

# Big shoes to fill! But nothing significant ever came from waiting in your comfort zone

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Finally, we made it! After 4 years without Congress we have achieved a very successful biennial Congress. It was, as you know, a joint endeavour with our colleagues from the WOCN® Society in the USA. We thank them for their collaboration and hard work to make this event a success. Many thanks to Alison Crawshaw and Karen Hill for the hard work done on behalf of the WCET®.

It was great to meet all of you who attended in person. We are sorry that many of you were unable to be there, but we hope you enjoyed the virtual presentations. The good news is that all Congress content has been registered and will be available for participants to see online until the end of 2022. More about this Congress and attendee experience can be found in issue 2 of the *BULLETin*; please take the time to read it.

We would also like to take this opportunity to invite speakers from this Congress to submit a manuscript for the *WCET® Journal*. To quote Dr Elizabeth A Ayello, WCET® immediate past President, in her closing Congress remarks – “Get the work that you have done PUBLISHED, regardless of whether you have developed new approaches into bedside enablers, tested or made creative clinical solutions or completed a research study, if it is not written, it is not done”. Dissemination is so important. We would like to thank our publisher, Greg Paull of Cambridge Media, for supporting WCET® at Congress, and we also thank Dr Jenny Prentice our journal editor.

During Congress we had the opportunity to thank the previous WCET® Executive Board (EB) for their hard work over the last term, and especially to our immediate past President, Dr Elizabeth A Ayello. To recognise and celebrate her great achievements, she was presented with a very special commemorative 52-page *WCET® Journal* reprint, gathering all of her editorials published within the journal over the past 18 years. Many thanks to Greg Paull and all the Cambridge Media team for their support.

It was also an opportunity to welcome the new WCET® EB, allowing us to start the new term straight away. It is a huge responsibility and a challenge to step into the shoes of such a prestigious and outstanding person. Elizabeth has guided her team through treacherous waters and onto safe shores during difficult times, such as COVID-19. We will do our very best to maintain this very high standard.

Also many thanks to Dr Elizabeth A Ayello, who has agreed to stay on as our liaison to the World Union of Wound Healing Societies (WUWHS), and to Diana Gallagher (WCET® Treasurer), who has accepted the position of WCET® liaison to the National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel (NPIAP) after WCET® past President Susan Stelton stepped down. Alison Crawshaw has agreed to stay on as Congress Coordinator, for which we are very grateful. We thank our colleagues from the International and Interprofessional Wound Care Group (IIWCG) for their partnership as *WCET® Journal* is also their official journal. WCET® also continues its partnership with other affiliated organisations. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has just been signed with ASCN-UK. Others are under discussion.

We continue to promote WCET® through in-person and pre-recorded events and plan to start attending other none WCET® events and celebrations around the world. We cannot wait to see you in person once again. One of the up and coming major events WCET® will be involved in is the 31st Biennial International Society of University Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ISUCRS) Congress which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 27–29 October 2022. We take this opportunity to warmly thank the ISUCRS for inviting the Turkish Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses association to organise this 1st Joint Nursing Conference, where stoma, wound and continence content will be discussed. Many thanks also to Dr Ayiße Karadağ for inviting the WCET® and the European Council of Enterostomal Therapists (ECET) to be a part of the faculty. Dr Elizabeth A Ayello will be its honorary President and some of us will be involved in presentations. For sure, it will be an amazing event.

We hope you have enjoyed our latest webinar on inflammatory bowel disease (IBD); there is more to come so stay tuned for further notice regarding topics, international speakers, moderators and dates. We take this opportunity, once again, to thank all the WCET® Education Committee and its webinar taskforce, led by Julie Weng (Education Chair) and Michelle Lee (Webinar Coordinator), for their hard volunteer work in ensuring these educational webinars continue. A huge thank you to all the Barcami Lane Management team, especially Susan Barber, for their support and to all speakers for sharing your expertise and for supporting the continuation of Norma's vision and mission, to educate nurses worldwide for better patient outcomes.

WCET® listens to its members' voices; in so doing, we are planning for our next membership survey in 2023. Your answers will help us to review our strategic plan for 2024–2028. You will be able to complete it in different languages, as was done previously. In advance we thank you, and all of those who make it happen. We cannot wait to read your comments as much has happened since the last survey in 2019. The results will be published in the *WCET® Journal* by 2024–2025.

These COVID years have taught us much about the power of anticipation, planning, coaching and mentoring. The call for nominations for the new incoming EB members (2024–2028) will be sent out in a few months from now. Having the election results by the end of 2023 will allow the new incoming EB members to attend EB calls and meetings, as non-voting members, facilitating the current EB members to introduce them to their new position.

To rephrase some of the last WCET® WOCN® Joint Congress messages, we will keep reminding ourselves that “a team is more than the sum of its parts”, and that what can seem impossible can become possible when I AM becomes WE ARE. Thank YOU all for being a part of this amazing global team.

Sincerely

Laurent & Denise

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