

From the President and President-Elect

March forward

For referencing Ayello EA and Chabal LO. March forward. *WCET® Journal* 2021;41(1):7-8

It seems unbelievable that it has been over a year now that the COVID-19 virus has caused such changes in our nursing and personal lives. For nurses, preventing skin injuries by learning how to protect their faces while wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) became an important focus. There was a need for evidence-based guidelines to guide these practices. Nurses and other healthcare professionals were challenged with differential diagnosis between unexpected skin manifestations from COVID-19, for example purple toes versus deep tissue pressure injuries on the heels and feet or oral mucosal lesions. Nurses may have had their usual work assignments changed to other departments within their hospital or work setting. The hours were long, tiring and at times even physically and emotionally draining as nurses on the frontlines fought to keep critically ill persons alive or to sometimes be the only support ones able to be with the patient at the end of their life.

When their work was complete, there could also be differences in one's personal life. Depending on your country regulations, there may be restrictions on gatherings, restaurant dining, travel in or out of one's state/province/country, quarantine rules and, of course, whether or not a facial mask is required. It truly has been much to deal with in 1 year's time, but nurses always seem to keep giving and move forward. Nurses keep hope alive. WCET® has heard some of your stories and we continue to be inspired and proud of you.

WCET® is an organisation that was born out of the need to help people come to grasp with (at times) sudden changes that impacted many aspects of their life. Rather than looking backwards, the vision must always be what can we do today to make tomorrow better. Norma N. Gill and the early ET pioneers kept advancing with education and keeping the WCET® moving forward.

Your WCET® Executive Board (EB), an outstanding group of dedicated volunteers, have continued to keep the WCET® progressing forward over the last year. The 2020–2022/2024 elections were held. For the first time, WCET® has a President-Elect, Laurent Chabal, who will become the next president in 2022. As our in-person EB meeting had to be postponed for safety reasons due to COVID-19, the former EB members (Alison Crawshaw, Denise Hibbert, Arum Pratiwi and Karen Bruton) became mentors to the newly elected EB members (Diana Gallagher, Yajuan (Julie) Weng, Aihua (Alice) Chen). We thank them for their ongoing commitment of time and service to the WCET®. This mentorship has proven to be a very good process.



Figure 1. Usual number of journal returns due to incomplete addresses.



Figure 2. Number of journal returns during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please look for an email in the next few months calling for nominations for the 2022–2026 President Elect position.

With the postponement of the October 2020 WCET®/ASCN-UK Joint Congress in Glasgow, Dee Waugh, Congress and Meeting Coordinator, and other EB members set about planning and implementing the first ever all-day education day and journal supplement. By all accounts it was a huge success. We once again thank our five webinar sponsors in alphabetical order: Calmoseptine, Coloplast, ConvaTec, Eakin and Hollister. Like many other events last year, our celebration of the 40th anniversary of the *WCET® Journal* was changed to a special journal supplement. Despite some malicious technological interruptions, the webinar and the first ever virtual general business meeting took place. All of us at WCET® just kept moving forward.

Another unexpected disruption from COVID-19 had to do with the journal. Usually there are journals that are returned due to incomplete addresses (see Figure 1). Due to the pandemic, mail to and from some countries was interrupted and our publisher received far more returns than usual (Figure 2). This could be for a variety of reasons. One, of course, is that the member's mailing address may be incomplete or not up to date. It is very important that all WCET® members check that their address in the member profile is correct and complete. This is especially important if you move – you must update your address. For example, our publisher just received the extraordinary return of a journal posted 2½ years ago to a member in China.

Due to COVID-19, poor postal services may also be responsible. For example, check out this website: <https://auspost.com.au/service-updates/international-delivery-updates>. Some of these returns are from countries that are not taking deliveries at the moment for COVID-19 reasons, e.g. Ghana. The USPS

has similar restrictions: <https://about.usps.com/newsroom/service-alerts/international/welcome.htm>. While WCET® regrets if you did not receive your journal copy, postal restrictions are beyond our control. Please remember that you can always access the electronic version of the *WCET® Journal* from the WCET® website. Again, while WCET® hopes that the postal delivery service disruptions due to COVID-19 will be short-lived, we encourage all our members to please make sure that their mailing address is complete and current in their member profile.

Also regarding the journal, we are grateful to Calmoseptine for once again being the sponsor for the translation of the *WCET® Journal* into Portuguese.

We are also grateful that the International Interprofessional Wound Care Group (IIWCG) continues to have the *WCET® Journal* as its official journal. Thank you IIWCG president Gulnaz Tariq and Associate editor Hiske Smart. WCET® is also a supporting society for the World Union of Wound Healing Societies; we look forward to the WUWHS congress in Abu Dhabi 1–5 March 2022.

Perth, Australia has been ablaze with fires in early 2021. WCET® is grateful that our journal editor, Jenny Prentice, her family and home were spared. Equally amazing is that our publisher, Greg Paull's father-in-law's house was left unharmed while the houses on either side of his were burned to the ground. 2021 certainly continues to confront us with new situations that requires us to rise to the occasion.

The WCET® managed to complete and published the second edition of the International Ostomy Guideline (IOG) in late December 2020. Thank you again to Karen Spencer and Hollister for your continuing educational grant so that WCET® could develop the IOG 2020. Also, thanks to Paula Erwin-Toth and Diane Krasner, an updated 3rd edition of the *Festschrift* for Norma N Gill-Thompson which relates the growth and evolution of ET nursing as a nursing specialty worldwide was released. Both the IOG 2020 and the Commemorative *Festschrift* book are available from the WCET® online store.

Another unexpected change was the resignation of Jen Wood in late October; this required WCET® to evaluate our management company needs. After a thorough search, based on criteria, the EB decided that McKenna Management was the best match for WCET® at this time. We thank Graham Hauck and his staff at Hauck and Associates for all they have done for the WCET® over the past years. After a quick transition period, McKenna and Associates 'hit the ground running' and officially began as our management company on 1 February 2021. Welcome Karen Regan as the WCET® Administration Director. We plan to have more details about this new management team in the next issue of the 2021 WCET® Bulletin, the magazine for WCET® members.

WCET® has kept in touch virtually with associations that have invited us to participate in their conferences/congresses. WCET® had a virtual booth at the WoundCon conference

held last October 2020. Both Presidents Tariq and Ayello were keynote speakers. Our members can attend WoundCon Spring 2021 for free which opens on 12 March 2021. For more information, please go to <https://woundcon.com>. WCET® was also invited to send virtual greetings for the start of Dr Santos' wound course in Brazil as well as for the ceremony for the installation of officers for SOBEST. Several WCET® EB members (Denise Hibbert, Yajuan (Julie) Weng, as well as Laurent Chabal and Elizabeth Ayello) were also invited to be speakers at the Portuguese Stomatherapy Nurses Association (A.P.E.C.E) in February 2021. Thank you Dee for working with our management company to arrange the booth at this virtual conference as well as at the NPIAP Conference in March 2021 and Wound Con Spring 2021.

As we go to press with this issue of the journal, unfortunately, WCET® and ASCN-UK have had to make the difficult decision to move the joint Congress to 2024. We did this out of an abundance of precaution for the safety of our members and delegates. Major reasons included that the Convention Centre in Glasgow is still being used as a hospital and the relentless emergence of variant forms of the COVID-19 virus.

We are working to plan the 2022 Congress and when the details are known we will share them with you.

Whether for our patients or our association, one of the mindsets of the WCET® is working today for a better tomorrow. The news that there are vaccines available certainly gives us hope that, someday soon, we can once again safely gather together to celebrate all that is great about the WCET®. The most important thing that we want all of you to know is that, despite COVID-19, WCET® continues to thrive and keeps on moving forward with our important work. We know it may not be easy, but we hope that all can 'keep calm and carry on'.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth and Laurent

Elizabeth A Ayello

PhD, RN, ETN, CWON, MAPWCA, FAAN
WCET® President 2020–2022

Laurent O Chabal

BSc (CBP), RN, OncPall (Cert), Dip (WH), ET
WCET® President Elect 2020–2022