



Chair Report – Andrew Bird

It has been a busy year for ASCN and feels like only a moment ago we had the buzz of meeting in person again in Harrogate for ASCN 2022! 2023 was another year for change, but also for focus. We sadly said goodbye to Amanda Gunning as Honorary Treasurer and Jennie Burch as Education Officer, both who contributed immensely to ASCN. We were very happy to welcome Natasha Rolls as Honorary Treasurer and Emma Vernon as Education Officer who have both taken the roles in their stride. We also welcomed Wendy Osborne into the newly created Committee role of Governance and Communications Officer which has been a fantastic addition to the committee. Joining the tireless efforts of Angie Perrin, Vice-Chairperson and Carolyn Swash, Honorary Secretary, the committee has been in great hands.

The main aim of the Committee has been to continue to protect ASCN interests and tighten up the governance procedures with the introduction of Trustees who will support the ex officio Committee. We welcome Jo Sica, Rebecca Davenport, Simon Turley and Melanie Jerome into their new roles as trustees.

Our Area Reps are here today to support us with our work, and they are a great asset to have in every region. A full list of the area reps is available to view on the website, but we do have a current vacancy in the republic of Ireland. If anyone is interested in joining or may know of a perfect candidate, please email us to discuss further.

As an organisation, ASCN UK is the only National UK professional body that represents our speciality of stoma care. For those who attended last year's conference, we conducted a consensus which provided a huge amount of valuable data in relation to your roles as specialist nurses. In the past few months, we have worked to enhance this data with some additional information from the services available by creating the State of the Nation in Stoma Care Survey. We asked a representative/lead nurse from hospital departments to contribute to the dataset and we received 118 responses to date. This information will be discussed in Natasha Roll's talk: The State of the Nation in Stoma Care – making waves and influencing practice to secure our future – ASCN UK.

It gives me great pleasure to announce the WCET – ASCNUK 2024 Joint Congress, which will take place from the 28th of September until the 1st of October 2024 in Glasgow, United Kingdom. This congress will give us all the opportunity to embrace new ideas on stoma, wound and continence management, empowering us to render a professional service to those in need of special care. We hope to see you all there, and further information on the congress can be found on our table in the exhibition space.

Andrew Bird, Chair, ASCN UK