



## Chair Report – Maddie White

This year has been a year of change and uncertainty, not only due to the Covid 19 pandemic and its effects on our clinical activities but also because we find ourselves in a new social norm which may take some time to adjust to. Face to face meetings and activity have significantly reduced. As we get used to using social media more and more, our confidence will grow; certainly I see lots of nurses using ASCN UK Facebook account and sharing knowledge and skills. 2020 is the Inaugural International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, highlighted in my editorial for BJN (March 2020)

ASCN UK were planning a joint conference with WCET this year in Glasgow and this has now been postponed until October 2021. Angie (Vice Chair) and Maddie will continue to contribute to the steering committee and plans to take the event forward. Jennie Burch, Education officer is now co-opted onto the scientific committee in place of Wendy Osborne who stepped down last year from this committee role (see Education officer report for more detail).

We have been continuing to support the growth of the ASCN UK membership. Area rep meetings have been held successfully with reps informing us of activity within their areas (see Secretary report for more detail).

This year has seen the launch of a new look website which has evaluated very well. It is easier to navigate and access news items as well as the members section with access to guidelines and competencies. The provision of resources, including a planned book for nurses will continue with further projects being worked on so watch this space!

ASCN UK have raised their NHS profile; as ASCN UK represents stoma care nurses in the UK, it is vital that we contribute to projects which may have an impact on our patients' welfare and the quality of the care they receive. Regular meetings with the British Health Trades Association (BHTA) continue and keep us abreast of changes to stoma care provision nationally. ASCN UK are also now involved in:

- NHS Supply Chain Ostomate Project: Shaping stoma care nationally
- National Bowel and Bladder Health Project- Stoma Workstream Meeting
- Presqipp – registered stakeholders for projects involving stoma care
- PIPS forum – patients, industry and professionals forum

ASCN UK remain solvent financially and continue to support nurses' education through funding (Jean Preston fund). We also continue to work closely with the Mark Allen Publishing group to support the British Journal of Nursing and ensure 3 stoma care supplements a year. As Chair of ASCN UK I have contributed to further editorials for these supplements.

Elections are due this year for the posts of Chair and Vice Chair. Changes to the committee will be announced at the virtual AGM in November this year.

**Maddie White, Chair, ASCN UK**