

# **RCN and SOM Occupational Health Nursing Conference 2025**

***The changing face of workplace health***



**Friday 28 November 2025**

**RCN HQ, London**

In partnership with



# Contents

---

Welcome letter.....	3
Programme at a glance.....	4
General information.....	5
Acknowledgement and thanks .....	7
Plenary speaker abstracts .....	8
Sponsor/exhibition listings.....	15
Exhibitors .....	15
Accreditation .....	16
FOHN online.....	17
Why should you join SOM as an OH nurse? .....	18
Join the RCN Public Health Forum.....	19
Future RCN Events .....	20

# Welcome letter

---

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) and Society of Occupational Medicine (SOM) welcome you to the 8<sup>th</sup> Occupational Health Nursing Conference 2025: The changing face of workplace health.

We trust that you will find the conference stimulating and informative and that you'll have an opportunity to network with colleagues during the course of the event. We hope you will go away feeling inspired and invigorated and armed with information to share with colleagues in your workplace.

The RCN believes in life-long learning and actively promotes the continuing professional development of nurses. For this reason, certificates of attendance are included in the conference pack and the framework for reflection can be found on the reverse. You are encouraged to contribute attendance at RCN events towards your framework for reflection which can be included in your portfolio.

You will receive an email with a link to the online conference evaluation. We'd be grateful if you would complete this as soon as possible and within seven days of the conference. Your comments and feedback are invaluable in helping us plan future RCN conferences.

RCN and SOM staff and committee members are also on hand to answer any queries you may have regarding your membership. Or if you're a non-member, they can inform you of the many benefits of joining the RCN. As a member, you can join any number of the RCN Forums. Forums have active Facebook groups that provide you with the opportunity to connect with colleagues and keep up to date on current practice related issues.

The RCN has professional forums across the diverse nursing arena and RCN members can join as many of these forums as they wish. With 202105 forum members, forum membership is set to continue to rise. Forums are a huge area of influence and direction for the RCN and are a valuable opportunity to network with colleagues around the UK and be involved in:

- consultation responses
- conferences, events and workshops
- forum-led publications.

We'd like to thank you for supporting this conference and look forward to welcoming you back to future RCN events. A full listing of future events can be found at the end of your conference programme.

With best wishes,

Jessica Turner (RCN UK Professional Lead for Public Health)

Nick O'Pahl (CEO - SOM)

## Programme at a glance

9.00	<b>Registration, refreshments and exhibition</b>
	Morning Chair – Jessica Turner, RCN UK Professional Lead for Public Health
10.00	<b>Chair's opening remarks</b>
10.05	<b>RCN opening address</b> (to be delivered virtually) Lynn Woolsey, Chief Nursing Officer, RCN
10.15	<b>Understanding legal requirements and quality standards in health surveillance</b> Christine Poulter, Honorary Strategic Clinical Advisor for the Society of Occupational Medicine
10.45	<b>Refreshments, networking and exhibition</b>
11.15	<b>Monitoring and protecting working skin</b> Katrin Alden, Occupational health physical, dermatologist, medical educator
12.00	<b>Legal update in OH - November 2025</b> (presentation to be delivered virtually) Prof. Diana Kloss, Barrister, St John's Buildings barristers' chambers, Manchester
12.30	<b>Lunch, networking and exhibition</b>
	Afternoon Chair – Amanda Hinkley, Chair of FOHN
13.30	<b>Vaccination compliance in the workplace</b> Hilary Winch, Head of Workplace Health, Safety & Wellbeing at the Norfolk and Norwich. University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
14.00	<b>International nursing perspective</b> (presentation to be delivered virtually) Helen Kirk, Quality Improvement Nurse, Doctors Hospital, Cayman Islands   Committee member, RCN Public Health Forum
14.30	<b>Refreshments, networking and exhibition</b>
15.00	<b>Why MANUP?</b> Dan Somers, CEO and Founder – MANUP?
15.30	<b>How Artificial Intelligence (AI) is shaping the future for OH.</b> Janet O'Neill, Deputy Head, National School of Occupational Health and Head of PAM Academy, Vice President iOH
16.00	<b>FOHN update/celebration</b>
16.15	<b>Closing remarks</b>
16.20	<b>Conference close</b>

# **General information**

---

## **Conference enquiries**

Please ask staff on the registration desk if you have any specific requirements regarding access, lost property or have queries regarding your membership.

## **Delegate Badges**

For security purposes, participants must wear their badges at all times. Participants will not be admitted to the conference sessions without the appropriate badge.

## **Programme**

Please refer to the programme for details of the times and locations of all conference sessions. Staff will be on hand to guide you as necessary.

## **Exhibition**

There is an exhibition running alongside this event. These exhibitors have chosen to exhibit at this conference as they feel their products and/or services may be of interest to you. The exhibition also supports the conference, therefore please take the time to go and visit each exhibition stand during the exhibition viewing times.

## **Receipts**

If you require a receipt or have any queries relating to your registration or payment for this event, please contact staff on the registration desk at the event. Alternatively, receipts are also available by contacting RCN Event Registrations direct on 029 2054 6460 between 9.00am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

## **Specific requirements**

Please ask at the registration/enquiries desk if you have any specific requirements (e.g. dietary, accessibility etc.)

## **Electronic devices**

Out of courtesy to others, delegates are requested to switch off or set to silent all electronic devices during conference sessions.

## **Liability**

The RCN will not accept any liability for loss or damage to personal effects which may arise as a result of attendance at this event.

## **RCN Respect Charter**

These declarations outline how all RCN stakeholders including staff, members and customers, regardless of their role, must approach working with each other at all times.

1. We acknowledge that our personal behaviour has an impact on others.
2. We value our differences and recognise that we will not always share the same views.
3. We grow from our mistakes by working and learning together.

4. We respect and preserve confidentiality.
5. We treat everyone with courtesy and respect, and act with integrity at all times.

In the event of these commitments being breached, incidents will be handled in accordance with our disciplinary policy, other relevant policy or framework.

### **Continuing Professional Development**

The Royal College of Nursing believes in lifelong learning and actively promotes the continuing professional development of all nurses. Authorised Royal College of Nursing certificates of attendance have been issued to all participants. This event is also subject to the RCN Events quality assurance framework. You should log what you have learnt at this event using the Framework for Reflection guidelines on the back of your certificate and keep this document in your personal professional portfolio.



### **Free information at your fingertips**

The Royal College of Nursing offers a number of FREE online resources with all the latest information and guidance on particular nursing practice issues such as: clinical guidelines, patient safety and eHealth. Visit <http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/practice> for more information.

### **Media partner**

RCNi is the premier provider of innovative and creative information solutions for the whole nursing team and associated health professionals. With 11 nursing journals, including Nursing Standard, RCNi provide health professionals with the latest developments impacting nursing, including changes in policy, practice and research. RCNi also offer a range of digital products including RCNi Learning, an interactive online resource of CPD training modules, and the RCNi Portfolio, an online store and tracking system to help you with revalidation.

### **National conference partner**

LV= General Insurance, one of the UK's largest personal lines insurers, pride themselves in putting customers at the heart of all they do. RCN members can benefit from exclusive\* discounts and savings on a range of LV= insurance products, including Car and Home insurance, for a quote and more information visit [LV.com/RCN](http://LV.com/RCN).

\*Exclusive RCN member discount vs general public prices on [lv.com](http://lv.com) and through the call centre



# Acknowledgement and thanks

---

## Conference planning committee

- RCN Public Health Forum

**Tracey Cooke** Occupational Health & Fitness Manager, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service

**Janet Frimpong** Team Leader– Senior Specialist OH Nurse Practitioner, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

**Helen Kirk** Quality Improvement Nurse, Doctors Hospital, Cayman Islands

**Jessica Turner** RCN UK Professional Lead for Public Health

- SOM / FOHN

**Amanda Hinkley** Chair, Faculty of Occupational Health Nurses

**Nick Pahl** CEO, Society of Occupational Medicine

**Christine Poulter** Honorary Strategic Clinical Advisor for SOM

# Plenary speaker abstracts

---

## Morning chair

**Jessica Turner, RCN UK Professional Lead for Public Health**

She is a registered nurse and has worked predominantly within public health, gaining expertise particularly within health improvement and health equity/inequalities.

Her current role at the RCN involves working and leading across a broad public health portfolio. Alongside this, she has worked for Cancer Research UK, in prevention and early diagnosis roles, for a number of years.

She is passionate about public health interventions and the difference they can make to populations and most importantly individuals.

## Afternoon chair

**Amanda Hinkley, Chair of Faculty of Occupational Health Nursing (FOHN)**

Amanda started working in Occupational Health in 1990, completing the OH certificate including placements. Amanda has worked in OH in private, manufacturing and public sectors, retail, aviation, telecommunications, police, NHS and Public Health England (now UK Health Security Agency).

Amanda went on to complete her MSc at the Robens, Surrey University in 1995. Her dissertation was on lower back pain in Police officers and she was fortunate to be awarded a Home Office Police Research award and funding to support the research. Her research was published in 1995. In her work with police she has been involved in critical incident debrief, including Docklands and Manchester Piccadilly bombing and Watford train crash (whilst working for British Transport Police). She also contributed to review of Police fitness standards. Amanda also contributed to the “Education OH Nurses” (2016).

Amanda has commenced the role as Chair of FOHN (FOHN | The Society of Occupational Medicine), following Christina Butterworth’s retirement. Amanda is passionate about continuing Christina’s great work representing Occupational Health nurses with the support of the FOHN board and demonstrating the value Occupational health nurses contribute to workplace health and wellbeing. Amanda was awarded Fellow of Faculty of Occupational Health nursing accreditation last year and is promoting the FOHN accreditation scheme for nurses to demonstrate their quality evidence-based practice and competency.

Amanda is a current OH mentor on the National School of OH /SOM OH mentoring scheme and a member of the SOM leadership committee. Past roles include Deputy Chair and Board member of the NHS Health at Work, Regional Board Director London (AOHNP UK) and an ex SEQOHS Assessor. Amanda is actively contributing to the growing national agenda around Occupational Health through a current working arrangement with the Joint Health and Work Directorate.



## **Lynn Woolsey, Chief Nursing Officer, RCN**

Lynn joined the RCN as the UK Deputy Chief Nurse in September 2023. She provides strategic leadership, management and coordination for Nursing with a focus on workforce, practice and regulation across all fields of Nursing and across all four countries of the UK. Lynn was previously Deputy Chief Nursing Officer within the Department of Health Northern Ireland, Assistant Director of Nursing and Midwifery for Workforce and Education with responsibility for the workforce across acute and primary care, as well as all fields of practice including adult, childrens, mental health and learning disability services, and Transformational Lead and Assistant Director for an acute mental health and learning disabilities hospital.

Lynn's clinical, managerial and leadership roles across the NHS, private and education sectors have focused on the nursing workforce, including nursing support workers, pre and post registration education, regulation, clinical practice and leadership.

In addition to professional qualifications, Lynn has achieved a post-graduate qualification in Education, Strategic Workforce Planning and Coaching as well as an MSc.

## **Christine Poulter, Honorary Strategic Clinical Advisor for the Society of Occupational Medicine**

---

**Talk title:** Understanding Legal Requirements and Quality Standards in Health Surveillance.

**Summary:** This session provides an overview of the legal framework and professional standards governing workplace health surveillance. Participants will explore the employer's legal duties under key legislation such as the Health and Safety at Work Act, COSHH, and related regulations, ensuring they understand when and why health surveillance is required. The session will also cover the training and competency requirements for those conducting or managing health surveillance, highlighting the importance of using appropriately qualified practitioners and maintaining accurate, confidential health records. Finally, the talk will examine how to ensure health surveillance programmes are reliable, repeatable, and compliant, including the use of validated tests, standardised procedures, and quality assurance measures. By the end, participants will have the knowledge to assess whether their organisation's health surveillance activities meet both legal obligations and best practice standards.

### **Learning Outcomes**

1. **Understand Legal Obligations:**  
Participants will be able to describe the key legal and regulatory requirements for implementing health surveillance in the workplace (e.g., under the Health and Safety at Work Act, COSHH, and related regulations).
2. **Identify Training Requirements:**  
Participants will be able to outline the necessary training and competency standards for staff involved in conducting or managing health surveillance, ensuring assessments are carried out by suitably qualified personnel.
3. **Ensure Quality and Compliance of Tests:**  
Participants will be able to evaluate whether health surveillance tests and

processes meet required standards — including reliability, repeatability, and compliance with recognised occupational health guidance and best practice.

---

**Dr Katrin Alden, Occupational Health Physical, Dermatologist, Medical Educator**

---

**Talk Title:** Monitoring and protecting working skin

**Summary:** In this interactive session we will:

- Review the legal and legislative considerations of skin surveillance.
- Examine the clinical features of hand eczema relevant to skin surveillance.
- Describe common clinical treatments for hand eczema.
- Watch a recorded case scenario to embed learning about skin surveillance, the hierarchy of controls and risk management.
- Finish with a Question & Answer session.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Be familiar with the legal and legislative considerations of skin surveillance.
2. Describe the common features of hand eczema and understand common treatments.
3. Be confident in the use of the hierarchy of controls to manage risks to skin health in the workplace.

**Recommended reading list/references:**

1. The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002. Approved Code of Practice and Guidance 2013 L5 (Sixth edition) ACOP Regulation Health Surveillance 11 para 251 page 59.
2. Hse.gov.uk. 2023. <https://www.hse.gov.uk/skin/professional/health-surveillance.htm>
3. Hse.gov.uk. 2023, Managing skin exposure risks at work, <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg262.pdf>

**Biography:**

Katrin is passionate about caring for working skin. Katrin undertakes working skin clinics for both skin surveillance and skin case management for a large NHS organisation in Wales. Katrin provides specialised advice on both the clinical management and workplace adjustments for employees with work-related skin problems. Katrin is undertaking a skin surveillance research project aiming to increase the uptake of surveillance by making the process more streamlined by clinically validating a single question tool. Katrin chairs the Society of Occupational Medicine skin specialist interest group and co-authored the National SOM managing skin health at work guideline document in 2023.

**Professor Diana Kloss, Barrister, St John's Buildings barristers' chambers, Manchester**

---

**Talk Title:** Legal update November 2025

**Summary:** This session will cover some important legal changes impacting on occupational health. It will include the Employment Rights Act 2025, the decision of the Supreme Court in *For Women Scotland v Scottish Ministers*, and recent case law on the Equality Act 2010 with special reference to the definition of disability and neurodiversity and also an update on associative discrimination where a worker is the carer for a disabled person.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Participants should be able to identify important legal changes in employment rights and discrimination law, in particular that relating to transgender rights, neurodiversity and the rights of the disabled and their carers.
2. They should be able to explain the law to colleagues and managers.
3. They should be able to access legislation, case law and statutory guidance in order to keep up-to-date.

**Recommended reading list/references:**

Kloss Occupational Health Law, 6th edition, Wiley Blackwell Occupational Health at Work, published 6 times a year, At Work Partnership Ltd, Barnet EN5 5SU

**Biography:**

Diana is a practising barrister and former employment tribunal judge. She was awarded MBE for services to occupational health. She is an Hon FFOM, President of the Council for Work and Health and Hon Senior Lecturer in OH Law at Manchester University. Diana is the author of a number of publications, including OH Law, 6th edition, chapters in Hobson and Smedley Fitness for Work and Hunter's Diseases of Occupations, and a regular Expert Witness column in the journal Occupational Health at Work.

**Hilary Winch, Associate Director, Workplace Health, Safety & Wellbeing, Norfolk & Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

---

**Talk Title:** Vaccination compliance in the workplace

**Summary:** This presentation explores the critical role of vaccination compliance in the workplace, focusing on legal frameworks, risk assessment, and sector-specific needs. It outlines effective programme design, workforce engagement strategies to address vaccine hesitancy, and governance standards to ensure safe delivery. Real-world examples and future challenges, including pandemic preparedness and digital innovation, are discussed to highlight the evolving landscape of occupational health.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. By the end of the session, participants will be able to identify at least three occupational groups that require targeted vaccination, based on UKHSA guidance and workplace risk assessments.

2. Participants will be able to explain the legal responsibilities of employers under the Health and Safety at Work Act and COSHH regulations, and how these relate to vaccination provision.
3. Attendees will be able to describe two effective strategies for improving vaccination uptake among hesitant employees, including leadership engagement and culturally competent communication.

**Recommended reading list/references:**

1. SPL04 Workplace Immunization: A Call-to-Action Source: Occupational Medicine, Oxford Academic.
2. WHO Implementation Guide for Vaccination of Health Workers Publisher: World Health Organization (2022),
3. Immunisation Against Infectious Disease – The Green Book Publisher: UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)

**Biography:**

Hilary is the Associate Director of Workplace Health, Safety & Wellbeing at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Her team provides occupational health services to a wide array of NHS and commercial organisations in the Norfolk & Suffolk Regions. She qualified as a nurse in 1991 and worked in a variety of nursing roles eventually settling in the field of Occupational Health in 1998. Hilary has worked within industry, private hospital and NHS environments. She commenced her work at Norfolk and Norwich in 2000 and has been promoted within the team to her current role. Hilary is passionate about quality improvement and has been part of the SEQOHS assessor team since the start of the accreditation scheme in 2010. She has project managed MoHaWK, the national occupational health benchmarking and local audit tool since 2013 with Syngentis, and more recently the Faculty of Occupational Medicine. In April 2021 Hilary became Chair of the NHS Health at Work Network and served a 4 year tenure in that role until March 2025. Within this role she developed with the support of Network members, NHS England and UKHSA an immunisation framework for NHS services.

**Helen Kirk, Quality Improvement Nurse, Doctors Hospital, Grand Cayman**

**Talk Title:** International Perspectives on Occupational Health Nursing

**Summary:** Occupational health nursing practice varies greatly between countries. It is strongly influenced by national professional, legal, economic, and sociocultural factors. The Cayman Islands is a British Overseas Territory in the western Caribbean with a population of about 80,000. The islands voted to remain a British territory in 1959. The principal industries are international finance and tourism. The legal system combines English common law with Cayman Islands statutes. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (JCPC) is the final appellate court, located in the UK. Although decisions from UK courts have persuasive authority there is very little explicit health and safety legislation. The population is very diverse in terms of the heritage of the population this influences

worker expectations and healthcare delivery. The dominant model of healthcare is insured (private) care. Comparing and contrasting practice of a British Overseas Territory and the UK, which might be expected to be very similar, offers insights into occupational health internationally

#### **Learning Outcomes:**

1. Understand the economic, legal, & socio-cultural influences worker health
2. Examine how patient demographics & health infrastructure shape the demand for specific services
3. Evaluate the socio-cultural determinants that influence health behaviours and choices.

#### **Recommended reading list/references:**

1. Kirk H (2007) Towards a global nursing workforce: the 'brain circulation' Nurs Manag 13 (10): 26-30
2. Kirk H (2012) The role of advanced nursing practice in occupational health Occup Med 62 (7): 574-7
3. Kirk H (2012) From military service to occupational health nursing practice Workplace Health Saf 60 (6) 249

#### **Biography:**

Helen has worked in nursing and midwifery in Germany, Hong Kong, and now the Caribbean in the public, private, independent and military sectors. Helen has been a RCN committee member since 2008. She was the first nurse lead author of primary research in the SOM's journal, Occupational Medicine, and remains a peer reviewer. A Fellow of the American Association of OH Nursing, Helen is an alumna of the International Council of Nurse's Global Nursing Leadership programme and is a member of the ICN's Nurse Midwife Expert Advisory Group. Helen is the current President of the Cayman Islands Nursing and Midwifery Association

#### **Daniel Somers, CEO/Founder, MANUP?**

---

#### **Talk Title:** Why MANUP?

**Summary:** I will be talking about why I started the charity. What I've noticed, and what men have been saying over the last 6 years.

#### **Biography:**

Dan Somers is the Founder and CEO of MANUP?, a nationally recognised UK charity changing the conversation around men's mental health. Drawing on his background as an award-winning digital marketer and business leader, Dan has built MANUP? into a nationwide movement that funds research, supports therapy access, and challenges outdated stigma. He frequently speaks across the UK on male suicide prevention and the

need to actually listen to men, not just tell them to talk. Dan's work continues to shape policy, awareness, and meaningful action for men's wellbeing.

**Janet O'Neill, Deputy Head of NSOH and Head of PAM Academy, Vice President iOH, NSOH, PAM Group**

---

**Talk title:** How Artificial Intelligence (AI) is shaping the future for OH.

**Summary:** Artificial Intelligence is rapidly transforming the landscape of Occupational Health (OH), offering new tools to enhance employee well-being, streamline absence management, and support data-driven decision-making. This talk explores how AI is being integrated into OH practice, highlighting the opportunities and ethical considerations as we shape the future of workplace health and meet the evolving challenges of work and health.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Describe the role of AI in current OH delivery.
2. Identify how the workplace is evolving and what future needs there are.
3. Discuss the future OH and AI - the art of the possible.

**Recommended reading list/references:**

1. <https://ioh.org.uk/2023/09/artificial-intelligence-ai-and-the-digitisation-of-clinical-decision-making-whats-in-it-for-the-oh-professional/>
2. <https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/assets/docs/understand-how-ai-is-used-in-hse-regulated-sectors.pdf>
3. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/how-i-use-ai-occupational-health-literature-reviews-paul-mcgovern-i7xle/?trackingId=AJsQK0nszKaKnw2cfbn8SA%3D%3D>

**Biography:**

Janet O'Neill is an Occupational Health specialist nurse, Deputy Head of the National School of Occupational Health, Head of PAM Academy and Vice President of iOH. She has an MSc in Workplace Health and Wellbeing and recently obtained her PG certificate in Medical Education. She is also a Queens nurse. Janet's roles include working on workforce development, quality training and education. She has a vested interest in AI within OH as chair of the AI in OH working group which is supported by iOH and NSOH alongside Manchester University.

## Sponsor/exhibition listings

---

The RCN welcomes sponsorship and exhibition from the health care industry to deliver educational initiatives and events for the nursing profession. Financial support is accepted where there is clear alignment in objectives and strong grounds that the collaboration will add value to the RCN's educational offer.

The RCN works to ensure that all commercial activity is ethical, mutually beneficial and complies with the Bribery Act and relevant codes of practice e.g. Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries and Association of British Healthcare Industries.

Sponsorship or exhibition led activity does not imply endorsement by the RCN of any products and services displayed by the sponsors or exhibitors at an RCN event.

The Royal College of Nursing would like to thank the following organisations for supporting this event.

### Exhibitors

---

	<a href="http://www.dermal.co.uk/">www.dermal.co.uk/</a>
	<a href="http://www.public.orchidlive.com/">www.public.orchidlive.com/</a>
	<a href="http://www.greysr.co.uk/">www.greysr.co.uk/</a>
	<a href="http://www.cslseqirus.co.uk">www.cslseqirus.co.uk</a>
	<a href="http://www.som.org.uk/">www.som.org.uk/</a>
	<a href="http://www.fohn.org.uk/">www.fohn.org.uk/</a>

# Accreditation



## What is accreditation?

The FOHN accreditation scheme is a way of getting your knowledge, skills and experience in OH nursing recognised. It provides a framework for development throughout your career in occupational health and supports your NMC revalidation. You don't need to be on Part 3 of the NMC register to progress through the scheme.

## What are the accreditation levels?

**Practitioner:** at least two years' experience in OH.

**Specialist:** a postgraduate specialist qualification approved by FOHN and at least two years' post-qualification experience; or a portfolio and six years or more experience.

**Advanced Specialist:** enhanced competency and commitment, and a minimum of four years' post-qualification experience or equivalent.

**Fellow:** an Advanced Specialist who has made an exceptional contribution to OH.

## What do I need to do?

You should assess yourself against the competencies needed to practice at each level and submit evidence of your experience and learning.

You will need to show competence in:

- ★ Leadership & Management
- ★ Health Risk Management
- ★ Assessing & Advancing Fitness for Work
- ★ Promoting Good Health & Wellbeing

## What do people say?

"It's like SEQOHS for me!"

- Chair of the FOHN, Fellow

"I was excited when accreditation became an option to finally have Specialist recognition - I have acknowledgment of my skills, knowledge and understanding of the OH speciality."

- Specialist

"I believe it's a critical step in elevating our speciality to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with safety and other allied professions."

- Advanced Specialist

## Where do I start?

All the information you need is at <https://accreditation.fohn.org.uk/>

Contact [nurseaccreditation@som.org.uk](mailto:nurseaccreditation@som.org.uk) for further discussion or support.

Accreditation usually costs £60. We are offering free application plus additional mentoring and support for the first 15 applicants at each level (five at Fellow level) in 2026.





## *The Faculty of Occupational Health Nursing (FOHN) has a new home online!*



*FOHN has a new website with the Society of Occupational Medicine (SOM). It's a fresh space to bring our community closer together and strengthen how we connect, support, and represent Occupational Health Nursing.*

The website reflects the depth, professionalism, and passion of Occupational Health Nursing. It includes:

- ★ **FOHN news, events & webinars**  
Stay up to date with what's happening in Occupational Health Nursing.
- ★ **Professional development & accreditation**  
Guidance to support your growth and recognition.
- ★ **Policy & partnership updates**  
Including work with SOM, Council for Work & Health, and BOHS.

### ★ **Meet the FOHN Board**

Discover membership benefits and how you can get involved.

### **Join the conversation**

What would you like to see featured next? Articles, case studies, or educational resources? Share your ideas and help shape the future of the FOHN online community. Get in touch by email:

- ✉ [fohn@som.org.uk](mailto:fohn@som.org.uk)
- ✉ [fohnadmin@som.org.uk](mailto:fohnadmin@som.org.uk)
- ✉ [nurseaccreditation@som.org.uk](mailto:nurseaccreditation@som.org.uk)

Explore the new site at <https://www.som.org.uk/fohn>

# Why should you join SOM as an OH nurse?



## Why should you join SOM as an Occupational Health Nurse?



*I have been a SOM member for years and was recently asked what the benefit was for nurses. Here are my reflections on benefits to me:*

### Networking with other nurses and professionals

SOM is multi-disciplinary; members network at regional groups, SOM organised visits (e.g. factories, workplaces etc.), being a member of special interest groups or at webinars.

### Evidence-based practice

SOM guidance and toolkits (e.g. for MSK, HAVS, NIHL, Neurodiversity, and Long COVID) and online access to the Occupational Medicine e-journal informs my practice with research to keep it evidence based. The Nurse Midwifery Council code of conduct says nurses are required to practice evidence-based care.

### Professional development

I recently completed my three yearly revalidation portfolio and was amazed at my continuous professional development log and the breadth of the OH areas covered through SOM – from webinars (book at [www.som.org.uk/events](http://www.som.org.uk/events)), and the annual RCN/SOM and SOM/FOM conferences. Everything from AI to mental wellbeing, health surveillance and women's health is covered!

*"As FOHN Chair, I hope more nurses join SOM. Together we can champion the nurse voice in SOM and influence the nurse contribution to good health and work."*

Why not join today at:

<https://www.som.org.uk/membership>

SOM partners with James Hallam for **indemnity insurance** for occupational health nurses if you are not covered by your organisation's corporate indemnity. Email [admin@som.org.uk](mailto:admin@som.org.uk) for details.

SOM also provides an **appraisal toolkit** specifically for nurses.

In addition, FOHN and SOM represent members through **engagement** with national consultations such as the *Keep Britain Working* review.

SOM is **inclusive to all**, regardless of professional qualification or country, and encourages all its members to have a voice.




Amanda Hinkley (SCPHN), Head of Occupational Health, UK Health Security Agency, Chair and Fellow (FFOHN) of the Faculty of Occupational Health Nursing

# Join the RCN Public Health Forum

Get involved and join over 9600 others in the RCN Public Health Forum.

Visit: [Public Health Forum | Royal College of Nursing](#)



**Public health**

## Public Health Forum

Supporting the improvement of the public's health

You are here: [Royal College of Nursing](#) / [Ways you can get involved](#) / [Forums and networks list](#) / [Public Health Forum](#)

[LOGIN](#)


9643 members

We aim to support all nurses, midwives, health practitioners and students to maximise their public health contribution. This forum is applicable to all areas of nursing and midwifery practice.

### Watch the Forums 2024 Year in Review <sup>↗</sup>


Watch the Forums 2024 Year in Review video, launched at RCN Congress in May.

### What we do




#### Our work

Discover what we're working on now and what we're planning for the future



#### Meet the team


Find out more about our committee members and the forum professional lead



#### Forum link nurse


Meet our expert representatives that support the forum

### Resources




#### Ask the Public Health Forum

The Public Health Forum Steering Committee are here to create, partner and promote activities by members and organisations relevant to public health. Whether or not you have a clear picture in mind as to what you'd like help with, have something great that you'd like to share or have an idea that you'd like to develop, we encourage you to Ask the Forum.




#### Events

Read more about upcoming public health conferences, workshops and study days hosted by the RCN.



#### Consultations

We welcome your views. Have your say on the latest consultations.



#### Library Subject Guide

Discover key public health information resources including books, reports and journal articles

#### Society of Health

Read more about the RCN Society of Health, its purpose and how to get involved. Find out more about the Society of Health and its members.

19

## Future RCN Events

---

Date	Event	Location
9 December	RCN Women's Health Forum Conference	RCN HQ, London
15 December	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Conference	RCN HQ, London
14 March	RCN Ophthalmic Nursing Conference	RCN HQ, London
15 – 16 April	RCN Education Forum Conference	University of Exeter
29 April	RCN Management and Leadership Conference	RCN HQ, London
17 June	RCN Long Term Conditions Conference	Sheffield Hallam University
24 June	RCN Neuroscience Forum Conference	RCN HQ, London
15 – 17 September	RCN International Nursing Research Conference	Strathclyde University, Glasgow