<i>What inspired you to be a nurse?</i>	I always wanted to be a nurse from the time I was a child. The first contact I had with a nurse was when I had my smallpox vaccine, and I thought her job was great. I'm pretty sure, that was the start of my interest in nursing.
<i>How did you get into this career? What steps did it take since leaving school?</i>	I went to Technical College on leaving school, unsurprisingly, I did a pre-nursing course there, then went on to do the Enrolled Nurse (EN) training in London. I was quite happy as an EN but realised that career prospects were limited for this role and so, after 13 years as an EN, I did the conversion course to become a Registered Nurse.
<i>Can you tell us a bit about the training you undertook for your role?</i>	<p>It could be said that the training began when I applied for the conversion course in 1991. In preparation, I researched the various initiatives of the time and came across an article entitled "The hazards of communal razors". This was all about Infection Prevention and Control (IPaC). I found the microbiology and infection prevention so interesting, that all of my assignments were based on IPaC and I made a decision to become an IPaC nurse after I qualified.</p> <p>The plan was to get experience in as many disciplines as possible, work as a Link Nurse in each role I took on (which I did), and then apply for an IPaC nurse post. Once in post as an IPaC nurse, I then went to the University of Hertfordshire to do a degree in IPaC.</p> <p>It doesn't stop there though because IPaC is one of those roles where you keep learning for the rest of your career and probably life.</p>
<i>What's been the highlight of your career so far?</i>	<p>There have been many highlights in my career, far too many to mention them all but some are bullet pointed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going to university • Joint (with microbiologists) publications in international Infection Prevention and Control journals • Nominated for a national H&SC innovation award

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The thanks given to me after helping a GP surgery achieve outstanding in IPaC following a CQC visit • Speaking about influenza vaccination on BBC Radio Lincolnshire <p>And, of course getting my job with CCS (perhaps that should have been first)!</p>
<i>What do you like most about being a nurse?</i>	The variety of roles, a nurse is not just a nurse, there are so many roles open to us, from (what most patients think of as) the traditional nurse working on a ward, consultant nurses who are able to provide expert treatment (i.e. gastroscopies, siting of PICC lines etc), district nurses, school nurses (the list could go on). There is a role for anyone.
<i>What's the most challenging part of being a nurse?</i>	There are set principles or standards for IPaC, these are either research or evidence based or may be considered as "best practice". The challenge comes when the speciality/team/group are unable to follow the standards exactly, due to the type of work they do. These challenges can often be overcome by using the risk assessment approach together with the knowledge of the IPaC team.
<i>What are the main skills needed to do your role?</i>	IPaC issues can be very worrying for patients and staff, so the skills you need for this role are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be able to listen and "hear" what the issues are and assist others to come to a conclusion as to how to address the problem safely. • To be able to analyse complex information and use this to inform practice and policy. • A sound knowledge of IPaC with varied experience in nursing.
<i>Do you have any advice for the next generation of nurses?</i>	Working as a nurse can be a very rewarding job. Think about your career pathway, enrich your experience and skills by working in a variety of roles. Don't be afraid to try new things as a change of direction is at times the catalyst for bigger and better things.
<i>My wish for the future of nursing is...</i>	A bigger workforce, certainly a better patient/staff ratio.

