



Honorary Secretary Report 2017 – Simon Turley

My four year tenure as ASCN Honorary Secretary is now drawing to a close, with there being only a few months until reaching a final conclusion at the end of 2017. The conference in Glasgow being my last as a committee member. During my term of office ASCN UK has continued to grow and develop into the organization we see today, with further changes influenced by the wider Healthcare industry impacting from 2018. Serving on the committee has been an honour and privilege, hard work and challenging at times but immensely rewarding, working alongside current and previous committee colleagues, who have collectively contributed to a wonderful overall experience. I am very grateful for their support during my term of office.

2017 has again been a very busy year, with the demands, experiences and responsibilities of the committee continuing to be varied and numerous. Along with committee colleagues, I have endeavoured to raise the profile of ASCN UK whenever representing the organization at different events and when contributing to project work. My role as Honorary Secretary together with the committee work remains interesting, fascinating and exciting, ultimately experiencing and being involved within the uniquely diverse world of stoma care. The year has seen the continued development of the direction of ASCN UK, particularly focused on education, facilitating the Urology Masterclass held at the QE Hospital in Birmingham in March, with phase two of the ASCN UK guidelines at peer review. Further information on all these are available on the ASCN website www.ascnuk.com.

During the year, the committee have had several face to face meetings as well as regular monthly telephone conference calls in conjunction with our conference organisers, In Conference. The committee have also been represented at the ASCN UK area representative (reps) meetings. The committee has had further requests to provide comment and opinions on various documents and protocols.

Planning and organising has been ongoing throughout 2017 to ensure the deliverance of another wonderful conference, building on from the successful event in Bournemouth last year. The committee and In Conference have endeavoured to construct a conference and programme which enables development, enhancement and furtherance of specialist knowledge, skills and experience within the sphere of stoma care. Whilst together enabling networking with other stoma nurses and our industry colleagues. I hope everyone's efforts are appreciated by all delegates attending, as this is not an easy or simple process.

In March ASCN facilitated another teaching session at The London Nurse Show held at Alexandra Palace, building on the success of last year's event. During the day, five one hour theory and practical stoma care sessions were delivered entitled 'Key Principles of Stoma Care'. The teaching was a collaborative approach undertaken by committee members Simon Turley, Wendy Osborne and Gill Little, together with area reps Gill Skipper, Katy Timms, Carolyn Swash, Emma Maltby, Jacqui North and Claire Bohr. The sessions were well attended and evaluated by delegates.

Two very successful ASCN UK area reps meetings were held in Birmingham in March and July 2017, with another meeting planned for November, which will be my final meeting. The area reps perpetuate their enthusiasm and passion regarding ASCN UK, with continued eagerness to participate in the activities and further development of the organization, as well as representing you the members. The meetings have been well attended, building on successful meetings from 2014 to 2016.



At this year's meetings we have introduced a rep area activity summary, aimed at sharing events from each area, which has proved successful. Additional discussion has centered on conference and masterclass ideas and planning, educational direction and continued development of the ASCN Clinical Guidelines. Information pertaining to the educational activity is contained within Wendy Osborne's (ASCN Educational Officer) report. All the committee reports can be found on the website www.ascnuk.com.

Following a lengthy and difficult project process involving the area reps, In Conference, myself and the committee, the ASCN UK stoma nurse membership directory nears completion. The directory provides the names and contact details of all ASCN UK stoma nurse members only, set within the regional framework of ASCN. Each area rep now has the names and contact details of members in their area, and will also be informed when a new member joins. The final version will be available on the ASCN UK website, not only as a pdf but also an interactive map. I would like to take this opportunity to express and extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the area reps, committee colleagues and In Conference for their hard work in completing this project.

There have been two changes to the area reps this year. Ben McDermott has joined Nichola Lovelady in Area 7 Manchester & North West as joint rep, attending both meetings this year. Alison Crawshaw, area rep for Scotland, has decided to stand down after many years' service. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alison for all her hard work and dedication to WCET UK/ASCN UK over the years. Anne Haston has taken over as the new area rep for Scotland, and I have already welcomed her to the group. An updated list of the area reps can be found on the website <http://ascnuk.com/area-representatives/>.

In March, I attended the British Journal of Nursing Nurse of The Year awards, held at Shakespeare's Underglobe at the Globe Theatre London, representing ASCN UK. All the nominees from the various categories underpinned the dedication, hard work and commitment of many within the nursing profession. In July, Maddie White and I attended the Purple Wings Charity Ball in Birmingham, on behalf of ASCN UK, having an enjoyable, enlightening and uplifting evening. In September Angie Perrin and I attended the Colostomy Association patient event in Reading, which included an overview of the CA's 50 years, and an exciting announcement regarding the future.

ASCN UK membership continues to rise with new members joining and existing members renewing their registration. I would like to welcome all the new members to the Association and thank those of you who have renewed their membership. I would urge non members to consider joining the association, enabling you to enjoy the many benefits of membership, and that you would see ASCN UK as a valuable asset and resource. Those wishing to join ASCN can visit the website at www.ascnuk.com and follow the link within the membership section, where details of the benefits of membership can also be found. If you are attending conference you can also join at the conference registration desk.

As you will be aware my four year term as Honorary Secretary finishes at the end of the year. At the time of writing, nominations have been received for the position with voting currently being undertaken, with the result of the successful candidate being announced during the AGM at conference. I would like to extend my congratulations to the successful candidate and wish them well in their term of office. Anyone contemplating a role on the committee can find more information on role descriptions on the website at www.ascnuk.com. I would encourage all members to consider a



committee role, as you will find the experience most rewarding. The committee and association would not function without volunteers nominating themselves for committee posts.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the Scottish Event Campus Glasgow, wishing you an enjoyable and informative conference, and continued networking with many of you during my final few weeks as ASCN UK Honorary Secretary.

Finally, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks and debt of gratitude to team colleagues in Oxford for all their support and understanding during my tenure as ASCN Secretary.

Simon Turley, Honorary Secretary, ASCN UK.
simon.turley@ascnuk.com