

## ASCN UK Governance Officer Report 2023

**Wendy Osborne (MSc; RGN; QN)**

This role as Governance Officer has been a new appointment for the ASCN committee in 2023. The essential focus being to ensure the Governance of the Association is in accordance with all statutory and regulatory requirements. I am delighted to be re-joining the committee in this post, and continue to be dedicated to the objectives of the Association.

Being a new post, I have started to work with the committee and our ASCN UK Secretariate (InConference) to review and prioritise the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's), policies and risk register. This is work in progress, but am keen to update and identify further development and maintenance of effective processes to ensure fair and equitable management of the Association and the Annual Conference.

One of the priorities was the review of a job description and appointments of future Trustees for the Association for next year. We have been extremely fortunate; four very experienced Stoma Care Nurses have volunteered to be our Trustees for the following 3 years. In view of extending Trustees outside of the committee we hope you would agree can only add value and benefit to the Association. As a consequence of this proposed change, we have updated the constitution, and await the memberships approval.

As an integral part of the committee, I will be contributing to maintaining strong relationships with outside organisations as a representative of the Association ensuring ASCN UK has a voice in all relevant arenas. This has included meetings with David Lawson (Med Tech Director for DoH) [New lead for DHSC's MedTech directorate | HCSA \(nhsprocurement.org.uk\)](#) to contribute to the upcoming consultation process planned for the end of the year; as well as representing ASCN UK at two Ileostomy Association meetings and presented on topics related to parastomal hernia and peristomal skin conditions.

Following an outstanding presentation by Sarah Russell [\(9\) Sarah Russell | LinkedIn](#) and her physiotherapy colleague Kerry Harper at the ASCN UK Annual conference in Harrogate last year 2022; a multidisciplinary research project has been initiated by the ASCN UK along with Sarah, to develop an evidenced based national **ASCN UK 'Best practice recommendations for exercise after stoma surgery'**. I am sure you will all recall Sarah's passion and commitment to raise awareness and training for SCN's and patients following abdominal surgery. We will be working in conjunction with an experienced project group and an expert medical writer to work and produce this much needed document over this next year. We would very much welcome any volunteers to assist with peer reviewing. If you are interested, please do reach out to myself or Emma Vernon.

Another area for review is the Governance of the ASCN UK closed Facebook page; which unfortunately had to be closed last year; but ASCN UK are eager to reignite this platform and other social media platforms as appropriate, ensuring they are a safe space for the members compliant and adhere to relevant regulations

I look forward to updating you on progress next year 😊