Fellows’ Newsletter

Welcome from Professor Kath McCourt CBE FRCN
Here is my second newsletter as Convenor of RCN Fellows. I am looking forward to my first full Fellows meeting in November and to the discussion we will be having on the nature of the Fellowship and the role we want to play as Fellows in helping to set the future of the direction of the profession.

There has never been a more important time for nursing. We need to be seen to be playing our part in promoting the difference nursing makes to people day in and day out, supporting our colleagues in the workplace, and investing in our nursing students who are the future of the profession. This is why, as you will see below, I have organised for a newly qualified member of the RCN UK Students Committee to come and speak to us in November.

RCN Fellowship – definition
As you know RCN President Cecilia Akrisie Anim CBE has asked me as Convenor of Fellows and as a member of the Awards Committee to review the nature of RCN Fellowship.

In recent years the language surrounding the criteria and definition has been updated in an attempt to make it clear that we are looking for nominations for members who as practitioners, educationalists, researchers or leaders have made an exceptional contribution to the profession.

I am keen that we do not lose the essence of what constitutes a Fellow. Having gone back through all the paperwork I would like to suggest the following description for your consideration:

“The Royal College recognises outstanding Registered Nurses as practitioners, researchers, educationalists and leaders who share our commitment to advancing the science and practice of nursing and the improvement of health care.

Fellowship is the Royal College’s highest award. It is a mark of achievement to which all full Registered Nurse members can aspire. College Fellowship is an acknowledgement by their peers of a member’s experience, accomplishments and commitment to the profession.

Life Fellowships are awarded to Registered Nurse members of the College in good standing, with a history of membership of the College and who have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to the profession and practice of nursing.

The award of Fellowship is held in very high esteem. It is awarded to Registered Nurse members in:

- clinical practice
- nursing research
- nursing education
management of nursing and patient/healthcare

who have demonstrated exceptional evidence of:

- excellence and/or innovation in nursing
- significant impact on nursing practice and the improvement of health and patient care.

Honorary Fellowships are awarded to individuals who are not eligible for College membership but have demonstrated significant evidence of an extraordinary contribution to the profession of nursing.”

In order to assist the debate at our Fellows meeting in November, colleagues may wish to consider how RCN Fellows support the organisation and the future contribution of Fellows to challenges facing the nursing profession both as a group and individually.

Full Fellows Meeting – Tuesday 14 November 2017
Our next annual Fellows meeting takes place on Tuesday 14 November 2017 from 11.30am to 3.30pm at RCN HQ in London.

In addition to the discussion on Fellowship as outlined above, I have asked Francesca Elner, one of our newly qualified members of the RCN UK Students Committee, to talk to us about what it is like to be a nurse today. There will also be an election at the meeting for two new members of the Fellows’ Co-ordinating Committee which I chair. 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.

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

Please could I ask you to confirm your attendance at both the meeting and the lecture to our Fellows Administrator, Caroline Clinker, by emailing RCNFellows@rcn.org.uk as soon as possible. Caroline will also be able to arrange your travel if you advise her of your requirements. Any travel within the UK and Eire will be funded by the RCN.

We also ask that you let Caroline know in advance if you have any specific dietary requirements ahead of the November meeting in order that we can ensure we cater to your needs.

Public Lecture
Our meeting on 14 November will be followed at 6pm by a public lecture that we have agreed to host again this year. The theme of this year’s lecture will be ‘Brexit and Beyond: an international perspective on nursing and healthcare’.
What impact will the Brexit process have on healthcare? How has the NHS benefited from immigration from Europe and beyond, and what we might need to consider for the future of healthcare in a global society?

**Fellows’ Co-ordinating Committee**

As mentioned above, at the meeting on Tuesday 14 November there will be an election for two new members of the Fellows’ Co-ordinating Committee. This group meets three or four times a year to organise the activities of the Fellows.

If you wish to stand for election please take a moment to review the following documents:

- [Election procedure and nomination form](#)
- [Leaflet on RCN Fellowship](#) (this sets out the role and responsibilities of the Fellows Co-ordinating Committee)

We have set the closing date for nominations a few days after the results of RCN Professional Nursing Committee election will be known. Those Fellows who are standing in that election may therefore choose to wait until they know the outcome before deciding whether to put themselves forward for this additional commitment. Alternatively if you wish to put in a nomination to join the Fellows’ Co-ordinating Committee you can instruct us to withdraw it following the notification of the RCN Professional Nursing Committee election results.

Completed nomination forms must be returned to [elections@rcn.org.uk](mailto:elections@rcn.org.uk) or to Jane Clarke at 20 Cavendish Square, London, W1G 0RN by 9am on Monday 13 November 2017.

Any Fellow who wishes to stand for election must be able to attend the meeting on 14 November as only those present will be eligible to vote.

**2017 New Fellows**

The Awards Ceremony and the dinner we host at Congress was once again a highlight for Fellows this year. We were delighted that all of our new Fellows were able to join us and we look forward to welcoming you all to our meetings and to having you with us at Congress in future years. Our new Fellows for 2017 are listed below:

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<tr>
<th>Felicia (Flick) Cox FRCN</th>
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<td>Flick has been Chair of the RCN’s Pain and Palliative Care Forum for five years, playing a pivotal role in making it one of our most successful forums with a large and growing membership. As one of the country’s leading nurse experts in the field, Flick has demonstrated exceptional commitment to improving the lives of patients living with acute or chronic pain. Her reputation with her peers in nursing and pain management is unparalleled. Flick’s considerable achievements include developing a knowledge and skills framework on pain; editing various specialist journals; and leading a team that won a national pain award in 2015</td>
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<td>Tina Donnelly</td>
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<td>Debby Holloway</td>
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<td>Ruth Oshikanlu</td>
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<td>Professor Ian Peate</td>
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Robert Sowney FRCN  
Robert has made an exceptional contribution to nursing care in Northern Ireland, across the UK and internationally, particularly in the field of emergency and unscheduled care where he is viewed as a leading authority. In a career spanning more than 30 years, Robert was the first Nurse Consultant ever appointed in Northern Ireland. His professional achievements are many, but include a key actions framework which has improved standards in unscheduled care. Formerly Vice-Chair of the UK-wide RCN Accident and Emergency Care Association, Robert now chairs the RCN Foundation, which supports the nursing community to improve the health and wellbeing of the public. His unique attributes were recognised with an Outstanding Achievement award at last year's RCN Northern Ireland Nurse of the Year awards.

Dr Sue Woodward FRCN  
Sue is one of the UK’s leading neuroscience nursing academics, having worked in the field almost exclusively since she qualified - with a passion described as infectious. She is especially interested in continence care, developing study days, courses and articles to boost awareness, and also helping to develop and improve continence products. Chair of the RCN’s Neuroscience Forum, Sue has been involved in some of the forum’s most successful events including Congress fringe meetings, conferences and partnership working. This includes working with the Motor Neurone Disease Association to produce a highly regarded online nursing tool and four lectures at RCN HQ. Widely published and an accomplished speaker, Sue is also editor in chief of the British Journal of Neuroscience Nursing.

We are now encouraging nominations for Fellowships to be awarded at Congress 2018 in Belfast. Please do take some time to consider whether you know an outstanding nurse who should be recognised with this high honour. Information about how to make a nomination can be found on the RCN website at [www.rcn.org.uk/fellowship](http://www.rcn.org.uk/fellowship). The deadline for nominations to be considered for presentation in Belfast is Friday 26 January 2018.

Honours
I would like to extend our congratulations to Denise Llewellyn MBE FRCN for receiving recognition in the 2017 Queen’s Birthday Honours.

Goodbyes
Unfortunately since our previous newsletter we have had news of the loss of two RCN Fellows.

Stanley Holder OBE FRCN became involved with the College while he was Chairman of the Society of Registered Male Nurses, Tutor Section. When the College merged with the National Council of Nurses in the 1960s, Stanley felt it was extremely important that male nurses were properly represented within...
the College so he soon became involved in our work, a connection which lasted many years. Stanley’s first official elected role was in 1969 as chairman of the RRB, which he held for four years. From this role he then became involved within the RCN Council and was Vice Chair of Council from 1976 to 1979: the first man in an honorary post within the RCN. In 1979 he received his RCN Fellowship for establishing a centre for research into the ethics of healthcare at St John’s Wood, and then his OBE in 1981.

Angela Gould OBE FRCN died at the end of 2016 aged 94. She had a very significant influence on continuing education and for improving information systems for nurse managers, for which she was recognised with an OBE in 1982.

I was honoured to represent the RCN at the funeral for the Countess Mountbatten of Burma on 27 June who was one of our Vice Presidents.

We also celebrated the life of Dame Sheila Quinn FRCN at a service of thanksgiving in the OBE Chapel in the crypt of St Paul’s Cathedral. Below is an article by Elisabeth McDermott, the niece of Dame Sheila’s lifelong friend:

“Instituted by George V in 1917 to recognise the civilian contribution to the war effort during the First World War, the OBE was a pioneering honour being the first five class order for national distribution and the first to admit women. In 1960 the Queen came to St Paul’s when the then Bishop of London dedicated the newly created chapel of the Excellent Order of the British Empire, commonly known as the OBE Chapel, in the crypt of St Paul’s.

The Chapel is also known as St Faith’s; the original St Faith’s was a parish church attached to the old St Paul’s which was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666. When rebuilt, close to the foundations of the former church, the chapel was dedicated to St Faith offering parishioners their own place of worship within the Cathedral.

On June 5 2017, a bright and breezy day in London, a congregation of some 100 people came together at the OBE Chapel for a service of thanksgiving for the life of Dame Sheila Quinn FRCN, honouring her contribution to the nursing profession over a lifetime of dedicated service. Those in the congregation reflected Dame Sheila’s involvement in many organisations at home and in the international field.

Many of those in attendance had travelled great distances including a group of old girls from the Convent of Holy Child Jesus in Blackpool, Dame Sheila’s old school, including one lady in her nineties who remembered Dame Sheila as a school girl.

Tributes were paid by Dr Frances Hughes, CEO of the International Council of Nurses and Janet Davies FRCN, Chief Executive & General Secretary of the RCN. Readings and prayers were given by RCN President Cecilia Akrissie Amin CBE; Mgr Provost Nicholas France MBE; Elisabeth McDermott; Elisabeth Abbott; Dr Barry Smith MD PhD, CEO of the Rogosin Institute New York; Ron Staker, former CEO of the Brendoncare Foundation; Mark Shockledge, General Manager of Netley Court (Cinnamon Trust Foundation)
where Dame Sheila resided for the latter months of her life; and RCN Chair of Council, Michael Brown.

The service reflected Dame Sheila’s choice of readings and music, much of which she had chosen to be a part of her funeral mass. Music had played a major part in her life; she sang in her church choir until she was well into her nineties. It was a truly inspiring service honouring an inspirational lady.”

Plans for Congress 2018
Congress 2018 will take place in Belfast from 12 to 16 May. We will keep you informed of Fellows’ arrangements as discussions progress.

You will be pleased to hear that for the second year running there will be a Mona Grey lecture showcasing the professional work of the College and that LV= will be sponsoring it - in addition to the John Goodlad Lecture.

We will be joining forces with the RCN Foundation again for our fringe and are particularly keen to involve our Northern Ireland Fellows in the planning for this. While we only had a small audience last year there was a very positive discussion and useful feedback.

New RCN Professional Nursing Committee
I am delighted that we have eight Fellows standing in the election for members of the new RCN Professional Nursing Committee. Information about the candidates can be found here: http://www.ersvotes.com/rcnpn17 and voting will open on Monday 9 October, so do please vote.

A new role for the International Committee
I have chaired the RCN International Committee since it was re-established in 2011 to act as an advisory group to RCN Council.

The key aspect of the Committee’s role has been to provide direction, opinion and expertise from an international perspective on nursing, health policy and practice.

Members of the Committee have a wide range of skills and international experience drawing knowledge from their own personal professional experience and from organisations they represent or with which they have had association.

Following the recent Council review of the governance committees it is proposed that a wider international perspective will be provided to the newly formed RCN Professional Nursing and Trade Union Committees to ensure relevant global perspectives are shared across the College.

In order to strengthen the RCN’s global position in influencing nursing policy and practice it is essential to have committee members who can help shape, support and provide insight and scrutiny of the global dimension of the RCN’s strategic policy, practice and activities and ensure the RCN meets the Royal Charter objectives and its mission.
I know that many RCN Fellows have significant international experience and expertise and I feel that this is an opportunity for those Fellows with international networks and alliances to consider putting themselves forward to become members of this exciting Committee at a time when global health issues are of great significance to us all.

Nominations close at 4.30pm on Friday 13 October 2017. If you have the appropriate experience and knowledge and the time to serve on the Committee do please think about putting your name forward.

More details can be found here.

**Nursing Practice and Policy Committee – report by RCN Council member Professor Janet Marsden FRCN**

The Nursing, Policy and Practice Committee (NPPC) is one of two Council Committees and the one whose primary concern is the professional work of the RCN. The other large committee is the Membership and Representation Committee, which deals mainly with trade union matters.

The work of the committees does overlap and they work closely together. At present all members of Council sit on one or other of these committees and as my work with the College has always had a professional focus, I asked to sit on NPPC.

The Committee elects its chair from self-nominated members. The last election was unique in that 2 people had the same number of votes. Rather than run the election again, Sue Warner and I had a conversation and proposed that we work as joint Chairs.

That went ahead and we continue to share the Chair’s role, bringing two very different perspectives to the committee.

Some of the professional work of the RCN is directed by Congress and those resolutions passed by delegates. A significant proportion of that work, as might be expected, is already on the RCN agenda but other work is new and needs to be slotted in to an already packed workload. Each successful resolution has a Council member attached to it, who works with staff and members to ensure that the issue is addressed and a report prepared for inclusion in the next Congress document.

NPPC receives a lot of reports from other Council committees (Forum Chairs, Forums Governance Group, UK Health Practitioners and UK Students Committees, for example) as part of its governance function, as well as reports on nursing department work, country and regional projects and policy affecting nursing.

It sometimes felt, as Chair, that the main work of NPPC is to receive reports rather than to actually do anything! That has changed over the past year, with the Chairs collaborating with staff, assuming that everyone has read the papers and mainly then dealing with questions and comments. This has left much of our afternoons free to work with the nursing and policy departments
and to inform the direction of travel of the “Future Nurse, Future Workforce” work programme.

This feels like a much more productive way of working and I hope it feels of benefit to the staff who are driving this work. It has started a model of working which I hope will continue with the new committee structures which begin in January.

Current issues on our agenda include:

- the NMC consultation on pre-registration standards for nurse educators
- Department of Health consultation on practice placements
- CPD funding
- new routes into nursing
- NMC English language test requirements/objective structured clinical examinations (OSCEs)
- new arrangements with the University of Sheffield to lead our research activity
- future student funding options for England
- image of nursing
- career framework
- a review of our approach to political engagement
- a detailed review of our international alliances.

Celebrating Nursing Practice – report by Jane Denton CBE FRCN

Celebrating Nursing Practice was initiated as part of the RCN Centenary celebrations and funded by the RCN Foundation to showcase examples of innovative, inspiring ideas for improving patient care or changing practice to achieve the highest standards which nurses are implementing in various settings across the UK but which are often not recognised.

The project was publicised widely throughout the four countries with an excellent response from nurses submitting their ideas for improving care and examples of where changes have already been made but which could have an even greater impact if implemented regionally or nationally.

All those selected have been matched with a mentor to support them through the process and work out the most effective way of developing and promoting their initiatives. The final stage will be a collation of all the examples in a publication by the RCN.

From this group two or three initiatives will be selected and funded for further development which is likely to include much wider implementation and evaluation to ensure that changes are embedded and sustained in the long term.

Celebrating Nursing Practice is a wonderful example of how the RCN leads professional development and provides exceptional opportunities for all nurses in every setting practicing at every level. Equally importantly it actively engages RCN members as applicants and mentors, with more experienced nurses having a golden opportunity to share their expertise.
We were delighted when Fellows were invited to be involved in the project from the outset and I have been the representative on the project board. We were extremely pleased that many Fellows have become mentors and their contribution to this exciting initiative is greatly appreciated.

See here for more information.

**RCN Foundation – report by Denise Llewellyn MBE FRCN**

Following my retirement in October 2016 after working 38 years in the National Health Service I had significant experience as an executive and senior manager at strategic and operational level within the NHS in Wales and England, and still wanted to be involved in the nursing profession. My core belief and values are based on integrity, honesty, and equality for all people. Throughout my career I had strived passionately to uphold these principles and felt that these skills could be used to contribute to the work of the RCN Foundation, that in my mind optimised where and when support could be given to nurses and nursing to make a difference - be that grants to improve education, projects to improve nursing practice, or support from the Lamplight Support Services to nurses who need support pastorally or financially when they fall on hard times.

As an RCN Fellow I had been aware of the excellent work that the RCN Foundation was undertaking to support and enable the family of nursing across the UK in improving practice and the health and wellbeing of the public. I was delighted to see that the RCN Foundation was embarking on an exciting growth strategy to reach more of the nursing communities across the UK and felt that I was in a position to contribute to the delivery of the key objectives of the Foundation – and I also saw an opportunity to enhance that delivery in Wales. I was now certainly in a position to give the time and commitment to do this and to assist in promoting what the RCN Foundation was doing.

Having now been appointed as a Trustee of the RCN Foundation and Chair of the RCN Foundation Wales Committee there is still much to learn about the complexities and governance and the potential of what can be achieved within the Foundation and how we can optimise that support to Welsh nurses and nursing practice. Over the coming months we expect to be able to share with the family of nursing in Wales what the RCN Foundation and the Wales Committee is doing and to encourage and support Welsh nurses to become involved. I am delighted to be involved with the RCN Foundation and look forward to contributing to the difference it can make to our profession.

**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 completing this form when any changes are required and returning it to RCNFellows@rcn.org.uk.

We are also still waiting for many of you to send us an up to date CV. Please email your CV to RCNFellows@rcn.org.uk if you have not already sent a copy in.

*September 2017*