

# This is finally it!

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*"Everything comes in time to him who knows how to wait."*

*Leo Tolstoy*

Finally, having waited since 2020, we are now welcoming all of you to Glasgow for the upcoming 2024 WCET® and Association Stoma Care Nurses (ASCN) UK joint Congress. This Congress will be our first full face-to-face meeting, in the presence of all Executive Board (EB) members, since 2018.

Although Sally Gill-Thompson cannot join us, we would like to take the opportunity to send her all our love, best wishes and positive thoughts as she is going through some health issues at this time.

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to our colleagues from the ASCN UK, for their collaboration and professional collegialism, this open-minded involvement has made the process not only efficient but lots of fun. It has been a real pleasure to work with them and we are sure that the results will be a successful programme enjoyed by all.

The journey has not always been easy; implementation of the MedTec rules<sup>1</sup> reduced support for attendance in some areas, COVID-19 hit<sup>2</sup> and we were forced to postpone the event twice, finally the change of management company forced us to review and revise our plans. But, as always, we have been resilient, and have been able to overcome these obstacles, while coming up with fresh new ideas.

The Congress programme is very promising, we hope it allows everyone from novice to expert to find something to bring back home, giving all an opportunity to network and update their knowledge and skills. This specialised congress in stoma, wound and continence care, is a one-of-a-kind opportunity, a chance for professional development on a global stage, aimed at sharing to enhance our abilities and confidence to deliver better care, implement the best evidence-based practice and improve patient outcomes. Ultimately to contribute to reductions in healthcare costs and most important to improve patients' quality of life. A special tartan scarf will be available as a token, a memento of this event.

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We would also like to take this opportunity to applaud the WCET® International Delegates (IDs) who have submitted their biennial reports. It is always inspiring to read what is being achieved around the globe. This year we send our deepest appreciation, as we have had a record response rate of greater than 50%. Very well done! All reports received can be found under the Members' Library of the WCET® website at: <https://wcefn.org/general/custom.asp?page=MemberLibrary>

As you can see, we will have a lot to celebrate in making 2024 WCET® ASCN-UK joint Congress an extraordinary milestone to remember.

We finally get to meet and celebrate in person, and to congratulate:

- Yajuan (Julie) Weng, WCET® Education Chairperson 2020-2024, who was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN) in 2023.
- Denise Hibbert, WCET® President Elect 2022-2026, who was made an Honorary Fellow of the American Association of Colorectal Surgeons (FAACRS-hon) in June 2024.
- Aihua (Alice) Chen, WCET® Norma N. Gill Foundation® Chairperson 2020-2024, and Dr Ayişe Karadağ, from Turkey, for receiving a 2024 nomination to be inducted as Fellows into the American Association of Nursing (FAAN), which will be made official when they attend the ceremony planned for November 2024.
- Dr Kimberly A Leblanc on becoming the President of the Canadian Nurses Association, and for her new position as Affiliate Professor at McGill University, Honorary Senior Lecturer at Cardiff University, UK, and Adjunct Professor at Curtin School of Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences, Australia.
- and Dr Jennifer Burch, ASCN UK and WCET® member and Co Chair of the 2024 Scientific Committee, for the achievement of her PhD. She will officially graduate next January.

You all make us very proud seeing our tri-specialty experts shine on the global stage.

We will also be introducing and celebrating:

- Our two new Life Members: Dr Elizabeth A Ayello, immediate WCET® Past President, and Alison Crawshaw, 2024 WCET® Congress Coordinator. Many thanks to

Calmoseptine® for their financial support to enable Dr Ayello to come, and to the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (EPUAP) for having invited her to speak at their 2024 Conference held in Lausanne, just before Glasgow.

- Our WCET® Norma N. Gill President nominees: Dr Christine Norton, from the UK, for her lifetime's work and achievements in continence and gastrointestinal nursing and her ongoing achievements and mentorship in nursing research; Dr Keryln Carville, from Australia, for her lifetime's work and achievements in wound and stoma care, and Louise Forest-Lalande, from Canada and WCET® Past President, for her lifetime's work and achievements in pediatric stoma and wound care.
- We will of course recognise the new Enterostomal Therapist Nursing Education Programme, Recognised Education Programme and Congress Scholarship Recipients; we awarded a record of more than 30 for this congress, (not counting the ones who received a Jean Preston Scholarship from ASCN UK). Without the financial support from the General Fund, WCET® and ASCN UK agreed to create for this event and the McManus Scholarship fund, we would not have been able to respond to such important requests. A huge thanks to all donors for your contributions and support! You help us keep bringing Norma's vision to life and fulfil WCET® mission. Remember we are a non-profitable organisation and registered UK Charity.
- We will also be recognising, for the first time, WCET® Norma's Circle founding members at the opening ceremony.

All 2024 awards will be acknowledged at the gala dinner, on September 30: so please be sure to attend.

We keep thanking Paula Erwin-Toth and Dr Diane L Krasner for providing us with the copyright of their book. With the support of Diane and Convatec, we have been able to print more copies of the Norma N Gill Festschrift book<sup>3</sup> which will be available from the WCET® Congress booth.

We send our greatest appreciation to the submitters who have send more than 400 abstracts and thank the Scientific Committee and abstract reviewers who worked to ensure we have an excellent scientific programme. The use of our complementary logos will help participants to identify which category their presentations have been assigned to and to navigate the material with ease.

Many thanks to all our Congress sponsors and exhibitors<sup>4</sup> for making this event and journal possible. This event has been approved by the MedTec Conference Vetting System.<sup>5</sup> Please make sure you attend industry symposia and go to exhibitor booths in order to meet industry representatives, gain knowledge about their new and incoming products, ensuring you and your country colleagues are ready to use

them efficiently and effectively. It is also a good opportunity to discuss challenges and share experiences.

At the congress you will be able to check out recommendations and research on products, with varying types of convexity available on the market, echoing the lessons learned from our last WCET® online seminar launch in celebration of WCET® Norma N Gill Day®. We take the opportunity to sincerely thank Dr Janice Colwell, from the USA, and Angie Perrin and Maddie White, from the UK, for sharing their expertise on this matter. As mentioned in the last WCET® BULLETin issue, it was enlightening to learn that convexity was already around in the early 1960s. Dr Turnbull himself was referring to convexity in his article published into the Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine.<sup>6</sup>

This year we will be recognising World Ostomy Day<sup>7</sup> by taking the opportunity to celebrate all individuals living with stomas at the Congress. This is an opportunity to honor them in acknowledging their role in making us better professionals. Putting into action daily the Montreal Model<sup>8</sup> is, in reality, about celebrating our partnership with individuals leaving with a stoma, wound/and or continence needs. It is a model that plays a major part in our tri-specialty practice.

With this Congress issue of the Journal, comes the WCET® Journal supplement. We deeply appreciate Hollister for their support and work in putting this supplement edition together. We are sure you will learn a lot from both this Journal issue and its supplement. To all Congress presenters, please do consider submitting your work for publication for an upcoming issue of the WCET® Journal.

For the unfortunate ones who will not be able to attend, please stay tuned as all will be told in future issues of the BULLETin. We cannot wait to hear about your experiences, from those of you attending, please submit your stories with pictures and appropriate captions to [bulletin@wccetn.org](mailto:bulletin@wccetn.org)

Many thanks to all our Sustaining Journal Partners (SJPs)<sup>9</sup> (Calmoseptine®, Coloplast, Convatec, Dansac, Hollister® and Welland) and SJPs Journal professional translations' supporters (Calmoseptine® and Coloplast China) to make these publications possible. Even though AROA and Wound Care Plus have decided not to continue to support us this year, we thank them for their past two years of support.

We have implemented a new guidance tool on our website to help members to update their details, so that we can be sure they are getting all of the benefits that come with membership. This includes receiving the journal and emails. Since the tool was implemented the number of members with incomplete or incorrect data has dropped to just 4%. (If you are one of these members, or not sure, please check out the tool at: [https://cdn.ymaws.com/wccetn.org/resource/resmgr/membership/How\\_to\\_Complete\\_Member\\_Profi.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/wccetn.org/resource/resmgr/membership/How_to_Complete_Member_Profi.pdf)). Or, if you are coming to the congress, come to the WCET® booth or connect to your country ID for help.

As always WCET® is thinking and planning for the future: we will be announcing our next Congress location and partners at the end of congress 2024 in Glasgow. WCET® tries to move from continent to continent for each Congress to give each member a chance to attend one of our events. So, stay tuned for more information and prepare to make your plans — two years go by more quickly than you think.

As the 2024 Congress ends, we will welcome in our new WCET® EB members. They will take over from the previous members after the closing ceremony.

We cannot thank all the 2020–2024 EB members enough for their dedication and for mentoring and orientating the 2024–2028 EB towards their success.

We cannot wait to work with you all. It is a real honour to serve you, as you are all WCET®!

We cannot wait to raise a glass with you to make a toast at Glasgow.

Sincerely,

Denise and Laurent

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