Royal College of Nursing

RCN Neuroscience Forum Annual Report 2025

Forum Name
RCN Neuroscience Forum

Introduction:
The RCN 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. The forum aims to engage members who work within neurosciences to support their activities of practice development.

Membership of the forum:
Brief summary on the forum membership, to include:

- Any trends - Increase/decrease of membership on previous year with commentary on what may have attributed to the change – Forum in 2024 - 2941, now 3089. Increase of 148, more than last year.
- 100 followers on Bluesky – only opened this year following closure of Twitter page.
- 555 members on Facebook group – up from last year.
- Committee membership – vacancies, number of applications this year -we had one vacancy which we filled.

Reflections on 2025 (Outputs and outcomes)
FCC projects submitted and approved:

- Development of Nursing Competency and Education Framework for the Management of Headache Disorders.
- To be published December 2025.
- Evaluation of RCN Career Framework for Stroke Nurses
  - Completed evaluation of the RCN Career Framework for stroke nurses – awaiting final approval and publication.
- Delivered a well-attended workshop on applying the RCN UK Career Framework for stroke nurses at the UK Stroke Conference 2025 in Aberdeen on 25 November 2025.
- Established a Stroke Expert Reference Group to review stroke resources – this work is currently ongoing.

Webinars

- Planning webinar with YARNS to be delivered at in December 2025; Supporting Young Adults with Acquired Brain Injury – Insights from the YARNS Transitions Project.

Blogs
2 members of the committee wrote blogs on issues around neuroscience

- Mark Delabajan

A global lens on stroke care
A blog that shares Mark's journey from rural Philippines to being a Stroke Nurse Consultant in the UK, reflecting on global stroke care disparities. In preparation for Stroke Awareness Month, Mark hopes to inspire nurses to act fast, raise awareness, and advocate for equitable care.

- Rachel Perrow

[Childhood brain tumour and education](#)

A blog on Rachel's journey as a nurse in Paediatric Neuro-oncology nursing for over 20 years, highlighting the need to do more to support children with brain tumours access meaningful education.

Congress
- Forum submitted a resolution on time critical meds but did not get accepted this time. critical meds.
- Three members of Forum went to RCN Congress this year. Mark Delabajan committee member and stroke specialist spoke on stage and was involved in two debates.
- Committee actively engaged with delegates on our forum stand.

Main highlight/s of the year for the forum
Engagement at RCN Congress. Success of forum webinars, planning of the upcoming conference, the development of a new publication - Nursing Competency and Education Framework for the Management of Headache Disorders and the evaluation of the Stroke career framework.
The impact of the work undertaken by the forum for the RCN membership supports ongoing career development, training, promoting excellence in nursing care and raising profile of Neuroscience nursing.

International engagements and wider collaborations
The forum is in recent collaborations with Global Neuroscience Nurses Collaborative Meetings; they will be attending the strategy day in December to further ideate and explore opportunities to engage.
- Collaboration/ projects with stakeholders e.g. colleges, DOH
- Projects that were delivered and have closed

Ways of working that has been implemented this year
- Publications (include link if possible) [Young onset Parkinson's disease: not just an older person's condition | British Journal of Neuroscience Nursing](#)
- Contribution to Consultations/Policy development e.g. NICE guidelines [Workforce consensus recommendations (October 2025) – The Neurological Alliance](#) – Two forum members attended and contributed to this census by representing the forum
- Ongoing review of forum clinical landing pages – aims to be completed next year.

RCN Representations:
Continuing representation on the Intercollegiate Stroke Working Party as a committee member and contributed to the development of the Cardiovascular Disease Modern Service Framework (MSF) led by NHSE.

Plans for 2026:
- Conference for student nurses on careers in Neuroscience Nursing next year. This would fit with our agenda to try and up our student nurse recruitment and fits with NHS England's ambitions to encourage early career nurses to consider neuroscience.
  - Forum representation at Congress and BANN conference 2026
  - Neuroscience education pathway
  - Neuroscience conference June 2026
  - More online webinars

Name of Forum Chair and Professional Lead:
Siobhan Jones (Chair) Jonathan Beebee (Professional Lead)
Date Prepared: November 2025