

Acting Chairperson/Vice Chair Report 2025

Angie Perrin (RGN, MSc, QN)



This is my final report as Acting Chairperson/Vice Chair. This year we will see a new Chairperson elected to the role and I wish them well and have no doubt that they will do an amazing job of steering the Association in the forthcoming years.

As I mentioned in my report last year, ASCNUK have a new Secretariat and Conference Organising Management Team, so this year's conference planning and delivery will be a little different, but the high-quality education provided remains the same.

As always, this year has been a busy one, full of meetings and consultations with NHSe, DHSC and NICE all of which have been/are implementing projects into specific aspects of stoma care. The ASCN UK Committee have responded on behalf of its members to the numerous consultations offering our shared views and opinions, reflecting our deep concern regarding the substantial impacts of some of the proposals on product choices, patient outcomes, and nurse specialists' roles. One of the projects has ended and the recommendations from NICE - Late-stage assessment, One-piece closed colostomy bags for people with a stoma project can be found <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/hte29>

NHS England is initiating a project to develop a comprehensive understanding of the product attributes and clinical uses for stoma appliances and accessories. This work is aligned to the Part IX of the Drug Tariff taxonomy review undertaken earlier this year by DHSC. The existence of this project was shared in ASCN UK member newsletter with a call for SSCN's to sit on the expert panel that can help guide this review.

Another project that has come to an end is the EXPASS project—Exercise and Physical Activity After Stoma Surgery. This project is a multidisciplinary research initiative led by Sarah Russell and Kerry Archer. Its key objective is to develop national 'Best Practice Recommendations for Exercise After Stoma Surgery' under the ASCNUK banner the results of which we will hear at ASCNUK25 conference. A huge Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the development and implementation of this much needed resource.

Advancing Stoma Care Services (ASCS) is another ASCN UK project that has made significant progress over the past 12 months. ASCN UK has secured financial support from some industry partners but is in need of further support. Having developed a Podcast Series "Beyond the bag" that explores the entire patient journey, ASCS project has been shortlisted for the Nursing Times Awards for Innovation. We will know the results on 22nd October 2025.

This year saw Amanda Gunning resign as one of the Education Officers due to personal commitments – We thank Amanda for all her valuable contribution to ASCNUK and wish her well for the future.

I continue to represent ASCN UK and work collaboratively with colleagues from the British Health and Trades Association (BHTA) on various issues, attending some of the BHTA's quarterly meetings offering a nursing voice & representing ASCN UK. ASCN UK also have a quarterly meeting with the Chairperson of the BHTA and Kevin Hodges (Membership Engagement Manager) to ensure good two-way communication between the 2 groups.

Throughout the year, I have attended the ASCN UK quarterly area representative meetings, which offer a great insight as to what is happening in each of the areas throughout the UK. These meetings are both informative and enjoyable.

ASCN UK continues to provide high quality, beneficial resources for its members and for our specialism.

Sitting on the ASCN committee is rewarding, as well as at times a little challenging, but I think it does widen your vision and offers the opportunity to look at our specialism from many different perspectives – it's an extremely worthwhile venture, so I would urge anyone to strongly consider applying for future committee roles.

Finally, I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all the other ASCN UK Committee members (past and present) for all their wonderful support and guidance over the past 8 years, as well as thanks to the Trustees, Area reps and ASCN UK members for making my tenure as vice chair and acting chair an enjoyable and valuable experience.

Angie Perrin
Acting Chair