

New Zealand Nurses Organisation Gastroenterology Nurses College (NZgNC)
AGM report from the Chairperson 2022

It has been an honour to be the chair of a college, and committee, that are working hard to be continually progressive, collaborative, and are proud of their specialty in nursing.

This year has been challenging as we forge through covid which has had such an impact on our lives, our patients, and our workflows. Our learnings have been immense, but the toll has been immense also.

We are now faced with the fallout from such pressure on some areas of our workforce, including those in senior positions where there is an increasing shortage.

Committee-

Our committee members include Merrilee Williams- Chair, Holly Weale- Secretary, Kirsten Arnold- Treasurer, Marian O'Connor- IBD, Jessica Southall- Hepatology, Karen Kempin- Nurse Endoscopy, Kiran Joseph, and Julia Anderson- Professional Nurse Advisor NZNO.

This term our committee has undertaken to broaden our diversity to be more reflective of our nursing workforce in NZ. We value the ethnic and gender diversity of our nursing membership, and what each culture has to bring to our nursing workforce. We hope to welcome a male into our committee in the coming term also. We continue to have our meetings each second month by Zoom, and meet in person 3 times per year.

Sub specialty groups-

Our college has 3 specialty interest groups with their own committee structures. They have access to funding to host workshops to develop and update Knowledge and Skills frameworks (KSF). They also plan and host their own education days for nurses who are working in their specific sub specialty.

Inflammatory Bowel Diseases sub-specialty: 2022 achievements

- Updated KSF
- Collaborated with NZSG in lobbying government to address the dire and increasing IBD nursing shortage- letter pending to ministry.
- Worked with CCNZ on case for a paediatric nurse at Starship as there is no paediatric IBD CNS nationally
- Hosted IBD nursing symposium- was covid rescheduled, now to be held ahead of conference

Hepatology sub-specialty: 2022 achievements

- New chair and co-chair appointed after long term chair and co-chair passed the baton•
- Hepatology membership has been reviewed and updated with 20 new members enrolled after raising awareness of NZNHG at the August nurse's education meeting.
- Contributed updated guidelines and best practice through the Tube for hepatology nurses.

- Planning a Hepatology nurse education

Nurse Endoscopy sub- specialty: 2022 achievements

- Working towards forming governance and membership
- Supported our Australian colleagues to show support for GESA stance against NE in Australia.

Finances-

We are grateful to continue to be allocated a proportion of funds from the annual scientific meeting which means we can continue to be financially viable, and support our members to grow and develop in their chosen profession of Gastroenterology Nursing. We currently receive some core funding from NZNO also.

We enable our membership to apply for education scholarships to support them to attend national and international conferences, complete post graduate education, and other educational opportunities.

We also receive funding from associated companies when they advertise in our Journal- The Tube.

Membership-

Our current membership sits at around 450 which is pleasing. Joining is free, and beneficial to nurses to increase their connection with others working in the same field, attend educational opportunities we provide, as well as make the most of our scholarships after 12mths of membership.

Education-

Our main objective as a committee this term is to plan and provide education opportunities for our members. This is currently done through

- Journal articles in the tube- 3/12 publication
- ASM/Gastro conference- November
- Gastroenterology Nurse Leaders day- August 26th 2022
- Full paper funding for PG study
- Enteral feeding group and PEG first assist/learning package
- Directly Observed Procedures (DOPS)
- Developing online learning modules for a range of levels- in progress 2022

Projects-

Our ongoing projects include finding ways to improve connection and collaboration amongst our membership to increase service delivery across the motu, increase staff wellbeing through support, and promote our specialty as an opportunity for career development.

We are revising the Tube- less frequency, include more scholarly content, more educational focus to include our sub specialties.

We are also developing a new Panui (newsletter) which will update members to what's happening in gastroenterology around the motu, and alert people to any upcoming learning opportunities.

Ongoing work to find a suitable platform to host our learning modules that we see as a national gastroenterology resource that can be used to measure an employee's

level of knowledge and skill, and be recognisable across the specialty in NZ should they chose to seek employment in gastroenterology services elsewhere.



The NZNO Gastroenterology Nurses college committee continues to identify opportunities that we can work towards improving the skill and knowledge of our nurses across the specialty. We aim to create networking opportunities to share knowledge and improve support for our specialised nurses- together we have a stronger voice.

Merrilee Williams
Chairperson NZgNC 2022