

RCN Forum Annual Report 2022

Forum Name:

_Rheumatology Forum

Introduction:

The Forum represent Adult and Paediatric Rheumatology nursing covering subspecialties connective tissue disease , osteoporosis, c DMARDS and Biologic therapies.

Membership of the forum

All = 1251

First Choice = 667

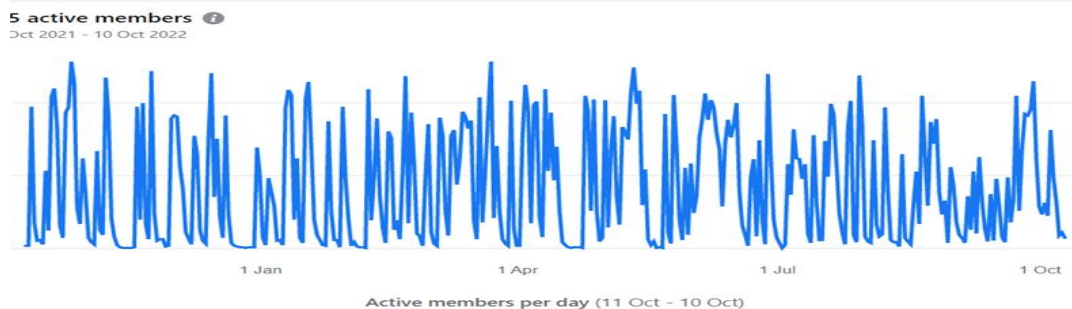
406 FB members

19 membership request from Oct 2021-2022

260 posts October 2021- 2022



335 active members for the year



- Committee membership –
- 1 Vacancy moving into January 2022- one committee member stepped down after interview cut off date
- 1 resigned March 2022
- Left x2 vacancies on the committee March- December 2022
- Interviews October x2 applicants – one appointed, the unsuccessful applicant offered co -opt work
- Co -optee in 2022 x5 (adult) x4 (paed) to complete to strengthen expertise and 4 nations within work stream
- Expertise in
- Adult Rheumatology
- Paediatric
- Transitional Care

- Connective tissue disease
- Osteoporosis
- Acute Trust
- Independent Sector
- Biologics
- Disease Modifying Anti rheumatic Drugs
- Academic Institutions

Reflections on 2022: (Outputs and outcomes)

Following on from Strategy day which was impacted by COVID and winter pressures this was a virtual meeting split over 2 sessions. We had 2 new members of which one left 2 months into term, and a long term member resign at the beginning of the year therefore, we were unable to recruit into these posts until the end of this year.

The Forum was committed to refreshing the Biologics Document after a successful FGG bid, this has taken a large part of this year and co-opted members were brought into the workstream to strengthen the four nations expertise. This will be a housed document on the website building on the previous work format on the Methotrexate document.

Support is provided by the committee for ongoing work for the RCN competency document which was stalled due to COVID provided by an established working group. Moving forward a committee member will be part of the forward work stream, providing the FGG bid is successful.

The forum has experienced changes within project coordinator roles which has proved difficult at times to move forward projects and updating the website for Blogs. The professional lead has constant an excellent resource and support to the new committee.

- ARMA
- We continue to receive committee invites from ARMA (Arthritis & Musculoskeletal Alliance) and forum members try to attend as many as possible. This has proved difficult due to clashes in diaries. We continue to disseminate via Facebook and twitter to members.
- BSR (British Society of Rheumatology
- SAWAG member engagement continues – attendance is twice per year
- Closer working with BSR has enabled RCN Rheumatology nurses to receive a discount if joining the first time.
- Close working to have a presence within the National conference has been highlighted for a meet and greet area for nurses to network – this is to be confirmed
- Ongoing collaboration with BSR re a Clinical business case to pull together . This will complement the RCN Competency document, information for guidelines re CNS and job planning has started as a scoping exercise with a working party
- Ongoing collaboration with Academic unit re advice line research to aid further exploration and impact on Rheumatology nurses

- Workshop
- We had prepared a virtual workshop for November unfortunately circumstances concerning Pay campaign this was cancelled – therefore the committee were prepared to explore other options to deliver educational content moving forward – membership has been asked over social media to gain insight re delivery method
- _Members have had a presence and delivered educational content on the BSR specialist nurse study days
- Social Media
- _As discussed above in previous section
- Presence at Congress 2022 – world café and development of slide to play in intervals with other forums to highlight the professional body.
- To continue with Blogs which have slowed down due to various reasons and become transparent to members
- Contributions to Consultation and Policy Development
 - Royal Osteoporosis Society Endorsement from RCN from Forum member ongoing work completed on Fragility Fractures
- _NICE GOUT
- NICE Osteoarthritis
- Clinical Supervision (Chairs of chairs document)
- Comment for PNC re protect the title of Nurse
- Endorsement for Occupational Therapists for Hand and Wrist Orthoses

Continued Work Pressures 2022

Workflow has been affected by the backlash of the pandemic and latter in the year ballot for strike action. I have been impressed the committee with the loss of an experienced member in the early part of the year and reduced number due to a resignation. They have stepped up to the work committed. Support from co-opted has proved invaluable and will aid with succession planning for the committee. Work continued virtually with monthly meeting which had a healthy attendance.

- Plans for 2023
- To complete Biologics document as per timeline with 4 nations
- Continue with dissemination of Competency framework – FGG bid to be submitted
- To consider collaboration with other forums re Advice line update of guidelines with long term conditions - FGG bid to be discussed
- To continue with collaboration with BSR re job planning guidelines which will strengthen Advice line work planned
- Consider other innovative avenues to deliver education to members -social media utilised to gain insight from members
- Engagement with Student forum to highlight Rheumatology has stalled and to be picked up again
- Collaboration with the History of Nursing forum – article re Rheumatology Nursing to be written 2023
- All to be discussed at Strategy day 2023 – date to be confirmed

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By: Sharon Petford

Forum Chair