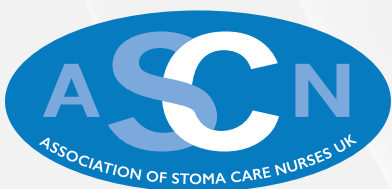


# ASCN UK Governance Officer Report 2024

Wendy Osborne (MSc; RGN; QN)



Having been in post for a year as Governance Officer for the ASCN UK – I can't believe where the year has gone. The main focus of the role is to ensure the Governance of the Association is in accordance with all statutory and regulatory requirements.

There have been some significant factors that have impacted us as a committee this year. With the new appointment of our secretariat Delegate earlier in the year, I can now look forward to reviewing and prioritising the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) policies and risk register. This is work in progress, but I am keen to update and identify further development and maintenance of effective processes to ensure fair and equitable management of the Association and the Annual Conference.

Talking of conference, this year's joint WCET/ASCNUK joint International Congress 28th Sept – 1st Oct in Glasgow, has taken a huge collaborative effort as we plan to unite delegates around the world and prepare a scientific programme that will showcase advancing practice in Stoma, Wound and Continence care Programme — WCET-ASCN UK 2024 Joint Congress

As an integral part of the committee, there has been a focus and prioritising of responding to the Department of Health and Social Care consultation to review Part IX of the drug tariff. This was then followed by the NICE project called Late-stage assessment, One-piece closed colostomy bags for people with a stoma Project information | One-piece closed bags for adults with a colostomy: Late Stage Assessment | Guidance | NICE. As a committee representing the members of ASCNUK and ourselves as specialist practitioners – our collective views and opinions have been captured within the submitted responses, as we strongly feel the impact and ramifications of the proposals are significant for product choices and outcomes for our patients.

I mentioned in my annual report last year a multidisciplinary research project ASCN UK along with Sarah Russell (9) Sarah Russell | LinkedIn and her physiotherapy colleague Kerry Archer On The Move | Meet Kerry Archer, professional lead for physio at Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust ([physiupdate.co.uk](https://physiupdate.co.uk)) would be undertaking. We proposed end of last year to develop an evidenced based National ASCN UK 'Best practice recommendations for exercise after stoma surgery'. This exciting project has progressed well over the year with the direction and support of a medical writer and the financial backing of seven industry members.

We have renamed this project EXPASS Exercise and Physical Activity After Stoma Surgery <https://ascnuk.org/ascn-uk-projects-expass/> as we felt this reflects the essence of the project but also provide a short catchy acronym for ease of remembering. An article was published in the BJN in 2024 British Journal of Nursing - Exercise and physical activity after stoma surgery: EXPASS recommendations to highlight the proposals and plans for this project.

Monthly meetings with the project group including experienced specialists in stoma care, surgeons, academics, physiotherapists and those with lived experience have undertaken a scoping review and analysis of the relevant literature including articles from other disciplines. In conjunction with this scoping review, best practice statements have been proposed by the expert panel. We are currently undergoing a further review process using a Delphi methodology to gain a consensus level of 80% for each statement. Sarah, Kerry and I are looking forward to presenting the progress of this project at Congress on Tuesday 1st October.

Another area for review is the Governance of the ASCN UK closed Facebook page; unfortunately this had to be closed a couple of years ago due to governance issues, but now we have a wealth of experience with Delegant to support this going forward. ASCN UK and Delegant are eager to reignite a platform to promote networking and communication along with other social media platforms as appropriate, ensuring they are a safe space for the members which are compliant and adhere to relevant regulations.

I look forward to updating you on progress next year.

Wendy