



Annual Chairperson Report 2020 - 2021

Committee

1. One new face joined the committee for the 2020 - 2021 year. Jessica Southall from Christchurch DHB. Jessica is a Hepatology specialist nurse and is a representative for the Hepatology Specialty Sub group of NZgNC.
2. Julia Anderson continues on as our NZNO, Professional Nurse Advisor (PNA) and is a valuable resource guiding the committee through the NZNO policies.
3. Committee member and Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) sub-group member Marian O'Connor is on the GENCA Board which means we have presence in Australia. The GENCA board introduced a new membership category last year for non-Australian residents which has been taken up by many here in New Zealand. The GENCA IBD Foundation school are holding another course in 2022 which is open to the New Zealand IBD nurses or any interested in the specialty. Watch out for the advertisement.
4. COVID managed to stay away until we had our February and August Face to Face meetings. We scraped in with our Leaders and Managers study day in Wellington before complete lockdown. Zoom meetings are still the norm for our committee and I must admit it was great to catch up with everybody in person the two times we were able to.
5. As a committee we have been updating the policies and documents which have been put aside. As they are updated we are placing them on our website.
6. The IBD Nurses sub group is still active in completing submissions to Pharmac on the many medications required for their specialty.
7. As chair I am on the committee of NZ Society of Gastroenterology (NZSG) and Endoscopy Guidance Group NZ. (EGGNZ) With gastroenterology moving forward at a fast pace it is important that the college has a voice on these committees.
8. The NZSG is active in setting up training for endoscopists providing sponsorship for young investigators and submitting to pharmac on medications required for many gastroenterology conditions. The committee is very supportive of the Nurses College and proof of this is the financial support shown with the annual conference.
9. EGGNZ has completed the "Guidelines for Local Credentialing in Adult Endoscopy" and is now working on the PS09 Guideline on procedural sedation.

10. 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. March and September are the application dates for those who wish to apply.

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 combined conference in November is to be a hybrid academic programme for both nurses and consultants. This will be beamed out from the Town Hall in Christchurch around the country. Groups are encouraged to register in their home town as well as individuals if you are unable to attend. The conference organisers can provide a group deal if you contact early. If registered, participants can view the meeting a week after the event.
4. With COVID having interrupted our lives in such a dramatic way it was decided to work on a virtual/hybrid meeting once again to bring some normality into our lives. The conference team are working hard to make this another conference to remember.

Communication

1. I am still conscious of the work load and stress levels we in our specialty are dealing with on a day to day basis. COVID has once again created a time of uncertainty for our members and their families. Especially in Auckland. I am attempting to continue the 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.

My time as chair of the College ends at conference in November and Merrilee Williams has kindly agreed to take on the role of chair. Forming sub specialties and supporting the Nurse Endoscopists in training has been some of the many milestones that the college can be proud of.

I have indicated to my work that I would like to retire end of April 2022 as feel it is now time for me to move aside and let new ideas flourish. I have every confidence that our specialty is in good hands throughout New Zealand.

I look back on my career with fond memories of those who have mentored me and those I have mentored in this ever changing specialty of Gastroenterology. Some sadly have passed away but they left a legacy for many of us. Technology has always fascinated and excited me and I can only envisage many new things happening in the future. Who would have thought 40 years ago that we would be having Artificial Intelligence (AI) in our procedure rooms!!

Keep safe all of you.

Karen Clarke
Chairperson NZGNC