



Educational Officer Report – Jennie Burch

This is my first report as the Education Officer for the ASCN UK. I wish to thank Wendy Osbourne for her many years as the previous Education Officer. I would also like to recognise the many achievements and contributions that Wendy has made to stoma care. She was recognised this year for her outstanding work by being awarded the Queen's Nurse. During her time as the Education Officer for the ASCN UK, Wendy has worked with many of the Specialist Stoma Care Nurses (SSCN) to compile our National Clinical Guidelines. The guidelines have steadily grown in number and more will be added in the future. These guidelines provide evidence to many of the speciality roles and activities undertaken by SSCN to improve patient care. When looking through the recently updated ASCN UK website there are other testimonies to the work undertaken by Wendy. As well as the guidelines there are the standards and audit tools and the competency frameworks; available for people working in stoma care at band 2, 4, 6 and 7.

Unfortunately the ASCN UK conference planned for 2020 with WCET (World Congress of Enterostomal Therapists) was postponed due to COVID-19. In its place a smaller, virtual meeting has been planned to cover the annual general meeting (AGM) and to offer continual professional development to the ASCN UK members. We do not want to miss the opportunity to recognise an outstanding SSCN, so the Stoma Nurse of the Year (kindly supported by Salts) will be announced in our AGM.

Other projects continue through 2020. ASCN UK & University of East Anglia Stoma Care Specialist Module, available at master's level continues to be run by Dr Gabby Thorpe. Do remember that educational grants from both the Jean Preston Fund and the IA are available to attend ASCN conference in October 2021, specialist courses and study days relating to stoma care; see the ASCN UK website for more information. There are a number of specialist project groups in progress. These are working to produce more documents for ASCN UK members to assist in clinical practice. ASCN UK endorsements are available for educational events and projects related to stoma care. Mark Allen Group and British Journal of Nursing (BJN) continue to support stoma care. BJN include a stoma supplement three times a year, which is free to ASCN UK members.

On behalf of the ASCN UK, the committee members continue to promote and improve stoma care education for our members. I look forward to seeing you virtually in November at our AGM.

Jennie Burch, Education Officer, ASCN UK