

RCN Forum Annual Report 2023

Forum Name: Society of Orthopaedic and Trauma Nursing Forum

Introduction:

The Society of Orthopaedic and Trauma Nursing (SOTN) forum is well established with a dedicated committee. The committee has strong links with the International Collaboration of Orthopaedic Nursing (ICON).

Our aim is to engage with all our members, practitioners and educators, within the 4 countries of the UK in order to best inform practice; work in collaboration with international colleagues and other UK forums, in order to improve patient care.

The committee members meet monthly to discuss our planned annual outcomes; including our annual conference.

Membership of the forum (November 2023)

Overall number of forum members - 3825.

1st Choice members - 2397

Committee

Numbers: 6 with one vacancy

Chair: Karen Barnard

Pamela Moore

Dr Sonya Clarke

Donna Little

Jessica Oto

Rebecca Neil

Karen Barnard (Chair) and Pamela Moore complete 8 years at the end of 2023 and will be leaving the Committee.

Claire Symonds resigned in the Summer 2023 for personal reasons.

3 vacancies were advertised but only 2 applicants applied, and both were appointed.

This means the Committee will continue in 2024 with only 6 members and one vacancy.

Reflections on 2023: (Outputs and outcomes)

1. Planned conference is in progress for 8th December 2023.
2. Project: to develop an evidence-based document, which can guide orthopaedic and trauma practitioners caring for patients with an acute spinal injury across the lifespan. The co-produced document has sought and confirmed contributors from the four UK countries who are experts in education and practice; other RCN forums are being approached as well as service users.
3. Social media: we have a very active Facebook forum with 971 members. We also have an active X (formerly twitter) account and a tweet-chat account.
4. Collaboration with stakeholders:

We continue to connect and engage with affiliated orthopaedic groups, associations and health-care professionals, e.g. British Orthopaedic Association,

British Orthopaedic Association for Casting, British Society Children's Orthopaedics, Royal College of Nursing Children and Young People's Orthopaedic Trauma Community.

- International Collaboration of Orthopaedic Nurses – Dr Sonya Clarke represents for UK on orthopaedic nursing and as RCN committee member.
 - National Falls Prevention Collaborative Group – Donna Little represents the RCN & SOTN forum on this group – many of our forum members working in the trauma setting will encounter patients who have sustained injury/ies following a fall. This is a growing issue as the number of people live longer. Donna is also a member of the Older People forum. Representation at this group ensures our involvement when policies are being discussed.
 - Fragility Fracture Network (FFN) – Karen attended the FFN board meeting in September 2023. FFN is an international collaboration of Doctors, Orthopaedic and Trauma Nurses, Fragility Fracture Nurses and allied health professionals. They are closely linked with the National Hip Fracture Database in the UK and similar databases globally. Best practice and research is shared at an annual conference.
5. We are currently looking to develop a list of forum link nurses, to provide wider clinical expertise and to help make sure that nursing practice, nursing policy and research expertise is represented.

Contribution to Consultations/Policy development

- SOTN regularly receive invitations to comment on or participate in related work e.g. BOA, FFN.
- Links to IJOTN have been renewed and they are actively wishing to be involved with the forum.

Plans for 2024:

- Commence planning meetings with interested forums for the project – Care of Spinal Injured Patients.
- Introduce and work with the new committee members at the strategy day to plan future work/projects.
- Update currently published guidelines – Traction, A competence Framework for Orthopaedic and Trauma Practitioners.
- Annual strategy meetings to include Professional Lead and Project Coordinator.
- Consultation with members to change the name of the forum as per request of the RCN to standardise forum names.

Date Prepared and By:

October 2023

Karen Barnard, Chair SOTN