

Around the WCET® world

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VALE TO PATRICIA BLACKLEY, GIAN CARLO CANESE, JEAN PRESTON

One of the realities of an association that has been in existence for over forty years is we begin to hear about our members who completed their earthly life. When WCET® does receive information about a member passing away, it is of course a time of sorrow but also an opportunity to pause and acknowledge again their achievements and contributions. Since the last journal issue, WCET® has learned about the death of three colleagues – Patricia Blackley, Gian Carlo Canese and Jean Preston. While this edition of 'News and views' is indeed sad, it does provide an opportunity to remember and pay tribute to their contributions and achievements as well to reflect on what lessons WCET® can learn from their past participation so as to continue to move our association forward.

I never met Patricia Blackley from Australia in person. Instead I got to know about her from her marvelous editorials. Fortunately, because she served for many years as the WCET® Journal Editor, there are many brilliant editorials that she has left behind for us to re-read and ponder. Pat succeeded Norma Gill as journal editor in 1986 a post she served in until 1992. In 1996, she returned to the editor position for another 2 year term. As I read through her superb editorials it was clear from her many remarks that she loved this organization and had a splendid way with words. As a special tribute to her, we have reprinted her last editorial on page 43 in this issue. Her remarks about the importance of members writing for the journal are still very much relevant today, as you can see in this issue's editorial by our current editor Jenny Prentice.

Perhaps one of my favourite comments is from one of her editorials – "Change is inherent in a growing organisation, the WCET® has changed slowly over the years and further changes can be expected to take place in the future as the growth factor makes the usual manner of functioning too unwieldy to be handled by the band of gifted amateurs who

currently devote so much personal time to WCET® business. New leadership and new directions will become part of the scheme as WCET® moves ahead into the future striving to attain its present goals and gradually identifying new ones. Participation by all the membership should ensure that his very international organisation continues to reset its future directions and policies, global goals that will maintain the challenge to achieve for WCET®, for without the challenges we just wither and fade away." What vision she had for the WCET®!

Gian Carlo Canese was the long-time international delegate from Italy. He also served as the Chairperson of the By-laws Committee from 1988-1990. I remember when I first met him when he chaired the 2002 WCET® Biennial Congress in Florence Italy, he was lively and well dressed. He had a love of fabulous shoes and was not afraid to speak his mind about matters that were important to him. A few years ago at a meeting in Bologna, he was so happy and seemed to bask in the delight of celebrating his birthday with his WCET® colleagues. It seems difficult to believe that he will not be carrying the Italian flag at our next congress in Glasgow. A vibrant colorful light shines no more.

I did not know Jean Preston, a much respected and admired nurse from the United Kingdom, who for nearly 30 years worked within the Northumbria NHS Trust running both the Stoma Care and Breast Care Service. Jean was a very active WCET® member and UK international delegate (1997-2001). For five years she served as treasurer and later president of WCET® UK (now ASCN). Jean believed that 'education is a continuous cycle that should be shared and utilised by the nurse specialist' and that 'knowledge is the vehicle that can empower those providing care'. You can read more about her on the ASCN website, including a tribute to her as ASCN named their education fund the Jean Preston Fund.

To these three tremendous nurses who gave so much of themselves to our specialty, and of course the WCET®, we bid you 'hail and farewell'. We hope our dear departed colleagues are resting in peace and extend our sincere sympathy to their families and friends. May their memories be for a blessing.

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