



Educational Officer Report – Jennie Burch

This is my third report as the Education Officer for the ASCN UK. It is great to have an in-person conference and meet up again in 2022.

I hope that Wendy Osborne is pleased to see that her concept and hard work in starting the ASCN National Clinical Guidelines has continued. In 2022 there have been five new clinical guidelines to guide our stoma practice. There has been a focus on culture and religion that has followed into this conference in one of the workshops. Two guidelines focussing on people with dementia and other vulnerable patients. Also, a highly specialist guideline on wet colostomy and one on low anterior resection syndrome. Thank you to all the guideline writers as well as to the ASCN UK committee members and area reps for their comments and feedback. Of course a big thank you also to Wendy Osborne for assisting in the reviewing and revising process.

Another useful tool available on the ASCN UK website is the ileostomy output chart. The Bristol Stool Chart concept inspired Wendy Osborne to create one that was useful for people with an ileostomy. There is additional information about care if the output is too high. The chart is available on the ASCN UK website in the additional resources section within the main resources section.

It is also important as well as developing new guidance it is important to review and revise as needed current guidelines as they age. The authors as well as new reviewers have revised this year. Four were revised last year after conference and four more have been revised in 2022. There are more being revised to ensure that care is standardised and evidence based. Thank you to all that have been involved in the guidelines recently. All of the current, the revised and the new guidelines are available to ASCN UK members for free on our website.

The virtual ASCN UK conference in 2021 was well attended. Almost 350 delegates registered for the conference out of our almost (at the time) 450 members. Most people rated the conference website to be very good or excellent. Although there were some problems navigating around the virtual conference centre. Hopefully, it is easier this year for the in-person conference. Most of the delegates rated the conference to be well organised. The poster display was at times difficult to interact with but there were some great posters. The presentations were also of great quality last year. Attendees thought the programme was relevant to their work last year which is a testament to you all. Unfortunately, virtual networking was a little complicated but it was great to see the sponsors and exhibitions.

Webinars were started over lockdown and continued this year. Two more fantastic webinars have been presented in 2022, by three great presenters. In March we heard from Kevin Hodges from the British Healthcare Trades Association (BHTA) about implications for stoma care about UK healthcare policies and strategies. In May this year we heard a clinical webinar about antegrade colonic enemas (ACE) from two experienced nurses. The ex-chair of this association Maddie White and her colleague Yvette Perston.

We also recognised at last year's conference a brilliant Specialist Stoma Care Nurse as the Stoma Nurse of the Year 2021 (The Philip Salt Award supported by Salts) who was Cath Dixon. Cath developed local guidance on care of the nephrostomy as well as a related patient information leaflet. Then disseminated a training package to over 500 district nurses in Wales. A tremendous achievement and well deserved.

The ASCN UK in conjunction with University of East Anglia Stoma Care Specialist Module continues to run virtually. This module is 40 credits at level 7. It is run by Dr Gabby Thorpe and funding to attend this module is available from the Jean Preston Fund.



Something new for the 2022 conference is a national consensus. We hope to publish our findings and produce new work from the Association and its nurse members. The ASCN UK continued to offer endorsements for educational projects or events related to stoma care during 2022. The ASCN UK also maintains links with the Mark Allen Group. The British Journal of Nursing (BJN) continues to support stoma care. The three BJN publications featuring the stoma supplements are sent free to our members, make sure your details are up to date so that you continue to receive them. The Gastrointestinal Nursing (GIN) journal continues to have stoma supplements. There was also a GIN study day with some stoma content in January 2022.

On behalf of myself as part of the ASCN UK committee I would like to ask you to put a date in your diary for our conference in 2023.

Jennie Burch, Education Officer, ASCN UK