

RCN Forum Annual Report 2025

Forum Name: Trauma and Orthopaedic Nursing (TON)

Background

The Trauma and Orthopaedic Nursing (TON) forum formerly known as the Society of Orthopaedic and Trauma Nursing (SOTN) is an established dedicated committee with strong links to the International Collaboration of Orthopaedic Nursing (ICON). TON's aim is to primarily engage with all our members, practitioners and educators, within the four countries of the UK to best inform practice: work in collaboration with international colleagues and other UK RCN forums, to improve patient care. The committee members meet approximately every 6 weeks via MS Teams to discuss the annual outcomes agreed at the face-to-face strategy day at RCN headquarters. Our project manager Margaret Ojo has been an invaluable support to the forum and to me as chair throughout the year. We also valued the support and guidance provided by our Professional Lead Suman Shrestha, who is sadly leaving our forum at the end of 2025.

Membership of the forum (November 2025)

Forum membership figures – 3785

1st choice membership count – 2237

Facebook – 1,159 members

Committee numbers and membership:

1. Chair: Dr Sonya Clarke (SC)
2. Donna Little
3. Jessica Otu
4. Rebecca Clark
5. David Raynsford-Dyer
6. Kirsteen Kelly
7. Helen Scott (new member)

We commenced 2025 with one new committee member and a full quota of seven members. At the end of 2025, three committee members have completed their term.

Reflections on 2025: (Outputs and outcomes)

Three committee members will leave the committee at the end of 2025 - Dr Sonya Clarke, Jessica Oto and Rebecca Clark. Two new members will join in January 2026 –

Claire Brown and Eunice Morado, with Donna Little becoming chair; deputy chair is yet to be confirmed. This will leave one vacant committee place.

Count Forum (All) Nov 2025 3785, Nov 2024 3787, Nov 2023 3661

Three projects and a biannual conference were agreed by the TON committee at the 2025 strategy day.

Project 1 Traction guidance 2021 revision. A project group was developed and the Traction guidance revised – it has been signed off by the Professional Lead and moving forward for publication.

Project 2 Acute Compartment Syndrome revision of 2014 observation chart. Project group was established and quickly agreed there was a need to pose a number of questions using the Facebook (FB) and Member Communication Channel (MCC) as the group hypothesised there may be an educational deficit within nursing which needs considered first before a review of the chart. A set of questions were agreed by the project group. A survey was made available in December 24 via FB and MCC with 108 responses. This survey was presented as a workshop at the 2025 conference alongside the proposed learning resources (Q&A fact sheet, series of short service user podcasts and video using the chart) before seeking verbal and ‘post it’ feedback. This project will continue to be led by project lead SC for completion in 2026.

Project 3 Development of a new Competency Framework for Trauma and Orthopaedics. A project group was formed in 2025 - work will be ongoing into 2026. A workshop ‘RCN guidance for orthopaedic and fracture trauma practitioner’ project was included at this year’s conference seeking delegates views on how the framework should be developed to meet their needs in practice. The leads for this project are Donna Little and Helen Scott

One day conference – Innovation and Change in Orthopaedic Fracture Trauma, RCN HQ, 14th of November 2025. In my view as chair, we developed and delivered an excellent conference which met the learning outcomes – provisional feedback is positive. A meeting is planned later this month with events to discuss the conference and delegate evaluations. This conference had approx.130 delegates, with presenters’ from both the UK, Australia, Portugal and Malaysia. The programme included plenary, workshops, a hybrid international expert panel discussion plus digital poster presentations sponsored by IJON best poster prize. Fiona Clark was an excellent conference support.

Webinar – Forum Steering committee received an invitation from the older person forum to present on a webinar; Donna Little delivered a session in November 2025.

Congress 2025 - TON were represented at congress and secured voting places.

Social media - we continue to have a very active and growing Facebook forum with 1,159 members. Professional Lead has agreed for Dr Sonya Clarke to remain as an administrator on TON’s FB alongside Donn Little.

Collaboration with stakeholders:

We continue to connect and engage with affiliated orthopaedic groups, associations and health-care professionals. 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 and Older person forum.

- International Collaboration of Orthopaedic Nurses (ICON)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/iconursing/> – Dr Sonya Clarke and David Raynsford Dyer represent the UK on orthopaedic nursing on behalf of the TON committee. It has been agreed by the Professional Lead; Dr Sonya Clarke will become an ambassador / expert to the TON forum and continue to attend meetings on behalf of RCN TON forum. ICON requested Dr Clarke to remain as part of ICON.
- National Falls Prevention Collaborative Group – Donna Little represents the RCN & TON forum on this group – many of our forum members working in the trauma setting will encounter patients who have sustained injury 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) –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 are shared at an annual conference. Jessica Oto was the link member. Moving forward in 2026, the link member will need replaced by the committee.

We continue 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 – the list values previous committee members. Contribution to Consultations/Policy development

- Links to IJOTN <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/international-journal-of-orthopaedic-and-trauma-nursing> remain strong. For example, supported a best poster and runner up prize at the [RCN Trauma and Orthopaedic Nursing Conference 2025 | Royal College of Nursing](#)

Suggested plans for 2026:

- Full quota of voting members to represent TON at congress in May 2026
- Continue with the competence Framework for Orthopaedic and Trauma Practitioners.

- Annual strategy day, formerly introduce and work with the new committee member at the strategy day to plan future work/projects. New Professional Lead to attend.
- Complete the acute compartment syndrome project
- Develop and facilitate 3 educational webinars
- Continue to develop blogs
- Forward plan recruitment to the committee

Date prepared and by: 19th November 2025, Dr Sonya Clarke