

Treasurers Report 2024.

Natasha Rolls

It is my privilege to present the treasurer's report for the last year, remember the data/detail refers to April 1st 2023 to March 31st 2024 and pertains to conference 2023 in Brighton.

All the financial data is available on the ASCNUK website, in detail, and we remain in a healthy financial position. Our income is greater than our outgoings, with £9,534 profit for the year.

We continue to try and make the most of all opportunities to ensure that that the association remains solvent. We are investing in specific projects of work to protect us and patients, and ensure best practice is known, shared and adhered to. Because of this, there is some cost to ASCNUK, but we believe the benefits outweigh these. We do this on behalf of you, our members, for the benefit of our patients.

Conference was (I think you will agree) a huge success. Despite some concerns we had with the venue, the scientific content was exemplary, and I would like to thank all those who contributed and attended. Your presence is vital, and you all made this an outstanding event. It was great to see you all networking and learning from each other. Our industry partners did us proud, as did the charity sector and patient groups. The conference is a demonstration of how much we have in common and how well we work together for the interests of ostomates and each other. We are always learning and, as a committee, we learn from each conference to try and improve every year. Your feedback is vital in this, and whilst we cannot hope to please everyone all of the time, we aspire to get it right as much as possible.

Conference is our 'big earner', Brighton 2023 generated £281,724.00, keeping the accounts in a favourable place, though it does cost us £160,827.00 to host. Furthermore, the costs of running the association are significant, but we are under the watchful eyes of our trustees and the charities commission. We take the responsibility of association financial health very seriously.

I am aware, from personal experience, as well as reports from others, that making a claim for funding for the conference can be challenging. We must be MedTech compliant, so there is no way around this complexity, but I would like to thank you all for undergoing this complicated process and attending. It makes a huge difference.

This year's conference will be slightly different as it is joint with WCET, but it will still give you the opportunity to learn, teach and network with an even wider range of peers and colleagues. We look forward to welcoming you to Glasgow at the end of September.

The ASCNUK Association's income comes from your membership fees (£11,772.00 for 23/24). We hope that the transition to our new secretariat, Delegant, has been smooth for you all. Running the association to our standard costs a substantial amount, but we feel we must invest in ASCNUK to be the best that it can be for you, and for the future. As mentioned in other reports, stoma care is on the political agenda with NHSE and NICE holding reviews. We must be at the forefront of this to represent and defend the specialist profession and our patients.

We are also leading on 2 essential projects:

1. Exercise and Physical Activity after Stoma Surgery: <https://ascnuk.org/ascn-uk-projects-expass/>
2. Advancing Stoma Care Services: <https://ascnuk.org/ascn-uk-projects-advancing-stoma-care-services/>

The first project will establish best practice guidelines for exercise and activity, while the second is the project in which I presented at last year's conference. I will provide an update at this year's conference. In essence this is a project led and owned by ASCNUK, which will be adopted by NHSE GIRFT team. The aim is to eradicate variance and ensure all ostomates receive exemplary care. If you are interested in learning more about GIRFT, please visit the NHSE website: <https://gettingitrightfirsttime.co.uk/>

The project of Advancing Stoma care Services (ASCS) will establish best practice pathways to ensure stoma care is protected at a national level and that our specialism is recognised as the vital profession we know it to be. This project will protect services for the future.

We have sought funding for both of these projects from our industry partners, partly to ensure we can carry out the work, but also to ensure the projects are a shared endeavour. The Advancing Stoma Care services (ASCS) project will also look to support and receive funding from NIHR (National Institute of Health and Care Research) which will provide it with the facilities, guidance and gravitas to thrive.

A BJN publication from the project will be available to see at the WCET Conference, as well as on the ASCN website. This includes a series of podcasts which we will be revealing at the conference, as well as another publication being authored currently. All this ensures that the project gains traction and profile to ensure its success. I am passionate about this project; nursing is currently under incredible strain, and this is an opportunity for us to come together and raise our voices to prove our huge value. The fact the ASCNUK are leading and owning this, means that you are all a part of this work. You are all working for each other and our patients, and we thank you for all you do.

All members of the committee are stoma care nurse specialists, and they all work for ASCNUK in a volunteered and voted for capacity. I would like to thank my committee colleagues for all their support and for another great year representing you, the members.