Dear Fellow,

Can I start by wishing you all a very happy new year.

100 Years Old
Celebrating the RCN Centenary makes 2016 a particularly important year for the RCN. We have an exciting programme of 100 events planned across the UK and details can be found here: https://www.rcn.org.uk/about-us/centenary

Our 40th Celebration
In 2016 we will also be celebrating the 40th year of RCN Fellowships. This anniversary will be marked with a special afternoon tea followed by a public lecture on the achievements of the Fellows on Thursday 14 July. Please put the date in your diary now as we hope to see as many of you as possible here at Cavendish Square to help us celebrate our 40th year.

In addition an editorial in the Journal of Advanced Nursing will highlight the achievements of RCN Fellows over the past 40 years.

Our Work with the RCN
It is particularly pleasing to be able to report that the working relationship between the Fellows and the RCN continues to go from strength to strength:

- We are very pleased that we now have a Fellow as our Chief Executive & General Secretary.
- Professor Janet Marsden is returning to RCN Council to fly the flag for the Fellows.
- We also have a Fellow, Tara Bartley, chairing the new Clinical Advisory Group
- Professor Tony Butterworth is Vice Chair of the RCN Foundation Board of Trustees and has been leading their Nursing & Care Homes Programme.
- March will see the Nursing Practice and Policy Committee receive a report from a task and finish group chaired by Professor Wilf McSherry on how we should be addressing the current issues facing the care of the elderly.
- Dame Gill Oliver has also played a key role in the End of Life Project and this was the subject of our fringe with the Student Committee at 2015 Congress. The resources were reported extremely positively by the Nursing Standard which is keen to cover more of the Fellows’ work.
- Professor Dame June Clark was elected to represent the RCN on the National Pensioners Convention Council, and will also sit on the National Pensioners Convention Executive Committee.
Congress
In 2016 Congress is taking place in Glasgow 18-22 June. It starts on the Saturday and everything is being moved forward a day including the Fellows’ fringe which will be on the Sunday lunchtime. This year we will be running our fringe with the Health Practitioner Committee.

Annual Fellows’ Meeting
Our annual Fellows’ meeting took place on 11 November 2015. It was well attended and it was great to see some of our Fellows who have not attended one of our meetings for a long time. The topic this year was the RCN and its education role.

We were briefed on the RCN’s education priorities and the work plan for the coming year to build on the recommendations from the Shape of Caring Review and to position the RCN at the forefront of standards’ development.

Janet Davies then led a discussion on a proposal to create a new Clinical Fellowship. Theme six, recommendation five, of the Shape of Caring Review identified the need to recognise advanced practice and to develop this via a fellowship model. RCN Council believes this is a role for the RCN, and Fellows have been asked to get involved in the work to develop the criteria for a Clinical Fellowship. It was emphasised that credentialing would focus on the person and not the job role and that the new Clinical Fellowship would not be a replacement for the current Fellowship.

At the meeting we agreed that the RCN had an important role in creating political pressure for a career pathway framework for post-registration nurses. We supported the proposal in principle but did express concern about the proposed timescale. We believe it involves a lot of careful planning to ensure we achieve the outcomes we aspire to and which will be critically important for the RCN and the nursing profession.

Because of the Centenary our next full Fellows’ meeting will be at the beginning of 2017.

New Fellows 2015
The Awards Ceremony and the dinner we host at Congress were a highlight for Fellows again last year. We were delighted that three of the four new Fellows were able to join us for these events. We look forward to welcoming you all to our meetings and to having you with us at Congress in future years.

Fellows 2015

<p>| Professor Michael Brown | Scotland | Professor Michael Brown has had an exceptional clinical academic career and has made an outstanding contribution to nursing and health and social care. He has established both a national and international reputation in his field of learning disability nursing. Combining the |</p>
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<tr>
<td>Paula Hancock</td>
<td>Yorkshire and Humber</td>
<td>A consultant nurse and university lecturer who has been a good role model of how practice and educational roles can be combined.</td>
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<td>Paula is highly regarded and recognised as excellent for her international work over 20 years and for her outstanding contribution as an educator and a researcher to the international learning and teaching agenda.</td>
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<td>Alison Leary</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>A committed researcher, educator, change agent and an inspirational leader who has raised the profile of nursing and nursing research. She has been responsible for truly revolutionising thinking about how to quantify the contribution of nursing. Alison has also been influential in helping to get the emotional labour of nursing on the agenda and has articulated well the impact some key areas of nursing practice can have on the individual and their resilience.</td>
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<td>Denise Llewellyn</td>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>Drives innovation in service redesign and is an inspirational role model demonstrating resilience, energy, openness, transparency and integrity. Denise’s priorities are very clear – fundamental nursing care; patient safety and dignity and respect.</td>
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**Honorary Fellow 2015**

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<td>Dr Hilary Cass, OBE</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Dr Hilary Cass, is the President of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. She has been a tremendous supporter of the nursing profession and has consistently demonstrated the value of nursing as part of a multi professional team. She values the fundamentals of nursing and in particular the role of the advanced nurse practitioner in</td>
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Fellows Coordinating Committee
At the end of last year Pat Bottrill and Professor Dame Betty Kershaw completed their terms of office on the Fellows Coordinating Committee after long and much appreciated service. I wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge the huge contribution they have both made to the Committee. Without them we would not be working with the RCN in the way we are today. Thank you both very much.

We are very pleased that Professor Kath McCourt will be joining the Fellow’s Coordinating Committee this year and we are looking forward to having Kath’s input.

Congratulations
I would like to extend the congratulations of all Fellows to Eileen Sills and Professor Uduak Archibong who received awards in the 2015 New Year’s Honours List.

Obituaries
Unfortunately during the year we said farewell to Betty Raybould. Betty was one of our first Fellows and made an enormous contribution to nursing and in particular nurse education.

Oral Histories Project
At our meeting in November a number of you mentioned that you had taken part in the oral histories project and it was agreed that the Fellows Coordinating Committee would look at how we could be more involved with the shaping of the project.

I am therefore particularly grateful to Professor Martin Bradley for writing the following update on the launch of the defence nursing oral history project.

Defence Nursing – Launch of the Oral Histories Project
5 November saw the launch of the RCN Defence Nursing Oral Histories Project. It is a project which aims to provide a personal account from those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan in support of the armed services.

The project is an opportunity to describe what it was like to deploy:

- The preparation and training.
- How families, friends and work colleagues responded.
- The reality of working in a war zone and the challenges of the working environment.
- Integrating with international colleagues and developing new relationships.
- The high points as well as the low moments.
- Perceptions of the country and local inhabitants.
- The friendships made.
- The preparation for returning home and resuming family and professional life.

Such experiences will have demonstrated how the best of defence nursing and medicine might be applied to healthcare in the UK. For some the experience may have been life changing.

In recording these personal accounts future generations of nurses and researchers will gain an insight into the prevailing culture of the time, into how individuals responded to the challenges, their motivation and what in reality was important at the human level. This is such a rich legacy to leave for others. Many of us have wished we had kept a note, a diary or perhaps a photograph of significant or memorable events from our professional lives. Defence Nurses now have that unique opportunity.

Details on how to contribute to the oral histories project are available on the RCN website: https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-005367

Administration
I know a number of you have said that you are not receiving our emails. For this reason we will be sending out this newsletter by hard copy as well as electronically with a contact details form for you to update. Perhaps I could ask you to let the Governance team know if you do not receive the electronic version so we can follow up – call Bethany Winning on 020 7647 3644.

Thank you.

Best wishes,

Jane Denton CBE FRCN
Chair, RCN Fellows Co-ordinating Committee