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# Mrs Deborah Tyree

## Mrs Deborah Tyree is a Radiology Care Assistant, below she shares her story.

### Working in Intervention as a Radiographic Care Assistant is very rewarding. With the introduction of our own Day Case Unit, we are able to support our patient throughout their whole procedure experience with us, from admission to discharge, the all-important cup of tea and the care provided in-between. It is a privilege to be part of a team that provides such crucial medical care. I work closely with the radiology consultants and nurses. As well as providing patient care, I also scrub assist for the cases and it is my responsibility to prepare the room, the necessary equipment, lay up the sterile trollies, anticipate what will be needed and ensure we have all items available. I work independently as well as being supported by the qualified team. Knowing that you have been involved in a procedure that has potentially saved someone’s leg or given them the biopsy result needed to progress their care or embolised a bleed or protected their kidney function via a nephrostomy insertion makes me extremely proud of what I do. Intervention is such a fascinating modality with an ever-increasing demand and the opportunities that the future holds are exciting, and I very much hope to be a part of the developments.

I always knew deep down that there was something that I had always wanted to do, but after years of raising a family, I was left not knowing what my next step would be. Nine years ago, I saw an advert for an RCA role and gathered all my courage to apply. Having been out of the workplace for so long, I was low in confidence but was successful and was offered the job. Within months, I had been introduced to the world of interventional radiology and from that moment I knew that this is what I wanted to do and that piece of the puzzle that was always missing had finally become clear. From that day, my passion for Intervention and my role within radiology, specifically as a scrub assist, has continued to grow.

I have always been proactive regarding training. I have mostly learnt and developed my role through day-to-day hands-on experience and going the extra mile using my own initiative I have kept a concise personal development folder (PDF) for 9 years adding to it regularly with written reflections / case studies and colleague feedback. I have a comprehensive record all interventional procedures that I have scrub assisted for. I have been put forward for a mentoring course and will be attending a 3-month leadership course starting in Oct 2022. I am extremely keen to develop my role further which to date has not been done hence searching for a pathway route. It would be extremely rewarding and exciting for future RCA`s to have my proposal of a Lead Interventional RCA role implemented. In comparison to the criteria expected within a Band 4 role I regularly meet these job descriptions and work above and beyond my current banding every day.

**I am most proud that I was given the opportunity to be given the role. I had no idea it existed so to find something that I am so passionate about and to able to do it everyday whilst constantly learning and growing within the role is my proudest achievement. To be part of such a diverse modality and offer the care and procedures that we do is a constant source of pride to me. There is a particular achievement that will always be very close to my heart and that is being nominated and winning a ‘going the extra mile’ award. I also began my role quite late in life and I would like to think that I can be seen as a champion to others not to let age or uncertainty hold you back. You are never to old and thankfully I was given the opportunity and I have never looked back.**

Working within Intervention you can see that the whole department is a combination of individuals who form the diagnostic and specialties family. Everyone has a part to offer and an important role to add to the multi-dimensional department that is Intervention and Imaging. There are so many aspects to the role and its exciting to discover things about yourself that you never thought you were capable of.

I believe that we need to offer further progression for RCA`s who, like me are passionate about their role and wish to remain the department. At present the only way to progress is to leave and take the already structured route of TAP or TNA. I am actively trying to trying to promote a pathway to retain staff and develop those who are ambitious and dedicated to their role and to champion the proposal of a Lead Interventional RCA. I already mirror those of the Band 4 and TNA job description. I know my daily job demands are above average and have involved gathering considerable experience that has been developed with specific training as well as needing to demonstrate a high level of dexterity, coordination, attention to detail combined with high level and sensitive communication skills. With the introduction of IGIS there is a massive opportunity to framework a niche role of Band 4 status for an experienced and dedicated RCA AHP .