Welcome from Professor Kath McCourt CBE FRCN
It is that time of year again – the annual Fellows’ newsletter – but in the future your Committee is determined to send you quarterly updates.

It is great to see how many Fellows are now representing us in key positions in the College. In particular our new RCN President, Professor Anne Marie Rafferty CBE FRCN, and Deputy President, Yvonne Coghill CBE FRCN, are both Fellows of the College. We congratulate them on their election, and look forward to working closely with them during a time of great change at the RCN.

Rachel Hollis FRCN is Vice Chair of the RCN Professional Nursing Committee. In addition, Denise Llewellyn FRCN has, this month, been confirmed as Chair of the new UK Safe and Effective Care Oversight and Scrutiny Committee. Tara Bartley OBE FRCN chairs the Forums Governance Group; Felicia Cox FRCN, Jessica Davidson FRCN, Debby Holloway FRCN are Forum Chairs; and Professor Daniel Kelly FRCN is a Member of the International Committee.

One of the most important things that you can do is to tell us what areas of the work of the College you would like to be involved in, and what your particular skills and expertise are. Please take a few minutes to complete this form and return it to RCNFellows@rcn.org.uk.

Fellows’ Co-ordinating Committee
You will be aware that, as Convenor, I chair meetings of the Fellows’ Co-ordinating Committee and am responsible for the general coordination of the Fellows’ work in collaboration with the other members of the Committee and RCN staff.

We meet two or three times a year to organise Fellows’ activities such as our now very popular annual meeting and lectures and our events at Congress. Our key role as a Committee is to make sure the voice of Fellows is heard and informs RCN policy and practice.

The membership of the Fellows’ Co-ordinating Committee has changed in recent months and you can find the biographies of the current members on the RCN website here.

Plans for Congress 2019
Congress 2019 takes place at the ACC in Liverpool from 19-23 May.

RCN Awards Dinner
All Fellows are invited to attend the 2019 Awards Dinner on Sunday 19 May following the Congress opening ceremony.

The ceremony includes the presentation of new Fellowships along with the RCN Awards of Merit and Representative of the Year awards. We hope that
any Fellows who will be at Congress on the Sunday evening will join in the celebration.

The dinner will be held in the Pullman Hotel which is a very short walk from the ACC Liverpool. The Congress opening ceremony is expected to finish at 7pm. Guests will then make their way to the President’s reception in the exhibition hall before moving on to the Pullman in time for dinner to be served at 8pm.

Although the RCN will be meeting the cost for the award winners and their guests, as in previous years we are asking Fellows to make a contribution of £15 towards the cost of the dinner.

This year we are also inviting our Past Presidents and Past Chairs of Council to join you for dinner.

If you would like to join us for the dinner please contact Bethany Winning on bethany.winning@rcn.org.uk or 020 7647 3644.

Fringe Event
The RCN Professional Nursing Committee is hosting a fringe event with the title ‘Can the RCN be an effective professional body AND trade union?’

The event will take the form of a panel discussion on the dual function of the RCN as both a professional body and a trade union, and the effectiveness of the governance structures which underpin this position. The event will be chaired by me as Fellows’ Convenor.

Tara Bartley OBE FRCN, who is both a Fellow, and the current Chair of the Forums Governance Group, will be on the panel alongside the Chairs of the Professional Nursing Committee and the Trade Union Committee and Christine Perry, who was a member of the Council Review Group which advised on the current governance structure.

We hope that any Fellows attending Congress will come along to this event, which is to be held from 8am to 8.45am on Tuesday 21 May 2019 in Room 11B. All details will be in the Congress brochure and can also be found on the website.

Full Fellows’ Meeting – 5 November 2019
This year our annual Fellows’ meeting takes place on Tuesday 5 November from 11.30am at RCN HQ in London.

Our new President, Professor Anne Marie Rafferty CBE FRCN, will be opening the meeting and giving you an update on the current work and priorities of the College alongside her own priorities as President. We very much hope that we will also have Dame Donna Kinnair, our new Chief Executive and General Secretary in attendance.

The Chair of the RCN Professional Nursing Committee will be presenting their work programme, focussing specifically on the RCN’s new educational
strategy, the RCN approach to evidence based policy and practice, and policy
decision making processes.

In addition, we have invited the Head of the RCN Foundation, Deepa Korea,
to come and update us on the project work of the RCN Foundation, and how
the RCN Professional Nursing Committee and the RCN Foundation will be
working together in the future.

The meeting will close with tea ahead of the public lecture the Fellows are
hosting again this year – please see below for more details.

I do hope you will be able to attend the meeting in November and I look
forward to seeing you there. We will contact you again nearer the time to
confirm your attendance at both the annual meeting and the lecture.

Fellows' Public Lecture 2019
The Fellows' public lecture will follow the full Fellows’ meeting, on the evening
of Tuesday 5 November.

This year, we have invited Alison O'Donnell, member of the History of Nursing
Society, to be our keynote speaker. The title of the lecture will be ‘Pioneering
Women for a Pioneering Act’ celebrating the 100 year anniversary of the
Nurses Registration Act.

Alison says: Given that this is the centenary of nurse registration in 2019, it is
timely that the College’s role in this pivotal legislation is considered, as the
Nurses Registration Act, 1919, was not without controversy nor its critics.
The Act was passed in December 1919. From the College’s archival records,
Mary Rundle the then Secretary of the College, was a key motivator in
supporting the legislation, as well as lobbying and promoting it. Other women
were also dedicated to this cause, but Rundle was at the forefront of
managing the diverse, and often opinionated and polarised debate.
The College papers show the discussions which took place, and the way in
which the College as an organisation influenced the development of the
Nurses Registration Bill of 1919 (RCN 4, 1919). At the end of 1919 there were
adaptations to the Act for Ireland, Scotland and England (and Wales
included); on the 9th December 1919, the Act for Scotland was amendment to
the Bill, read for third time and passed; 22nd December 1919, the Act for
Ireland was amendment to the Bill and then was agreed and finally on the
22nd December 1919. The House of Commons sat on the 22nd December
1919, where the last amendments were ratified and it would have then been
sent to be printed at the registry, getting a 23rd December 1919 as a finalised
print date. https://api.parliament.uk/historic-hansard/index.html

The Bill, and then the Act, was central to the development of nursing in the
aftermath of the First World War. From my reading, it was fascinating to see
that the Founders, including Rundle, and early members knew why this Bill
was pivotal, and pioneering for nursing as a profession in terms of education,
status, working conditions and equal pay, and how it would benefit the nurses
of the future (O'Donnell, 2018). A century later, some of the same nursing
issues in terms of working hours, safe staffing levels, the education of nurses
and the status of nursing as a profession remain pertinent to the contemporary healthcare setting.

2018 Fellows’ Meeting
We thought it would be a good time to provide an update on some of the topics discussed at the last Fellows’ meeting in November.

At the meeting Dr Caroline Shuldham, Chair of the RCNi editorial advisory board highlighted ways in which Fellows could get involved in the RCNi. This included membership of specialist review panels, and involvement in the RCNi Awards. Caroline is planning to set up an alumni programme for award winners, and will be looking for Fellows to act as mentors to award winners. There was a lot of enthusiasm for this role from Fellows present at the meeting. If this is an area where you would like to get involved, please ensure that this is highlighted on your contact form.

There was a request to receive details of the RCN’s governance and decision making framework. Here is a brief outline presentation of the governance structure as it relates to the PNC. Work is being carried out by Council at the moment on the decision making and delegation framework, and we plan to bring an update on this to the next Fellows’ meeting on 5 November.

Women of the World Festival (Report by Paula Hancock FRCN)
To mark the centenary of female suffrage in the UK, the RCN Fellows invited Jude Kelly CBE to speak at our annual Fellows’ lecture in Cowdray Hall on 7 November 2018. This public lecture was well attended by delegates of all ages and backgrounds. We were thrilled that Jude accepted our invitation to speak, considering her very full diary and, indeed, arriving at RCN Headquarters directly from the airport on return from Nigeria.

Following a stellar career as artistic director of the Southbank Centre she founded the Women of the World Foundation in 2010. This independent organisation works to build, convene and sustain a global movement believing that a gender equal world is possible and desirable through festivals and empowering women and girls. The Women of the World Festival (WOW) is an annual arts and science festival that takes place in March to coincide with International Women’s Day. It has now taken root in six continents, as well as towns and cities across the UK, to celebrate and inspire women and girls and to look at obstacles they face across the world.

Whilst many of us would question in this centenary year of women’s suffrage, why gender equality is still not been achieved, even in western highly resourced societies, Jude outlined so many human stories which challenge our long establish values and beliefs.

There were many and varied wide ranging questions from the audience, including topics such as; education; the imbalance of male and female leaders in nursing; racism; gender fluidity; religion and faith; emotional labour; the elderly; and the need for equality in library collections. Based on a depth of knowledge and understanding, Jude answered each one thoughtfully and extensively.
The whole event was recorded and posted on YouTube. I recommend that you view it, as it is impossible to provide an account of such a rich presentation in a few words.

The Fellows are grateful for the support of Royal College of Nursing Library and Archives in hosting this event.

**Forum Steering Committee Interviews**

We will be opening the 2019 forum appointments process at Congress this year. We will be recruiting to 34 forum steering committees.

The interview panels are made up of the Forum Chair, Professional Lead, a Governance representative and an independent participant.

The independent participant is an RCN member and their role is to ensure that the interview process is fair, open and transparent.

We would be very grateful if you would be willing to be involved in the interviews this year as an independent participant. Interviews will be held in October, at RCN HQ. We are currently working with the Forum Chairs and Professional Leads to identify the interview dates and we will be able to share these with you shortly.

Travel and any accommodation will be arranged for you and you will receive the interview pack approximately one week in advance.

If you can help us please contact us on RCNFellows@rcn.org.uk.

**Meet Simon Browes, Chair of the RCN Professional Nursing Committee**

*Could you tell us a little bit about your career to date?*

Nursing has been such an exciting and varied career for me. I started out doing work experience and as a hospital volunteer in Sheffield, then as a nursing assistant, before going to university in Nottingham. Since qualifying as a nurse and then a health visitor, my career has been mainly in primary, community and urgent care, progressing to Nurse Consultant and Director. My career has taken me across the UK and as far as New Zealand, with jobs in service improvement, regulation, strategy, education and research. I have always maintained a clinical role; that is hugely important to me. I enjoy
working across organisations and settings. I am a firm believer in collaboration and not putting up walls that need not exist.

*What made you put yourself forward for the committee you now chair?*

I have been a member of the RCN for over twenty years and membership has always been important to me - even when I was working abroad. The opportunity to join and then later lead the Professional Committee meant the opportunity to help lead and shape our main purpose as a Royal College and as the largest professional organisation for nursing. It is precisely what the College was established to do. Our Royal Charter sets out our first three objectives: to promote the science and art of nursing and education and training in the profession of nursing; to promote the advance of nursing as a profession in all or any of its branches; and to promote the professional standing and interests of Members. What a fantastic opportunity!

*What excites you most about the future for your committee and the work you have planned?*

We are clear of our purpose, that the Professional Committee is part of the RCN’s governance structure, to ensure the College fulfils its purpose as a professional body. The clear separation of TU and professional body governance enables us to focus on our areas of expertise, and to collaborate when necessary. The College has a wealth of expertise and experience in both its membership and its staff, many of whom are also members. The PNC has brought together some truly expert and inspirational nursing colleagues with a shared enthusiasm and commitment to the College.

Early on we agreed and shared our overarching priority as a committee is the College’s commitment to establishing in law safe and effective staffing in all health and care settings, underpinned by a strong evidence base. Key to that is the absolute importance of nurses and nursing as a graduate profession, with defined and supported career paths across branches and practice settings, complemented and supported by trained and educated support staff, with clear opportunities for progression.

The RCN’s roles as professional Trade Union and as a professional body are complimentary and this duality gives us inherent strength, ensuring the evidence base and professional framework for our members, representatives and activists.

*What are the biggest challenges facing you and your committee?*

The new governance structure has taken some time to bed-in, and the first year was very much formative, testing out new ways of working, refining and improving the structure. That is inevitable in any significant change, and certainly not unique to the RCN. The changes in Council and RCN’s executive leadership in the past year have tested the strength and abilities of the College staff and membership, but ultimately we have come through it together with a sense of unity and purpose.

All of us in the PNC have busy lives away from the RCN, and we have to be expert at balancing our commitments and priorities. As nurses we are all very well practised at doing that. As the work on staffing for safe and effective care, in its various forms, gathers pace across the four countries and the islands,
there is a growing workload for staff and members alike. That is why it is fantastic to see many new faces appearing in Council, the Committees and through the work going on at country and regional levels.

*How can the Fellows engage with the work of your committee?*

The Fellows are an immense source of professional expertise, knowledge and experience. We are fortunate to have RCN Fellow Rachel Hollis as PNC Vice Chair, ensuring a direct link to the RCN Fellows and Denise Llewellyn FRCN as PNC member for Wales and Chair of the UK Staffing for Safe & Effective Care overview and scrutiny group. We are first and foremost a governance committee, and so expert advice on specific pieces of work will always be sought. We welcome the contribution of Fellows to our discussions and to contribute to the professional agenda of the College.

*What do you do to relax away from work?*

I like to walk, I drink too much coffee, and get out on my bicycle after work for some alone time. I practise mindfulness to relax and help me switch off from a busy day. My taste in films and television is (I am told) terrible - usually mindless escapism - that is important when my days can be long and difficult. I enjoy travelling very much whether that is weekends away around the UK or getting further afield. We have family in Dubai and my friends are scattered around the world. I have a large family with many siblings, in-laws, cousins, nieces and nephews, so there is always something going on.

*Who is your nursing hero and why?*

It is impossible to pick one person, because we are such a large and diverse profession with an immensely rich history. I think of nurses who have pioneered in public health, improving and saving the lives of countless others, or providing care to the most vulnerable in the face of unimaginable adversity, and even hostility, lacking technology but with unwavering determination and commitment. It is so important that we nurture that kind of commitment, but look after one another, and ourselves. We stand on the shoulders of giants, and giants continue to walk amongst us. I am truly grateful for the opportunities I have had, and am optimistic for our future.

**Fellows’ Collecting Project**

Since the Fellows’ meeting in November the RCN Library and Archive team has contacted the Fellows who were at the meeting. 15 Fellows have checked and commented on their biographical profile and list of publications. Nine have volunteered to be interviewed for an oral history as RCN Archives don’t currently hold one. We are currently sending reminders to those Fellows at the meeting we haven’t yet heard from.

Since the minutes of meeting were circulated, an additional five fellows have been in contact. RCN Archives will be contacting everyone with details by the summer. However sometimes there are life events, such as moving house which mean you may want to deposit material with us so if that is you and you need us to take your material before the summer just let us know by contacting [Teresa.Doherty@rcn.org.uk](mailto:Teresa.Doherty@rcn.org.uk) or [Diane.McCourt@rcn.org.uk](mailto:Diane.McCourt@rcn.org.uk)
## 2018 New Fellows
The following Fellows were added to the Roll of Honour at Congress 2018. We were delighted that you were able to join us and look forward to having you with us at Congress and our annual meetings in the future.

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<th>Fellow Name</th>
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| **Professor Dame Hilary Chapman FRCN** | Hilary has been Chief Nurse at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust since 2013. She is a visiting Professor within the Faculty of Health and Wellbeing at Sheffield Hallam and promotes collaborative working and partnership between the two organisations.  

She has made significant contributions to health policy, healthcare delivery and system reform, and co-led on the development of the Safer Nursing Care Tool (endorsed by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) which is used widely throughout the UK.  

Hilary was appointed a Dame for services to nursing in 2018, and is Deputy Lieutenant of the County of South Yorkshire.  

She has an Honorary Doctorate of Medicine from Sheffield Hallam University in 2015 and is recognised as one of the top leaders in the NHS by the Health Service Journal. |
| **Yvonne Coghill CBE FRCN** | Yvonne is Director of Workforce Race Equality Standard Implementation for NHS England. In this role she is responsible for the implementation of the new NHS Workforce Race Equality Standard (WRES).  

Yvonne is a member of the Equality and Diversity Council at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) in the U.S. where she has helped develop their inclusion strategy and co-chaired national forums.  

She has lectured on her work with WRES at Harvard University School of Public Health and has been a keynote speaker at the National Association of Health Service Executives annual conference in New Orleans.  

In 2013 Yvonne was voted by colleagues in the NHS as one of the top 50 most inspirational women, one of the top 50 most inspirational nurse leaders and one of the top 50 BME pioneers.  

Yvonne was awarded an OBE for services to healthcare in 2010, a CBE for her commitment to equality and diversity in the NHS in 2018, and more recently was elected Deputy President of the RCN from 1 January 2019. |
| **Jessica Davidson FRCN** | Jessica was the first senior charge nurse in police custody healthcare in Scotland. She has responsibility for police |
custody healthcare delivery and forensic examination for the Lothian and Scottish Borders. The original service set up for Lothian and Scottish Borders was so successful that Jessica was seconded to lead the expansion of the service across the whole region.

Jessica works collaboratively with NHS colleagues, Police Scotland, Scottish Government, the Crown Office National Task Force, Scottish Policing Authority, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary Scotland, Rape Crisis and Women’s Aid.

Jessica is involved in the writing of the new national standards for forensic examination and continues to work with HEIs to develop education and training for nurses working in healthcare custody.

She worked with Queen Margaret University and Staffordshire University to explore the establishment of a post-graduate award in Advanced Forensic Practice in Scotland. The award is now recognised by the Forensic Regulator and the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine.

**Ann Gallagher FRCN**

Ann is recognised internationally as a leader in ethics and dignity research.

She is Professor of Ethics and Care and Director of the International Care Ethics (ICE) Observatory at the University of Surrey. She is also editor of the international journal, *Nursing Ethics*.

Ann is Chair of the University’s Ethics Committee and is Co-Chair of the Princess Alice Hospice Ethics Committee. Ann is also a Board member of the National Council on Bioethics. The International Council of Nurses invited Ann to provide an expert opinion on the development of a revised Code of Conduct in 2012.

For more than two decades, Ann has been engaged in writing, teaching and researching ethical aspects of care. Under Ann’s leadership the International Ethics of Care Observatory has organised annual conferences overseas.

A number of new Fellowships will be awarded at Congress 2019 in Liverpool so I look forward to as many of you as possible joining us for the awards ceremony and celebratory dinner afterwards to meet them all – more details above.

**New Year Honours 2019**

I would like to extend our congratulations to Ruth Oshikanlu FRCN who received an MBE in the 2019 New Year’s Honours for services to community nursing, children and families.
**Goodbyes**
Unfortunately since our previous newsletter we have had news of the loss of several RCN Fellows.

Professor Janet Marsden FRCN passed away on 31 May 2018. She was a much loved and admired friend and trusted colleague to so many Council and Committee members here at the RCN and was extremely active within the College.

Janet’s life was remarkable and the contribution she made to the NHS and the RCN was monumental. She was a dedicated Nurse who was full of care, compassion and devotion, a true hero of the NHS.

She was appointed as Professor in Ophthalmology and Emergency Care at Manchester and being awarded a personal chair in Learning and Teaching were acknowledgments of what a remarkably talented practitioner and lecturer Janet was.

Janet is very much a part of the College’s history and helped to shape the organisation that we have today. Her membership and support has been greatly appreciated over the years, and it is through such commitment and dedication that our nursing profession remains a calling that we can all be proud of. She will long be remembered.

Professor James Patrick Smith OBE FRCN died peacefully on 15 June 2018 at his home in Scotland. He was an active member of the College throughout his professional life and was a former Chair of Congress. He was internationally recognised for his scholarship and commitment to nursing and was the Founding Editor of the Journal of Advanced Nursing.

George Castledine died whilst working in Iraq in October 2018. A nursing educator he was awarded a Fellowship in 1980 in recognition of his work for setting up the first nursing degree course linked to Cardiff Medical School and for establishing the Department of Nursing at the North East Wales Institute of Higher Education.

We previously advised that Stanley Holder OBE FRCN had passed away in 2017. In December 2018 we marked his remarkable contribution to nursing and the RCN by naming a room at Cavendish Square after him.

Stanley was awarded an OBE in 1981. He was conferred an RCN Fellowship in 1979 and in the same year was made a Freeman of the City of London. For his work and devotion to the Catholic Church, he was awarded the Bene Merenti medal by His Holiness The Pope and Stanley was equally proud of the Badge of Honour he received from the British Red Cross for the key operational role he played as their Chief Nursing Officer, working with the Ministry of Defence during the Gulf War.

Stanley Holder was the second male nurse to become a member of the RCN.
In a series of firsts, Stanley chaired the RCN Representative Body meeting at the first RCN Congress in 1969, a role he would undertake three further occasions between 1970 and 1974. He was the first man to hold an honorary post at the Royal College of Nursing when he served as Vice Chair of RCN Council from 1976-1979.

Stanley was also the first male nurse to hold a post at a London Teaching Hospital, St Mary’s, where, having been awarded a Florence Nightingale Memorial Scholarship to undertake a study of Nurse Education in the USA, he went on to become Director of Nurse Education. He was also a key member of the working party that devised and oversaw the development and introduction of the Project 2000 changes which overhauled the way in which nurses in the UK were educated.

Administration
Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you to keep us up to date with your contact information. You can do so by emailing RCNFellows@rcn.org.uk when any changes are required.

Professor Kath McCourt CBE FRCN
Convenor of RCN Fellows