



Annual Chairperson Report 2019-2020

Committee

1. One new face joined the committee for the 2019 - 2020 year. Kirsten Rosser from Christchurch DHB. Kirsten is a Crohns and Colitis specialist nurse. (IBD) Julia Anderson continues on as our PNA and has been a valuable resource.
2. Committee member and IBD sub-group member Marian O'Connor joined the GENCA Board which means we have presence in Australia. The GENCA board introduced a new membership category for non-Australian residents which have become attractive financially.
3. Due to the major disruption of COVID we only managed a face to face meeting in February before the complete country lockdown. Zoom meetings have now become the norm for our committee and I must admit it is great to see everybody as it feels more personal.
4. As a committee we are now planning to update the policies and documents which have been put aside.
5. The IBD Nurses sub group has been active in joining with the NZ Gastro Society with submissions to Pharmac.
6. As chair I am on the committee of NZ Society of Gastroenterology (NZSG) and Endoscopy Governance Group NZ. (EGGNZ) With gastroenterology moving forward at a fast pace it is important that the college has a voice on these committees. EGGNZ with Ministry of Health endorsement has finalised the NZ Endoscopy standards for all units both public and private.

Education

1. The College is actively seeking to support nurses into specialist practice and has expert contacts for those who wish to progress their career in gastroenterology. There is education funding to encourage growth of gastroenterology knowledge and the grants have been increased to reflect increased costs
2. The College continues to support the Olympus Academy and GENCA fundamentals of Endoscope Reprocessing workshops throughout New Zealand. The College supports attendance by those who are in contact with flexible endoscopes. i.e. Nurses, SSD, HCA, Technicians
3. The annual *Endoscopy Leaders and Managers Study Day* was to be held in August but due to the uncertainty of COVID restrictions it was decided to cancel and work towards 2021.

4. The annual combined conference in November is to be a virtual academic programme for both nurses and consultants. This will be beamed out from the Cordis hotel in Auckland around the country. Groups have registered in their home town as well as individuals. If registered, participants can view the meeting a week after the event.
5. With COVID having interrupted our lives in such a dramatic way it was decided to work on a virtual meeting to bring some normality into our lives. Clare Bark and her team have been amazing in pulling the day together.

Communication

1. I have been conscious of the work load and stress levels we in our specialty are dealing with on a day to day basis. COVID has created a time of uncertainty for our members and their families. I have attempted to create a line of communication with emails but am conscious of the fact that I may not be reaching everybody. Please be kind to your colleagues and reach out if you need help.
2. We have a varied communication plan amongst members which may not suit everyone and this includes the NZNO managed webpage, membership email list, college moderated Facebook group page to widen the information sharing and the Tube quarterly journal. The Tube is now delivered electronically.

Membership

1. Membership continues to increase as persons joining the specialty become aware of our existence.

Karen Clarke
Chairperson NZGNC