

RCN Forum Annual Report 2023

Forum Name: Cancer Forum (formerly Cancer & Breast Care Forum)

Introduction:

The Cancer and Breast Care Forum, now renamed this year as the Cancer Forum brings together nurses who work in specialist and community cancer services. Our work has included issues linked with prevention, screening, treatment, and the interface with palliative care service provision. Our members work within the NHS, private, and the third sector. We strive to represent the four nations in all the work that we do.

Membership of the forum

- Total number – 6558 Including 3526 first choice.
- Committee membership – currently 3 appointed members which will be 4 appointed members as of 1st January 2024. There were 4 vacancies and 1 successful application this year.

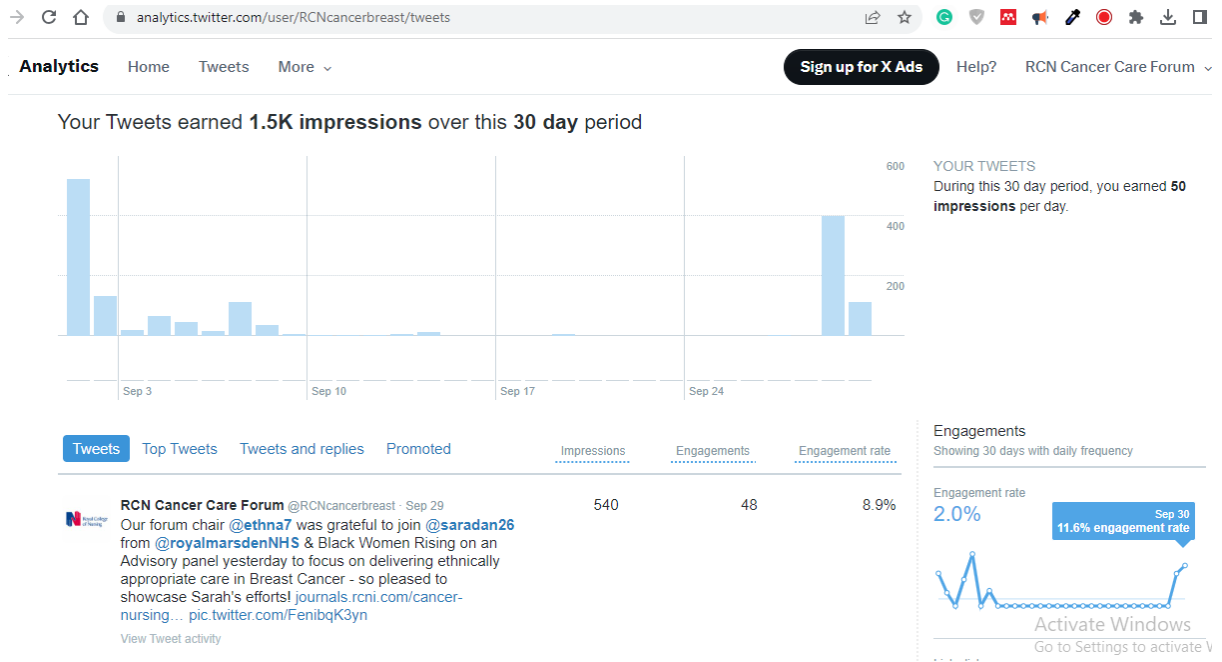
Reflections on 2023: (outputs and outcomes)

- Provide some narrative on what the forum planned to deliver (i.e., plans developed during the strategy day or at subsequent planning meetings) and what was achieved.
 - To continue to raise awareness of the forum.
 - To work with other key partners including EONS (European Oncology Nursing Society) and UKONS (UK Oncology Nursing Society).
 - To disseminate the revised education and career framework
 - To participate in Congress
 - To represent the RCN/Forum on key committees
- Main highlights of the year for the forum
The Cancer and Breast Care Forum in 2023 made significant progress, and here are some key highlights:
 - Representation through membership of the ACCEND (Aspirant Cancer Career and Education Development) Programme Steering Group and leadership of the ACCEND Framework development and implementation workstream: The Forum played a pivotal role in securing approval for the use of the RCN logo for the ACCEND Programme. Furthermore, funding was obtained from NHS Workforce Education and Training for implementation projects and the procurement of cancer education across England.
 - Representation through membership of the European Oncology Nursing Society and Education Working Group: The Forum's representation on the European stage proved influential in shaping education standards for cancer nursing across Europe.
 - Ethna McFerran (EMF) and Amy Hadley (RCN Cancer Forum members) attended the RCN congress in May 2023: Their participation was significant, as it provided a platform for addressing critical healthcare issues, promoting patient safety, driving innovation, and advocating for the nursing workforce.
 - Continued with social media – Twitter & Facebook – Twitter audience expanded to 419 Followers.

- Participated on key committees including the Advisory Board on Health Inequalities in Breast Cancer.
 - Highlighted issues linked to variations in Colorectal Cancer screening access by age in Northern Ireland – including news media coverage.
 - <https://twitter.com/CancerFocusNI/status/1713923141376823325>
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-67099153>
 - Increased access to EON resources to the membership.
- What was the impact of the achievements and activities reported?
- EMF led the writing of a commentary article entitled 'Optimizing Chemotherapy Delivery Scheduling': This article, co-produced with Vanessa Taylor and other invited authors, is currently undergoing journal submission.
 - The RCN congress attendance led to the development of a key contact: This contact, also a Bowel Cancer UK lead, resulted in further invited speaker events and the submission of two grant applications to support research work in the area of colorectal cancer and screening.
 - The Forum's involvement in the RCN congress and subsequent activities has been transformative, informing practices, driving positive changes, enhancing organizational standing, and providing indispensable intelligence that strengthens contributions to the healthcare field.
- Please include any appropriate informatics you have or pictures.



- Picture from Advisory Board on Health Inequalities in Breast Cancer (28/9/2023)
The [Tweet linked to this event](#) was one of our most successful engagements this year – with more than 500 engagements with the Tweet



Please ensure you quantify the successes (e.g., if you report a growth in social media engagement, please quantify the level of growth)

Date Prepared and by: Dr Ethna McFerran (Interim Cancer Forum Chair)