This will be my last report as Educational committee member for ASCN UK, and it has been a privilege to have not only be a member of the ASCN UK committee, but also meet so many of you across the UK. It has been extremely rewarding to be part of our Specialist Association as we share both evidenced based and best practice and continually strive to raise the profile and development of stoma care nursing practice for the benefit of improving outcomes of care for our patients.

**ASCN UK National Conference 2019**

Our conference this year in Newport, Wales entitled ‘Getting the Balance Right’, captures the essence of constantly striving to meet and improve outcomes of care along with effective resource management. This title also incorporates considerations for your work / life balance especially during these changing and often challenging times.

The core of the ASCN UK conference is that it is a specialist conference for you; with a programme where the content is inspired by you as the specialists. **Thank you everyone who submitted an abstract**, this is what makes our conference so unique, leading to a diversity of ‘show casing’ examples of specialist ‘best’ practice and developments from across the UK.

**Conference Workshop/Seminars**

For 2019 – Two ASCN workshops/seminars will be run on the Sunday afternoon, and one on the Tuesday morning.

1) **ASCN UK Complex Case Study Seminar.** We are extremely fortunate to have three experts who will share their knowledge and skills from their backgrounds of Clinical Psychology, Psychosexuality and body adaptation. I am confident this session will be really informative and provide you with some very practical skills and insightful take away’s.

2) The **ASCN UK Specialist Surgical rotation workshop**, will cover the surgical procedures of ACE, Mitrofanoff and Nephrostomy. These specialist operations are those we as SCN’s may be asked for advice and support but will not be seen on a daily basis. So this opportunity will offer you an update in the care of patients undergoing these procedures, but also discuss with the specialists how to manage potential complications and ongoing issues for longterm support.

3) By popular demand and following the success of last year – we will co-ordinate an ‘Open Mic’ ASCN UK session on the Tuesday morning. This very practical session will focus on problem solving and sharing of best practice in the clinical situation.

**Conference Speakers**

We have several eminent keynote speakers who have kindly agreed to present at our conference. **Professor Jean White CBE** has been the Chief Nursing Officer for Wales since 2010. Having trained in Swansea, she has subsequently had a varied of roles within Education, Welsh National Board and Welsh Government.

**Gabby Thorpe** a lecturer in Nursing at the University of East of Anglia, will be delivering the Commemorative Keynote lecture in Memory of Jean Preston who very sadly passed away in May of this year. This very fitting dedication to Jean who contributed so much to the education and development of stoma care will provide an update on the exciting evolvement of our ASCN UK stoma care course. The first pilot of the course has been completed – with resounding positive feedback. This is a Massive achievement and we are exceptionally grateful to Gabby for all the hours and hours of hard work she has put into this.

Our surgical element this year will be provided by **Mr David Mak (Consultant Urological Surgeon)**, from New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton; who will be joined by **Jenny Adkins (Urology Advanced Practitioner)** Their joint presentation will focus on the implications of Robotic Cystectomy for the surgeon and Specialist Nurse.
Claire Bohr (Paed stoma and bowel specialist) from Bristol has been working with an international group of specialist nurses to the Best practice Guidelines for Neonates, Children and Teenagers. Having been fortunate enough to see this resource I am sure you will find this an invaluable resource.

This year our British Healthcare Trade Association (BHTA) update will be provided by the newly appointed Peter Eakin to provide us with an update on the role of BHTA, the EucoMed guidelines and what impact this has on you. Julie Cornish (Colorectal Consultant Surgeon) from Cardiff and Vale University Health Board), has kindly accepted our invitation to share her excellent research she has been undertaking in relation to Low Anterior Resection Syndrome. While Gethin Williams (Consultant Colorectal Surgeon) from the local Royal Gwent Hospital in Newport, will focus on the challenges of surgery for patient with IBD undertook a couple of years ago looking at the impact of stoma formation in IBD. Dr Terri Porrett who many of you will know from her years in Stoma Care as a Consultant at the Homerton Hospital in London and more recently as Head of Education with Coloplast, will be presenting on how Stoma Care services can be adapting to the changing times of cultural norms and healthcare delivery.

**Recognition of outstanding practice**

ASCN UK continue to recognise outstanding specialist achievements. The Stoma Nurse of the Year (kindly supported by Salts) will be announced after the AGM on Monday 18th September. This Highly respected award is truly unique as it is an award providing recognition from your peers, presented in the presence of your peers. New for this year is the Chair’s award for innovative practice. Which Maddie will have referenced in her report.

This year ASCN UK wish to acknowledge both a winning and highly commended award for the Best Presented and Informative Poster, and the Most Impactful Presentation throughout the conference. New for this year, we wish to encourage all delegates to vote using the ASCN UK Conference App for the poster they feel has been most informative.

The overall oral presentation will be judged by the committee and area reps using a grading criteria to recognise a presentation that may either been unique in its delivery while demonstrating evidence for initiative / advancing practice to improve / enhance patient experience.

The UA (Urostomy Association) agreed to support their two awards again for 2019 this includes a research bursary as well as demonstration of a case study that provides evidence to promote best practice for the care of the Urostomist.

We continue to express our appreciation to Coloplast Ltd for supporting the highly successful New Presenters award, which provides ongoing professional and personal development within our specialism.

This year we have planned to increase the visibility and sharing of the great work you have produced within your posters. We have allocated a dedicated poster viewing session on the Tuesday. Authors of the posters have been invited to be present by their posters so delegates can discuss findings and outcomes.

**Keeping you up to date**

We continue to produce ASCN UK Newsletters, in order to collate and share topical information within a newsletter rather than regular emails. Based on the current positive feedback we have received; we are planning to continue with these. We do hope the newsletters have been informative and we would welcome your feedback and thoughts.

Following last year’s very well received post conference ‘digest’; the Mark Allen Group (Producers of the BJN & GIN) will be once again capturing and sharing key messages gained throughout the conference with all members of ASCN.

**Additional ASCN UK projects**

- **The National ASCN Stoma Care Standards and Audit Tool** relaunched back in 2015 in collaboration of PSNG; is currently has gained renewal and RCN endorsement for this year 2018. If your department does not have a copy of these, please email the ASCN secretariat

- **ASCN Stoma Care National Clinical Guidelines (2016)** – The first phase of 13 guidelines have been extensively reviewed and endorsed by specialist nurses, with the purpose to reduce variations in practice
and promote best practice. In doing this, we can promote efficient use of health care resources as well as providing a sound structure for education and training. These Guidelines are available via the ASCN UK members section of the website www.ascnuk.com

- **2nd phase of the Stoma Care National Clinical Guidelines** - includes another 13 guidelines including removal of ureteric stents, dilatation, ACE, ileo-anal pouch, Kock pouch, pyoderma. These have been written and completed the peer review, 6 of these will be available at conference this year.

- **ASCN UK Specialist Masterclass/workshop** - This year’s masterclass Collaborative Community Working – promoting effective prescribing practices; was held on 14th May @ the Salford Royal Hospital in Manchester. The agenda provided an overview of the NHS agenda from a National Perspective and how SCN’s across the UK have worked with CCG’s to establish collaborative working practices. The day was chaired by Kevin Hodges from the BHTA, and our outstanding speakers included Robert Owen from the CCG Collaborative Procurement Partnership, Gill Down (Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group), Amanda Smith (Salford Royal), Catherine Murray (Gloucestershire Hospitals), Maddie White (QE Birmingham) and myself on behalf of the Colostomy Association. All the presenters provided a great insight and sharing of their experiences.

- **ASCN UK & UEA Stoma Care Specialist Module (Level 7)** – The ASCN committee and area representatives remain dedicated to creating and funding an ASCN Stoma Care Course, which provides a benchmark level of education, available to all. Gabby as an invited speaker will be sharing the fantastic news that this course is now available for applications.

- **Specialist Project groups** – this year I have chaired two key projects
  
  The parastomal Hernia and skin terminology, which I will be updating you on during the conference
  
  The Parastomal Hernia (PSH) project has focused on developing an assessment tool to increase awareness, practice and information in what we as SCN’s can do to reduce the risk of PSH.
  
  The skin terminology group has involved both TVN’s and dermatologists and evolved in response to the skin terminology questionnaire we ran at ASCN 2018. The focus here is to align the descriptive words we use for parastomal skin appearances to promote consistency

As a reminder for you all:

**Education Grants** – The Jean Preston Fund applications can be downloaded via the www.ascnuk.com website for funds to attend ASCN Conference, specialist courses and study days relating to stoma care.

**ASCN Endorsements** – in our quest to continually promote activities which will assist members engaged in stoma care to increase their knowledge and enhance their contribution to the specialist arena of stoma care; the ASCN endorsement process was updated last year. Projects which have an emphasis or a direct benefit to those people living with a stoma, such as study days, standards of care, care pathways, educational resources and protocols can be submitted through the application process downloaded from www.ascnuk.com.

**Mark Allen Group and BJN** - have continued to maintain their support for the specialism of stoma care and continue to produce a Specialist Stoma Care Supplement within the BJN three times a year. These are FREE to members of the ASCN (UK).

On behalf of the ASCN UK, we remain committed and passionate about working with all those involved within the speciality. Together we can continue to evolve and raise the profile of stoma care. I hope you would agree reflecting on all the developments, we are constantly listening to the feedback from the members and ultimately aiming to impact and improve outcomes in our patients care.

I look forward to seeing you in Newport and wish my successor all the very best in their role as Educational Committee member.

Wendy Osborne
Educational Honorary Officer ASCN UK – Newport 2019