

## **Treasurers report 2023 ASCN**

### **Natasha Rolls SCNS RN**

As this is my first year on the committee, in the auspicious 10 year anniversary of ASCNUK, the only stoma nurse specific association and conference in the UK, I should begin my Treasurers report with a 'back to basics' look at the financial elements of the association and how they impact the wider picture.

ASCNUK is a charitable organisation, with a constitution and objectives, aiming to promote the art and science of stoma care nursing, it is subject to the regulations and guidance of the Charity Commission UK which ensures ethical practice and confidence for the public.

We are a members-based organisation, with an elected committee, who act on behalf of and in support of our membership. We are supported in this by a secretariat, In-Conference, who provide administrative, financial and legal guidance. They in turn employ the services of legal and finance organisations to ensure accounts are well kept and submitted correctly and on time. Decisions made about the organisation are made by the committee, after consultation with membership, if possible, otherwise in the best interests of membership according to the agreed and sanctioned Constitution.

ASCNUK is an association in itself and there is also the separate but linked ASCN conference, revenue is generated from conference and from association activities. Whilst these are held separately, with bank accounts and budgets related to these they are of course linked and difficult to separate in a report, I will try to explain these and the other important points related to finance and the Treasurers report.

Conference: remains our greatest source of income, year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 saw us generate the following income from our sources: delegates £115,465, Industry, £144,278, Conference dinner £10,875 –this was the first face to face conference since the pandemic (October 2022).

Total conference income : £270,618

The costs of conference for that year were £232,052.

Income for the association comes from various sources: membership fees £11,184, donations and other income, £460, interest £129.

Examples of these other sources are the ASCN book, proceeds generously donated by the authors and the hosting of webinars.

Potential income can be generated from ASCN endorsement and validation.

Total Income £282,391

Total Outgoings £260,467

Profit £21.923

Added to previous balance leaves a healthy total in the bank of £170,536, which puts us in a healthy position.

ASCN has 4 bank accounts, a business account, deposit and Treasurers as well as the Jean Preston account. This account is for members of ASCN to apply for funds for conference attendance, research or special projects related to and in support of advancing stoma care nursing and as a committee we aim to ensure that a percentage of funds are paid into this from association funds.

The healthy financial position will ensure that we future proof ourselves and have funds to continue to invest in our members and therefore ensure benefits to our patients.

Reasons to maintain a healthy bank account include:

1 Previously our conferences have not made significant profit and during the pandemic we had limited revenue- we must protect the association to ensure benefits to members and stakeholders.

2 Money needs to be available in preparation for joint WCET/ASCN UK conference next year to cover potential costs/liabilities.

3 We have plans for investment into some national projects (e.g. Recommendations for exercise after stoma surgery) and wish to be able to respond positively if further requests for projects of such benefit arise

4 We are committed to re-invest all profits back into the membership through: education, webinars in 'Writing for Publication' and 'Research' are planned, support for projects, academia and education or conference attendance and ensuring the Jean Preston Fund is healthy all of which will support and enhance outcomes for patients.

We have been considering the members fees as a committee, to remain current, relevant and to appear professional and valid we have considered both what members get for their fees and whether those fees are appropriate: Clinical guidelines, membership of only stoma care specific organisation, reduced conference fees, BJN (British Journal of Nursing), peer support and access, support with professional and departmental issues.

We would like to canvass member opinion regarding this whilst being mindful of cost of living and challenges in nursing generally.

As a committee we have endeavoured to reduce our costs to ensure efficiencies, including Teams meetings as a rule, face to face meetings funded by colleagues' companies or in free spaces and not claiming travel from ASCN.

I hope this provides enough information from this novice Treasurer and I look forward to seeing a continued rise in our fortunes.