



Honorary Secretary Report 2019

Introduction

Firstly, I would like to thank all my colleagues on the ASCN UK Committee for their support. I am working alongside very experienced and dedicated colleagues, who have collectively assisted me in all the ASCN UK processes. In addition providing more understanding to assist nurses with the changes facing stoma care today.

Conference 2019

This is my second conference as Honorary Secretary and I am pleased to be a part of the first conference here in Wales at their brand-new ICC Wales. The committee have had site visits as the conference centre has been built and some will have seen us in our hard hats, boots and high Vis jackets! I look forward to meeting many of you who will be attending this year's conference.

This year nurses attending conference continue to be affected by changes regarding funding to attend ASCN Conference, as well as more scrutiny on items to be offered to nurses so that they are not seen as inducements or rewards. The Jean Preston Fund continues to be a source of support. In addition, advice on funding has been discussed at Area Rep meetings.

Area Reps

The ASCN UK committee and Area Reps have endeavoured to raise the profile of ASCN by attending various events year to date, including patient association meetings. The Area Reps have met three times since conference last year at Area Rep meetings held in Birmingham. I would like to thank them for their support at Conference last year in Birmingham and again this year. At the meeting in March we had Colostomy UK present on their Charity activities and support materials that they can offer people with a stoma. In particular the work they have undertaken with airports around the country.

In July we invited Kevin Hodges from BHTA to present at the Area Rep meeting on the potential changes to community provision and activity by procurement partnerships.

At each area rep meeting we have updates from all the areas activities. I would like to thank the Area Reps for their wonderful enthusiasm and energy. Area Reps have been involved in providing feedback; reviewing various projects including skin terminology and convexity. They have also kindly volunteered for opportunities such as poster and oral presentation voting, manning the ASCN stand along with a member of the ASCN Committee and helping with our roving mic, a big thank you to all of them.

These Area Reps are passionate about their speciality and representing you. We have welcomed some new area reps and currently have vacancies for Northern Ireland, and Essex and Kent areas. If anyone would like to take up these opportunities, please do feel free to speak with me whilst I am here at the conference. An updated list of the Area Reps is available on the website <http://ascnuk.com/area-representatives/>. We also have a board at either registration or on the ASCN UK stand showing all the area representatives contact email and photo.

Committee Activity

Each month the committee have teleconference calls to ensure that decisions are made on behalf of ASCN UK to promote ASCN UK, provide education and materials to support the CNS in stoma care. In particular I am part of the team involved with the Convexity project chaired by Angie Perrin.

ASCN UK has continues to focus on Education and had a very lively Masterclass in Manchester entitled; Collaborative Community Working promoting effective prescribing practices. It proved very informative regarding the changes to purchasing for hospitals and the community environment. In particular it was useful to have SCNs present who have actively engaged with their procurement processes and Medicines Management/CCGs to ensure that the voice of the SCN is heard and acted on.

Planning and organising for this year's ASCN UK Conference has been ongoing throughout 2019, to ensure a professional and educational event, following the success of the conference in Birmingham in 2018, which was the first one affected by the new regulations affecting funding. The committee and In-conference have strived to construct a conference and programme which enables revalidation, personal development and enhances further specialist knowledge. It was my pleasure to be involved with the review of all abstracts for posters and oral presentations for this year's conference. We trust that you enjoy this year's conference.

ASCN UK Membership

To ensure that your ASCN UK membership does not accidentally expire due to emails going into Junk mail in hospital systems or simply forgetting your expiry date, direct debits for membership commenced this year. Any queries regarding this process should be addressed with In-Conference who will have set this up. For those of you who are not members, I would like to encourage you to go to either visit In-Conference here at the Conference or go to the website at www.ascnuk.com and follow the link for the members section. Details of the benefits of membership can also be found there.

ASCN UK 2019

I would like to thank Claire Simpson from In-Conference for her hard work in supporting ASCN UK and the involvement with the new look ASCN UK website. I hope that you have all had a chance to see this and use it.

On a sad note there have been several obituaries and we are going to announce these in the newsletter following conference to ensure all members are aware.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the ASCN UK Stoma Care Nurse of the year who was announced at conference 2018, Simon Turley. I would also like to thank my colleagues at the Royal Marsden Hospital who support me in my role as CNS Stoma Care. Also, all my colleagues at Hollister for their support and understanding whilst undertaking Honorary Secretarial work for ASCN UK.

Jackie McPhail

ASCN UK Secretary