

# Honorary Secretary Report 2024

Carolyn Swash



It is my honour to represent you all at committee level within the role of Honorary Secretary. The past year, like others, has been exceptionally busy as we take the association forward.

The Association is fortunate to have some fantastic area representatives who represent you. I would urge you all to get to know your area representative and work with them to ensure your views are known, to help influence the political agenda as well as helping to develop and strengthen the clinical guidelines that we have for you all to access. Over the past year, the ASCN UK have been trying to obtain a consistency in the areas that each representative covers - this on paper appears such a simple concept, but in theory is a little more challenging, but hopefully it will come to fruition soon. There have been some strategic changes to some areas already.

We have welcomed some extremely experienced stoma care nurses to represent you all in the past year. They are:

Area 4: Katy Timms joins Sandra Cheetham

Area 9: Jo Pragnell

Area 9a: Rali Marinova

Area 10: Petya Marinova

In relation to changes to the areas, area 9: Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Middlesex was just too big for one person to manage, and so it was decided to split the area. Jo Pragnell is now representing SCNs in the Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire areas. Rali Marinova now covers Hertfordshire and Middlesex.

ASCN UK also welcomes Ben Rennison as the Area Representative for Yorkshire - Ben will be building on the fantastic work that Lisa Hall has done. Lisa has been a really proactive member of ASCN UK for a number of years and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her contribution to ASCN UK, in particular for delivering and facilitating a brilliant cultural workshop in Harrogate 2022.

In terms of Area Representative vacancies - we are actively looking to recruit a member or members to represent Scotland. This is a massive area and if you are interested, please do contact me.

Over the past year, we have met three times and are embracing the use of IT system to ensure that as many area representatives as possible are able to attend the meetings. To ensure good stewardship of resources, it was decided in 2023 that we should have only one face-to-face meeting and this was held July 2024. We have had updates over the past year from The Ileostomy Association, Urostomy Association, and look forward to meeting, albeit virtually, with the Colostomy Association.

We are fortunate within the organisation to have both Claire Bohr and Karen Dick represent The Paediatric Stoma Nurse Group (PSNG) at the meetings and I thank them for their valuable and expert contributions. As mentioned by other members of the committee, the political agenda is constantly evolving. David Lawson Medical Technology and Innovation Director Department of Health and Social Care attended a meeting earlier in the year to update the group in relation to the review of Part IX.

Over the past year I have supported the ASCN UK with the Pat Black Award which was set up to recognise the published work of stoma care nurses - this is a fabulous award to ensure that the legacy of Pat Black MBE continues.

Working with Delegant, the new secretariat for ASCN UK, has been very exciting and marks a new chapter in the evolution of ASCN UK. I hope that you have all managed to look at the new website. I ask you all to visit the ASCN UK stand and complete the questionnaire as to how the association can grow to meet and represent your needs.

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