

Fellows' Update

Welcome from Professor Kathleen McCourt CBE FRCN

I hope this email will find you well in these unprecedented times.

COVID-19

In the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife we have seen our members at the forefront of the response to COVID-19; in our hospitals, in the community, and in the media. Despite working in arduous, often unfamiliar situations and in spite of fear for their safety, and the safety of their families, nurses and midwives continue to provide exceptional care to their patients and demand the safety equipment they require to continue to do this.

However, alongside countless members of the public, we have tragically lost several members of our nursing family during this pandemic. Our community stands together in acknowledging their invaluable contributions to nursing and extends our deepest sympathies to their families.

Dame Donna Kinnair the RCN's Chief Executive & General Secretary has publicly and vociferously demanded that the safety of nurses, and [the provision of personal protective equipment](#) is of the highest importance in government. At the recent meeting of the Fellows Co-ordinating Committee it was agreed that I would write to her on behalf of the Fellows to express support.

You can find the RCN's COVID-19 updates and press releases using the links below:

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/covid-19>

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/press-releases>

Fellows 2020

As you will all now be aware, RCN Congress 2020 has been cancelled due to COVID-19. We currently hope that our meeting will be going ahead as planned on 3 November 2020. We are delighted that Susan Masters, RCN Director of Nursing, Policy and Practice, has agreed to be our guest speaker. We will of course keep you updated if there are any changes to this event.

Although Congress is not going ahead this year the AGM does need to take place. Council will be discussing when and how this will take place when it meets later this month and how/when to award the 2020 Fellowships. I will let you know as soon as this is decided. For the first time this year we will be organising a separate induction event for new Fellows and work is underway to update our Fellows leaflet.

Our plans to celebrate Fellows during the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife are pressing ahead. We still plan to highlight 20 articles based on Fellows' past publications. Nursing Standard will publish the final publication together with an article by Dr David Benton FRCN, Professor Alison Tierney CBE FRCN and other members of the editorial panel on the impact and relevance today of the scholarly work of Fellows.

I look forward to seeing everyone in November. You will of course continue to receive updates regarding dates for the AGM, the presentation of Fellowships, and any further changes to our schedule. Please continue to support each other and our members and thank you for all your sustained hard work in these challenging times.

Best wishes,

Professor Kathleen McCourt CBE FRCN
Convenor of RCN Fellows