

ASCN UK Education Officer's Report 2026

Paul Russell-Roberts



Dear Members,

It has been a privilege to serve as Honorary Education Officer for ASCN UK during the past year.

As this is my first year in post, a significant part of the role has involved developing an understanding of the Association's educational activities, governance processes and strategic priorities. Working alongside fellow committee members, the ASCN office team and our wider membership has provided valuable insight into the breadth of work undertaken by ASCN and the dedication of those involved in supporting education and professional development within stoma care.

ASCNUK26 Conference programme

One of the major areas of activity this year has been supporting the development of the ASCNUK26 conference programme. Through this process I have gained a much greater appreciation of the work required to balance educational quality, member interests, practical considerations, speaker availability and the overall conference experience.

Rather than focusing solely on the delivery of a conference programme, this year has provided an important opportunity to learn from existing processes and gather feedback that can help shape future events. Discussions throughout programme development have highlighted opportunities to further enhance delegate engagement, educational value, poster visibility, speaker support and the overall member experience. These insights will be invaluable as we continue to evolve and strengthen future ASCN educational events.

I would particularly like to thank committee colleagues, keynote speakers, abstract reviewers and the ASCN office team for their support and collaboration throughout this process.

Educational Governance

Alongside conference activity, considerable work has been undertaken to review and strengthen a number of educational governance processes.

This has included the development and refinement of guidance relating to abstract submissions, review processes, poster presentations, oral presentations and presentation awards. The aim has been to create greater consistency, transparency and fairness while ensuring that educational quality remains at the centre of decision making.

Whilst much of this work takes place behind the scenes, robust governance processes provide the foundation for high quality educational activity and help ensure confidence in the integrity of ASCN educational programmes.

Endorsement and Educational Quality

Another key area of development has been the creation of an ASCN endorsement framework and supporting policy documentation. The intention of this work is to provide a clear, transparent and consistent process through which educational activities and resources can be reviewed against agreed standards before receiving ASCN endorsement.

The development of this framework has generated valuable discussion regarding educational quality, independence, transparency and consistency, all of which are important considerations as ASCN continues to expand its educational influence and support members across a variety of learning environments.

Supporting Future Educational Development

The year has also provided opportunities to contribute to wider educational discussions, including educational resources, member support, website development and funding processes associated with the Jean Preston Fund. The Jean Preston Fund continues to play an important role in supporting professional development and innovation within stoma care nursing. During the year, work has been undertaken to support promotion of the fund, review applications and contribute to discussions regarding its future development. This involvement has helped ensure the fund remains aligned with the educational needs of members and continues to provide valuable opportunities for professional growth and service improvement.

These activities have helped build a clearer understanding of how members engage with ASCN educational opportunities and where future developments may provide greatest benefit.

As with many aspects of the role, these experiences have highlighted the importance of ensuring that educational activities remain relevant, accessible and responsive to the evolving needs of specialist stoma care nurses.

During the year, work was undertaken to develop a practical implementation resource to support utilisation of the EXPASS recommendations within clinical practice. The resource was designed to translate expert recommendations into a usable tool for stoma care nurses, helping to support consistency, confidence and evidence informed decision-making. This work reflects ASCN UK's commitment to supporting members in the application of best practice and the delivery of high-quality patient care.

Looking Forward

As I move into my second year as Honorary Education Officer, my focus will be on building upon the knowledge and experience gained during this first year.

Key priorities will include:

- Continuing to strengthen educational governance processes.
- Supporting implementation of the ASCN endorsement framework.
- Using feedback and learning from ASCNUK26 to further enhance future conference experiences.
- Exploring additional educational opportunities and resources for members.
- Working collaboratively with committee colleagues to support ASCN's wider educational objectives.

Thanks

Finally, I would like to thank the ASCN committee, office team, reviewers, speakers and members for their support throughout the year. I have learned a great deal during my first year in post and greatly appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the Association's educational activities.

I look forward to continuing this work in the year ahead.

Paul Russell-Roberts
Education Officer