



Chair Report – Maddie White

2020 has been a challenging year for us all, not least because our services have had to adapt and change to encompass the impact of Covid -19. The mini virtual conference we held in 2020 gave us a small platform on which to build this year's bigger virtual conference with support from industry. Let us hope that next year we will be able to meet face to face. The joint conference with WCET in Glasgow has now been postponed until 2024 and will continued to be supported with Jennie (Education Officer) on the steering committee.

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

Our new look website has evaluated very well. It is easier to navigate and access news items as well as the members section with access to clinical guidelines and competencies. Further guidelines, including the long awaited convexity guideline and a revised Standards have been added this year and the planned book for Stoma Care Nurses is beginning to take shape (see Education Officer report).

Further projects including a skin project have evolved with support from Stoma Care and Wound Care Specialists; more at conference on this!

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

Meetings were suspended in 2020 and we hope to see further activity in the coming months.

We were also invited to comment on a script for the BBC Doctor's series this year, supporting scriptwriters with a scenario involving a stoma patient.

ASCN UK remain financially solvent and we continue to support nurses' education through funding (Jean Preston fund). We also continue to work closely with the Mark



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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 and I would encourage all members to write for publication and to share their good practice.

The committee posts are extremely rewarding ones in which you are exposed to new people, ideas and challenges to enhance the profile and standing of ASCN UK. Unfortunately there were no candidates for the post of Chair in 2020 and I agreed to stay on for a further 12 months as caretaker Chair until after this year's conference. As there have been no further nominations for Chair, Andrew Bird has stepped up and will relinquish his role as Treasurer to develop the Chair role further. I am grateful to Andrew and he will be supported by Angie, who will remain as Vice Chair for another 12 months. Our thanks go to Angie for her continued support. Jackie has come to the end of her tenure as Secretary and this role has now been filled by Carolyn Swash, previous ASCN UK area rep. Our grateful thanks go to Jackie for her contribution to the committee over the last 4 years and we welcome Carolyn to the team.

The role of Treasurer will be taken over by In –Conference who continue to support us in all our endeavours. There is a financial implication to this however; this takes away from the funding we receive from conference and membership activities which supports all members' and benefits our specialism as a whole. It would be preferable to have a Treasurer once more in the future as this allows for diversity on the committee with 5 members.

My thanks go to all committee members and In –Conference for their ongoing support – this is a team effort. I hope I leave ASCN UK in a stronger position and will continue to offer guidance and support whenever I am asked. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last 6 years, I have learned an enormous amount and met some wonderful people along the way. I know that the association is in strong hands with a new Master at the helm!