

Making Norma's dreams a reality - a team effort

For referencing Ayello EA and Chabal LO. Making Norma's dreams a reality - a team effort. WCET® Journal 2022;42(2):10-11

We are so happy and thrilled that this issue of the WCET® Journal is our Congress issue. Due to COVID-19, we have not had a Congress since 2018 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Now we are fulfilling Norma's dream of educating nurses globally, through our joint Congress with WOCN® in Fort Worth, Texas and virtually. We are delighted that WCET® is once again having a joint Congress with our colleagues from WOCN®. We look forward to learning from all of our speakers from all over the world. Learning from each other enriches us all.

The Congress Keynote Speaker, Lee Rubin, will be speaking about the topic of teams. His key message is the five components of extraordinary teams. He believes there are five C's - competitors, common goals, communicate, chemistry and consistency. To us, teams are so very important and it is fun to think about how many of those characteristics our team exhibits. WCET® is a global organisation and no one person could do it all to make things happen in a complex association that has members in over 65 countries. While Norma was the driving force, she surrounded herself with people who were able to commit to a common goal of creating an international organisation that would educate nurses worldwide so patients with ostomy, wound, or continence care needs would benefit from care by a nurse with specialised knowledge.

One of the sayings from the fortune cookie opened up in KL was **"Your dreams are worth your best efforts to achieve them."** Over the past four years, we have had the opportunity to lead the WCET®. It takes a huge amount of time and effort to do the work of the WCET®. For us, it has been a great honour and responsibility to follow in the footsteps of the pioneers while forging ahead with the challenges of today, including COVID. We have done our best to remain true to the mission and purpose of the association. Bringing together people with the willingness to volunteer and work together is a great start, but it is more than that. Each person brings their own unique perspectives, skills, strengths, experiences (both professionally and clinical) and areas for continuous professional improvement to the group. Effective team effort starts with an understanding of what the strategic plan is and goals are and how they can contribute to the process. It also involves mutual respect for all members of the team, a willingness to listen to everyone's point of view and communicate ideas so a strategic plan can be developed and followed. This is not always as easy as it sounds, especially as English is not the first language for many of our members. That is why we made sure that the WCET® Journal is published in five languages (English,

Chinese, French, Portuguese and Spanish). We are grateful for our Sustaining Journal Partners (SJP) - Calmoseptine, Coloplast, Dansac, Hollister and Welland - for the continuous support of the journal. We also warmly welcome our two newest SJPs - Aora and ConvaTec.

In Elizabeth's biennial report, she refers to how the challenges, especially from COVID, required creativity, cooperation, communication and change in order to keep WCET® moving forward. All these changes, as well as COVID, forced us to rapidly rethink many of our original implementation strategies and modify our action plans. Without the benefit of the ability to meet in person, electronic platforms and email became our lifeline. We were determined to minimise as much as possible disruptions in our operations and keep moving forward, evaluating the outcomes, readjusting the strategies based on our evaluation of what we did - just like a nursing care plan.

The willingness of former Executive Board (EB) members Alison Crawshaw and Denise Hibbert were invaluable in helping our three new EB members, Diana Gallagher, Yajuan (Julie) Wang and Aihua (Alice) Chen, adjust to their new roles. Thank you Dee Waugh for orienting Alison to her new position of Congress Coordinator. All were empowered and the team given resources, support and opportunities necessary for them to carry out their roles as well as to monitor the WCET® progress in realising the strategic plan. The team also included support from Susan Barber and others from McKenna Management, our publisher Greg Paull and his staff at Cambridge Media, WCET® Journal Editor Jenny Prentice and her editorial board, Ian Kattee (accountant) and Tracy Addis (bookkeeper). It truly takes a team to run the WCET®.

WCET® expanded its team to include more collaboration with like-minded associations, including IIWCG, WUWHS, NPIAP, ISTAP, COMLHEI, APECE, ASCN UK, SOBEST®, NSWOC, SEDE, NSWOC, Wounds Canada and all the ones who had given us a chance to promote WCET® in many ways.

WCET® is a winning team! We are so proud that our team efforts were worthy of three international awards. We are also delighted to honour four individuals - Greg Paull, Sally Gill Thompson, Paula Erwin-Toth and Diane Krasner for their special contributions to WCET® at the Congress. Please see the special announcement in this issue as well as all the founding members of Norma's Circle.

A hardy job well done to all at WCET®. William Shakespeare said “We know what we are, but know not what we may be”. Our future stands before us to create. Let’s all put our full support behind Laurent Chabal and his Team 2022-2024 to see what else WCET® can plan and accomplish in the next two years until we meet in Glasgow.

Sincerely

Elizabeth and Laurent

Elizabeth A Ayello

PhD, MS, BSN, RN, ETN, CWON, MAPWCA, FAAN
WCET® President 2020-2022

Laurent O Chabal

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

CALL FOR PAPERS

You are invited to submit your original research articles, reviews (of research, practice and literature), case studies, clinical trials, commentaries, updates and letters to the editor to the WCET Journal. Contributions can relate to the clinical, administrative, research and/or educational roles of the ET Nurse in the fields of wound, ostomy and continence care.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Author Guidelines can be found at <https://journals.cambridge.com.au/wcetcn/journal-information/author-guidelines> or in the WCET® website.

To submit an article go to <https://mc04.manuscriptcentral.com/wcet>

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