



ILD-IN BLOG

NEW

EDITION 1

APRIL 2023

MEET THE TEAM



KERRY MILLS

About myself: I started my training at Herefordshire's finest nursing school on Halloween 1988. Medicine was my preferred specialty as it triggered my inquisitive nature. I qualified in 1991 and progressed through the nursing grade system (now agenda for change for the younger readers). My time as a Junior sister on a medical ward was the catalyst to my respiratory journey. During a 5 night stretch I nursed a lady with "pulmonary fibrosis" during the last phase of her life. I needed to understand the pathophysiological changes that caused such difficult symptoms and how to support the patients and families. I embarked on the "Respiratory course for hospital nurses" with "The Asthma Training Centre" in Warwick in 1995. This truly sparked my passion for respiratory, in particular ILD.

My current role: I work at Hereford Medical Group, a collaboration of 5 surgeries, which has provided me with so many opportunities. I am the Clinical Director for our primary care network (PCN) and continue to deliver clinical care with a respiratory focus. This means I am in a position to review breathless patients and explore the underlying diagnosis, work with colleagues in primary care to raise the profile of ILD, review patients as required between specialist service reviews and act as an additional point of contact.

**Interstitial Lung Disease
The Hereford Approach**

- 1/12 dedicated ILD clinic
 - 2 consultants
 - 1 registrar
 - 1 CNS
- 2/12 Joint Respiratory/Rheumatology clinic
- Multi Disciplinary Team
 - Radiology & pathology
 - Respiratory Physiology
 - Tertiary centre
 - Visiting surgeon
 - Pulmonary rehabilitation
 - Pilot ILD patient education session
 - Smoking cessation team
 - GP/DN/PN/ Hospice

2008

I AM PART OF THE ILD-IN COMMITTEE AND VALUE WORKING WITH ENTHUSIASTIC AND INSPIRATIONAL COLLEAGUES THAT PRESENT A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FOCUS ON THE DELIVERY OF CARE FOR ALL PATIENTS WITH ILD.



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Transition to primary care: In 2014, I decided to move from secondary to primary care as an advanced nurse practitioner (ANP). I became very aware of the vast numbers of generic respiratory presentations and the complexities of establishing acute versus chronic presentation and working up the patient to establish their diagnosis. I had always been mindful of establishing an early diagnosis in ILD.

This led to the delivery of ILD training for Education for Health between 2018 to 2020. Teaching has always been a passion for me, including supporting patients or colleagues. More recently, I have been involved with the Rotherham Respiratory Team and co-developed an introductory module to ILD.

My career journey: I became a respiratory CNS and gained a vast amount of respiratory knowledge over 17 years. In 2007, the team became dedicated to ILD and we delivered a specific ILD pulmonary rehabilitation programme. It was around this time, I was very privileged to meet ILD CNS, Annette Duck (University Hospital South Manchester) and Geraldine Burge (University Hospital Birmingham), to explore ways of enhancing the role of the ILD nurse and supporting information for patients. We presented our working relationship at a national ILD Conference in 2008, which continues with the "Hub and Spoke" model for ILD patients in Herefordshire with the Birmingham ILD team.



Photo of respiratory colleagues visiting the Wythenshawe team in 2000. Consent to share gained. Apologies to anyone missed.



When I do get some down time the best place I love to be is out walking in the beautiful Herefordshire countryside with family and friends, not forgetting my three golden retrievers who don't particularly like my teaching style as they pay very little attention to me.