

Susan is a Nurse Consultant in Rheumatology and Past Chair of the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) Standing Committee for Health Professionals.

She qualified as a nurse in 1978 and worked for many years in the NHS working initially in areas such as intensive care and renal dialysis. Whilst her children were young Susan worked as the Director of the South West Branch of the British Lung Foundation before returning to clinical work initially as a practice nurse and lecturer before taking up a secondary care post as a Lead Research Nurse and Data Co-coordinator for respiratory research before ultimately being enticed into her long term career pathway in Rheumatology as a specialist nurse.

After several years, she left the NHS having set up the rheumatology nursing service in North Devon to take up a role as the first independent nurse consultant in Rheumatology in 2003. As an independent nurse prescriber, she held private clinics in Devon and London whilst combining her various contractual work with consultancy and social enterprise. She was selected as one of fourteen Health Professionals in England to receive a Department of Health sponsored Social Enterprise course at Oxford University, Saïd Business School.

Susan travelled across the United Kingdom working on honorary contracts for NHS specialist services where she combined clinical work with service redesign projects. During this period, she became actively involved in health policy and strategic aspects of health care, representing nursing and health professionals in projects with key organisations such as the Department of Health, National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence and others. The British Society for Rheumatology commissioned Susan to project manage the review of the National Patient Safety Agency guidelines for Methotrexate, whilst also participating in working groups for a number of BSR guidelines development groups as well as ARMA standard of care work. She has advised on nursing development within the field of rheumatology and lectured nationally and internationally. Some of her work has supported development of new models of care that resulted in innovative approaches to improving patient access to care.

Although Susan has by no means undertaken a conventional career path, she has managed to participate in research projects and published within the field of rheumatology and nursing including studies such as the Pandora project to explore the complexity of the nurse specialist's role with Professor Alison Leary, Chair of Workforce Modelling at London South Bank University. There are two roles in the past that were very close to her heart, that of Chair of the Royal College of Nursing Rheumatology Forum in the UK (2004-2010) and Chief Nurse Advisor for the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (2002-2009).

Working alongside Ailsa Bosworth Chief Executive of the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (NRAS) Susan was joint chair of the Rheumatology Futures Project, resulting in a range of outcomes including the King's Fund Research on the patient and health professionals' perceptions of services for Rheumatoid Arthritis (2009).

She has been honoured with awards over the years including Professional Nurse of the year in 2000 for her nurse led services, Honorary Membership of the British Healthcare Professionals in Rheumatology in 2006, Honorary Member of EULAR and an RCN Fellowship (FRCN) for her contribution to rheumatology nursing (2009). In 2014 she was honoured with an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Her retirement 'project' has been to encourage the development of Rheumatology Nursing as a specialism within the Asia Pacific Region. She has supported those developments through mentoring and educational initiatives that have been endorsed by the Asia Pacific League Against Rheumatism (APLAR) and are a resource for nurses across the region.