



Donna Wolfe

Chief Cardiac Physiologist

What does your job entail?

As a Chief Cardiac Physiologist, my daily responsibilities revolve around performing echocardiograms (ECGs), which involve using ultrasound to examine the heart. I conduct these tests on both in-patients and out-patients, including emergency cases. Additionally, I assist doctors with dobutamine stress echo, transoesophageal echo, and bubble studies. These investigations help determine the structure and function of the heart and its valves.

How did you get into this line of work?

From a young age, I had a strong interest in working in healthcare. While in school, I discovered a course in the University of Ulster prospectus that caught my attention due to its diverse range of workload, and I was drawn to it as a result.

Outline your career to date

My career began as a Band 5 professional in Kings College London, where I performed ECGs, assisted in pacing clinics, and worked in the Cath lab as part of a Multidisciplinary Team providing assistance to individuals who had heart attacks. I then advanced my career by securing a position in the Western Trust as a Band 6 practitioner. In this role, I led exercise stress tests, analysed 24-hour ECG monitors, and began training in echocardiogram procedures. Currently, I work as a Band 7 Specialist at Craigavon Area Hospital, specialising in performing and reporting echocardiograms.

Tell us about your qualifications and training

I possess nine GCSEs with grades ranging from C to A, including a double award in Science. I also obtained A-levels in Biology and Double award Health and Social Care. I completed a four-year course in Clinical Physiology (Cardiology), earning a First-degree qualification. This field is now known as Health Care Science.

What is the best advice you've ever received?

The best advice I have received is that what is meant for you will come to you in due course.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

During my spare time, I enjoy spending quality time with my family and friends. I particularly enjoy going on trips in our caravan and taking walks with our dog.

What advice would you give your 16-year-old self?

If I could offer advice to my 16-year-old self, I would say to take one hurdle at a time and seize opportunities to travel. Explore universities overseas and consider the possibilities they offer.