

RCN Forum Annual Report 2023

Forum Name:

Neuroscience Forum

Introduction:

The Neuroscience Forum seeks to promote best practice in all aspects of neuroscience care across a range of settings from community to critical care environments, including all neurological conditions and disorders. We develop educational and other materials for nurses, health care support workers and allied health professionals to improve the quality of compassionate patient care, influencing changes in neuroscience care that will benefit both patients and nurses

Membership of the forum

Brief summary on the forum membership, to include:

- Total number of forum membership November 2023 is 2914
- Total number of 1st choice forum members November 2023 is 1574
- Overall forum membership has increased since 2022 – 2887.

We also have 533 members on our Facebook Group and 64 followers on Twitter (due to switching to a new account in 2023, previously had 1244 followers)

Committee membership – vacancies, number of applications this year

- The Committee received 7 applications for 6 vacancies, all of which were eligible
- 2 members stepped down
- 5 appointed new members appointed
- 6 member committee with 1 vacancy
- 2 active link nurses- Shona Floyd (Brain Tumour charity) & Melissa Clarke (Neurodisability team Croydon)

2023 Reflections - (Outputs and outcomes)

- On the 7th of September we held a member engagement event called ‘Managing Primary Headache’ which provided members an opportunity to meet the forum and ask questions. The multiple cranial nerve block injection video was reviewed at this event and published in the RCN Magazine
- Siobhan (Chair) is a member of NNAG which increases the profile of the forum and increase membership
- British Association of Neuroscience Nursing (BANN) - Marie, a member of the committee also hosted the Annual Conference in Dublin on the 6th & 7th of October 2023; this two-day conference covered a diverse range of Neurology & Neurosurgery topics and networking of Neurosciences Nurses. Target audience UK and Europe. It also provided a wide range of educational opportunities on the theme advancing practice for the future. This link between RCN and BANN will provide future opportunities to raise the profile of the Neuroscience RCN Forum and strengthen networks.
- We have established connections with the Tessa Jowell academy and aspire to develop learning resources for neuroscience nurses in the future
- We have supported a combined Royal Colleges position statement for PANS PANDAS UK on improving identification and treatment for young people with PANS and PANDAS

- We continue to support the British Polio Foundation and its work developing care pathways for people with Long Polio Syndrome
- Stroke Care Framework has been updated through the RCN quality assurance framework
- We are actively involved in a 'task and finish' group led by NHS England looking at care pathways for children and young people with cerebral palsy
- We supported and helped develop the National Stroke Guideline published earlier this year
- We have begun collaborating with the pain and palliative care forum to develop content on neuropathic pain: current considerations include a podcast or Learning and Well -Being event at Congress.
- We have started to communicate to members via MCC
- We continue to be part of the Neuro-rehab group representing RCN, including the continual active participation in the development of the new NICE Guideline on Neuro-rehabilitation and Brain Injury.

Review of Strategic Objectives & Forum Work (2022/23)

- Nursing Workforce Standards(NWS)- promoting and cascading to members
- Stroke Framework- Plan to evaluate
- Forum webinars/Blogs/Podcasts
 - Neuropathic pain webinar update
 - Headaches
- Consultations
- Stroke Consultation
- Cerebral palsy framework (JB & MC)
- Update library subject guides
- Review of MND Resource
- RCN Magazine: multiple cranial nerve block injection video review
- TJ Academy engagement
- Dublin conference – 9th October (MA)

Plans for 2024:

We are holding our Strategy Day on 7th December 2023 when we be developing our plans for the year ahead, this will include:

- **Professional frameworks:** in alignment with the RCN, we will be developing neuroscience nurses resources. This would take into consideration of a headache career framework and evaluation of the stroke career framework.
- **Neuropathic Pain:** Collaborate with the pain and palliative forum to consider what resources would be useful for members.
- **Website:** update and maintain the RCN Neuroscience forum web page
- **Social Media:** increase presence on Twitter and Facebook
- **Nursing Workforce Standards:** Promote application of NWS to neuroscience nurses

Date Prepared and By:

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