



Vice Chair Report – Angie Perrin

Goodness me what a year!

2020 has brought about so many changes and challenges to our lives in so many different ways personally, as well as professionally. Never would have I thought I would be donning full PPE to see every patient and communicate with loved ones via some form of on-line platform.

Communication for us all over recent months has changed. We have seen far more use of social media and education via virtual forums. We have also seen many, many things cancelled or postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Many of you will recall our collaborative conference was planned with WCET in October 2020 in Glasgow. This has now been postponed until October 2021. Maddie (Chair of ASCN UK) and I (Vice-Chair ASCN UK) both sit on the conference organising committee for this event, many exciting and interesting events have already been arranged for delegates. The Scientific Programme is taking good shape with many interesting speakers representing all corners of the globe incorporating all three specialities, Stoma, Continence and Wound. Jennie Burch, Current ASCN UK 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).

This year I have represented ASCN UK in attending several Patient, Industry and Professionals (PIPs) Forum meetings. The PIPs forum continues to work collaboratively to ensure that the specialties of stoma care and continence continue to be well represented within the ever-changing NHS environment.

I continue to represent ASCN UK and work collaboratively with colleagues from the British Health and Trades Association (BHTA) on various issues, attending the BHTA's quarterly meetings offering a nursing voice & representing ASCN UK. ASCN UK also have a quarterly meeting with the Chairperson of the BHTA and Kevin Hodges (Membership Engagement Manager) to ensure good two-way communication between the 2 groups.

ASCN UK continue to highlight the importance of our speciality area and have a voice on many of the Nationally led projects such as: 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, East of England Collaborative.

Throughout the year, I have attended the ASCN UK quarterly area representatives meetings, both in person and via zoom more recently, which offer a great insight as to what is happening in each of the areas throughout the UK. These meetings are both informative and enjoyable.

ASCN UK actively support the BJN awards in recognising outstanding contributions stoma care nurses have made to our specialism. This year presenting the award was a little different and a new experience, Jennie Burch (Education Officer, ASCN UK) and I presented the award virtually for the event. We continue to work with the Mark Allen group in supporting stoma care with the production of three BJN supplements a year, free to all ASCN UK members.

It has also been necessary to make some amendments to the ASCN UK Constitution to reflect the more electronic and ever-changing world we now live in, also to make the charitable organisation more transparent. We hope these changes are viewed positively by members.

Angie Perrin, Vice Chair, ASCN UK